




20th
Annual 
Candlelight Vigil
for Homeless Youth

Host Materials

November 16, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 20th Annual Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth.

I am more grateful than you will ever know you have chosen to stand with us on this most important night of the year for homeless kids.

Covenant House is the largest homeless shelter for trafficked and sexually exploited children and youth in the United States. We take care of more than 55,000 homeless youth each year across six countries and many of them have been muscled into the commercial sex trade during their adolescence, victimized by “johns” and pimps.

Each year thousands of homeless and runaway youth are swept up by human traffickers and subjected to vicious commercial sexual exploitation. They struggle in the shadows, away from the spotlight, out of the public eye, and without protection. So many of our kids are filled with such despair and self loathing, it takes years to rebuild their esteem and equip them to leave the past behind them. The chilling stories they recount sound a familiar refrain: as they struggled to survive on the margins of society, they found themselves alone, hidden from view, and cut off from any help.

With your participation in this Vigil, you stand side by side with homeless kids and those who care about them. You become their voice, their advocates, and their friends. Our Vigil is the largest national advocacy event of the year on behalf of homeless kids. It is an urgent call to action on behalf of the estimated one million young people who are homeless in America each night.

This is a day we gather to remember the young, promising lives lost to the streets, and to honor their memories by fighting for the rights of each child. It’s a day to celebrate the lives of the kids we’ve been able to rescue from the streets since our last Vigil. And it is a day we can send a unified message across the country and around the world that no homeless youth will ever be forgotten.

Thanks to your support, our kids will be heard. And in the days that follow, we’ll use the momentum of the Vigil to stand together as part of the largest human rights movement for homeless kids in the Americas.

Thank you so much for bringing the light of God’s love and hope into the lives of each of these kids ... a light that darkness can never put out. Thank you for inviting our kids into your family, and into your heart.

Gratefully,

Kevin Ryan
President of Covenant House

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL "HOW-TO" KIT

Thank you for hosting a Candlelight Vigil to remember kids still on the streets letting them know that there are places to find immediate help and healing. It's your work that brings attention to the national crisis of youth homelessness and reminds us of what we can do for the homeless youth struggling everyday to survive.

Just imagine the progress we could make in tackling teen homelessness if every American did one simple thing to help just one kid. That's why hosting a Candlelight Vigil is so important. We've developed a lot of supporting materials below, but feel free to put together a Vigil that works best for you.

Feel free to contact us with questions by emailing vigils@covenanthouse.org, calling 1.888.388.3888 or visiting <http://candlelight.covenanthouse.org/>.

Thank you for everything you do for the kids –

The Covenant House Vigil Team

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN 8 SIMPLE STEPS

- **STEP 1: GET STARTED**
 - Sign Up to Host a Vigil!

- **STEP 2: PLAN, PLAN, PLAN**
 - Pick a Date & Time
 - Location, Location, Location
 - Equipment & Materials
 - Feel Free to Ask for Help

- **STEP 3: DEVELOP YOUR GUEST LIST**
 - Set Your Goals
 - Make Your Guest List

- **STEP 4: INVITE PEOPLE**
 - Send Invitations
 - Follow-Up Personally
 - Send Reminders

- **STEP 5: PLAN YOUR EVENING**
 - Review the Agenda
 - Hand-Outs

- **STEP 6: The Night of the Vigil**
 - Sign-In Station
 - Printed Materials

- **STEP 7: Vigil**
 - Assign a Timekeeper
 - Assign a Welcome Volunteer
 - Take Pictures

- **STEP 8: TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!**
 - Fill Out the Survey
 - Send Pictures
 - Got More to Say

STEP 1: GET STARTED

Sign Up to Host a Candlelight Vigil – It’s Easy!

If you haven’t already done so, be sure to sign-up as a vigil host on website at <http://candlelight.covenanthouse.org/attend/contact.php/>.

If you want to reach us personally at any time, feel free to contact us by sending an email to: vigils@covenanthouse.org.

We want to support you in this important work!

STEP 2: PLAN, PLAN, PLAN

Once you have signed up, the next step is to plan the core elements of the vigil.

