

Children's Shelter of Cebu 31 Days of Prayer

We're deeply honored that you would decide to begin a prayer journey for CSC. Thank you for undertaking this endeavor! Our wonderful God knitted each one of us into being and made us all part of a ministry to children in the Philippines. We stand in awe that He made you to love CSC!

Again, thank you for devoting these next 31 days to prayer for CSC.

Day 1

God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this prayer journey. I ask for open eyes and a receiving heart during this next month. Please allow me to understand more of who you are and that this time would bring glory to your name.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18

Day 2

Lord, you have been the God of this ministry since 1979 and I praise you for the work you have done and are continuing to do in the lives of those touched by CSC. As this organization continues to grow and move forward, I pray for your direction, guidance, and leadership. I ask that this ministry would continue to bring you glory.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

Day 3

Father God, I seek to understand more of who you are and how you are working in my life. As I continue in prayer for CSC, please show me where you are leading me and how you are guiding me. Please reveal yourself more fully to me.

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' Isaiah 46:9-10

Day 4

Father, you have blessed CSC with leadership who desires to serve you and follow your will. As the president and board members seek to follow your path, please direct them in their work of stewarding your resources and guiding the ministry in ways which will demonstrate your movement in people's lives throughout the world.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5

Day 5

God, you know the amount of time people have poured into this ministry to bring it to the place it is today. I thank you for the numerous volunteers who have contributed their time and resources in the US and the Philippines to accomplish your mission and to further the kingdom.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and

continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

Day 6

Great Provider, I thank you for the number of donors and supporters you have brought to CSC. I am grateful for the way you have drawn so many people from all walks of life to have a passion for this ministry. Thank you for sustaining this ministry through individuals, families, groups, and others who desire to support CSC through financial gifts.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9: 11-12

Day 7

God, you know the birth families who have entrusted their children to CSC's care over the years. These families are not only entrusting their kids to CSC, but also to adoptive families. Their sacrifices are great and unfathomable. God, as birth families continue to consider CSC and adoption as an option for their children, I ask that you would meet them where they are. Comfort and sustain them in their decision and ultimately draw them to you. Redeem their lives and demonstrate to them the power of your love for them.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Day 8

Father, you know the desire of CSC is that each child will

have a permanent family to love and support them. When adoption is an option for children, so much work goes into making this a reality for the kids. I ask that there is wisdom and mercy in the process for those involved in making recommendations for adoption placements. Provide reassurance to all involved that your timing and will is perfect.

Yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5

Day 9

God I praise and thank you for the 900+ children CSC has served since 1979. I thank you for calling each one to be loved in a Christ-centered home with adequate resources to fulfill complex needs. We are grateful for the lives you have and are continuing to change and how you are continuing to redeem the lives of these children.

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Day 10

Father God, you are sovereign over the past, present, and future. You know each child by name who will receive care and love at CSC. Today I pray for each child. God you know their circumstances. I pray that you would already begin working in the hearts and lives of those families who will surrender their children and entrust CSC with the care of those little ones. I ask that their hearts would be open and

receptive to your movement in their lives. I ask that lives would continue to be changed at CSC.

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Isaiah 43:1-2

Day 11

Father, you have been in the process of calling us all to yourself over the years and changing and redeeming lives. You have also been changing children's lives in Cebu through CSC and I thank you for the work you have already done. God I ask that you would continue to change kids' hearts and call them to know you in a deep, intimate way as their creator and provider. Father, please call these children to you and draw them into a deep relationship with you that they might know your love and care for them. God, please use their lives as a testament to your goodness, faithfulness, and mercy.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

Day 12

God, so many of the children came from lives of uncertainty and not knowing what the day would bring. They did not know if they would have food, clothing, shelter, or someone

to care for them. After bringing them to CSC, you provided them with the reassurance that they would continually have access to all of these things. And yet, so many of them still don't know what their futures will hold. God I ask that you would instill a deep sense of trust and dependence on you for each of their lives. Grant that these children would commit their futures to you as you already know the details of their lives. Reassure them of your promise to be with them wherever they go.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Day 13

Father, a main aspiration of CSC is to provide each child with a permanent home. Much of this is done through adoption. God I ask that you would be preparing the lives and hearts of both kids and families for this forever family.

