

BEATS PRAYER DIARY

One thing we can all do for our sponsored children, or for children we cannot sponsor, and for BEATS, is to pray. It costs nothing, except a little time, but it is the most powerful thing we can do.

A prayer for every day of the month:

1. Pray for yourself as sponsor... that you will be faithful in giving, writing, praying and supporting ... in any way you can. Pray for guidance as to how to do this most effectively.

I ask, Lord, that you help my faith to grow so that I can sponsor this child faithfully and watch him/her grow up in the love of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

2. Pray that God's will be done for this child. Thank God for the partnership you have entered into in sponsoring him/her.

Dear Lord, you have given me a part in this child's upbringing; help me and...(child's name)...to grow in faith and in Your plans for our lives. Thank you that they also pray for me. Amen.

3. My child might have been through the trauma of earthquake, tsunami, homelessness and the feeling of being unwanted by parents who cannot cope.

Lord, I ask you today to protect ... from further natural disasters, accident, disease, injury and abuse. Take ... under Your wing so that s/he knows s/he is loved and that You will always look after him/her. Amen.

4. Children often feel they don't match up to some indefinable standard; they feel inferior to another child at school or home and they lack confidence.

Jesus said, "As the Father loved me, I also have loved you." Help ... in his/her life of faith so that s/he can be positive and confident, not needing to "match up" to peers. Make him/her also a vessel through which others can come to know the love of God. Amen.

5. We want our children to come to a knowledge of God and to know Jesus as their Saviour. How often do children grow up in faith but then turn away when they are older?

Lord, I bring ... before You and ask that You help him/her grow into a deeper understanding of Your love and care. Keep him/her always faithful to Your teaching. Amen.

6. Those of us bringing up children know they can be rebellious as part of growing up by exerting their own will. We pray today for our sponsored children to live in obedience to those who have charge of them – especially carers in the homes, and teachers. Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is pleasing to the Lord."

Lord, help ... to show respect to those who have charge of him/her. Help his/her carers and teachers to exercise discipline that s/he can see is just and reasonable so that s/he will respond positively. Amen.

7. Family relationships may sometimes be difficult for children who do not live with their parents and siblings. Relationships in a children's home are just as important too, as the others in the home become a substitute family, sometimes for a short time, sometimes forever.

Lord, I pray today that ... may develop good relationships with those s/he lives with and relatives who may be far away. Help ... to forgive those who irritate him/her or argue with him/her and not to build up barriers that prevent friendships. Amen.

8. Children often make friendships that make their parents uneasy! In a children's home there is a mixture of backgrounds and customs among children living there. They also meet other children at school; especially when they are teenagers, they can be influenced by them – for good or bad.

Lord, today I pray for ...'s friends. I pray that they may be an influence for good in his/her life. I pray too that ... may have the wisdom to choose friends sensibly and may keep away from those who may lead him/her into trouble. I also pray that ... will be a positive influence on his/her friends. Amen.

9. We remember those who are bringing up our sponsored child and all those working with them and their families. We pray that their faith may be strengthened and that they may be good examples to those in their charge.

Lord, remember those who look after our sponsored children; give them wisdom and strength to carry out their jobs faithfully and enthusiastically, and help them grow in their own faith. Amen.

10. We all need to be able to become the person God created us to be. Everyone has gifts and talents; carers, parents and teachers can help children discover what these are. It is important to appreciate children's strengths; acknowledge and help them deal with their weaknesses.

Lord, today I pray that ... may be encouraged to find out what s/he is good at and enjoys doing. Help him/her to use his/her gifts to lead a fulfilled and happy life that glorifies You. Amen.

11. Children will sometimes do things that are not acceptable – for example, lying, stealing, cheating at games, not doing their jobs – but they need to be honest and accept sanctions when it is deserved.

Lord, today I pray that ... grows up to be honest and straightforward, not trying to get away with something that s/he knows is unacceptable. Help ... always to do the right thing and when s/he fails to own up, accept punishment and strive not to do it again. Amen.

12. Today we pray for health for our young people and healing for those whose health is not good.

Lord, keep... healthy and protect him/her from accidents. If s/he suffers I pray that s/he will be well looked-after with prayer and good medical attention. May they grow up remembering that You, Lord Jesus, are the great Healer, and to always ask You for healing for themselves and others. Amen.

13. We want our children to grow up with a healthy diet, if possible; to have enough food, and food that is wholesome and clean.

Lord, I pray that ... will always have enough to eat and that my sponsorship will help this come about. As s/he grows up help him/her to choose the healthy options and take good care of their teeth, appreciating the effort that goes into producing and cooking all the meals. May s/he thank God for providing all s/he needs to eat. Amen.

14. Some children don't find school very easy but it's important always to do the best we can. We want those who shine in the classroom not to become proud and arrogant but to appreciate the gifts they have and use them, while we want those who find learning difficult to have the best chance of getting help and improving.

Lord, help ... to learn – to respect and obey teachers, to work hard, to try hard at all subjects, especially the things s/he finds difficult and achieve their best. Amen.