Pick a Date & Time

The 20th Annual Covenant House Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Youth will be held on November 16, 2010. While we truly hope that your event will coincide with ours, feel free to hold your vigil on any date that is convenient. We recommend you allow at least 2 weeks to plan your vigil. Give your guests time to put your vigil on their calendar. You can decide how long the gathering will last -- our suggested agenda takes about 1 hour.

Location

We recommend you use your own house for the vigil if at all possible. Even when things are a little cozy, gatherings in homes have a warm, inviting feel.

If you do not have a home large enough to hold the expected number of guests (we expect most vigils to have 8 or more guests), consider hosting the vigil at a friend or relative’s house. In fact, co-hosting can be a really fun way to do this. Alternately, you might reserve a room in an appropriate community space such as a local community center, senior center, or church space. You can ask guests to help cover any cost for rental.

Equipment & Materials

Here's a short checklist of materials and equipment you should consider having for your vigil:

- Candles or flashlights (although people should be encouraged to bring their own)
- Matches
- Flashlights for volunteers to help guide people
- Computer open to CovenantHouse.org so your guests can see the site and sign-up online
- Sign-in sheet to capture names and email addresses (if computer is not an option)
- PA system rental (if you think you need one)
- Plenty of flyers to help promote your event
- Permits (yes please check to see if you need one)
- Any food or refreshments (optional)

Feel Free to Ask Friends for Vigil Help

It's always fun to plan events with others!

So you may want to consider recruiting people to help throughout the planning process and the vigil hosting, or even find a co-host. Some tasks you may be able to share include:

- Inviting people
 - Setting up equipment
 - Preparing your home
 - Facilitating the vigil
 - Timekeeping during the vigil
 - Note taking during the vigil or follow-ups after the vigil.
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STEP 3: DEVELOP GUEST LIST

Set Your Goals

Your Candlelight Vigil can be whatever size you'd like – our suggested agenda and format will accommodate any size

It's often good to invite more people than you expect to attend – everyone's busy these days, and some of your invitees are bound to already have plans for the time of your vigil. (One rule of thumb is to invite *twice* as many people as you'd like to attend).

Make Your Guest List

Start by inviting people who you know personally. Guests may include:

- Friends
- Family
- Co-workers
- Neighbors
- Parents from your children’s play group, school, and sports
- Members of your church, synagogue, temple, or other religious organization
- Members of your labor union, PTA, political club, or book group
- People you play sports with, or with whom you have regular interactions
- Facebook friends (and contacts from other social networks)

If you feel comfortable, you could also open up the vigil to others in your community whom you might not know personally.

Some options for making the vigil available to a wider audience include:

- Posting an invitation to local email lists
- Sending an email to invitees asking them to share it with their communities
- Submitting an announcement to community papers for listing in their “Events Calendar”
- Including an announcement in your church/synagogue bulletin
- Delivering invites to your neighbors
- Create an open event on Facebook (open to anyone and not only your Facebook friends).

This would be a great way to expand the size of the vigil, meet new people, and expand the reach of Covenant House’s work.

STEP 4: INVITE PEOPLE

Send Invitations

By email: use this sample email invitation text to invite people to the vigil; feel free to customize it to make it feel personal.

By Facebook Event: on your wall, copy-paste this text after customization then click on “Attach... Event” (below the text area), enter a title, the location, the date then Share it. After publishing it on your wall, click on “Invite guests”, next to the Like button under your new publication.

Dear ...

Almost 40% of the homeless in our country are under 18. Every day, hundreds of kids find themselves on the streets, with nowhere to go. Homeless youth routinely go hungry; many are physically and sexually abused. Every year, approximately 5,000 homeless youth die from assault, illness and suicide.

This fall, I’m organizing a Candlelight Vigil for homeless youth with Covenant House. I’m inviting you to join me to speak with one voice that says, “it’s unacceptable that there are homeless young people living and dying in the streets each and every day. It is shameful and unacceptable.” We can no longer turn our backs, we can no longer avert our eyes. We must tell the world we care about the young and the homeless.

Just imagine the night sky aglow with candlelight. Now imagine this light shining in every town and city across the nation. What a beacon of hope that would be!

Please join me on [INSERT DATE AND TIME HERE] at [INSERT LOCATION HERE].

