

Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries

Responding to the Lord's Heart for Orphans

Supporting One Another

We receive many requests from families interested in participating in an adoption support group in their area.



In order to refer families to active groups, please send a brief email message to: Ministry@KingdomKidsAdoption.org and let us know if you are aware of a support group in your area. We plan to make a directory of support groups available on our website.



The Shameful Secret of Adoption

The idea of making a difference for a child through adoption can be so exciting and compelling that families invest all their free time, their life savings and their emotional energy into bringing a child or children into their homes. It's easy to become addicted to the busyness of the paper chase and the idea of raising a child whose picture has a special place on the refrigerator. Sadly, the child about whom a family has talked and dreamt for months or more often comes home and surprises everyone by being just a normal kid with normal bad habits and maybe worse than normal behaviors. Whatever happened to the dream child?

Families can begin to long for the days that were safe, comfortable, predictable. The days before this unpredictable person entered their home. For many

reasons sometimes families make the difficult decision to disrupt an adoption.

Disrupting an adoption means to terminate parental rights and permanently place the child into another family.



Statistics show that between 10 and 15% of all domestic adoptions disrupt. Statistics on international adoptions are not readily available, though it is likely the percentages are similar. The older the child at the age of adoption, the greater the risk of disruption. Lack of pre-adoption training and post-adoption support are also contributing factors.

Kingdom Kids desires to approach this

issue from two directions. First, in order to make adoptions not only successful but flourish, we are offering **intensive pre-adoption training workshops**. Please see the article "Adoption Training Program" in this newsletter

about this exciting project! (page 3)

Our desire is that this training will prepare families to deal with adoption issues and significantly reduce the number of disrupted adoptions.

Second, realizing that some adoptions are going to disrupt, we desire to find and train replacement families and facilitate the child's adjustment into the new family. We receive phone calls weekly about adoptions that are disrupting, asking for help.

As a response we have developed a **Disruption and Replacement Family** program to train families to

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“Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World” Fundraiser

This year's Kingdom Kids Fundraiser was held September 29th at Faith Bible Church in Spokane.

Over \$13,000 was raised at this year's fundraiser. This money will be used in the coming year to bring even more children home to their forever families.

In 2005 we helped over 150 families. This year we hope to help even more children in need of godly families.

Thank you to all who came and participated. We are especially grateful to those who made a financial commitment for this coming year. We appreciate your ongoing support.

Special thanks goes out to our donors of this year's silent and live auction items - they resulted in some lively bidding

A giant "thank you" goes to Jen and Dave Gamon for coordinating this year's Fundraiser Dessert and Auction. It was a huge success due to your efforts!



Caring for orphans - a team effort

From its humble beginnings as a hobby in our basement, the Lord has grown Kingdom Kids in the last five years into a ministry that has helped thousands of families successfully adopt and parent their children. We are honored to be used to help challenge families to consider adoption, to help finance adoptions, to offer resources to families and churches, and to train families for the issues they will face.

Although some of our programs are income generating, we desire to offer most of our services for free so that more children and families can be helped. Most of our operating expenses come from the faithful support of families who believe providing loving, permanent Christian families for vulnerable children is a response to the Lord's heart for orphans.

We have grown to the extent that we must hire additional staff to continue and expand our services. If you have been helped in any way

by Kingdom Kids would you consider supporting this ministry in some way?

We have several ways you can be involved in supporting Kingdom Kids.

1. The bulk of our support is provided by faithful monthly supporters. Could you support this ministry with \$15 or \$25 or \$50 a month? If so please indicate on the enclosed card.

2. Many friends prefer to make a yearly donation. We are so grateful for these generous gifts. Donations can be made on-line at our website or by mail with the enclosed card.

3. Are you looking for a way to make this year's Christmas more meaningful? Perhaps you could encourage your children to give up one gift and send the money saved to Kingdom Kids. We would use these donations specifically to meet the daily needs of orphaned children and would give your children information about the child they are helping.

4. At no cost to friends of the ministry, you can sign up for the escrip program (see enclosed information sheet.) Through this program a percentage of the money you spend on groceries, clothing and other items at particular retailers is given to Kingdom Kids! There is no cost to you. Would you consider asking friends to sign up as well? This could be a significant source of help.

5. Would your church's children's ministry like to make a difference for orphans? We have all the supplies needed to enable your children to hold a change drive. We will give your children details and pictures of particular children that their donations will help. For information on this program please contact Jen at (509) 465-3520.

6. We need faithful prayer supporters for both our family and the ministry. We are so grateful when we hear from friends who pray for us regularly.

Thanks so much!

One body, many members

We have had the opportunity to network with several groups around the country as we seek to encourage the body of Christ to care for orphans. We participated in a summit meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, at **Family Life's** facility as many

adoption and orphan ministries and agencies met together to strategize, share visions and encourage each other.

We also had the opportunity to visit with staff at **Focus on the Family** in Colorado Springs, Colorado as they consider what their

role in promoting and supporting adoption will be.

It is encouraging to work together with other organizations who strive to obey the Lord's injunctions to care for orphans.

It is our prayer that as we minister together God will be glorified and many children will find Him!!!

Adoption Training Program

At Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries we realize that adoption has become rather "trendy" in Christian circles. Many people have the desire to "rescue an orphan" but are unprepared for the issues and challenges they may face. We have felt the Lord leading us away from our former emphasis on encouraging fami-



Ladies who participated in the October 2006 Training

lies to consider adopting, and instead encouraging us to prepare families for the issues

and challenges they will probably face once their new child comes home.

