



# The Bethany Times

July—September 2010 • Volume 8, Issue 3

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.



## Safe Families for Children

### The Crisis

When crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and our church family for support. But for some parents, there isn't a safety net. Often, problems such as drug addiction, domestic abuse, incarceration, or illness can be debilitating, making it impossible for parents to care for their children. With the changing economy, many more families are experiencing financial crisis, unemployment, and homelessness. During such crisis, children are especially at-risk for neglect or abuse as their parents struggle to cope with crushing circumstances and emotions.

State welfare emergency hotlines throughout the nation reportedly receive over 5 million calls each year of suspected child abuse or neglect. Of those calls, about one million meet the criteria for state intervention. What happens to the remaining four million families that don't qualify for help?

Overburdened by need and restrained by resources, law, and policy; most state welfare agencies are allowed to rescue only children who have suffered blatant abuse or neglect. Overwhelmed and underfunded, the state is ill-equipped to deal with a problem of this magnitude.

### Families Helping Families

Bethany is now nationally involved in growing a movement of compassion by providing a NEW program called **SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN**. Since 2005, **Safe Families for Children** of Chicago has offered sanctuary to thousands of children, minimizing the risk for abuse or neglect and giving parents the time and tools they need to help their families thrive. The ultimate goal is to strengthen and support parents so they can become **Safe Families** for their own children.

### Make a Difference

**Safe Family** volunteers can have a profound impact in the lives of others while practicing biblical hospitality, extending the love of Christ to people in need, sharing their faith and connecting with those in need - all from their own home!

### How Does It Work?

Bethany staff hear about families in crisis from a variety of referral sources, including schools, hospitals, social workers, churches and other Christian agencies. We then work quickly to contact an available **Safe Family** volunteer and share the situation with them. Volunteers agree to the placement at their own discretion, and can put a time limit on their involvement. The average length of stay is about 6 weeks, but can range from 2 days to a year. **Safe Family** volunteers are screened and trained to care.

Biological parents maintain full custody of their child and are encouraged to participate in decisions regarding their child's care while they address whatever issues led them to the crisis.

### We Need You

**Safe Families** serve because they have decided to make room in their hearts and homes for children in need. The need is great. You can make a difference.

### Pray With Us For These Immediate Needs:

- ◆ NEW car seats and diapers
- ◆ 100 families to volunteer to serve as a **Safe Family**
- ◆ 250 people to JOIN the network of care - maybe you can't become a **Safe Family** but you can provide diapers, respite care, transportation, medical care, job training,
- ◆ 25 CHURCHES to JOIN us in wrapping around these families in need.

[www.safe-families.org](http://www.safe-families.org)

Click on JOIN and fill out the initial contact information. We will reply with instructions on how you can serve. Or else feel free to contact me with questions.

We will also be hosting **Monthly Informational Meetings**. Please come hear about how you and your church can be involved. Introductory training will be covered. Dates and details are listed on page 2.

Because Christ's love compels us,  
Maridel Sandberg  
Safe Families for Children  
msandberg@bethany.org

---

## Upcoming BCS Trainings and Events

We are excited to offer more trainings this quarter! See the attached flier for details or visit our website: [www.bethany.org/minnesota](http://www.bethany.org/minnesota). Click on "Events and Seminars". Remember to RSVP in advance as space is limited.

### Events:

- ◆ **Annual Family Picnic & Race for Home Event: Saturday, August 7th**

Get the family ready for a fun day at French Regional Park that includes a FREE picnic and entertainment. We will also be hosting a walk-a-thon before the picnic, so feel free to come cheer on the walkers, runners & bikers who will be raising funds—making it possible for us to serve more children and families!

11:00am - Walkers/Runners/Bikers start their journey

12:00pm - Picnic Begins!

12:30pm - Field games for Children & Families

Call or email Stacy no later than Friday, July 30th to RSVP. 763-553-0344 or [ssielaff@bethany.org](mailto:ssielaff@bethany.org). Please include the number of adults and children as well as the ages of the children so that we can plan accordingly.