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Day 14

God, many children who are admitted to CSC come in with a wide variety of medical conditions and challenges. I thank you for the many skills and abilities that you've given to the nurses and doctors who have worked with CSC kids over the years. You have provided wisdom and resolution for many complex medical situations. As children continue to come to CSC with medical challenges, I ask that you would give physical health and healing to each child. I pray for wisdom for the nurses and doctors who will assess the children and find solutions to their problems and for continued health for

all of the kids.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Psalm 107:19-21

Day 15

God, I pray for each child as they are admitted to CSC. You know the exact circumstances they are coming from, as well as their fears and hopes of having people care for them. God I ask that you would allow them to adjust well to life at the shelter. Please grant each child an ability to quickly rely on others to provide for their needs so their sense of childhood can be restored to them.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Day 16

Over the years, there have been many kids admitted to CSC who have had traumatic backgrounds. CSC strives to serve these children by providing them with adequate resources to process their past and move forward well.

Father, I pray for all of the children who need healing and resolution from prior trauma. Please provide them with the time, energy, and space to process their past experiences well so they can ultimately trust and depend more fully on you. I ask that you would provide each child with the mental

and emotional growth they need to begin exploring what childhood means.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. Psalm 145:18-19

Day 17

CSC employs over 100 individuals who provide a variety of services to care for the children at the shelter. These workers provide love and attention that the kids may not have been exposed to previously. For some children, this is their first exposure to hearing about Jesus and his love and care for all people. The workers are often the front lines people communicating these truths through words and actions.

God, you know the undertaking that it is to care for about 90 kids at the shelter and to ensure that all of their needs are met on a daily basis. You know the work that each caregiver puts into caring for each child and their particular needs. You have blessed CSC with an astounding number of employees over the years who often care for the children as if they were their own. You have also supplied many workers who seek your name and desire to communicate your love to each of the children. We are grateful for this witness and testimony and how the caregivers are influencing children to become more like you. God, I lift up each of these caregivers to you today. Please continue to bless them as they represent you through their words and interactions with one another and the children. Allow them to continue to be servants of you who represent your love, care, and faithfulness.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Day 18

Lord, over the years you have provided numerous individuals to serve as missionaries in Cebu. These individuals have been great blessings to CSC and have sacrificed many aspects of their lives to follow your call. God, as you know, they often give so much of themselves to care for the children and to see that the ministry is run well. Often this means they have limited time to care for themselves. With this reality, I ask that you would bless each missionary with the time they need to rest and rejuvenate so they can serve and represent you well. God, please allow them to see the need to take time away and then to take action in fulfilling this.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Day 19

Great God, I thank you for all of the staff and employees working in Cebu. Today I ask that you would unite them as one body in caring for the children. Give them the same aspiration and vision in fulfilling the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the kids. Equip them with energetic and

eager spirits to serve the children well, demonstrating a united front of believers and doers rooted in your word. Provide them with the knowledge of what it means to work well together, even when their responsibilities may vary. I thank you for their willing hearts and lives to serve you.

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
Ephesians 4:15-16*

Day 20

As the shelter continues serving kids in Cebu, I ask that you would continue to meet the current and future financial needs in great ways. Please continue to give guidance and knowledge to leaders and board members to effectively seek others to support the ministry. I also implore you to expose additional individuals to the work of CSC and that you would begin stirring in their hearts to become people who would financially support the shelter.

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 4:19

Day 21

The Cebu Children of Hope School has been in operation since 1998. This has been a great asset for the children at CSC as the school is able to have small class sizes and customize the work for each student based on their needs and educational background. The teachers at CCHS are all licensed, professionals who are eager to serve the

children.

