

ACKNOWLEDGING FAITH AS A MOTIVATOR

The Spiritual Side of Fostering:

Many Treatment Foster Parents become foster parents because they felt a calling to minister in much the same way that a minister or missionary feels a calling. In a real sense many of them were called to minister. Such a calling is an intensely spiritual occurrence in the life of the foster parent. Recognizing and validating the spiritual side of their mission reinforces the rightness of their decision. Raising the awareness of the spiritual side of fostering could play a significant role in elevating the general awareness of foster care.

Prayers:

If appropriate, or if your organization is faith-based, opening meetings and sessions with a prayer can frequently be a good idea. A prayer can set the tone, get the participants in the right frame of mind, and seek wisdom and guidance in the decisions to be made. A prayer can be custom created for the occasion and designed with the participants' religious orientation in mind. A prayer should not offend anyone, and should always be offered in the spirit of humility and respect.

The following are ideas you may feel able to tailor to your needs:

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for allowing us to be instruments of your divine love and healing in our work with abused and neglected children and their families. Help us to keep always in sharp focus our mission, which we have undertaken.

Thank you Lord for allowing us to safely gather and please watch over us as we return to our homes. Bless the food we will eat to nourish our bodies, and give us Grace to nourish our souls.

Prayer for Guidance:

Dear God we ask you to grant us the grace and guidance necessary to fulfill the sacred obligation we have embraced to care for your special children. Enlighten our minds, strengthen our hearts, and infuse us with energy to meet the many challenges that we face daily. Bless our children, their biological families and their foster families. Bless our deliberations, guide us in our decisions, and bless the food we will eat. Keep us safe in our travels and help us to delight in your will.

Prayer for Enlightenment:

Dear God look upon our gathering and bless us so that we may be enlightened by Your omniscient spirit. Help us to always remember the mission to which You have called us and to sharply focus upon it. Pour Your Grace upon us as we endeavor to increase our skills to better serve You as You manifest Yourself in the children and families that we serve. Bless the Agency staff , bless our foster families and most of all God, bless our foster children so that they may grow and become strong, filled with wisdom, and your favor. Amen

Prayer for Foster Parents:

Heavenly Father look upon these Your sons and daughters who have felt Your call to minister to the abused and neglected children of (Name of State). Shine Your light upon them to give them the patience, wisdom and understanding to guide the children they care for in a wholesome and upward direction. Support them and give them resolve to persevere when the challenges of their mission grow burdensome, and help them to perceive that the children they care for are manifestations of your divine Self.