We’ll light a candle and say a prayer to remember all of the homeless youth in our towns and cities, offering a beacon of hope for those on the streets tonight.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME]

Follow-Up Personally

No matter how you send your invitation, be sure to follow-up by phone or in person. People appreciate the personal touch and it will dramatically increase your chances of getting people there. If you have a co-host, divide up the calls or visits so it's manageable.

Send Reminders

Don't forget to send an email reminder several days before your vigil.

STEP 5: PLAN YOUR EVENING

We recommend that you dedicate a total of about 1 hour for the candlelight vigil. We've developed a sample agenda as a starting point for you to consider based on successful Vigils over the past 19 years.

Of course, you can always shift the agenda as needed before or during the meeting to accommodate your group's interest or timing realities! And, you can modify it to fit your needs as well. It's all up to you! Feel free to expand or modify the agenda to accommodate local speakers, community leaders, clergy or musicians.

- Introduction (5 min)
- Host Reads Vigil Speech (10 min)
- Host Asks Volunteers to Read Testimonials and Stories from Covenant House Youth Alumni (15 min)
- Host Lights a Candle and Invites Volunteers and Other Participants to Hold up Their Candles/Flashlights (15 min)
- Host or Clergy/Community Spokesperson Leads Interfaith Prayer (or minute of silence, followed by an inspirational reading (5 min)
- Closing Inspirational Song or Reading (5 min)

Hand-Outs

We have prepared several one page hand-outs; these hand-outs are optional and for your use as you see fit. In some cases, hosts give out copies of these hand-outs to guests; in other cases, hosts use them as readings on the agenda. You should review these hand-outs and decide which ones you'd like to use, and how you'd like to use them. You can find them at the end of this document.

STEP 6: NIGHT OF THE VIGIL

In addition to the regular vigil organizing, we recommend you include the following items in your set up:

Sign-In Station

It's hugely helpful to get the names and contact information of your attendees! And if they become Covenant House members, we can get them in the loop and begin sending them our email updates right away.

So we highly recommend you set up a computer station with the CovenantHouse.org website open, to let people sign-up online on the spot. Attendees can become members at no cost by visiting the "Sign Up" link at the top of the <http://www.CovenantHouse.org> homepage.

If a computer station isn't possible, use a simple sign-in sheet and place it in a visible location. Before the vigil ends, make sure everyone that wants to has signed in. Then after your vigil, please type it in and e-mail to vigils@CovenantHouse.org. Thanks!

Printed Materials

Display printed copies of the Candlelight Vigil Agenda and Take Action hand-outs in a central location.

STEP 7: VIGIL!

Here are some tips to keep things running smoothly during the vigil:

Assign a Timekeeper

Assign a volunteer ahead of time to keep track of time during your vigil! As the host, it's very easy to lose track of time once people start arriving so your timekeeper can help you keep things running on time.

Assign a Welcome Volunteer

Assign a volunteer to welcome people to the vigil and make sure they sign-up at the sign-in station.

Take Pictures

Capture the occasion by taking group pictures—some candid shots of people in conversation and of course the candles. We'll have a place on the Covenant House website for you to upload digital photos from your vigil.

Try to finish all of your vigil set-up well before hand so you can focus on people, not tasks, once the vigil has started.

STEP 8: TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

We are eager to know everything about your vigil!

Fill Out the Survey

After your vigil, we'll send you an email reminding you to complete our short, online evaluation form. We'll use your feedback on the evaluation forms to revise our guidelines, prepare new materials, and refine our goals for the next series of events.

Send Pictures

Show us your vigil! Send a few pictures of your vigil and your vigil details (date, location, host name) to us at vigils@CovenantHouse.org. We'll post pictures from the vigil at the Covenant House Vigils site!

Got More to Say?

If you want to share your experience with us directly, feel free to contact us by emailing vigils@CovenantHouse.org.



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL TALKING POINTS



Each year, 2 million young people experience a period of homelessness in the U.S.. We are gathered here tonight on their behalf to speak with one voice that says, “it’s unacceptable that there are homeless young people living and dying in the streets each and every day. It is shameful and unacceptable.” We can no longer turn our backs, we can no longer avert your eyes. We must tell the world we care about the young and the homeless.

