



FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Fall 2006

NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS

FROM CHINA, KYRGYZSTAN AND RUSSIA, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF ...



Above: Ariana with Mom and Dad

Katerina to parents Stephen and Lisa Lutz of Del Mar, CA • Eugenia to parent Regina Saunders of McKinney, TX • Ariana to parents Jim and Stephanie Umberger of Indian Wells, CA • Elise and Andrew to parents Jeff and Joanne Erickson of Vacaville, CA • Katherine to parents David and Kathy Oubre of Mandeville, LA • Alexander to parents Joe and Valentina Purtell of Anaheim, CA • Irina and Sasha to parents Bill and Marci Weston of Brooks, GA • Nikita to parents Mark and Lisette Daigle • Valera to parents Mike and Patti Stettner of Roswell, GA • Aliona to parents Jim and Christine Edwards of Long Beach, CA • Nathan to parents Curtis and Joyce Hanz of Corona, CA.



Above: Irina and Sasha with their new Brother

SNOWFLAKE UPDATE

FROM FROZEN TO FOREVER FAMILY

By Megan Corcoran



Above: Matthew James

They're finally here!

In August - **Rachel Erin** was born to Bill & Donna.

In September - **Nicholas Scott** and **Tessa Grace** were born to Brent & Christina.

In October - **Matthew James** was born to Tim & Sarah, and **Ethan Richard** was born to Chad & Tanya.

In November - **Justin Lee** was born to Dane & Tammy, **Kathryn Ann** was born to Steve & Debby, and **Tyler Scott** was born to Scott & Gayle.



Above: Kathryn Ann

CONGRATULATIONS FAMILIES!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have all heard stories about how some people view the glass as being half-full while others view the glass as being half-empty. Now, I'm sure you don't need to read another story about how some people are born optimists and some are born pessimists, but I do think it is important to know that I am an optimist. There are times when this perspective on life leaves me disappointed, but generally I believe we can always find something positive even in bad situations. Like waiting to be selected as adopting parents by a birthmother – or praying for the implanted embryos to result in a pregnancy – or trying to figure out when a foreign country will start seeing the needs of the children in orphanages the way we do – or dealing with the challenges with raising children.

I have frequently told waiting families in the domestic program that adopting parents have two fears in common with one another. The first fear is that the birthmother (continued on page 2)

SOON TO COME...

Expecting babies in 2006:

December Chad & Sheri.

Expecting babies in 2007:

January Bill & Cheri;

February JJ & Tracy, Jim & Barbara,

Kevin & Janet, Jon & Debbie;

March Shayne & Tina, Mark & Missi;

April Alex & Lori

May Simon & Tiffany, Dave & Ann,

Jon & Erin, John & Vanessa;

June David & Stacy;

July Alan & Holly, Matt & Michele,

Jim & Nellie.



Sean Jamison Craton

NEW DOMESTIC ARRIVALS

We also welcome home the following babies who were adopted through our Domestic Adoption program and were delivered into the waiting arms of their proud parents.

CHILD

Sean Jamison

William Martin

Ashley Renske

DATE OF BIRTH

August 16, 2006

October 18, 2006

September 8, 2006

PROUD PARENTS

Bob and JeanAnne Craton

Jim and Mary Kitzmiller

Evan and Susan Money

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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will change her mind and want the baby back; the second fear is that when the child turns about 12, that she won't. (This is a joke ☺) For those that understand that parenting can be a difficult, challenging and sometimes daunting job, the humor is apparent. There will come a time when we all feel like sealing them in a barrel for the duration of their adolescent years (or longer). But the positive part of this experience is that they eventually grow up and become too much like us to acknowledge. Some say that watching us parent is the ultimate justice for our parents.

But with all of the challenges, particularly at this time of year, we are reminded that parenting is an honor and many families have struggled for years to get this job. So if you have a minute this Christmas season, reflect on the gift of life, the offer of eternal life, and the fact that there are some incredibly wonderful people around us – sometimes our own children.

I thank you for your friendship, for sharing the good stories and bad, and for the opportunity to be an extended part of your family. We pray for your happiness and peace for Christmas.



WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ADOPT FROM CHINA?

By Courtney Atnip

That's the question we are consistently asked when people look from our handsome son (Snowflake Embryo Adoption) to our beautiful daughter (whom we brought home from China earlier this year). Our answer is always that God gently led us there by the people and circumstances He placed in our lives.

Once we figured out how God wanted us to continue growing our family, we found that we were comfortable with how the adoption process for China is constructed. It is straightforward, fairly predictable, the children seem to adjust well, it requires only one trip to China, and in the end you come home with a child. That's not to say that the waiting time did not have its emotional highs and lows. Our official wait began on our log in date, or the date our paperwork was officially recognized by China, May 27, 2005. I think the hardest day of our adoption journey was in February 2006, when we missed the referral cut-off date by two days and

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THE HAGUE – THE BEGINNING OF A NEW WORLD WITH INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

By Rhonda Jarema

"The Hague Convention" or "The Hague" as it is commonly called in the world of international adoption agencies is affecting the future of international adoptions. Representatives from countries around the world met and formed a treaty in May 1993 that set guidelines to protect the interests of children regarding inter-country adoption. This treaty was developed in order to prevent the trafficking, sale and abduction of children, along with insuring that whenever possible a child remain in the care of his or her family of origin. *The Hague* requires that a "Central Authority" be designated in each country to monitor the inter-country adoptions. Agencies that provide services in the countries that have signed onto *The Hague* must be accredited by their country's central authority.

