

Prayer Vigil Underway for Kids in Foster Care System

For all the prayer rallies, a movement to intercede for the fatherless is as dear to the Father's heart as any.

The numbers tell a tragic story: more than 400,000 children are in the U.S. foster-care system—and 56 percent of them have been there for at least a year and in many cases even longer, according to the 2011 AFCARS Report.

What's more, these kids move to new locations within the system an average of three times while in foster care, Foster Care by the Numbers reports.

From May 20-27, people across the world will join together to pray for children in the U.S. foster-care system that are waiting for permanent homes.

This year's National Foster Care Prayer Vigil continues gaining momentum with more than 300 locations expected in nearly every state and 11 different countries, including China, Zambia, Uganda, Latvia and more.

During the week, people will gather to pray at various times during the day in coffee shops, parks, homes, churches and more.

"With hundreds of Bible-believing churches in the United States, finding a home for the children waiting to be adopted in foster care should be very possible," says Paul Pennington, executive director of Hope for Orphans, a ministry of FamilyLife. "Our prayer is that there will be no waiting children in the United States."

Focus on the Family, Hope for Orphans and Show Hope (formerly known as Shaohannah's Hope, a ministry founded by award-

winning musician Steven Curtis Chapman) are partnering together again for the 2012 National Foster Care Prayer Vigil. You can learn more about this initiative at .