- Approximately 5,500 homeless youth die from assault, illness or suicide each year.
- Almost 40% of the homeless in the U.S. are under 18.
- According to a study of youth in shelters, nearly 50% reported intense conflict or physical harm by a family member as a major contributing factor to their homelessness.
- Over 25% of former foster children become homeless within two to four years of leaving the system.
- 50% of youth aging out of foster care and juvenile justice systems will be homeless within six months because they are unprepared to live independently, have limited education and no social support.
- 57% of homeless youth don’t eat at least one day a month.
- 19% of Covenant House kids reported that they have endured sexual abuse.
- Every day, Covenant House, and those who support our mission are providing solutions to the problems facing homeless youth.
- Since the doors of Covenant House opened 38 years ago, more than one million young people have found a safe haven and access to life-changing programs.

There is so much work to be done. Starting with this Vigil, we can all make a difference...

Visit www.CovenantHouse.org to make a difference today.



THE STAGGERING NUMBERS OF HOMELESS YOUTH

2009-2010

1,813

On average, 1,813 youth were sheltered at Covenant House every night of the year in 2009.

31,107

Residential & Community Service Center programs cared for 31,107 youth.

36,154

Contacts were made with over 36,453 youth on the street through outreach.

40,595

Covenant House's U.S. NINELINE (1.800.999.9999) received 40,595 crisis calls from youth throughout the country.

661,740

A total of 661,740 nights of shelter were provided in the year 2009-2010.

Visit www.CovenantHouse.org to make a difference today.



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY HOMELESS YOUTH?

WHY ARE THERE YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING ON THE STREETS ALL OVER AMERICA?

Behind the face of every homeless youth is another heart-breaking story: A 15-year boy abused by his alcoholic parent; or a pregnant girl rejected by her guardian; or a teenager trying to escape gang membership or a life of prostitution. In case after case, the main cause of youth homelessness is physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse from parents or guardians.

WHAT ABOUT FOSTER CARE?

Many of the young people living and dying on the streets of our communities are former foster children who have aged out of the system. They are too old for the foster care system but too young to take care of themselves without a family or support system. In fact, **almost 40% of young people who come to Covenant House have spent time in foster care.**

AREN'T THERE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO TAKE CARE OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE?

Unfortunately, the needs of these teenagers and young adults go unrecognized by most local, state and federal government agencies. And this population is underserved by overburdened child-care agencies. As a result, thousands of these young people end up destitute and alone on the streets.

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT HOMELESS YOUTH?

Beyond humanitarian reasons, the cost to our society is staggering. Today's homeless youth will become tomorrow's unemployable and chronically homeless adults. At an average cost that can exceed \$40,000 per person a year (in New York City) for emergency health care, shelter and treatment of homeless adults, the economic burden is huge.

But worst of all is the human cost, the cost to our society. By falling through the cracks of our society, our communities are robbed of the potential talent and energy of these young people. These young people are our future, and their future needs our support.

Visit www.CovenantHouse.org to make a difference today.



Ali's Story

SURVIVING THE STREETS MADE HIM STRONG. ACCEPTING HELP MADE HIM A BETTER PERSON.

"Living on the streets will break you down mentally if you're not strong enough," says Ali, a Covenant House California (CHC) resident. "It's hard to even find a place to rest your head without any worries."

Ali's parents passed away when he was younger. As a result, he never had a stable living situation. He lived where he could, when he could. For a while he stayed with his grandfather, then his girlfriend, and then with any friend that would have him. But soon he found that he had used up all of his options. It wasn't long until Ali was living on the streets.

"It's kind of hard being on the streets. You always have to worry about where your belongings are going to go. Drugs are always being thrown your way. It's really easy to find an excuse to use them," he says.

It was while on the streets that Ali first encountered the CHC Outreach van. "I was hanging out in Berkeley a lot and the van used to always come through to give out food, hygiene kits, and water. They told me if I needed a place to stay I should check out CHC. I was skeptical at first, but I called the number and they immediately offered me a bed."

Along with giving Ali shelter, CHC also offered him assistance with GED classes, counseling and job hunting. He says that his experiences at CHC have been good ones. "It was exciting when I first came here, just to know everything is going to be cool; just to know that you have a place to rest your head. Your basic immediate needs are being met which allows you to focus on bigger things like getting a stable life."

