



Helping Unaccompanied Refugee Youth

Why We're Praying for Unaccompanied Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children

We know that prayer has power. It is a tool God gives us to join Him in the work He is doing. While some situations can seem overwhelming, nothing is too big for God. He has plans for our future, even when we cannot see them yet.

This is the perspective we need to share directly and through prayer with the hundreds of thousands of children in our world who have been separated from their families because of war, persecution, gang violence, economic hardship and other traumatizing situations. They are vulnerable to smugglers, drug dealers, traffickers and others who would prey upon them as they travel without family to look out for their best interest. But we know God is with them always.

So, as we think about the 200,000 children and youth who traveled alone seeking help in Europe these last few years, or the more than 45,000 who cross our borders each year in the U.S. seeking asylum, aid, and to be reunited with family, let us pray together for God's will and direction. In the U.S., many are in shelters while agencies try to find family here they can place them with. Some may go into foster homes while others will stay in the shelter throughout their asylum review process, which can take upwards of 2 years for some. Some are babies and children separated at the border, while many others are teens who made the dangerous journey alone. This time in their lives can cause more trauma as they are often limited in what decisions they can make for themselves because of their age, the laws, or language barriers. They are at the mercy of lawmakers and caregivers.

As we pray, may we sense God's heart for these children and His will for their lives. May we know His healing power that can redeem lost years. May we seek to hear their laughter and see their joy. May we trust His provision and plans. May we seek to understand if there are ways He is calling us to respond. And, may we have discernment as we navigate tough conversations about immigration and politics and keep our eyes on what He calls us to. Through this prayer initiative, we are caring for the orphan and interceding on behalf of the young foreigners who are in our land alone.

Together we will join in the 9:36 Prayer Initiative this week. Each morning and evening at 9:36 bring to mind these children and pray on their behalf. We will use the Prayer Guide as an inspiration for our prayers and also trust the Holy Spirit to lead us as we connect with God's heart for these children.