



The Bethany Times

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8: For everything there is a fixed time, and a time for every business under the sun. A time for birth and a time for death...A time for weeping and a time for laughing...A time for sorrow and a time for dancing...A time for search and a time for loss...A time to keep and a time to give away...A time for keeping quiet and a time for talk...A time for love and a time for hate...A time for war and a time for peace.

Bethany Christian Services

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Welcome Home...

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In September, we welcomed a new member of our Bethany extended family when Erika Beck, adoption social worker, gave birth to Sophia. We have enjoyed their periodic visits to the office, but we were especially excited to welcome Erika back on January 2. She will now be working 20 hours a week.

And we welcomed our newest staff member in October: Hello! My name is Jane Hixson and I am the newest social worker at Bethany Christian Services. I am working with the Minnesota Waiting, Domestic Infant, and Independent Adoption programs. I have a Masters degree in Social Work from

2006 by the Numbers

The past year has kept our office busy. We experienced staffing changes and significant events in the personal lives of our staff members. Our adoption programs also kept us on our toes, with some announcements and anticipations of change (especially in international adoption) and continued growth in our adoptive placements. We are truly blessed to carry on in the ministry of serving children and families.

International Adoption Program

Total Placements: 29
 China: 19
 Guatemala: 8
 Colombia : 1
 Jamaica: 1 (Independent adoption)
 Boys: 13 Girls: 16
 Children of Promise (special needs): 9
 First adoption for family: 20
 Second or subsequent adoption for family: 9
 First and only child in family: 4
 Children under age 2: 24
 Children age 2 and over: 5
 Families who have accepted referrals and are waiting to bring their child home: 16
 Families waiting for a referral (paperwork in foreign country): 22

MN Waiting Children Adoption Program

Total Placements: 11
 Total Finalized Placements: 0 (in 2006)
 Sibling Groups Placed: 4
 Boys: 5 Girls: 6
 Families waiting for a match: 1

Domestic Infant Adoption Program

Total Placements: 20
 Full Caucasian: 11
 Full African American: 3
 Full Hispanic: 1
 Multiracial: 5
 Birthmothers counseled in MN: 26
 Birthmothers from MN who made adoption plans: 13
 Infants placed in MN from other BCS offices: 5
 Boys: 9 Girls: 11
 First and only child in family: 7
 Fully open adoptions: 3
 Longest wait for placement: 19 months & counting
 Shortest wait in 2006: 17 days
 Current families awaiting placement (profiled): 13
 Families completing application paperwork: 10

Note: These statistics include families who used Bethany Christian Services for all aspects of their adoption and those for whom Bethany only completed their homestudy and post-placement services.

The Daily Grind

the University of Minnesota and have done a lot of work with youth and families, especially in the church communities. I am passionate about supporting families and feel blessed to be here at Bethany! I originally am from Houston, a small town in south-eastern Minnesota. Currently, my husband and I live in Plymouth. Outside of work, I love to bike, be outdoors, sing, play the piano, volunteer at church, and spend quality time with my husband. I am very excited to be here and feel truly honored to walk along with many of you in your adoption journey!

Thank you to all who sent Christmas cards and pictures. We love the continued connection with your family and seeing your

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Every Life a Promise



Upcoming Trainings

We are excited to once again offer trainings in the new year. Please read the enclosed flyer for further details. Remember to RSVP in advance as space is limited. Hope to see you all there!

Check www.mnasap.org for more details on:

- ◆ January 10, 24 & February 7 — Deflecting Blame when Mom is the Target: Adopted Children with Trauma Histories (St. Paul)
- ◆ January 30 — What is Autism Anyway? (Minneapolis)
- ◆ March 17 — MN ASAP Conference for Parents (Metro)

Check www.cmh.umn.edu for more details on:

- ◆ February 5 — Disturbances of Attachment in Early Childhood (Minneapolis)
 - ◆ March 29 — Inter-Relationship between Attachment and Other Mental Health Concerns (Minneapolis)
 - ◆ April 25 — Attachment: Intervention and Treatment Models (Minneapolis)
- (\$15 per session; remote video sites throughout the state)

