

# WEEK OF PRAYER

Seven Days. One Calling. Your Yes.



Say Yes



# One *Yes* changed everything for Malik

A young boy who needed safety and stability found a foster family who believed in restoration, reunification, and the love of Christ. Malik was one of countless children in North Carolina who needed a family, a child caught in a difficult season, uncertain of what the future would hold.

Then the Hagan family, a Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) foster family, opened their door and their hearts. When Malik first came to live with the Hagans, they didn't pray for adoption. They prayed for something harder and more beautiful.

"We always hoped that he would feel safe in our home," they shared, "and that one day his home would be a safe place for him to return to."

They prayed that he would feel safe. That he would experience the love of Jesus in their home. And that one day, he would carry that love back to his own family. They loved him wholeheartedly while encouraging and supporting his biological family every step of the way.

Through that journey, Malik experienced the love of Jesus, and one of the family's greatest prayers was answered when he and his father were baptized together.



"What stood out the most to me in that moment was just the pure joy on Malik's face as he got to watch his father be baptized," his foster mom shared. "The joy on both of their faces afterwards was worth everything."

Today, Malik is back home with his family, thriving and surrounded by people who love him. And the Hagans continue to celebrate the restoration they prayed for from the very beginning, a reminder of what God can do when someone says yes.

# A Letter from Our CEO



Dear Friend of BCH,

There is something quietly miraculous about what happens when an ordinary person decides to say yes to something beyond themselves.

I have watched it happen over and over again in our ministry. A couple sits across from a BCH licensing worker, a little nervous, not sure they have everything it takes, and they say yes anyway. A set of cottage parents walks onto the Mills Home campus for the first time, stepping into a calling that will ask

everything of them, and they say yes. A family kneels together in prayer over the face of a child they've never met, and they say yes.

These are not extraordinary people. They are faithful ones. And that faithfulness, rooted in the gospel, sustained by prayer, supported by community, changes children's lives forever.

BCH exists to be a bridge. We connect willing hearts to children who need them. We walk alongside families through every step of the journey. We partner with churches to build the kind of communities that make foster care and adoption not just possible but sustainable.

**But none of it happens without people who are willing to say yes to God's invitation.**

This Week of Prayer, I am asking you to do something simple: pray. Pray for the children in our care. Pray for the families who serve them. Pray for the churches that support them. And then ask God what your yes might look like in this season.

We believe the local church is God's primary instrument for caring for vulnerable children and families. And we believe BCH's highest calling is to serve as your partner in that work. Together, there is no limit to what God can do through a people who are simply willing.

Thank you for praying. Thank you for your faithfulness. And thank you for saying yes.

For the glory of God and the good of those we serve,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Melber', written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Melber  
President & CEO, BCH

# A Word Before You Pray

There is a moment in Scripture most of us recognize. God is looking for someone to respond. Not a perfect person. Not a fully prepared person. Just a willing one.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, **“Here I am! Send me.”**

— Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

Isaiah’s “send me” wasn’t complicated. It was a yes.

**This week, we are asking God’s people to consider their own yes.**

Not every yes looks the same. For some, it is opening a home to a child in foster care. For others, it is the calling of cottage parenting, living missionally on a BCH campus as family to children who need one. For others, it is the sacred decision to adopt: to pursue a child and say permanently, you belong with us.

For churches, the yes might look like becoming the kind of community that makes all those individual yeses sustainable.

However God is calling you, this week is an invitation. Slow down. Listen. Pray. And then, say yes. We are honored to walk alongside you as you respond.

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## About BCH

Since 1885, BCH has been bringing children home. What began in Thomasville, North Carolina, has grown into one of the largest child care organizations in the Southeastern United States.

Our mission rests on a simple conviction: every child deserves a safe, loving, gospel-centered home.

**BCH serves through:**

**Foster Care:** licensing and supporting Christian foster families through a process designed to equip, not overwhelm

**Residential Care:** providing cottage-style family living for children who need a stable, nurturing home

**Domestic Adoption:** walking alongside families pursuing adoption through our partner ministry, Christian Adoption Services

**Church Mobilization:** equipping local churches to become the primary support system for foster and adoptive families

BCH’s work is only possible because of churches, donors, volunteers, and families who believe caring for vulnerable children is not optional; it is the gospel made visible. **Learn more at [bchfamily.org](https://bchfamily.org).**

# Day 1: Sunday - Pray for the Children

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”  
– Matthew 18:5 (ESV)

Before we pray for anything else, we pray for the children themselves, because they are the reason BCH exists, and they are the reason Jesus had the sharpest things to say about welcome and belonging. Right now, children are living in BCH residential cottages, in foster placements, in the long wait of the adoption process, and in the early fragile days of a new forever family. Every one of them carries a story. Every one of them is known by God.

