

October 23, 2008

Hello Champions,

Are you ready for the holiday season? The weather is changing fast and before you know it Thanksgiving will be here with Christmas around the corner. My prayer for all of you is that you have a wonderful and safe time as you celebrate.

November is National Adoption Month. For several months you have been receiving information about how to obtain National Adoption bulletin inserts for your church. If you are in need of these inserts, please let me know. I have a limited amount of them available at our Bethany office. Also, please consider how you can highlight National Adoption Month in your church. A bulletin announcement is provided in the announcement portion of this letter for your use. Other ideas are:

- Inviting a Bethany representative to speak at your church or small group.
- Scheduling an offering for Bethany during November to support our ministry.
- Collecting supplies for a dresser ministry for a birth mother, adopting a needy family for Thanksgiving, or creating Christmas stockings for foster children.
- Volunteering for Bethany's foster care Christmas party or other events.

These are just a few ideas. If you have other ideas or interests, please let me know. I will be happy to help you get started.

Redeeming a Generation on November 3 and **The Cry of the Orphan** on November 11 are both opportunities for you to learn more about our orphan ministries. Please consider attending one of these events and/or placing the information provided on the announcement page in your bulletin or newsletter. Both events are focusing on the 1.4 million children around the world that need a mom and dad and a home to call their own. Let me know if you will consider attending.

The Project Open Arms Ministry will be hosting a Coffee and Dessert evening to offer information about this ministry at our Kalamazoo Bethany office on Tuesday November 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. I will be calling you soon to invite you personally. The primary goal of this ministry is to engage the churches to partner with Bethany to reduce the number of children available for adoption in Michigan. Currently, there are 6200 children available in Michigan and over 10,000 churches. This is a very realistic goal. Please consider joining us for this event. I would also be glad to meet with you and your pastor individually.

Karen Renzema, LMSW
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November is National Adoption Month. Please remember and pray for the 1.4 million children around the world that are orphans and in need of a family and home. If you want to know more and are interested in helping find homes for these children, please contact Bethany Christian Services at 269-372-8800 and ask to speak to Karen Renzema.

Bethany Christian Services is offering the following adoption meetings and trainings in November. **Foster Care Orientation meetings** are scheduled the first Monday of every month. The next meeting will be November 3 from 4:30 to 8:00 PM. **International adoptive families** will have orientation meetings on November 20 from 6:30-8:30 PM and November 1 from 10-11:30 am. The **Domestic Infant Adoption meeting** will be November 24 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are at the Bethany office in Kalamazoo. To reserve your place for any of these meetings, please call the office at 372-8800.

Bethany Christian Services invites you to be our guest and join the Christian Community in West Michigan for a dinner and Multi-Media Ministry Event, **Redeeming a Generation**, on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Resurrection Life Church 5100 Ivanrest, Grandville, MI. Registration deadline is October 27. Please contact Karen Renzema at Bethany 269-372-8800

A Cry for the Orphan will be held on November 11 offering information on how to improve the life of child in need. A light dinner will be served fro 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College. Presentations by local professionals will begin at 6:30 pm. For more information or to reserve your seat, please call Stephanie at 616-796-9198.