

The Bethany Times

January-March 2010 • Volume 8, Issue 1

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

Silas David	10/01/09
Mikael John Henrik	10/19/09
Isaac Louis-Todd	10/31/09
Jade Alexandra	11/19/09
Landon Jay	11/26/09
Breonna Kyliial	11/28/09
Jordan Rylial	11/28/09
Adyn Qimin	12/18/09

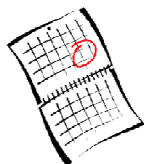
Forever Families

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

Andria	12/04/09
--------	----------

Holidays!!!!

- New Year's Day—January 1 (BCS will be closed)
- MLK Jr. Day—January 18 (BCS will be closed)
- Groundhog Day-February 2
- Chinese New Year—February 14
- Valentine's Day—February 14
- President's Day—February 16
- Ash Wednesday-February 17
- St. Patrick's Day-March 17



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 info.

2009 by the Numbers

International Adoption Program

- Total Placements: 16
- China: 4
- Colombia: 0
- Ethiopia: 5
- Guatemala: 1
- Hong Kong: 1
- Philippines: 0
- Russia : 3
- South Korea: 0
- Kenya: 2
- Boys: 5 Girls: 11
- Waiting Children (special needs): 4
- First adoption for family: 9
- Sibling groups: 3 (2 groups of 2, 1 group of 3)
- First and only child in family: 3
- Children under age 2 at adoption: 6
- Children age 2 and over: 10
- Families who have accepted referrals and are waiting to bring their child home: 6
- Families waiting for a referral (paperwork in foreign country): 20

Waiting Children Adoption Program

- MN Placements: 5
- Out of State (into MN) placements: 1
- Total Finalized Placements: 6
- Sibling Groups Placed: 0
- Boys Placed: 4
- Girls Placed: 2
- Families Waiting for a Match: 13

Domestic Infant Adoption Program

- Total Placements: 17
- Full Caucasian: 9
- Full African American: 2
- Multiracial: 6
- Birthmothers counseled in MN: 20
- Birthmothers from MN who completed adoption plans: 13
- Infants placed in MN from other BCS offices: 4
- Boys: 9 Girls: 8
- First and only child in family: 7
- Fully open adoptions: 10
- Longest wait for placement: 29 months and counting...
- Shortest wait in 2009: 68 days
- Current families awaiting placement (profiled): 17

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

Upcoming BCS Trainings and Events

We are excited to once again offer trainings in the new year. See the attached flier for details or visit our website: www.bethany.org/plymouth. Remember to RSVP in advance as space is limited.

◆ **January 30: 12th Annual Bethany Christian Services Volleyball Tournament!**

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Central MN Christian School Gym, Prinsburg, MN

All proceeds will benefit the work of Bethany Christian Services in West Central MN, serving adoptive families and those facing unplanned pregnancies. Visit our website for details and registration materials.



Christmas Cards for Orphans—Thank you to all who joined us in making Christmas cards this past November! It was a very fun and successful night and we were able to send Christmas cards to an orphanage in Taiwan, as well as several children's homes and homeless shelters in Minnesota. Watch for info on next year's card making

Other Upcoming Trainings and Events

Check out www.midwest.resolve.org for more details on:

- ◆ March 13—Resolve's 26th Annual Family Building Conference (Golden Valley)

Check out www.mnadopt.org for more details on:

- ◆ January 4—The Attachment-Stressed Child: How to survive and thrive with the challenge (St. Cloud)
- ◆ January 23—Stand By Me: Starting and Sustaining Parent Support Groups (St. Cloud)
- ◆ January 23—(For Youth) Beating the Odds: A Survival Story for Adopted Youth (St. Cloud)
- ◆ January 26—Transforming the Challenging Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach (Minneapolis)
- ◆ January 28—Adoption Essentials: Culture of Care (St. Paul)

Check out www.fraser.org/seminars for more details on:

- ◆ January 24/25/30—Families and ASD: Finding Balance (Minneapolis)

Check out <http://www.cmh.umn.edu> for more details on:

- ◆ January 8—Commitment to Collaboration: Strategies for Inclusion of Children with Special Needs (Rochester)

Check out <http://www.starsnetwork.org> for more details on:

- ◆ January 19—Inside the Child: Social and Emotional Development (Sauk Rapids)
- ◆ January 23—Children of Multiple Cultures: Being an Inclusive Culture (St. Cloud)
- ◆ February 17 or March 18—Race, Culture and Children's Mental Health: Lessons from the Field (Monticello)

February 6

Fire and Ice Festival at
Parker's Lake in Plymouth!
Visit

www2.ci.plymouth.mn.us

for details

Bethany's Wish List!

Are you looking for a way to contribute to Bethany and the children and families we serve? Check out www.bethany.org/plymouth for a list of items that we are in need of including items for birthparents as well as supplies for our office!



Please pray
that many
more chil-
dren would
be joined
with their
forever families in 2010!



Meet Cameo!

Cameo is looking for a home where the family loves to do things together (have meals; help with homework; play sports; go to concerts). **He describes himself as** - Smart! Kind! Loving! Out-going! Athletic! Funny! Stylish! Optimistic! Creative! **Cameo loves to** - *express himself (music, dancing, singing) *write songs *play sports. If you would like more information on Cameo, please contact **Meagan Galbari** at mgalbari@bethany.org.



The Daily Grind

Bethany Christian Services has made several new additions to the staff recently! Here are a few words from our new staff...

Blessings! My name is **Sandra Taylor** and I joined the Bethany staff in October as Adoption Program Supervisor and Social Worker. I will be supervising the social workers in the Domestic, Intercountry, and MN Waiting Children programs, and I will also work directly with some families. After growing up in central IL, I moved to MN in 1991. I have a Master's Degree in Social Work from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. I am also a Licensed Independent Social Worker. I started my social work career in the adoption field, and have always hoped to return to the adoption world, so I am very blessed to join the Bethany team! In addition to adoption experience, I have worked with pediatric cancer patients, young adults with developmental disabilities, children with autism and other special needs, and, most recently, in a program with youth who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. At home, I am blessed with two beautiful children who keep me on my toes!

Hello! My name is **Noel Kautz** and I am excited to be one of the newest members of the Bethany Christian Services team. I am a Licensed Social Worker with a degree from St. Cloud State University. I will be working Part Time as the Adoption Social Worker out of the Willmar office. My husband and I have two sons that came to us through Adoption. I feel that although every family's story is different, my experiences will assist me in understanding your questions, concerns and experiences. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my boys and my husband. I love taking pictures and scrapbooking them and relaxing with a good book.

Hello, my name is **Alison Heglund** and I am the new Intercountry Intake Coordinator. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and I am currently working on my Masters in Human Services specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy. I have several years of experience working with crisis pregnancy and international adoption. I am also an adoptive mother. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my husband and four children. I am very excited to be here and assist families in their adoption journey!

Hello, my name is **Bridget Stevens-Murphy**. I have recently joined Bethany Christian Services as a contract adoption social worker and am currently working within the Domestic and Embryo adoption programs. I am very excited to join the Bethany Christian Services adoption team and look forward to helping families pursue their adoption journeys. I have my Masters of Science in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and have been working in the adoption field for ten years. During that time, I have worked in Milwaukee, WI; London, England; and New York, NY. My husband and I are new to Minneapolis and are very eager to discover the city with our two daughters (3 years old and 18 months old). In my spare time, I enjoy relaxing with my family, traveling, yoga, and being outdoors...in the summer!

This year we also sadly said farewell to several staff...

