

**An excerpt from *Praying Through Your Adoption:*
A Complete Guide to Creating and Nurturing Today's Forever Family
by Michele Cervone Scott**

Bathing Your Future Child in Prayer

During our long wait for a referral, I decided to pray in detail for our son, like I may have if he were growing in my womb and visible through an ultrasound. Praying this way comforted me amidst the many unknowns, like his name, age, condition, and homecoming date.

Arise [from your bed], cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift up your hands toward Him for the lives of your young children. (Lamentations 2:19)

A father of the fatherless and a judge and protector of the widows is God in His holy habitation. God places the solitary in families and gives the desolate a home in which to dwell; He leads the prisoners out to prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68:5–6)

I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless]; I will come [back] to you. (John 14:18)

Although my father and my mother have forsaken me, yet the Lord will take me up [adopt me as His child]. (Psalm 27:10)

One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: “Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these.” (Matthew 19:13–15 MSG)

For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb. I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought [as if embroidered with various colors] in the depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery]. Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:13–16)

One Family's Story: Prayers for Myles and Miles

About two months after beginning our paper pregnancy, my husband, Peter, went to Rwanda for work. He visited the orphanage we would be adopting from. Neither of us had been there during the three years we had lived in Rwanda. I grieved over his descriptions. Knowing that our child and all of the other children were living there without constant attention, touch, and appropriate nourishment, not doted on or celebrated, spun me into two days of near constant grief.

We prayed specifically for Myles to feel touch since he was rarely held or snuggled in a blanket. The fact that he is snugly and affectionate is an answer to our prayers.

~Laurel Greer

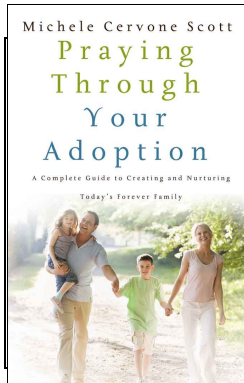
Prayer Points

Lord, we come before You to lift up the needs of our child, whether he/she is developing in his/her birth mother's womb or being cared for in an orphanage or foster family. Hear our prayers for his/her growth, development, and well-being, specifically for his/her:

- Brain, spinal cord, nerves, nervous system
- Muscles, bones, limbs, and joints
- Glands, hormones, and endocrine system
- Heart, blood, veins, and cardiovascular system
- Immune system and lymphatic system (lymph nodes, spleen)
- Nose, throat, lungs, and respiratory system
- Mouth, stomach, liver, and digestive system
- Kidneys, bladder, and urinary system
- Eyes, ears, and skin
- Emotional, social, motor, and language development

If he/she is going to be born soon, we pray for a safe, easy delivery into the world and that he/she will arrive healthy and without any complications. We pray for his/her birth mom—for Your blessing to be upon her for this unselfish gift. Heal her body as well as any grief she may experience as she places her baby for adoption.

If our child is in someone's care at this time, provide him/her with loving and nurturing caregivers. We pray for good nutritional, physical, emotional, and spiritual care. Give him/her opportunities to sleep, play, and exercise. Protect him/her against sickness, injury, and abuse. Heal any hurts or losses he/she may endure. Surround him/her with love, safety, and security now through his/her caregivers and in the future as a member of our family.



Michele Cervone Scott draws from her experiences to comfort, educate, and offer hope through books, events, articles, and the MommyForward.com blog. Her book *Praying Through Your Adoption: A Complete Guide to Creating and Nurturing Today's Forever Family* (WinePress – 2011) has been endorsed by Bethany Christian Services and the Christian Alliance for Orphans. It is available in paperback and e-book format from WinePressBooks.com and major online booksellers such as Amazon.com. For more information on adoption, visit www.PrayLoveAdopt.com. Visit Michele's website at MicheleCScott.com.

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