



The Compassionate Friends of Canada

National newsletter, December 2015

Your Board of Directors for TCF Canada continues its commitment toward increased support for our chapters across Canada. This issue focuses on National Children's Memorial Day, December 13, and the TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting on the same date.

National Children's Memorial Day, December 13th

In May of 2003, a Private Member's Motion put forth by Labrador MP Lawrence O'Brien was passed by the House of Commons designating the second Sunday of December as *National Children's Memorial Day*. It was approved unanimously. The suggestion originated with Betty and Dennis Normore in memory of their daughter Paula who died in a snow-mobile accident in January 2001. This event occurs on the same day as the

Worldwide Candle Lighting: *"That Their Light May Always Shine"*

TCF Worldwide Candle Lighting December 13

Held annually on the second Sunday in December, The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting unites families and friends around the globe as they light candles for one hour to honour and remember children who have died at any age, from any cause. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time, thousands of people commemorate and honour children in a way that transcends all ethnic, cultural, religious and political boundaries.

Believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the Worldwide Candle Lighting creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but who will never be forgotten.

The Worldwide Candle Lighting started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance but has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world. A memorial message board is available during the event at TCF USA's website:

www.compassionatefriends.org

Hundreds of postings are received each year from across the US and from dozens of other countries.

The Candle Lighting gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their child....

that their light may always shine!



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

**Worldwide
Candle
Lighting®**

... that their light
may always shine.

**Second Sunday in December
7 PM Around the Globe**



Our Logo



*The poignant image of the small child,
either moving away or towards the hands,
which look male and female,
along the rays of sunlight,
has never been analyzed and remains
whatever each parent, sibling or grandparent
feels it is for them.*

We offer these poems for those of you who will gather at community events, and those who will quietly observe at home.

White and Gold

White of the damasked linen
Gold of the light as the candles shiver,
Illuminating the pictures placed in random rows.
The faces bright with promise, solemn, or smiling,
Set in place by careful hands,
Hands which linger to brush cheek or hair of the images,
All that remain of the children, lost
To the night and time's passing.
A sigh, a breath
Shaped into sound,
Sounds that become beloved names
Spoken loud or soft and called back into being and memory
As words whispered into the glowing air.
White and gold, the colours of this one night.
White for the hope that they are not lost forever,
Gold for the love that remains unbroken.

—Pheroza Merchant, TCF Ottawa

I Light This Candle

I light this candle
As a symbol of Love
For all our children,
Born and unborn,
angelic or not,
whether with us now in body
or in spirit.

Holy is the love that created them,
Made room for them
In heart and in home,
In family and community.

Holy is the love we've shared
And always will.

Infinite is the love and the loss.

—Brenda Brand, TCF Portage Plains

Lights of Love

Can you see our candles
Burning in the night?
Lights of love we send you
Rays of purest white.

Children we remember
Though missing from our sight
In honor and remembrance
We light candles in the night.

All across the big blue marble
Spinning out in space
Can you see the candles burning
From this human place?

Oh, angels gone before us
Who taught us perfect love
This night the world lights candles
That you may see them from above.

Tonight the globe is lit by love
Of those who know great sorrow,
But as we remember our yesterdays
Let's light one candle for tomorrow.

We will not forget,
And every year in deep December
On earth we will light candles
As.....we remember.

—Jacqueline Brown, TCF Peace Valley, VA



*When darkness seems overwhelming,
light a candle in someone's life and see
how it makes the darkness in our own
and the other person's life flee.*

—Rabbi Harold Kushner

I Will Light Candles

I will light candles this season,
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

—Howard Thurman