Check <http://education.umn.edu/ceed/events> for details on:

- ◆ March 7 — Young Children and Trauma—presented by the Harris Forum (St. Paul)
- ◆ April 24 — Risk, Resilience, and Race in Early Childhood: Issues for Research and Action—presented by the CEED Minnesota Round Table (Minneapolis)

Check www.harambeevillage.org/Villages.htm for details on:

- ◆ February 11, March 11, April 15 — Topics in Transracial Adoption OR Race in Society: Advanced Discussions (St. Louis Park)
- ◆ February 5, March 5, April 2—Transracial Parenting of Special Needs Kids (Minneapolis)
- ◆ February 4, March 4, April 1—TBD (Duluth & Rochester)

Did you know...

There is a CHRISTIAN support group in the metro area for adoptive families! HIS FAMILIES is for people whose lives have been or may be touched by adoption. The group meets on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm. All families are welcome and childcare is provided. Call Amy at 651-287-2082 for more information.

There is a monthly gathering for families in OPEN ADOPTIONS in the metro area. The group, CONNECTIONS, meets the first Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. Childcare is available if arranged in advance. Contact Ann Spaan at 612-879-5235 or Jackie Mollenhauer at 612-879-5241 for more information.

On Saturday, January 27, 2007 Bethany Christian Services will hold its 9th Annual Volleyball Tournament at Central Minnesota Christian School from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The fee is \$25.00 per person and teams must register no later than January 19, 2007. For more information, please contact the event coordinator, Jill Blom, at 320-967-4624.

We held our annual phonation fundraiser this past fall. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Prayer Corner

Please pray for... all people who establish and execute adoption policies and procedures around the world. May they always place the best interests of children at the core of their work.

International Adoption News

China

The China Center of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) has indicated that new requirements for adoptive applicants will be instituted for all dossiers received after May 1, 2007. The details of these requirements are available by contacting your social worker or agency representative. The CCAA has been receiving an increasing number of applications (dossiers) and the current wait time between the dossier being formally logged in by the CCAA and the family being matched with a child (referral) is 15-16 months. It is anticipated that the wait will continue to increase and exceed 2 years in the future.

Russia

The re-accreditation process is not yet complete. We remain hopeful that it will be completed in spring 2007. During the re-accreditation process some regions in Russia have enabled adoptive parents to complete the final court process to bring their children home while others have not proceeded with any adoptions.

Ukraine

After a period of transition, dossiers for new applicants are now being accepted in Ukraine.

Haiti

A new director of the Haitian governmental social service agency was appointed in early October. As a result, requirements for adoptive applicants were recently made more restrictive. Based on history, there is hope that these restrictions will be reversed soon to enable more prospective adoptive parents to apply.

A Guide for Prospective Adoptive Parents regarding the Hague Convention has been compiled by the US State Department and can be found at: http://travel.state.gov/pdf/Prospective_Adoptive_Parents_Guide.pdf



Guatemala & the Hague

The following information was taken directly from the US State Department website. For the complete statement, go to http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3102.html

Guatemala acceded to the Hague Convention in 2003 and is recognized as a party to the Convention under international law. However, Guatemala has not yet created the infrastructure and systems necessary to implement the Convention and its current adoption procedures do not

provide the protections for children, birth parents, and adoptive parents required under the Convention. The United States is nearing completion of its preparations to ratify the Convention and our goal is to do so in 2007. Three months after the United States deposits its instrument of ratification with the Hague Permanent Bureau, the Convention enters into force for the United States. At that point, if Guatemala has not taken the necessary steps to comply with the

Convention, the United States will not be able to approve adoptions from that country.

Bethany Christian Services continues to monitor the situation and is still accepting applications for the Guatemala program.



Don't forget:
Tax season is upon us and a Federal Tax Credit is available after an adoption has been finalized. Check out www.irs.gov for more information.

Happy Valentine's Day! *St. Valentine* 

Happy Presidents Day!



Happy Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Day!
The Bethany Christian Services office will be closed on January 15, 2007 in recognition.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Don't forget...

February is African American History Month

March is Women's History Month