And Ali says he's a better person as a result. "I'd probably be in jail if not for CHC. You lean towards doing desperate things if you're homeless. It's the only option you have. CHC kept that from happening."

Ali is fortunate to have met one of our Outreach vans. Who knows how long it would have taken for him to learn about Covenant House, if at all? And we have you to thank for it. Your donations are what make these important missions to reach out to homeless youth possible. Please continue to support our efforts to get homeless teenagers off the streets and help them put their lives back on track.

Visit www.CovenantHouse.org to make a difference today.



Bess's Story

STARTING OVER

"Reality hit me...I was 15 and a runaway...When I ran to the streets, I made friends with a guy who was my age. He told me that he'd survived on the streets by turning tricks. I was so naive, I thought he was talking about juggling, like in the circus or some thing...I had a lot to learn." — Bess, 15

"I was from this middle-class family. I had every material thing I wanted," said Bess. "But I wasn't going back home. I didn't care if I lived or died. My father was a drunk and he beat me, and my mother didn't want to get my father mad, so she just chose to let the beatings happen. I wasn't going back. I just couldn't."

Bess ran to the streets, where she found it only took a couple of days of being all alone and utterly homeless and lost to come to terms with the fact that life on the streets is a dead end. And that she could very well end up dead.

"I found Covenant House, and when I first got to your shelter, I was really lost," Bess remembers. "I was standing in this room I'd been assigned and the reality hit me: I'm a runaway. I'm 15 and I'm a good person. What's going on?"

There really isn't a "profile" of the typical Covenant House kid. But they've all got one sure thing in common, whether they are a boy or a girl or from the suburbs or the city: They don't have anywhere else to go.

Covenant House is it, the last stop, the end of the line, their last and only hope. They come in with black eyes and broken hearts, bleeding and torn. Some come in with a swagger and a cold stare — others shaking non-stop and unable to speak or look you in the eye.

All kids make mistakes or exercise poor judgment from time to time, and ones like Bess who become runners are the most vulnerable in some ways. They don't have the street smarts of chronically abused kids, usually.

Where is the light for these kids? — It is in us, here at Covenant House, as we show and share and shine God's love just as bright and strong as we can.

Thankfully, an aunt and uncle agreed to have Bess come live with them. We gave her a bus ticket and packed her off with our love and our fingers crossed. Bess struggled, but ultimately managed to finish high school and her future looks bright.



Jenny's Story

SEARCHING FOR HER FATHER, FINDING HER IDENTITY

Jenny's mother died when she was very young. Raised in Chicago foster homes from the time she was four years old, she was an earnest and naïve child. By the time she was a teenager she could no longer stand the harsh world of the foster home and she set out on her own. For two years she lived in an abandoned building with a few other kids her age.

When she turned 17 she discovered that her father was alive and living in New York City. She wrote to him and asked if she could visit; he wrote back that she could. Jenny meticulously packed her backpack and set out on a weeklong hitchhiking journey to New York. On that long and arduous trip she created exaggerated expectations about the new life that was waiting for her with her real father. When she finally arrived at his apartment door, he actually didn't want to see her at all. He was a serious crack addict, and he only wanted to know if she had any money.

Jenny was devastated. That's when she came to Covenant House. In our world of lost and hurting kids, Jenny stood out immediately as the most lost and hurting of all: an innocent completely lacking in identity, forced to go through life not really knowing who she is, where she came from, or where she was going next.

It's bound to take time, but soon, through love and counseling, we will help Jenny reclaim her life. Then she will rebuild it through our Rights of Passage program. In Rights of Passage we'll help Jenny get everything she needs to pass from childhood to adulthood -- an education, job training, independent living skills -- complete with a caring mentor who will guide and encourage her every step of the way.

It will be a long journey, but we're confident that Jenny will make it. And we thank you, as always, for being there for Jenny and the other 1,812 kids we'll see tonight. It's your support that helps us lift them up when they're at rock bottom.



Sara's Story

IT HURTS SO MUCH TO LOSE YOUR MOTHER

When Sara first came to Covenant House out of sheer desperation...

In her words—I had nothing. I was empty inside. I was left alone a long time ago. It didn't matter if the sun came up or not.

No one could bring back Sara's mother. But we could certainly give her lots of motherly love.

