



Every Life a Promise

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

Recent Adoptions

Keith and Sonya Stephenson brought Selvin home from Guatemala June 23rd.

Mark and Anita Hiehle brought Kaylin home from China on June 29th.

John and Twana Brock received their son, Kendyn Justus on July 12th.

Patrick and Christine Stearns took Hudson home on August 21st.

Brian and Jamie Scott received Caleb on August 22nd.

And we have 3 families in China right now! More news soon!

Upcoming Events

- September 11 Children of Hope Meeting at the Bethany office, at 6:30pm.
- September 18 Adoptive Families Group Meeting at Woodmont Hills Family of God, East Hall, Room 201, at 6:30 pm.
- October 19 International Adoption Information Session at Woodmont Hills Family of God, White House Annex, at 6 pm. If attending, please RSVP at 242-0909.

Mark Your Calendars!

***The New Friends Dinner
will be held on November 14.***

From the Director

I'm pleased to announce that Shelby Bailey Wheliss has accepted the position as Domestic Adoption Counselor at Bethany. She will officially start on

September 9 but has already met many of you. She has experience in the adoption world and will be able to hit the ground running. I encourage you to welcome her to our Bethany family. Her e-mail address will be swheliss@bethany.org. We were sorry to see Maribeth go, but we wish her well in her new adventures!

From Bethany

It is important for families adopting internationally to seek a pre-adoption medical review of their referral. Vanderbilt's International Adoption Clinic offers this service. These reviews not only help address family's concerns regarding the health of the child referred to them, they also help parents provide their child the best care. The depth, content, and accuracy of referral information varies from country to country. Medical terminology from some countries may be unfamiliar to U.S. physicians not familiar with international adoption. The doctor reviewing your referral should evaluate all growth points and will pay careful attention to a child's growth pattern and the size of the child's head. Children who have lived in an orphanage are at increased risk for growth delay. A good rule of thumb is for every three months the child is in an orphanage, they will probably be one month behind. All photos of children should be assessed for recognizable medical conditions. Development should also be assessed closely. If available, videos should be evaluated to assess a child's social interactions and language skills. Behaviors such as seeking affection, responding to verbal commands, and looking for solace when upset are important in assessing how a child may attach to a new family. While an objective review of the health information will help you decide whether you are able to provide a good home for a child, adoption is ultimately a leap of faith. Children who come with a past that may influence their future will do best in a loving home prepared to meet their challenges. This entry was written using an article at www.adoptivefamilies.com/pdf/TravelMed.pdf.

From Maribeth

This will officially be the last newsletter article that I write to you all. I have resigned my position at Bethany Christian Services and have accepted a new position elsewhere. I would like to thank all of you for making the past two and a half years such a wonderful experience. It has been such a blessing to serve the Lord at such a remarkable ministry. I wish all of you many blessings as you continue to serve the Lord and seek his will for your lives. I pray that God will continue to bless the ministry of Bethany Christian Services as they continue to place children with their forever families.

From Sheryl

While most people think of infertility as the inability to become pregnant, it also includes those who face recurrent miscarriage. Those who have traveled this journey know all too well that their type of grief is not often well understood by others who have not experienced the same pain.

This month and next month we will be taking a closer look at coping with the grief of recurrent miscarriage. In her article entitled, "The Miscarriage Manual: Coping with the Emotional Aspects of Pregnancy Loss", Elizabeth Carney describes some truths about dealing with the grief of miscarriage. Here are some excerpts from that article.

- The truth isn't that you will feel "all better" in a couple of days, or weeks, or even months. Healing is attained only after the slow necessary progression through the stages of grief and mourning.
- The truth isn't that a new pregnancy will help you forget. The truth is that, while thoughts of a new pregnancy soon may provide hope, a lost infant deserves to be mourned just as you would have with anyone you loved.
- The truth isn't that once this is over your life will be the same. The truth is that your upside-down world will slowly settle down, hopefully leaving you a more sensitive, compassionate person, better prepared to handle the hard times that everyone must deal with sooner or later.
- The truth isn't that grief is all-consuming. The truth is that in the midst of the most agonizing time

of your life, there will be laughter. Viewing laughter as part of the healing process, just as overwhelming sadness is now, will make the pain more bearable.

- The truth isn't that one person can bear this alone. The truth is that while only you can make the choices necessary to return to the mainstream of life a healed person, others in your life are also grieving and are feeling very helpless. They may be afraid to "butt in," or they may be fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. They need to be told honestly what they can do to help. By allowing others to share in your pain and assist you with your needs, you will be comforted and they will feel less helpless.

Become a Table Host!

The New Friends Dinner is only 2 months away! If you have not been a part of this event in the past, I hope you will consider being there this year. It is our one fundraising event of the year, but it is more than that. It's an evening to share about the ministry of Bethany. Whether or not you've attended in the past, please consider hosting a table. To be a table host, you simply invite some of your friends to fill a table of 10. There is no charge to you or your guests. Of course, since it is a fundraising event, we will ask for donations. We need event to be successful to fund the growing ministry at Bethany of Middle Tennessee. For more information about hosting a table, contact Lisa Lawhon at 4lawhons@bellsouth.net or 794-4247.

NFD Slideshow

If you would like to have pictures of your Bethany children included in the slideshow at this year's New Friends Dinner, please email them to Lance Green at lgreen@isdn.net. You can also mail hard copies to the Bethany office.

Ask Your Employer to Support Bethany

Bethany is looking for corporate underwriters to help offset the cost of the New Friends Dinner. Underwriting donations allow the gifts received at the dinner to be used directly for the Bethany ministry and not to pay the expenses required to host the dinner. If you or your employer would like more information, please contact Susan Smith at mssmith3@comcast.net or 776-2338.

On the Bethany Website

We are excited to announce that we have 2 new videos available on our website (www.bethany.org). On the bottom part of the center of the home page, you'll see an image and a short description of a *Considering Adoption* video that is a 4-minute video encouraging families to adopt. It has powerful music, imagery and great testimonies from families that have adopted. On the left side, you'll see text and a small video camera icon link for *Stand In The Gap*, which is a 3-minute video that is a motivational fund-raising tool showing both the immense needs waiting to be met, and the difference a financial gift to Bethany can make in the lives of children and families. Check them out!

Volunteers Needed!

We would like to compile a book of Bethany adoption stories. If you are interested in being a part of a team to gather stories, edit, and create a beautiful and inspirational finished product, please contact our office or email Sheryl Findley at sfindley@bethany.org.

Another Way to Serve Bethany

We need a decorating committee! This spring our office went through some remodeling and we think it

looks great, except that we have done almost no decorating! We would really appreciate it if we could get a few people to work together to improve the decor of our office. Jay, our office manager, will be the contact person. Please let us know if you are interested.

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 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.

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