Great Teacher, I thank you for the blessing that CCHS has been to each child who has attended this school. You know exactly how it can be beneficial for children with little to no educational background to have the ability to learn at their own pace with teachers who are patient and flexible. As the teachers continue to think about how they can best serve the children's unique educational needs, I ask for wisdom and patience. Lord, please equip these teachers with strategies, wisdom, and leadership to most effectively teach at appropriate levels for the children in their classroom. I thank you, Lord, for their dedication and commitment to serving the children in this capacity.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8

Day 22

There are four sets of house parents at CSC, one for each of our homes. At the main campus are Patrick & Lourdes (Duterte Home), Tarex & Pureza (Cherne Home) and DonDon & Ivy (Eicher Home). Our Teen Home house parents are Undoy & Edith. They have some of the hardest jobs at the shelter supervising our homes and childcare employees, and also being surrogate parents to the children. In addition, all of them have raised or are currently raising their own children while managing all of this.

Gracious God, you have provided CSC with amazing couples over the years to act as parents to the children. I thank you for their faithfulness and desire to serve you in this unique capacity. As they continue leading their respective homes, I ask that you would grant them wisdom in caring for

the children and leading the childcare team. You know the unique dynamics and needs of each home and the different challenges that surface on any given day. Enlighten their work as they seek to represent you. Additionally, I ask they would find time to be renewed in your word and that this time would provide them with your energy and strength to continue serving the children well. I ask they would continue to seek your direction and wisdom.

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them 1 Peter 5:2a

Day 23

Great Sustainer, I thank you for your continued faithfulness since the beginning of CSC in providing for the growing and unique financial needs of CSC. Your provisions have been great and astounding and I thank you for your faithfulness. Time and time again, you have provided for the ministry and answered prayers in ways beyond expectations. Thank you for this provision and reassurance of your guidance.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3

Day 24

God, I again lift up all of those individuals providing care and love for the children in Cebu. I ask that their actions and words would represent you and each of your characteristics. Equip them with the ability to demonstrate your unending love through the work they do.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and

admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16-17

Day 25

I pray for each resident of the Wally Johnson Teen Home, Lord. These young men and women have faced so much in life and we ask that you would draw them near. When they wonder why about their future, help them to sense you haven't left their side. We pray for success in their future. Raise them to break the pattern of abandonment they faced and to love their families well. May each one grow in faith and maturity and find great hope in you. Use these individuals to serve and honor you.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

Day 26

I pray that CSC would be a light in the darkness. Father, I ask you to use this ministry as a witness to others in Cebu, the United States, and throughout the world. Internationally you have allowed people to be touched by the ministry of CSC. I thank you for how you are using this organization to reach people throughout the world. Continue to use CSC to draw people into a relationship with you.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his

wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Day 27

Gracious God, thank you for the many prayer warriors who have partnered with CSC over the years. These people have sustained this ministry in ways that may not be obvious to the human eye, but are well known by you. As people continue to daily lift CSC in prayer, please bless them and their selfless prayers. Continue to hear their prayers and answer them, according to your perfect will and timing.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18

Day 28

Father, I lift up each staff member at CSC. You know exactly where they are at this moment in their lives; whether they're struggling or doing well. God, regardless of their situation in life, please draw them into a deeper and more intimate relationship with you. Guide and protect their thoughts, words, and actions in ways that would lead them back to you each moment of every day. Help them to know you in deeper, more profound ways.

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them. John 14:21

Day 29

God, I lift up each of the children who have been adopted over the years. You know where they are and the lives they have lived since leaving CSC. God, I ask that you would draw each one close to you. Allow them to process their

histories, develop a deep sense of trust in you with their futures, and give testimony to the work you have done and are doing in their lives.

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. Psalm 68:4-6

Day 30

Great Provider, today I ask that you would hear the prayers of the children. Each day they pray for a mom and dad as they wait to be adopted. Merciful Father, I acknowledge that your will and ways are perfect above all else, but I ask that you please answer these requests. While the children are waiting, please grant them patience and an understanding of your will for their lives. Grant them the ability to understand that you are sovereign and still in control of their lives, regardless of what happens in their futures.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15

Day 31

Father, I lift up the relationships that the children have with one another. There are so many dynamics that are involved in living at the shelter, far beyond what I could understand. I ask that the kids would have loving and kind relationships with one another. Please grant them playmates and friends and also an ability to love those who are different from

them. Teach them what it means to be generous, selfless, and merciful with one another. Allow them to display relationships that demonstrate your love.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7