We are delighted to announce that we have developed an intensive two day training workshop especially designed for Christian families adopting older children, whether internationally or domestically. Fifty seven families have attended so far, and the

feedback has been extremely positive.

Experts present on a number of topics including attachment, grief and loss, being a conspicu-

ous family, education issues, blending biological children and

adopted children, sexual abuse issues and many others

Families who have already adopted older children frankly share what worked, what didn't work, and what they wish they had done differently. Children who were adopted over the age of five openly share their struggles, losses and successes.

The entire weekend is presented from a Christian perspective and helps families de-

velop a support system as they gain information and techniques for parenting children who have already had difficult life



Men who participated in the October 2006 Training

experiences.

Additional information about the training weekends, as well as registration information, can be found at

www.KingdomKidsAdoption.org.

Dates for training weekends in 2007 are:

... February 9-10

... April 13-14

... June 1-2

... August 10-11

... October 12-13

Cheaper by the Dozen???

Several months ago we wrote about struggles with our new eleven year old daughter, Julia, who joined our family from a disrupted adoption. Because of many losses in her life, Julia displayed a lot of anger and had a difficult time trusting us. We learned a great deal

about parenting hurt children as we modified our parenting style to include a strong balance of firm, no-nonsense structure and fun, loving family times and we spent many hours in tears



Julia , age 11

and prayer. Over the months Julia began to believe us when we said she was our daughter forever, and she has become a wonderful family member, helpful and joyful and vivacious. She still has moments and days of sulkiness, but we no longer see the

intense anger and grief she manifested. The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful daughter of whom we are so proud. Thank you so much to those of you

who prayed for Julia.

I have the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia several times a year, and a year ago met two very sweet young brothers, about 7

and 9 years of age. For several months I tried to find a family for these boys, but when none came forward Steve and I decided we'd like the boys in our family.

At the same time we learned of a three year old girl who also needed a family. Not wanting Dinah to be the family princess, many years



Philip , age 9

younger than the other children, we thought another three year old would be a good idea. So in August we added Philip, Nathanael and Leah to our family, giving us an even dozen

children ranging from 22 to 3 years of age.

You know how many people think going from two children to three is a challenge? I've decided that going from nine to twelve is the biggest challenge we've faced! These boys know absolutely no English and, far

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adopt children from disruptions, provide legal assistance for the disruption and replacement, and help the disrupting family deal with grief and loss issues. Although Kingdom Kids is the facilitator for this program, we are working in partnership with local adoption attorneys and agencies to make this possible.

Currently we are recruiting families interested in adopting children from disrupted adoptions. We are particularly interested in recruiting families who live in Washington or Idaho. These families are required to participate in intensive training and will become part of a pool of available families. ***If you are interested in possibly becoming a replacement family please contact us for a packet of information.*** We are eager to schedule the first training session as soon as several families have expressed interest.

Within a few months we will be ready to help families who are considering disruption. Our primary goal is to enable

families to continue to parent their children. If this is impossible we will begin the disruption and replacement family process. ***If you are aware of families needing this help please contact us for the necessary information.***

We have been told that ours is the first program in the nation to systematically train and prepare replacement families in advance, provide a careful, thorough process for disruption and replacement, and help disrupting families deal with their inevitable grief and loss issues. Our desire is that the Lord be glorified in all things. At first glance it is hard to imagine how He can be glorified through something as shame-inducing and painful as adoption disruption. But He is the God who can bring beauty from ashes and turn our mourning into dancing. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

Please pray for us as we continue to develop this program and work with the first families. It is a sensitive, difficult issue and we desire to be wise and prudent as we proceed.

New resources

In our desire to help Christian families both through the adoption process and raising their adopted children, we continue to make additional resources available on our website. To see what is available visit www.KingdomKidsAdoption.org.

We keep our prices as low as possible in order to make these valuable resources available to you.

Some new titles include:

- ... When Love isn't Enough
- ... Age of Opportunity
- ... Parenting with Scripture
- ... The Pursuit of Holiness

and several others.

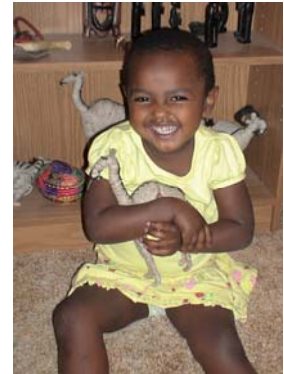
Remember - books make great Christmas gifts!!!

Cheaper???

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from being the sweet children I had perceived them to be, have presented us with many frustrating issues. Philip has a difficult time respecting me because I am a woman and in his culture he is nearly a man. We are also concerned that his delays are not simply from lack of language but due to significant cognitive impairment. This is not something we find easy to deal with.

were wrong to adopt these children? Have we, as some people think, gone too far this time? We've asked our-



Leah , age 3



Nathanael , age 8

Nathanael is a feisty little guy and has run away from school several times!

Does the stress we are feeling mean we

selves this and the Lord reminds us that if we could handle this easily we wouldn't need to lean hard on Him. We know that several months from now things will look a lot better and life will probably have settled back into a comfortable pattern, but in the meantime we are learning that obedience doesn't always bring immediate peace and joy. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we integrate these children into our family.

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