

# Get Involved: Pray

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## EMBRACE Prayer Group Summer 2016

### Focus on children

*This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips. Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers.'* (Isaiah 49:22-23a, NIV).

Isaiah prophetically describes the great contributions that other nations and individual non-Jews would play in the resettlement of the land of Israel after the exile. They would assist the sons and daughters of the Israelites found among them and would do so with as much tenderness as any parent would carry a child that was weak and helpless. God could raise up friends for returning Israelites even among Gentiles.

In May in response to pressure from many, most notably from the late Jo Cox MP, the UK government agreed to give a sanctuary in the UK to many more unaccompanied Syrian refugee children stranded in Europe. Shortly after the announcement councils across the UK indicated that they were ready to play their part. These children will soon be arriving - perhaps frightened and overwhelmed. They will need stable homes and adults who will listen and understand. This will be a challenge for fostering services.

Christian churches today must respond to God's beckoning and follow this example of ancient nations to the Israelites. God calls those who are "kings and queens in Narnia" (CS Lewis) to be foster carers to those who have lost their families and who will now have to live in a strange country.

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### For Prayer

- Pray for councils and social work and foster care agencies in GB who will have to find good homes for these children.
- Pray for those who offer themselves as foster carers that they may get the support they will need to provide security for the children.
- Pray for UK children who will become neighbours and peers of these children that they may be enabled to befriend them.
- Pray for for Jo Cox's children as they grieve their mother.
- Pray for refugees and their children frightened by racist attacks in the wake of 'Brexit'.
- Pray for unaccompanied children who have arrived in N Ireland seeking asylum, their foster carers and legal advisers.

Contributed by Noel McCune.