

Who cares?

Thank you, as you stand with the 38,000 children coming into care this year alone.

Reflecting on Romans 12: Cherishing deep and costly friendships

Connection and community are at the heart of discipleship. Among other things, we work out our faith in and through relationships forged through church and other spaces where we encounter followers of Jesus. The apostle Paul knew this when he wrote to the Galatians, appealing to them to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

He also had community in mind when writing to the church in Rome (Romans 12). This troubled Christian community were struggling to relate well together and Paul urges them to work out their renewed minds in the nitty-gritty of everyday life together with all its demands and difficulties. Among many other instructions they were to be 'joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (verse 12, NIV) and 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn' (verse 15, NIV). This kind of deep, costly friendship is something all Christian communities can strive for and cherish.

An everyday practice of prayer.

Consider two friends who have played an important role in your life, consider how they have supported and shaped you. Write these names down on the back of this sheet if you print it or write them in your journal. Pray for the children and young people entering the care system this year that they find friends and advocates like these who will be a supportive friend and help them navigate their new circumstances. It is often very lonely when first entering care.

Prayer requests for July 2024

Our prayer focus for this month is around the importance of friendships and support networks for children and young people entering the care system.

- Pray for children and young people who are moving away from their old network of friends and are nervous about building new networks.
- Pray for the compassion and understanding of those around the children and young people, that they will enable old friendships to remain and be there to support as new friendships are formed.
- Pray for new friendship encounters, that God will place people in the right place so that new friendships can form.
- Pray for peace and comfort as children and young people work through and process change, that they will know security, stability and love in ways that meet their needs.

Pray for Support Network.

- Pray for the friends, families, and peers of the children and young people entering the care system, that they will have the wisdom, love, and understanding to provide the emotional and practical support required.
- Pray that the support networks will help children and young people see and embrace their potential, enabling them to grow and thrive into the people they are created to be.

Home for Good has lots of upcoming events, from online information evenings to our rated "excellent" foundations course. Follow [this link](#) to see what's happening in your area and what you can get involved in.

Thank you again for being part of this growing movement of prayer, we encourage you to SHARE [this pledge](#) with others to join us and help hold 38,000 children in prayer this year.