



# The Bethany Times

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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.

## Welcome Home

Jeremiah Benjamin Wayne	9/15/07
Zachary Samuel	10/24/07
Ella Meilyn	10/24/07
Edward Daniel Xiaobo	10/24/07
Gabriella Grace	10/25/07
Anthony Alexander	10/25/07
Aiden David	10/27/07
Hannah Joy	11/1/07
Grace Fushen	11/19/07
Noah J.	12/22/07
Elizabeth Grace	12/24/07
Ivan Joseph David	12/30/07

## Forever Families

Please pray for these children who are transitioning from foster care to their forever family...

Elijah Axel	9/28/07
Dillon Thomas	10/27/07
Keegan Harley	10/27/07
Kelsey Jean	10/27/07

## 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](http://www.irs.gov) for more information.

## 2007 by the Numbers

### International Adoption Program

- Total Placements: 26
- China: 9
- Guatemala: 14
- Russia : 1
- Liberia: 2 (Independent adoption)
- Boys: 14 Girls: 12
- Children of Promise (special needs): 6
- First adoption for family: 12
- Sibling groups: 2 (4 siblings & 2 siblings)
- First and only child in family: 4
- Children under age 2 at adoption: 18
- Children age 2 and over: 8
- Families who have accepted referrals and are waiting to bring their child home: 18
- Families waiting for a referral (paperwork in foreign country): 22

**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.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.*  
**James 1:17**

### Waiting Children Adoption Program

- MN Placements: 10
- Out of State (into MN) placements: 3
- Total Finalized Placements: 15
- Sibling Groups Placed: 8
- Boys Placed: 8
- Girls Placed: 5
- Families Waiting for a Match: 6

### Domestic Infant Adoption Program

- Total Placements: 15
- Full Caucasian: 12
- Full African American: 1
- Multiracial: 2
- Birthmothers counseled in MN: 17
- Birthmothers from MN who completed adoption plans: 9
- Infants placed in MN from other BCS offices: 3
- Boys: 8 Girls: 7
- First and only child in family: 8
- Fully open adoptions: 5
- Longest wait for placement: 31 months & counting
- Shortest wait in 2007: approx 40 days
- Current families awaiting placement (profiled): 18
- Families completing paperwork: 27

# Upcoming Trainings

We are excited to once again offer trainings in the new year. Remember to RSVP in advance as space is limited.

Check out [www.starsnetwork.org](http://www.starsnetwork.org) under STARS calendar and then Training Newsletter for more information and additional training opportunities:

- ◆ Parent Discussion Nights on January 14, February 9, March 10, April 7, and May 5 in Buffalo.
- ◆ January 17—Strategies for School (St. Louis Park)
- ◆ January 30 — Exploring the Invisible Disability of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (St. Cloud)
- ◆ February 9—Becoming a Loving and Logical Parent (St. Cloud)
- ◆ February 11—Developmental Delay Concerns (St. Cloud)
- ◆ February 13 — Impact of Trauma on the Developing Child (University of Minnesota—Great Hall)
- ◆ February 25—Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder: What Can Schools and Parents Do? (St. Cloud)
- ◆ March 6 — “The Explosive Child” with Dr. Ross Greene (Elk River)
- ◆ March 24 — Impact of Family Violence (University of Minnesota—Great Hall)
- ◆ May 7 — Intergenerational Consequences of Attachment (University of Minnesota—Great Hall)
  - Note: Morning Session Only!

Call Janet Hammer at 612-746-5125 for more details on:

- ◆ A Four Part Family Education Series — Children’s Mental Health: What You Need to Know!
  - Dates: January 24th, February 16th, March 25th, April 9th (Minneapolis)

Check out [www.mnasap.org](http://www.mnasap.org) for more details on:

- ◆ February 4—“He Said/She Said: Doing Discipline with a High-Intensity Child” (Red Wing)
- ◆ February 7—“Creating Sexual Safety for Adopted and Foster Children and Their Families” (Virginia, MN)

Details and registration at [www.med.umn.edu/peds/iac/home.html](http://www.med.umn.edu/peds/iac/home.html):

- ◆ March 15 - Medical Issues In International Adoption (U of MN campus)

## The Daily Grind

2007 looks to be wrapping up as an exciting, yet challenging year for Bethany Christian Services of Minnesota. Included in this newsletter you will find our adoption statistics for the year 2007. As you can see, we had 54 adoptive placements occur in this past year. Our office has been blessed to be given the opportunity to “manifest the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children”. We look back on the year with gratitude for what our ministry has accomplished. It was also a year of significant change for leadership in our office. We shared with you in our previous newsletters that after serving as Branch Director for more than 9 years, and after much thought and prayer, Pam Baker decided to focus her ministry at Bethany on social work. The board embarked on a search for a new Executive Branch Director and hired Jeff Piehl. Unfortunately, effective December 12, 2007 Bethany of Minnesota and Jeff Piehl jointly concluded that it was in the best interest of Bethany's ministry to end his employment as Executive Branch Director. We thank Jeff for his service, and we wish him God's blessings in the future. The Minnesota Board will be launching a search process for a new Executive Branch Director. In the meantime, Donna Holz, former Director of Bethany of Wisconsin, will serve as Interim Executive Branch Director. Donna is looking forward to this opportunity since she retired 1 year ago after serving Bethany Christian Services for more than 20 years. On behalf of the Minnesota Board, thank you for your continued support of Bethany Christian Services ministry.

• Craig Herman, Board President of Bethany Christian Services of Minnesota

### Prayer Corner

Please pray for the Bethany office during this time of transition. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as the search committee selects a new Executive Director.

Contact the Editors: Kristina Huisinga at [khuisinga@bethany.org](mailto:khuisinga@bethany.org) • Jane Hixson at [jhixson@bethany.org](mailto:jhixson@bethany.org) • Sara Smit at [ssmit@bethany.org](mailto:ssmit@bethany.org)

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### Every Life a Promise



## Did you know...

- ◆ There is a post adoption support group that meets at Wooddale Church on the first Sunday of every month. The meeting for parents only is from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM followed by a potluck at 12:30 PM. Day care is provided. For more information, please contact Marci Ytterberg at 952-475-9571.
- ◆ There is a multi-church ministry called "Propel Ministries" that meets at various locations in the metro area. This group is designed for anyone who is interested in or has experienced foster care or adoption. On January 25 at 7:00 pm they will be meeting at New Hope Church in New Hope, MN. For more information, please contact Julie Reis at 763-541-5388.
- ◆ On Saturday, January 26, 2008 Bethany Christian Services will hold its 10th 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, 2008. For more information, please call 763-553-0344.
- ◆ We held our annual Phonation fundraiser this past fall. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed. Your support is **greatly** appreciated!

