

Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries

Responding to the Lord's Heart for Children and Families

"Out of Africa"

"My sister is six years old. There are no grown-ups living with us. I need clothes and shoes. And water also. But especially, somebody to tuck me and my sister in at night-time," said Apiwe, a 13 year old African boy.

Children in Africa are orphaned due to many reasons, including war, disease, maternal death in childbirth, and affects of poverty. Over 14 million children have been orphaned due to AIDS alone. Traditionally African countries have had safety nets to take care of children who lose their parents. But the recent dramatic increase in orphaned children has undermined the caring capacity of families and communities.

The western world rushes to aid victims of natural disasters, war and disease in other parts of the world but

seldom does so for Africa. In the 1994 civil war in Rwanda almost one million people were killed while western nations refused to get involved.

We as believers surely can't turn our backs. Proverbs 27:9 says, "The righteous



care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."

Certainly adoption alone isn't going to solve the challenges facing Africa. In recent years only 200 – 300 children a year have been adopted from all of Africa by Americans.

We need to think about long-term solutions. And yet adoption is a way to make a significant difference for a few. Perhaps the children who are adopted can be encouraged to love their birth country and return someday to help those left behind.

American families adopt nearly 7000 chil-

groups and older boys desperately waiting.

On a recent trip to Ethiopia child after child came close to me and asked, "Please take my picture. Find me a family."

Most babies will find families, as will cute little preschool girls. But I'm haunted by the crowd of eight to twelve year old boys, one face blurring into another, begging for someone to care. Their names and faces and stories run together in my mind. But their faces don't run together in God's mind. He who knows the stars by name certainly knows and loves each of these young boys.

Perhaps you can welcome a ten year old boy or a sibling group of five into your home. Can you make a difference for all of eternity for some children?

For updated information on adopting from Africa contact us. We'll be delighted to direct you to appropriate resources.

dren a year from China and nearly 5000 a year from Russia. Why do so few consider adopting from Africa? The process is not difficult and the costs are very low compared with other international adoptions. Families can adopt babies or older children, and there are **many** sibling

“Defending the Cause!!!”

An Orphan Symposium

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.”

Psalm 82:3 (NIV)

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The need:

Between 70 and 140 million children have lost one or both parents, primarily due to war, genocide and disease.

Over 10,000 children become orphans daily due to the AIDS crisis.

Over 35,000 children in the world die daily from malnutrition and starvation.

There are over 542,000 children in the U.S. foster care system. Nearly a third of these children are legally free to be adopted.

Only one to two percent of unplanned pregnancies in the United States result in adoption placements. Of the remainder, about half of the children are aborted and half are raised by unwed mothers, many of whom are still minors themselves.

The message:

The Lord expects all of His people, not just a select few, to defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, rescue the weak and needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 82:3,4.) The church has been woefully inadequate in this area.

Our American lives need a greater kingdom focus. We need to encourage the body of Christ to devote resources of time, money and emotions to one of the few things that will last for eternity – children!

There is a great disparity of resources in the world. American Christians tend to believe that somehow we deserve the life we have. Believers need to be reminded that life is a vapor and that we have been entrusted with resources the Lord expects us to use to further His kingdom.

There are many ways by which we can care for orphans. All of them involve sacrifice of some kind. In

Hebrews 5:8 we are told, “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.” Sacrificially caring for orphans is one method the Lord can use to teach us obedience and conform us to the image of His Son.



The response:

To address these issues, Kingdom Kids will present an Orphan Symposium on October 21 and 22, 2005 at **Fourth Memorial Church** in Spokane.

Friday night will be a free, fun event for entire families. Christian recording artist Pony Baldwin will inspire us with a concert and key-note speaker Rev. W.C. Martin from Possom Trot, Texas, will challenge us as he shares how his church of 200 has adopted

over 70 hard-to-place children from the foster care system.

The free symposium on Saturday will run from 9:00 – 1:00. Rev. Martin will again share, and there will be break-out sessions on encouraging churches to get involved in adop-

tion, foster parenting, orphan care, and birth mother care.

We are inviting representatives from each church in the greater Spokane area to attend. The general public is invited as well. If you aren't from the Spokane area but are interested in attending this event we would be delighted to have you.

Please pray for this event and consider attending. We want the Lord to be glorified as we encourage believers to *Defend the Cause!*

This isn't going the way I planned!

A little girl adopted from Russia was killed by her mother recently. The families of four children, in America from six months to two years, have decided to disrupt their adoptions and new families must be found. A number of other families vow they will never adopt again.