15. All of us have some special talent for which we give thanks and hopefully use to our best ability. Get to know what talents your sponsored child has – you may be able to help him/her develop them in some way.

Lord, help ... communicate to me his/her special talent and show me if I can be of any help to his/her carers and teachers in nurturing this gift. May s/he come to learn how it may be used to glorify You. Amen.

16. Charities like BEATS always need more sponsors, more funds etc.

Lord, we thank You for the idea and inspiration that started BEATS and enables it to carry on. We ask that you continue to give us Your loving support in our work. Amen.

17. We all want our children to grow up with faith, wanting to follow God, do the right things and be good people.

Lord, I pray that ... will be filled with Your love. I pray that s/he may respect Your laws and be drawn towards whatever is pure and holy. Amen.

18. Sometimes children become unsettled by things their friends become involved in or are tempted to do negative things themselves – drugs, alcohol, photos, games, magazines or pictures that are offensive. It may make them rebellious, angry, depressed, fearful etc.

Lord, help ... to choose the right friends, youngsters who will not lead ... into temptation. And if it has already happened I pray that the adults in ...'s life will deal with it swiftly, effectively and prayerfully. I pray that ... may have a pure heart and resist temptation from whatever source. Amen.

19. Many of the children in homes have known intense fear and trauma – from earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes etc. Living in a geologically turbulent area such as Indonesia they are likely to encounter such things more than once in a lifetime.

Lord, heal ... from the effects of natural disasters and give him/her courage to face such dangers in future with a clear head so that s/he can help those around him/her. Protect ... from harm caused by these disasters. Amen.

20. Children need to learn to pray; the children's homes have daily devotions but as they get older it is important they develop the habit of prayer for themselves and that they see how powerful it is.

Lord, help ... to maintain contact with you through prayer and as s/he grows up to set aside daily time for personal prayer so that s/he may have a real relationship with you. Amen.

21. Children growing up may be overtaken by negative emotions – depression, a feeling of failure, unhappiness, anger or the legacy of some trauma in early life.

Lord, I pray that ... may not be troubled by negative emotions, but if s/he is then help him/her to ask for and receive help from You and from those around him/her. May s/he know the joy of Your presence in his/her life and be filled with Your love. Amen.

22. Sometimes we can see negative traits in our family members or harbour resentment for the way parents and other relatives treat us or each other.

Lord Jesus, help ... break free from any bad habits that may be the norm in his/her family and not to resent the way they or others may have been treated but instead to pray for his/her family that its members may be filled with the Father's love. Amen.

23. The Lord's Prayer says "lead us not into temptation". Just like the rest of us, children need strength to be able to say "no".

Lord, lead ... not into temptation. Help him/her to resist influences that will do harm, to see the truth whenever tempted and to be delivered from evil when trapped. Amen.

24. Children sponsored through university are asked not to have boyfriends/girlfriends so that they can concentrate on their studies. In a culture where early marriage is the norm this can be very difficult.

Lord, I pray for those sponsored children who have undertaken to study hard for a better future. Help them to resist the pleasures they may see their friends having, knowing that they are working towards brighter career prospects, the opportunity to do good in the world and to make a difference to others. Help ... to trust You for future relationships and family life. Amen.

25. The sense of God's love is a tangible thing in the YACAN and YASAH children's homes and has been experienced by visitors to those places, especially in the children's behaviour towards one another.

Lord, help carers of the children in the homes to continue to spread Your love and to create and nurture brotherly love in and between the children they care for. Amen.

26. Anastasia School, attached to the YASAH home, attracts children from the neighbouring villages as well as both children's homes. We pray for its success and the influence it has on the lives of its students.

Lord, we pray for the staff and pupils at Anastasia School, that they may be faithful to you and spread Your influence through their teaching and relationships with their students. We thank you for the school and ask You to continue to nurture all that is good in it. Amen.

27. BEATS is only a small charity, always looking at ways to further the wellbeing of the people it works with in Medan and Aceh and further afield.

Lord, please help nurture the work of BEATS; be with the Chair and other Trustees as they make decisions and guide enquirers to see how they can best help. We remember all those who work with and support the charity and give thanks for them. Amen.

28. Both children's homes are directed by gifted, dedicated people.

Lord, we pray for the directors and staff of the homes and those working with individual families. We pray for wisdom, discernment, for the ability to make good decisions and to be guided always by Your love. Amen.

29. We pray for Indonesia, a comparatively young country spread over a large area and prone to natural disasters.

Lord, today we think of the country where these people live. We pray for continued political, economic and environmental stability, for safety for its people, fruitful harvests and care of the people for each other. Amen.

30. We give thanks for the safety of the homes and the ease of communication between those working there, BEATS Trustees, sponsors and children.

Lord, we thank you for helping us look after these children. We thank you for modern and transparent communication between those in Indonesia and those in England. We thank you for the personal nature of BEATS which enables good relationships to flourish and all the money donated to be put to good use for the children and teachers. Amen.