- ◆ **A Gathering of Families Who've Adopted Older Kids Internationally: Friday, July 23rd.**

We'll gather near Como Zoo at 10am for fun, food and fellowship. Contact Sara Smit ([ssmit@bethany.org](mailto:ssmit@bethany.org)) for more information.

- ◆ **Safe Families for Children Monthly Informational Meetings.**

Please come hear how you and your church can be involved! Introductory training will be covered. To RSVP, please call Stacy at 763-553-0344. See page 1 for more information on the Safe Families Program.

Dates: August 19, September 16, October 14. Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm Location: 3025 Harbor Lane N #316, Plymouth, MN.

 Safe Families for Children

- ◆ **2010 Gala: "Because They Are Ours": Saturday, November 6th**

See page 3 for more information!

- ◆ **2010 Faith & Family Night with the Lynx: Sunday, August 1st.**

The Lynx will be holding a Faith & Family Night and will offer a message about the need for families for MN Waiting Children. The Christian band Everyday Sunday will hold a concert at the end of the game. Discounted tickets are available starting at \$8. To order, go to [www.bethany.org/minnesota](http://www.bethany.org/minnesota) and click on "Events & Seminars". Download the flyer and mail or fax with payment to the Minnesota Lynx.

---

## Other Upcoming Trainings and Events

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

- ◆ "The Connected Child", co-authored by Dr. Karyn Purvis is a book that has helped countless adoptive and foster parents better connect with their children as they seek to love and care for them in a way that honors God. Check out this website for videos, articles and other resources related to the book.

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

- ◆ E-courses offered through Adoption Learning Partners and recommended by Bethany Christian Services.

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

- ◆ July 15 - Hope Adoption Adult Adoptee Peer Group. Meets the third Thursday of each month. (Oak Park Heights)
- ◆ August 2 - Six Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy (Minneapolis)

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

- ◆ July 20 - Children Taking Medication for Mental Health Reasons (Minneapolis)

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

- ◆ August 2 - What's Next? A Workshop for Families of Children Diagnosed with Autism (Minneapolis)

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

- ◆ July 7 (1st Wednesday of each month) - Autism Spectrum Parent Network (Elk River)
- ◆ July 13 - Parent Voices of NAMI St. Cloud offers families of children affected by a mental illness a safe haven where they can find acceptance, HOPE, and education (St. Cloud)
- ◆ August 3 - Recognizing Early Warning Signs of Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents (St. Paul)

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

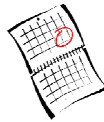
- ◆ Mondays: September 13 - December 13 (9:30-11:15am) - "Supporting Adoptive Families for Parents with Children birth-5 years" This class provides a forum for addressing concerns unique to adoptive families and an opportunity for building a strong, supporting network for parents and children alike. Established, newly established, and waiting families are welcome. To download the Fall 2010 class brochure, click on: Get Involved/Community Education/ECFE. (New Hope)

## Welcome Home

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Tyler Anthony          | 04/29/10 |
| Amber Alexandra        | 05/14/10 |
| Elijah Jacob           | 05/20/10 |
| Pamela                 | 05/21/10 |
| Camila                 | 05/21/10 |
| Samantha               | 05/21/10 |
| Sebastian              | 05/21/10 |
| Mahlet Emma            | 05/28/10 |
| Valerie Anne Wing-yi   | 05/31/10 |
| Phoenix                | 06/11/10 |
| Gabriel Mamush Preston | 06/19/10 |
| Katelynn Marie         | 06/17/10 |
| Lillian Esther         | 06/22/10 |

## Holidays!!!!

**Independence Day - July 4** (BCS will be closed on Monday, July 5)  
**Labor Day - September 6** (BCS will be closed on Monday, September 6)  
**Grandparents Day - September 12**  
**First Day of Autumn - September 23**



## Forever Families

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

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Yves          | 06/11/10 |
| Kassidy Ann   | 06/16/10 |
| Breanna Marie | 06/19/10 |

### *Making Room in our Hearts* by Micky Duxbury

Adopted persons face challenges their entire lives as they struggle to answer the most basic question: Who am I? The hope of open adoption is that adopted children will develop stronger identities if they have the opportunity to develop healthy ongoing relationships with their families of origin. *Making Room in Our Hearts* offers an intimate look at how these relationships evolve over time, with real-life stories from families who have experienced open adoption first-hand. This book helps both adoptive and birth parents address their fears and concerns, while offering them the support to put the child's psychological and spiritual needs at the center of adoption. Based on interviews with more than one hundred adopted children, birth and adoptive parents, extended families, professionals and experts, the book is an effective and invaluable resource for those considering open adoption, those experiencing it, and professionals in the field. Openness has altered the landscape of adoption, and *Making Room in Our Hearts* will help us catch up to the reality that is open adoption today. Search for it online or at your local bookstore!

