



Every Life a Promise

Bethany Christian Services- Nashville, 220 Athens Way, Suite 405, Nashville, Tennessee 37228, (615)242-0909

Recent Adoptions

Michael and Amy received Myla on November 13.
Andrew and Kim arrived with AnnaGrace on November 19.
Scott and Melody received Madison on November 20.
Travis and Shellie received Ezekiel on November 21.

Mark and Susan received Elizabeth on December 1.
Andrew and Crystal received Jonas on December 6.
Herb and Sherri arrived with Thomasson on December 7.
Matthew and Diane arrived with Carolina on December 7.
Stuart and Jamie received Abigayle on December 9.
Andrew and Rebecca received Ezekiel on December 16.
Justin and Nikki received Isaiah on December 20.

Greg and Vicki received Ava on January 12.
Brent and Cindy received Tyler on January 18.

Upcoming Events

Domestic Adoptive Families Group

February 12 – 6:30 pm
Woodmont Hills (3710 Franklin Road), Room 201

Children of Hope Playgroup

March 12 – 6:30 pm
Bethany Christian Services' office

Adoption Information Meeting

International, Domestic & Embryo
March 13 – 6 pm
Woodmont Hills (3710 Franklin Road), Room 201

Domestic Adoptive Families Group

March 19– 6:30 pm
Woodmont Hills (3710 Franklin Road), Room 201

2007 New Friends Dinner

November 13 – Embassy Suites, Cool Springs

From the Director

2006 was quite a year! On both a personal and professional level, I have been very thankful for my Bethany family. I appreciate so much your willingness to stick with us through all the ups and downs. Between me being out for a while and some significant staff changes, I know there has been a sense of instability at times. Then, just when we are getting discouraged, God blesses us in amazing ways. Contrary to our expectations, we ended the year in the black financially. And, most importantly, 40 babies and children were placed in their forever families in 2006 through Bethany of Middle Tennessee. Eleven of those placements occurred in the last six weeks of the year!

For those of you who are having trouble keeping up with who the staff is and what their roles are (and who isn't!), here's who we are:

Amanda Burton, Part-time case worker, will be working primarily with independent families
Carolyn Walker, Domestic Specialist
Chris Troutt, International Coordinator
Jay Turner, Office Manager
Lisa Lancaster, International Specialist
Sheryl Findley, Infertility and Embryo Adoption Specialist
Tammy Delle, Director

As you can see there are some of us who have been around for awhile and some new faces. I hope you get to know each one during 2007.

From Carolyn

My name is Carolyn Walker and I am happy to say I am among the new staff additions to the Bethany Family. My new position is as a Domestic Adoption Counselor.

Here is a little about myself: I am originally from Texas but spent many years in Oklahoma before moving to "higher ground" in Tennessee in July of this year to be closer to family. My education consists of an undergraduate BS degree in Texas and completing a Masters in Counseling Psychology in Oklahoma. I have applied my education and skills in assisting individuals, children, and families in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, community mental health centers, the corporate world, church, and in quality control/peer review. I believe my education, training, and varied experience will be beneficial in assisting families with their individual journeys to becoming forever families.

As I start this adventure, I am committed to aiding families in the mechanics of the adoption process, but more importantly I want to partner with the individuals themselves that those cases represent to bring the adoption process to a fruitful conclusion. I truly believe God has led me here and made a place for me at BCS. I ask for your patience as I continue my training process. Be assured that if I do not have the answers that are needed, I will consult with those who do in order to make the transition as smooth as possible. I look forward to meeting you soon whether in person or by phone/email.

I would like to leave you with a prayer from Dawn Davenport's new book The Complete Book of International Adoption,

My Prayer for All Children

I pray that all children will be loved for who they are, for no reason other than they are.

I pray that all children will be loved as first best, not second best; that they will be loved with an intensity that can move mountains, because life will present plenty of mountains that will need to be moved.

I pray that all children will have someone who will seek them, and only them, out of the crowd on the stage; push them to reach for their goals, and discover their unique gifts; hold them accountable for their actions with love and dignity; advocate for them through this maze called life; explain the unexplainable; and smile when they walk into the room, just because they did.

Mostly I pray that all children will have someone who knows them well enough and loves them deeply enough to see the divine spark that is unique in them.

I pray that this be the birthright of all children throughout the world. And since this birthright can only be fulfilled by parents, I pray that each child, regardless of the circumstances of their birth, finds their parent and each parent finds their child. Thanks, God. Amen.

From Lisa

I am the new International Case Worker, focusing mainly on the Asian countries. I look forward to working with families as they take their journey and receive their blessing.

As most of the families making their journey to China are aware the process continues to lengthen as the new changes fall into place. Just to highlight a few:

- 0 – 12 months age of adoptive parents 30-45 yrs at dossier submission
- 1 – 3 yrs of age, age of adoptive parents 46-50 yrs at dossier submission
- Both adoptive parents BMI (www.nhlbissupport.com/bmi/) must be under 40%
- Once your dossier is submitted and you receive your log in date from China the referral is 18-24 months from the log in date. This means that during this journey you will have to be re-fingerprinted (additional cost), home study updated (additional cost) and submit another I600A for renewal of the 171H (additional cost). This is a big change from the past. However, it is my job as your caseworker to keep you informed.

If you are a family awaiting a log in date from China or in the process and have not heard from me, please contact me and make sure I have your current information and e-mail address.

Infertility Support Group

Bethany is preparing to begin the next six-week infertility support and educational group. The group will address many issues including how infertility affects marriage, friendships, spirituality, and finances. The group also investigates ethical issues that can arise during treatment. The cost is \$10 per session (for couples or individuals) and meetings will be held each Tuesday night from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the Bethany office located at 220 Athens Way, Suite 405 in Nashville. If you are interested, please email sfindley@bethany.org or call the office for dates.

Share Your Adoption Story

We have updated our Nashville Bethany webpage with a personal touch. We are showing local Bethany adoption stories and pictures on our homepage. We plan to highlight 3-4 stories on the home page at a time, and the full collection of stories will be kept permanently on the Stories page. If you would like to participate, please write your adoption story (1,000-1,200 words) and send it with 1-3 family pictures to Sheryl Findley at sfindley@bethany.org. Please go to www.bethany.org/nashville to read the stories that have already been posted. We believe that your story can be a source of encouragement to others as they bear witness to God's handiwork in building your family!

Birthmother Mentoring Program

Many of you may know that we have been in the process of developing a Birthmother Mentoring Program. The program is now in place and all we need are more volunteers! We are looking for Christian women ages 21 and older who have a flexible schedule during the day to help with practical needs of birthmothers including, but not limited to, transportation to prenatal appointments. This program is designed for mentors to develop a one-on-one relationship with a woman in a crisis pregnancy to provide support, encouragement, and friendship. Please contact Sheryl in our office for more information. Please note that women who are in our pool of waiting families for domestic adoption are not eligible as to avoid any possible conflict of interest.