

# Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries

## Supporting Adoption as a Ministry of the Church

## Adoption and the Church

### Did you know?

- Americans adopted 20,099 children internationally and about 66,000 children domestically (through public and private agencies) in 2002
- There are well over 250,000 churches in America.
- ***If each church helped just one child to be adopted each year, well over three times as many children would be adopted annually!***

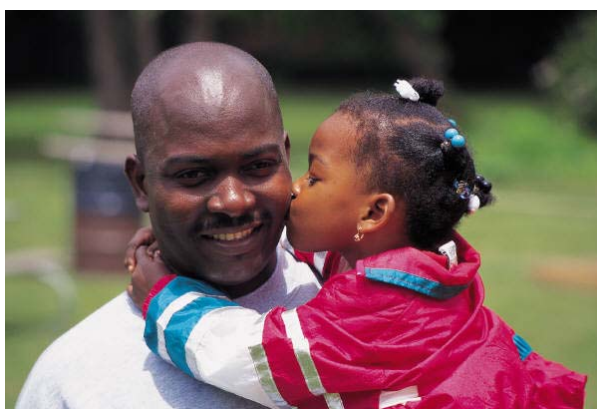


### Why Should We Care?

#### Obedience

Scripture clearly teaches that believers are to minister to orphans. Psalm 82:3 says, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed."

James 1:27 says, "This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to minister to orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unspotted by the world." Most of us know this, but think it doesn't really apply to us. Yet James 2:15 and 16 say, "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" Clearly good intentions won't get the job done! Finally, James 4:17 reminds us, "Therefore, to one who knows the right



thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." Often we know that we should be ministering to orphans in some way, but don't take the first step. That in itself can be sin.

#### Evangelism

Why do we stress adoption rather than supporting children in orphanages? Statistics show that over 50% of Christians accept the Lord before the age of 12. Childhood is clearly a time when hearts are ripe. It's easier to send money and gifts to orphanages than to actually bring needy children into our homes. Yet when a child is adopted into a

loving Christian family it is quite likely that he or she will accept Christ. Adoption is, perhaps, the longest ministry commitment possible!

#### The extent of the need

A recent report by UNICEF indicated there are 107 million orphans under age 15 in Africa, Latin America and Asia. When we add the orphans in Europe and the children in foster care in the U.S. the total is close to 135 million. That number is hard to grasp, but it is almost half the population of the United States!

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## 2003 Ministry Report



***“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.”***  
Psalm 68: 5,6b



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The Lord has allowed Kingdom Kids to be part of His plan for many lives this year. Some of the highlights are:

### Conferences

We held six adoption conferences in Phoenix, Portland, Seattle, San Diego, Detroit, and Spokane. 469 individuals (265 families) attended the conferences. At least one-third of the attendees are pursuing adoptions, so at least 88 families are welcoming children into their homes. Some of

the families adopt sibling groups, so conservatively at least 100 children have found permanent, loving families as a result of this year's conferences.

### Family fundraising/grant program

In 2003 Kingdom Kids awarded **\$150,527 to 35 families** adopting 39 children. The children were from India, China, Russia, Haiti, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Korea, the Republic of Georgia, Kazakhstan, and the United States. A few were healthy infants but the majority were older children or children with physical challenges. We are praying that over the next few years all of these children will grow

healthy physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

### Resources

We are aware that there is a dearth of adoption material written from a Christian perspective. This year we have been able to produce several resources that have begun to meet this need. In March Michelle's book **Adoption as a Ministry, Adoption as a Blessing** was published. We also re-formatted our booklet, **The Ministry of Adoption**. Additionally we developed an **Adoption Planner**. We have sold hundreds of these resources and are delighted to hear reports from those who are effectively using them.

## The Alliance of Christian Adoption Ministries

Kingdom Kids hosted a first-of-its-kind Summit Meeting January 23 and 24 for adoption ministries from around the country. Nine groups participated and several others sent information. Our desire is to support each other's ministries rather than duplicate efforts. During the summit we founded The Alliance of Christian Adoption Ministries. Our vision statement is "To Multiply the Effective-



ness of Christian Adoption Ministries." It was tremendously exciting to learn of the ministries

going on around the country. You'll certainly hear more about this group!

## Fifty/Fifty in 2004!!!

- Have you benefited from attending a Kingdom Kids Adoption Conference?
- Has your family raised funds through our adoption fundraising program?
- Have our resources given you a clearer picture of adoption as a ministry?