The Gift "In 1985, I was given a gift that will be in my heart forever. It was the year I began to work for Bethany in MI. The gift followed us to MN, where I was blessed to work with others who chose adoption as our family did 26 years ago. My heart-felt thanks to my co-workers, families and others who shared my walk. May God bless you all as we give Him the glory for the gifts in our lives." - By **Pam Baker**

Jade Lichtsinn served as the Intercountry Intake Coordinator and Office Administrator while she was with us for over a year. Jade had a strong passion for serving children and families and did a wonderful job of guiding families through the adoption process. Jade's smile and hard work will be greatly missed, but we wish her luck in the new endeavors that God brings her way!

Called to Care. Committed to Children.

Contact the Editor: Stacy Sielaff at ssielaff@bethany.org

Bethany Christian Services • 3025 Harbor Ln N. #316 • Plymouth, MN 55447 • Phone: 763-553-0344 • Fax: 763-553-0117



2010 SPRING EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

ATTACHMENT

January 19th 6:30-8:30pm

Do you know how the attachment cycle works? Can you identify the triggers and symptoms of attachment difficulties? Are you looking for suggestions on how to promote attachment? Well, Look No Further!

FETAL ALOCOHOL SYNDROME

DISORDER (FASD)

February 23rd 6:30-8:30pm

This educational session will focus on learning the basics of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, including impact on the fetal brain and implications throughout the developmental stages. Learn about strategies to increase success for a child with FASD. This session is highly recommended for those currently parenting a child with FASD, or those considering adoption of children through the Domestic, Inter-country, or Minnesota Waiting Child programs.

FOSTERING THE BIRTHPARENT

RELATIONSHIP

April 20th 6:30-8:30pm

Learn about the trends we are seeing with openness in adoption, what to expect during the hospital experience, and how to begin a lifelong relationship with birthparents. A panel of birthparents and/or adoptive families will be present to provide insight and expertise.

MN WAITING CHILDREN

PRE-ADOPTION TRAINING

January 29th and 30th (2 day training) 9am-5pm both days

- Impact of Pre-natal exposure to drugs and alcohol
- Abuse and Neglect
- Trauma and Attachment
- Mental Health Issues
- Grief and Loss
- Parenting children with special needs
- Effective discipline and parenting
- Cross Cultural Parenting
- Permanency needs of youth ages 12-17
- Creating & maintaining connections of adoptive children
- Panel of teen and young adult adoptees

This is **FREE for families in the MN Waiting Children adoption program and is **REQUIRED**.*

**For families in other adoption programs, this is not a required training, but you are welcome to attend at a cost of \$100/person.*

TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION

March 25th 6:30-8:30pm

Did you ever consider what race and culture have to do with raising a child? Do you know where you could find cultural resources? Have you taken the chance to figure out how you'll identify and address insensitivity and racism? Well, Here's Your Chance!

DETAILS...DETAILS...DETAILS!!!

LOCATION: Bethany Christian Services office—3025 Harbor Ln. N. Ste 316, Plymouth MN 55447

COST per presentation: \$20 per person OR \$30 per couple (includes take home materials)

*The Pre-Adoption Training is \$100/person for families NOT in the MN Waiting Children program.

REGISTRATION/CANCELLATION POLICY: Registration with payment is required 10 days prior to the scheduled presentation date. Presentations will be cancelled if fewer than 6 persons are registered to attend. If a session is cancelled, fees will be refunded. In the event of a cancellation, registrants will be contacted by telephone. If a registrant cancels less than 10 days prior to the presentation, those fees will not be refunded.

SPACE: Space is still limited. Register early!

PRESENTERS: Bethany Christian Services Adoption Staff

CHILD CARE: Sorry, none available. Sessions are not appropriate for attendance by children.

CLIP AND RETURN

REGISTRATION

Family Name _____ Telephone _____

TRAINING	# ATTENDING	NAME(S) OF PARTICIPANTS
January 19		
January 29/30		
February 23		
March 25		
April 20		

PLEASE MAIL WITH PAYMENT BY DEADLINE (ATTN: STACY) (See above for registration policy)