## Pray today for:

- Children in residential care on BCH campuses, praying that they would experience safety, belonging, and the love of God through every person who serves them
  - Children in foster care, praying that they would know they are not forgotten, not invisible, and not alone
  - Children in the process of being adopted, praying that God would move with urgency on their behalf
  - Children who have aged out of the system without a permanent family, praying that God would raise up community around them
  - All children to know the love of a Father who will never leave them or forsake them
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# Day 2: Monday - Pray for Foster Families

“Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”  
– Isaiah 58:7 (ESV)

Foster parenting is one of the most demanding and most rewarding things a family can do. It asks you to love a child who may not be able to love you back yet. It asks you to grieve when a child leaves. It asks you to show up again after hard nights, hard transitions, and hard goodbyes. Foster families are not superheroes. They are ordinary people who said yes to an extraordinary calling, and BCH is honored to walk beside them.

### **Pray today for:**

- Foster families currently licensed through BCH, praying for strength, wisdom, and joy in the daily work of loving children well
  - Foster marriages and families, praying that the pressures of this calling would draw couples together rather than apart
  - Families in the process of becoming licensed, praying that every step of the journey would feel supported and clear
  - Families who are hesitating, praying that God would replace fear with faith, and uncertainty with clarity
  - The critical need for more Christian foster families, praying that God would call his people to step in
  - Foster families who have experienced loss or a hard placement, praying for healing, perspective, and renewed calling
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## **Day 3: Tuesday - Pray for Cottage Families**

“God settles the solitary in a home.”

— Psalm 68:6 (ESV)

Cottage parenting is a missionary calling. Men and women who say yes to this role do more than provide care; they provide family. They live on BCH campuses, open their homes to children who need stability, and serve as a constant, committed presence for kids who have often known only inconsistency. It is not an easy calling. It is one of the most important ones.

### **Pray today for:**

- Current cottage parents serving on BCH campuses, praying for renewal, perseverance, and a deep sense of calling
- Cottage parent marriages, praying that living and working in ministry together would strengthen rather than strain those relationships
- The children in cottage homes, praying that they would feel genuinely at home, genuinely known, and genuinely loved
- BCH's campus communities, praying that the culture on every cottage campus would be warm, gospel-centered, and healing
- New cottage parents being recruited and trained, praying that God would raise up couples with the gifts and commitment this calling requires
- The BCH staff who support cottage families: supervisors, counselors, and program staff who equip and encourage

## Day 4: Wednesday - Pray for Adoption

“He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will...”

– Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)

Adoption is close to God’s heart, because adoption is His story. Every believer has been adopted into the family of God through the work of Jesus Christ. When a family says yes to adoption, they participate in the most fundamental truth of the gospel: that belonging is not earned, it is given. BCH’s adoption ministry, Christian Adoption Services, walks families through the sacred process of adoption.

### Pray today for:

- Children waiting to be adopted, praying that their wait would not be long, and that their forever families would be full of faith
- Families currently in the adoption process, praying for patience, courage, and confidence in God’s timing
- Families discerning whether adoption is their next step, praying for clarity, community, and honest conversation with God
- Expectant mothers making adoption plans, praying for peace, courage, and the assurance that they are loved
- Birth mothers to walk in peace and find encouragement through community
- Christian Adoption Services staff, praying for wisdom, compassion, and stamina in the complex and holy work they do
- The church’s role in adoption, praying that congregations would actively support, celebrate, and surround adoptive families

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## Day 5: Thursday - Pray for the Church

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

– James 1:27 (ESV)

The local church is not a bystander in God’s plan for vulnerable children and families. It is the plan. BCH does not exist to replace the church; we exist to equip it, partner with it, and serve alongside it. When a church becomes truly mobilized around foster care and adoption, something remarkable happens: individual families no longer carry the weight alone. The whole body bears it together.