When I first walked through the doors at Covenant House, I was greeted by something safe and secure.

We believe that Covenant House works because it provides a family atmosphere. It's the kind of environment that so many of the kids who come here have never known.

If we can spend one day with a child who feels lost...

If we can show that youngster that somebody cares...

If we can hug them and offer them a place of safety...

...then we've taken the first step.

Yes, these kids are tough and knowing. Most have nothing when they come here. But if we tried to fool them, they know we were "conning" them. Each individual child needs to know that someone – we – sincerely cares about them.

At Covenant House, we offer kids a chance to look at what their future might be from a different point of view.

If they follow the path we describe, then we can do so much for them.

Sara was one of those who got the message. She is turning into a wonderful young lady, full of drive and fortified with a vision of where she's going.

Hers is a story of triumph over adversity, a story of strong character overcoming terrible experiences.



Tony's Story

When Tony first came to Covenant House, he stood out immediately. Helpful and friendly, he always had a bright smile and an amusing story for the other kids. There was only one topic Tony would consistently shy away from: his family. When Sister Tricia Cruise tried to find out what brought Tony to Covenant House, he said, "Sister, we can talk about anything you want, but not my family. As far as I'm concerned, I have no family."

Nearly heartbroken, Sister Tricia did her best to reach out to him. "Yes, you do, Tony," she said. "We are your family now and we're very glad you're here with us." Although Tony would never admit this, Sister Tricia's earnest compassion clearly moved him.

Connecting with someone as inscrutable as Tony was a difficult challenge. But after several weeks in our shelter's loving and nurturing environment, Tony finally opened up to Sister Tricia and explained what had led him to Covenant House.

Tony's father was a gang member. As a child, Tony was involved in illegal activities just by spending time with his dad. By his early teens, he was hooked on drugs. One day, Tony was critically injured in a car accident. After recovering, he told his father that he wanted to leave the gang and build a new life for himself, free from drugs and crime. But the code of gang life would not allow his father to let him go easily.

What happened next was absolutely terrible. His father picked up a baseball bat and swung it, hitting Tony in the head. Tony staggered back to his feet and his dad hit him again. Then he disowned him. Can you imagine any father doing such a thing?

It's a miracle Tony survived; God must surely have guided his footsteps. How else can it be that after such a beating and all that pain, Tony eventually -- somehow -- found his way to Covenant House?

We are pleased to tell you that, since coming here, Tony has overcome his drug addiction, earned his high school diploma, and even completed a job-training program. He now works at a four-star hotel and is searching for his first apartment.

We are very proud of Tony -- and all our kids. These simple successes wouldn't be possible without your compassion and support. It would mean a lot to Tony -- and to us -- to know that good friends like you care about him.



INSPIRATIONAL READINGS

Songs, poems, and other inspirational readings are a good way to engage Vigil participants. Please feel free to use the examples listed here or bring along popular songs or other readings to unite the crowd and make the event memorable.

Compassion... is the strength that arises out of seeing the true nature of suffering in the world. Compassion allows us to bear witness to that suffering, whether it is in ourselves or others, without fear; it allows us to name injustice without hesitation, and to act strongly, with all the skill at our disposal.

Sharon Salzberg

Consider the following. We human are social beings. We come into the world as the result of other's actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives when we do not benefit from others activities. For this reason it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationship with others.

HH The Dalai Lama

"The most solid comfort one can fall back upon is the thought that the business of one's life is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation and misery on the face of this beautiful earth."

George Eliot

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something . . . I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands -- this is not optional -- my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

Jimmy Carter



INTER-FAITH PRAYER

Dear God,
Your light is our vision,
and your love is our eternal hope.
Tonight, as we hold hands
and light our candles of hope,
we pray that all children
walking in the darkness,
will find your light,
and be led to the warmth and
security of those who cares.
Strengthen those families
that suffer from conflict.
Help them find the love that
binds parents and children together.
And Dear God, please also strengthen
and help all those in the Covenant House family.

Help us be there to answer your call
in this time of immense need.
Please guide us and lead us,
as we provide a loving home
to the most innocent
and lost of your children.

Amen.



INSPIRATIONAL SONG “AMAZING GRACE”

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been here ten thousand
years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.