
CREATIVE WAYS TO OBSERVE ADOPTION MONTH IN NOVEMBER

November is officially recognized as Adoption Month in Canada – an excellent time to remember our own adoption in Christ. We strongly encourage churches in the Christian Network for Adoption to celebrate this special month. Here are some creative ideas to get you started.

- Plan a church service around the theme of adoption.
- Invite foster or adoptive families to share their stories during a worship service.
- Show an inspiring video about adoption. We have several at Waitingtobelong.ca.
- Honour local adoption workers with a small gift (e.g., flowers, cookies, cupcakes or a note of appreciation) to recognize their hard work on behalf of children.
- Organize a fundraiser for families who would like to adopt but need financial support. Consider Abbacanada.com as a resource.
- Take up an offering for an orphanage in a developing country and donate to the supporting organization.
- Inform your congregation about waiting kids in your community, emphasizing that these kids will age out of the system if they don't find a family to belong to before they turn 18.
- Provide a link to Waitingtobelong.ca in your bulletin to give people a place to start their journey toward adoption.



**INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS?
APPLY ONLINE AT WAITINGTOBELONG.CA/CNFA
OR CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

PHONE: 1.800.661.9800

EMAIL: WAITINGTOBELONG@FOTF.CA

WEB: WAITINGTOBELONG.CA

CHRISTIAN
NETWORK  FOR
ADOPTION

TOGETHER,
WE CAN
MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.

CHRISTIAN
NETWORK  FOR
ADOPTION

Canada
FOCUS
ON THE
FAMILY

WHAT'S THE CHRISTIAN NETWORK FOR ADOPTION?

Families who undertake the high calling to adopt and foster children need the church community to offer support, encouragement and training and to understand the challenges they're facing. That's why we're inviting churches and ministries to join the **Christian Network for Adoption** – designed specifically to support foster and adoptive families and to help waiting children get placed in loving Christian homes.

We can best support these families by working together. Every member of the church can play a part in this, even if they don't feel called to actually welcome a child into their home.



WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT CANADIAN FAMILIES

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY CANADA WILL:

- Provide web-based resources to help inspire and promote local events and ministries;
- Supply church bulletin inserts for ministry promotion twice annually (Adoption Month in November and Foster Care Month in May);
- Offer select books, CDs and DVDs on adoption to network members **at cost** (plus shipping);
- Collaborate in planning professional and parenting training events (as negotiated);
- Assist in promoting local events and activities via Waitingtobelong.ca and our adoption e-newsletter;
- Include your church in a database of adoption-friendly churches across Canada;
- And make speakers available for local events as resources permit.

WHY JOIN?

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me" (Matthew 18:5). Because Jesus cares, He wants us to care for them too.

We are on a mission to see children without families come to belong first to an earthly family and, ultimately, to an eternal family. **We believe that a movement is starting in Canada**, and we're excited to watch it grow.

CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES WILL:

- Provide support for foster and adoptive families (see the next page for inspiration);
- Host at least one annual foster/adoption information session (contact us for ideas or resources);
- Observe Adoption Month each November (see back cover for a list of creative ideas);
- And send your stories to Focus on the Family Canada twice a year, as well as the number of families in your church involved in adoption or foster care so we can celebrate when children are placed in loving homes. An individual church or community may see a small number of children welcomed into families in their community, but when we share our stories with one another, we will sense God moving throughout the country.

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HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT FAMILIES IN YOUR CHURCH?

Every family has a unique set of needs. Pick something that fits the capacity of your church and the needs of your families.

- **Weekly, monthly or quarterly support groups.** Schedule sessions with formal teaching, guest speakers and other learning opportunities. Want something less structured? Simply gather to share your joys and burdens and to pray for one another.
- **Theme-specific groups.** Focus on topics like pre-adoption, international adoption, foster care or adopted teen parenting.
- **Online support groups.** Use channels like Facebook for semi-private groups categorized by geography or by type of parenting (e.g., special needs, infant foster care or international adoption) or Yahoo chat groups for very private discussions (requiring members to agree to rules and expectations).
- **Community-strengthening events.** Plan an event as extravagant as an adoption conference or as simple as a church potluck where you talk about recently encountered adoption issues.
- **Respite care teams.** Provide families with much-needed breaks through a team of dependable folks.
- **Ministry leader training.** Equip your church's children ministry workers to meet the unique needs of foster and adoptive children.
- **Play groups for families with younger children.** Meet at the church, a local park or a community centre where kids can play safely and parents can visit informally.
- **Coffee and chat groups.** Invite parents of older adopted children to share their burdens and stories with one another over a warm beverage.
- **Fundraisers for adoption loans or grants.** Work with Abba Canada to raise funds for families who want to adopt. Visit Abbacanada.com to learn more.

"LIVING OUT A MIRACLE IS WAY BETTER THAN LIVING OUT A DREAM."

– ROB MADDEN, AN ADOPTIVE PARENT
