

Ceremonies Celebrating Fostering in the Congregation

(Composed by John Gill)

Blessing/Celebration of Newly Licensed Foster Parents

PASTOR:

I'd like to invite _____ (names of family members) to join me. This morning we rejoice that the _____ family has been approved and licensed as a foster home. We want to bless and pray for them as they begin this exciting ministry.

In God's Word, we read: "Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:27)

In another place we read: "Sing to God... a Father to the fatherless, and a defender of widows is God in His holy dwelling. God provides homes for those who are deserted." (Psalm 68:4-6)

PASTOR TO FOSTER PARENTS:

_____ (names), you have heard the call of God to care for the most vulnerable among us – children who, through no fault of their own, find themselves separated from parents who have failed them. These precious children of God need a haven of love and encouragement to help them learn to trust adults again, to heal their wounds, and to remind them that they are loved, not simply by you, but by their Father in Heaven.

CONGREGATION IN UNISON:

Today, we as a congregation gather around you to thank you for opening your heart and your home to children in need. We commit ourselves to support you in every way possible, to pray for you and for the children in your care, and to become an extended church-family to the children in your home. We do this as our response to the call of God on our lives to "look after" God's precious and vulnerable children so that they come to experience for themselves the love of God in their lives.

(Have the foster parents/family kneel and have people lay hands on them. Optional anointing.)

PASTOR:

Let us pray:

CONGREGATION (OR PASTOR):

O God of Grace, shower your blessings upon _____ (names) as they prepare to receive your precious children into their homes and hearts. Prepare and equip them to be model parents, loving these children with Christ-like love. Give them the patience they will need to deal with the challenges that will no doubt come. Give them the wisdom to know how to guide and direct the young lives in their charge. And then, give them the grace to release them back into your care as the children move into a new and more hopeful future, rejoicing that in a profound way, as foster parents, they have been able to impact these young lives for good. Bless them, we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.