### Please consider partnering with Kingdom Kids during 2004!

We are asking the Lord for **50 families** to commit **\$50 monthly** to Kingdom Kids.

By partnering with Kingdom Kids you can obey the Lord's challenge to believers to minister to orphans.

You can see children accept Christ as their Savior as a result of being adopted into Christian families.

You can make a difference for orphans around the world.

**Fifty dollars** a month - the cost of a golf game or two pizza and video nights - will enable us to produce more conferences to help

families consider adoption, give grants to help with adoption expenses, and produce more adoption resources from a Christian perspective.

***If the Lord leads you to commit to supporting Kingdom Kids, please complete the enclosed card and return it to us. Thank you!***

## Kingdom Kids: "Practicing What We Preach"

**This is an exciting year for us personally at Kingdom Kids! Many of our board members and volunteers are welcoming adopted children into their homes.**

**Greg and Terri Bade**, Vice-President and Director of Conference Planning, are adopting a

one year old boy through the foster care system.

**Karla Darcy**, bookkeeper, and her husband are adopting a five year old girl from Haiti in May.

**Steve and Michelle Gardner**, President and Executive Director, are adopting two children from Ethiopia in May.

**Sarah Lee**, board member, and her husband are adopting a one year old girl from China in February.

**Kim Powell**, volunteer, and her husband are adopting a two year old boy from India in February.

**Sandy Repsold**, board member, and her

husband are adopting two brothers from Ethiopia in July.

Our staff and volunteers are welcome to bring their children into the office. We have a busy playroom and a quiet sleeping room for the children. It's an exciting place to spend our time!

## A Sudden Grief

Last fall **Steve and Michelle Gardner** (President and Executive Director of KKAM) learned about an incredible brother and sister in Ethiopia. Eight year old Fikadu cared for his baby sister Tsaynesh by himself for several months after their mother died. He begged for money for milk for her and when that wasn't available he chewed up nuts until they were very soft and

fed them to her. They have incredible pictures of the two of them together, him holding her so tenderly as she gazes into his eyes.

Their six older children were thrilled to add these children to their family. They painted bedrooms, bought baby clothes and were ready for their arrival a few months from now.

Quite unexpectedly, they received a phone

call last week that their precious baby Tsaynesh had died. They are shocked at this loss and trying to understand what the Lord's plan is in this. Steve is flying to Ethiopia in a few days to be with Fikadu. It's impossible to imagine the grief he is dealing with. He saved his sister's life and now she's gone.

The Gardners have always known that adoption involves risks.

It's a risk to fall madly in love with a child who may never end up in your home. So is it worth it? Absolutely. The joy of seeing children blossom and learn and come to the Lord is unparalleled by any other experience.

Please pray for Fikadu and for so many other children around the world who desperately need moms and dads to love them and keep them safe.



**Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries**  
*"Encouraging, Educating, Equipping"*

## Local Opportunities

The Kingdom Kids facility has a number of opportunities available to local families.

We have a library of adoption, parenting and travel materials that families may peruse and check out.

We have a "donation station" with toys, personal care products, kitchen items and infant clothing. These items are available at no cost to adoptive and foster families. Families may select from these items for their personal use or to donate to orphanages when they travel to pick up their children.

We have a small bookstore of adoption related materials. Families can purchase items for their own use or for gifts.

*Come visit us and see what we have to offer! We are normally in the office from 9:30 to 2:30 Monday through Thursday. Other times can be arranged by appointment.*

*"We will never be able to thank you enough for the ministry of Kingdom Kids. We attended your conference last May, and not even one month later we were sitting in Tampa with our beautiful new baby boy! God truly used your ministry to add a treasure to our family!"*

- A Washington State Family



## Church

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That's too big, too overwhelming to mean much to us. So think of just one adopted child you know and imagine his or her counterpart who is still waiting for a permanent, loving Christian family. The need is great, but we can make a difference one child at a time.

## What can we do?

Remember, if each church helped just one child to be adopted each year, well over three times as many children would be adopted annually as currently are! Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries, in consultation with The Alliance of Christian Adoption Ministries, has just produced a resource to enable churches to em-

brace the Lord's heart for orphans and adoption. Entitled **"Developing a Church Adoption Ministry"**, this 3-ring binder is full of all the information you need to get started. **Available for an introductory price of \$15**, we are praying this resource will result in thousands of children being adopted into not only an earthly family, but a heavenly one as well.

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