These situations are definitely the minority. Statistics show that from 85% - 90% of all

adoptions work out well. But even in the best situations there are normally peaks and valleys as family members adjust to each other.

Kingdom Kids wants to support families throughout their adoption journey. We have compiled materials that we think will make life easier at three stages – deciding whether or not a family wants to adopt,

preparing for adoption, and supporting families after their child or children are home.

We know that when a family is desperately struggling to come up with the funds needed to pay for adoption expenses purchasing support materials is the last thing they want to do. And yet we believe firmly that the better prepared a family is for the challenges they

may face the more likely things are to go smoothly.

Whether you are considering adopting, are in the adoption process or have already adopted we have compiled resources for you. Decision making, parenting, devotional materials and some good reads are all included in our new catalog. We hope you find these materials helpful.

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Our yearly fundraising dessert auction will be held September 24 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at **Faith Bible Church** in Spokane. We will

hear from Billie Palmer, mother of twenty-three children. Delicious desserts will be served and incredible items will be auctioned, including

many international Christmas items.

Please let us know if you have an item we could auction or if you would like to attend the

event. The evening is free, but we would like to know that you plan to attend.

Make plans now to join us for this evening!

“You Oughta Be in Pictures!!!”

Snapshots Wanted

We are preparing a multi-media presentation and would like to have family pictures of adoptive families who have been helped by Kingdom Kids in any way. Perhaps you attended one of our conferences and then adopted, or raised adoption finances through Kingdom Kids. Perhaps you read one of our books and were

helped by it. We would very much appreciate it if you would email us a picture of your family that we could use in our presentation. If possible please send the picture 150 dpi. Include your last name and the countries from which your children were adopted.

Stories Wanted

The first year after a child has joined a new family is often the

hardest. We are preparing a book to help families through this time and would like your input! Please email us, in 800 words or less, the most difficult issues you dealt with in the first six months to a year and what helped you deal with them. Topics might include sibling issues, dealing with authority, cultural issues, older child issues, or whatever

your experience was. Please be honest and open – we want families who will follow you to learn from you! Include your first and last name, the state you live in and the country you adopted from (including U.S.) as well as the age of the child upon arrival in your home. We will send a free copy of the book to everyone whose story we include.

My chance to be a mom

This past January, without knowing how I could manage as a single parent, I decided to enroll in foster care training. After a month of intense classes, several interviews with a licenser and a home inspection, eleven-month-old "Jimmy" arrived on my doorstep with only the clothes on his back, a dirty bottle, and five diapers. He only stayed with me for four days, but even in that short time he started calling me

Mama and we had a great time together. I'll never forget his huge blue eyes and the tender way he interacted with everyone he met.

My current placement is a beautiful two-year-old with HIV. You'd never know by looking at her that she is a medically fragile child, which makes it even harder knowing that her chances of surviving to adulthood are slim. Little "Maria" has to have medicine administered twice a day

through a tube in her stomach, and I take extra precautions with diapers and bandages. However, those inconveniences are insignificant when I compare them to the giant bear hugs and laughter that fill my home.

As a single woman, I'm exhausted after a full day at my job, an evening of playing, bathing, and rocking babies to sleep, and nights of trying to keep up with the chores. But I wouldn't trade it for

the world! I have an opportunity to keep hurting children safe until they are ready to go home. I mourn when they leave, but there's also such a deep seated joy knowing that even for a short time, a child experienced peace and love in my home. Most important, I have the privilege of praying for children and introducing them to Jesus. That alone makes foster parenting the greatest job in the world.

Foster parenting as a ministry

Every county across the United States is desperate for foster families. A random survey of our local foster homes showed that 70% of foster parents claim to be Christians. This is wonderful because only through knowing Christ can foster children and their families heal from the hurts of their past.

In February Kingdom Kids worked with the Dept. of Children and Family Services to hold foster parent information meetings specifically designed for Christian families. At each meeting DCFS

explained the licensing process. Those who attended could voice their concerns about working within the confines of the system. A panel of experienced foster parents, CPS workers, adoption social workers and licensers answered questions.

In April, DCFS held a foster licensing class

at a local church drawing 24 people from those meetings. Many have now completed their licensing requirements and are ministering to the needy children in our county.

One couple, the Kaufmans, desired to foster and adopt children who come into care at an early age. They completed their

licensing requirements in record time and today are ministering in our community. They have opened their arms to a sibling group and are preparing their home to be licensed for more children. They are an inspiration to their church body and neighborhood, as they show Christ to the neediest ones in our county.

Have you ever thought of becoming a foster parent? Your county foster licensing office would really like to hear from you. The hope you give children could last for eternity.

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