## The Daily Grind

### Bethany Christian Services sadly said goodbye to one of our staff members recently...

**Kristina Huisinga**, filled the role of Intercountry Adoption Social Worker with Bethany Christian Services for the past 2+ years and has moved on to a new job in her hometown of Willmar! Kristina worked passionately for orphans and intercountry adoption. She was blessed to have been able to visit China twice to meet and then advocate for waiting children. She has truly done amazing work while serving her families at Bethany and she will be greatly missed! We wish her well in her new job.

### More staff news!

**Laura Chapeau**, has been at Bethany Christian Services for close to a year now and she will soon be shifting roles from Pregnancy Counselor to **Intercountry Adoption Social Worker!** Please join us in welcoming her to this exciting new position.

Hi, My name is **Heidi Johnson** and I am one of the newest members of the Bethany staff. I will be working as the **Pregnancy Counselor for Northwestern Minnesota** in Bemidji, Brainerd, and Moorhead. I have my Bachelors degree in Applied Psychology from Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, MN. I have experience working as a youth counselor at Evergreen Crisis Shelter, as well as many volunteer hours advocating for women who have been through sexual assault. I am a new mom of three months, and my husband, Jeremiah, and I are enjoying this new adventure of being parents to our daughter Madeline. I feel that my recent experience going through pregnancy, labor, and the months to follow, will help me in relating to the birthmothers as they have such a difficult decision and road in front of them. I am excited to be a part of the team and I'm looking forward to what God has in store for me here!

Also, two of our staff are getting married this summer! **Allie Koble**, MN Waiting Children Adoption Social Worker, will be getting married on July 31st and **Stacy Sielaff**, Domestic & MN Waiting Intake Coordinator & Office Administrator, will be married on September 25th! They will then officially be known as **Allie Goodmanson** and **Stacy Kline**. Congratulations to them both!

### *2010 Gala: "Because They Are Ours"*

Join your friends from Bethany Christian Services of MN for an evening of fun and fundraising.

Saturday, November 6, 2010 Marriott Minneapolis West, 9960 Wayzata Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

More details to come!

Please pray for families who are traveling overseas this summer to pick up their children! And join us in thanking God for bringing these families together!



## Called to Care. Committed to Children.

Contact the Editors: Stacy Sielaff [ssielaff@bethany.org](mailto:ssielaff@bethany.org), Shannon Bouma [sbouma@bethany.org](mailto:sbouma@bethany.org) and Sara Smit [ssmit@bethany.org](mailto:ssmit@bethany.org)

Bethany Christian Services • 3025 Harbor Lane N. #316, Plymouth, MN 55447 • Fax: 763-553-0117  
Plymouth Phone: 763-553-0344 • Willmar Phone: 320-214-0601



## 2010 FALL EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### FOSTERING THE BIRTHPARENT RELATIONSHIP

Plymouth Office  
July 27 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.

### SEPTEMBER TRAINING TO COME!

Plymouth Office

**Topic, Date & Time TBD!!**

### MN WAITING CHILDREN PRE-ADOPTION TRAINING

Plymouth Office

**October 15 & 16 (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.*

### **DETAILS... DETAILS... DETAILS!!!**

LOCATION: Bethany Christian Services Plymouth Office—3025 Harbor Lane 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!

CHILDCARE: No childcare is available. Sessions are not appropriate for attendance by children.

PRESENTERS: Bethany Christian Services Adoption Staff

---

### REGISTRATION

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



| TRAINING        | # ATTENDING | NAME(S) OF PARTICIPANTS |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| July 27         |             |                         |
| Sept (Date TBD) |             |                         |
| Oct 15 & 16     |             |                         |



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