## **Pray for three dimensions of church mobilization:**

### **Intentional Prayer**

- Pray that churches would adopt foster care and adoption as regular, specific prayer priorities, not just during awareness months, but as ongoing commitments. Ask God to stir pastors to preach on these themes and to create space in corporate worship for this kind of intercession.

### **Gospel-Centered, Trauma-Informed Care Training**

- Many families quit fostering not because they lack love, but because they lack tools. Pray that churches would invest in trauma-informed training so that volunteers, Sunday school teachers, and small group leaders can better serve the children and families in their care. Ask God to connect churches with the training BCH and our partners provide.

### **Rope Holding: Wraparound Support**

- Every foster and adoptive family needs a rope to hold when things get hard. Pray that churches would build intentional support systems: meal trains, babysitting co-ops, respite care networks, and mentorship structures, so that no family is left to serve in isolation.

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## **Day 6: Friday - Pray for BCH**

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

– Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

BCH has been doing this work since 1885, and every year of that history is a testimony to God’s faithfulness. But the work is not finished. The need is greater than ever. And the mission continues.

### **Pray today for:**

- BCH leadership: for wisdom, courage, and clarity as they steward a ministry that touches thousands of lives
- BCH staff at every level, praying that they would find deep meaning in their work and sustaining grace for the hard days
- BCH’s campuses and programs, praying that they would be known as places where the gospel is alive
- BCH’s financial needs, praying that God would provide generously through the faithfulness of donors, churches, and partners

## Day 7: Saturday - Pray for Your Own Yes

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

– Romans 12:1 (ESV)

Every movement begins with one person who says yes. The child in a BCH cottage tonight is there because someone said yes. The foster family that welcomed a child last week said yes. The couple that pursued adoption for two years said yes. None of them were ready. All of them were willing. Today, before you close this booklet, spend time in honest prayer about your own yes. Not what others should do, but what God is asking of you.

### Pray and ask God:

- Is there a child who needs my home: through fostering, adoption, or cottage parenting?
- Is there a family in my community who needs my support: meals, childcare, prayer, presence?
- Is there a financial gift I can give that would make it possible for others to say yes?
- Is there a conversation I need to have with my spouse, my pastor, or my small group about taking the next step?
- Is there a church relationship with BCH that my congregation should pursue?

**God is not looking for the most qualified.  
He is looking for the willing.**

Connect with us and learn ways to say  
yes through the BCH mission.



**[bchfamily.org/sayyes](https://bchfamily.org/sayyes)**



# Say Yes

**This is your invitation!** Join other believers across our great state by making a gift to the Annual Offering for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. It is your opportunity to offer hope to the vulnerable children who are among the more than 11,000 in the North Carolina foster care system. Most of all, boys and girls are introduced to the hope of the gospel!

If your church is participating in the Annual Offering, please make your gift through your church. You can make an individual gift at [bchfamily.org/offeringgift](http://bchfamily.org/offeringgift).

Thank you for giving God your **yes** and being a part of the eternity-changing stories He is writing in the hearts and lives of children.

ANNUAL  FFERING





# Multiple *Yeses* Led to Olivia's Beautiful Story

Before Olivia was born, a young mother faced a difficult decision about her daughter's future. Through BCH's Christian Adoption Services, Noelle chose adoption and carefully selected Robin and Sam Bowling to become Olivia's parents.

That first "yes" led to another. Robin and Sam had long felt God calling them to provide a home for a child in need, and when Olivia was born in 2003, they welcomed her into their family.



Growing up, Olivia always knew she was adopted and how deeply she was loved by both her adoptive family and her birth mother. Noelle stayed connected over the years through letters, cards, and Christmas ornaments.

When Olivia was 20 years old, years of prayers and anticipation culminated in a long-awaited meeting with Noelle.

"Mom and Dad always told me adoption was God's plan for my life," Olivia said. "Noelle and her family are an added bonus. It has always been in God's hands."

Today, Olivia treasures relationships with both families and celebrates the love that has surrounded her throughout her life. BCH's adoption staff had the privilege of walking alongside Olivia's family throughout the journey. Her story is a beautiful reminder that when people say yes to God's leading, generations are transformed!















With more than 140 years of serving vulnerable children, families, and individuals, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina's mission is to share the gospel and demonstrate the love of Christ by offering healing, restoration, and the promise of a brighter future to every child, adult, and family we serve.