Ultimately, the goal of *The Hague* is to insure that the needs of children take precedence over any other issue in international adoption. However, there is much controversy over whether this document, ratified by countries across the world, will actually serve this purpose. Each country that has signed this 'convention' has worked hard to insure that their adoption policies and practice will protect the children of their country. Unfortunately, as the countries are still working through this process, adoptions have been delayed, as the process has become more cumbersome rather than streamlined.

The United States signed the treaty in 1994, but it took until this year to actually put the regulations into place that will

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WINTER REUNION

Saturday, January 13, 2007 is the date of our upcoming **Nightlight Christian Adoptions Annual Winter Reunion**. This is the perfect time to get together with friends new and old, meet newly arrived children, see how children have grown and share your stories with families who are just beginning down this path of parenting adventures. It will be held at **Knott's**

Berry Farm as it has for the past several years. There are activities for the young and not so young. Come join us for a wonderful day at Knott's. For more information, look for your flyer this coming December and for Nightlight Newsflash notices in your email inbox.



Wishing you a blessed holiday season!



NIGHTLIGHT'S NINTH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Our 2007 Gala Dinner will be on Saturday, March 10, 2007! Please mark your calendars and

plan early to come to this fun event and bring your family and friends as many of our families now do—some make this event a little reunion with friends and family!

If you are able to start obtaining donations from your place of business, we will be happy to provide you with our solicitation letters that include information about the event (and we will be ever so grateful!). We are trying to start this process earlier this year. Some organizations are more willing to donate at the end of the year; some prefer to donate at the start of the new year. Please contact Kathryn Deiters if you have questions or need copies of our donation request letter (Kathryn@Nightlight.org).

HOW GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS WITH ASHLEY

By Evan and Susan Money

We both felt strongly that we were being called by God to adopt a child. We have a 3-year old son, Joshua, but after he was born, we started discussing the idea of adopting a child. A dear friend, Paul Koch, told us about Nightlight. Although we did check out another agency, we just didn't feel the warmth we did with the people at Nightlight.

With the decision made, we asked for the paperwork, completed the gathering of our paperwork in three weeks and then proceeded with the rest of the Homestudy. Then we waited. At the time, it seemed long, but it actually only took a few months. We had a vacation planned and asked our social worker if it was all right to go ahead and take it. She assured us that was fine. You just had no way of knowing when a birthmother was going to select your family. So we went ahead with our plans, packed our bags, had Susan's mother drive us to the airport, checked our bags, and that's when the cell phone rang. We'd been selected! Oh my! Our bags were already on their way to Texas, but we hadn't boarded yet.

We called Susan's mother and asked her to come pick us up. "What's wrong? Is there a problem with the airplane?" she asked. We told her everything was fine—we'd gotten the call and there was a baby for us! We could see God's hand throughout this entire adoption. The fact that we were going on vacation, was actually a tremendous blessing. It meant that we had cleared our calendars for the next two weeks and could devote all of our time to our precious new little daughter.

Ashley has now been with us a little over two months. Our son has adjusted very well to his little sister, who he is very careful to protect. We are just in awe of God's blessing us with this precious little one and are very grateful to have been part of His plan.



THE TRICYCLE GUILD



Are you looking for a worthy organization to support, volunteering of your time and talents? Nightlight has the answer - The Tricycle Guild! We get together and have parties just for fun; we have gatherings to plan upcoming events, and we have "work parties" before our big Fundraiser Dinner in March to wrap auction items.

If you would like to join The Tricycle Guild, please contact Kathryn Deiters at (714) 278-1020 or Kathryn@Nightlight.org for further information.



EMBRYO ADOPTION AWARENESS GRANT

In our last issue, we heard about the Embryo Adoption Awareness events in Colorado, Virginia, and Texas. Later in August, Georgia

and Southern California held their events.

On August 24, 2006, the Georgia event, which was organized by Snowflake mother Maura Daniel, was held in an elegant art gallery. This was something a little different from our other events and proved to be very effective. The gallery was a perfect, low key setting. The party, with over 60 people in attendance, was a great forum, and allowed everyone to mingle in a relaxed way. Tricia Rushton brought her Snowflake daughter and all three of the Daniel's Snowflakes were in attendance, providing living proof that this option does produce results.

The event made a significant impact on many levels. Clinics took notice, as did the adoption community. Resolve of Georgia is going to put Maura Daniel's name on their quarterly newsletter as an Embryo Adoption/Donation contact. The ads were descriptive and touched millions of people in the greater Atlanta area.

Bob and Susanne Gray, who donated their embryos to another family through the Snowflakes Program, shared their story. Joe B. Massey, Reproductive Endocrinologist from Reproductive Biology Associates (the Daniel's doctor) spoke, as did US Congressman Phil Gingrey, MD. Tricia Rushton shared her Snowflake adoption experience with the group as well.

The California Event was held the following Saturday, on August 26th, at Irvine Regional Park. Congressman Ed Royce spoke, followed by Assemblyman Chuck DeVore. Both spoke about the importance of taking a stand for life, even at the

earliest of stages, the embryo.

They were followed by Betty Burnett, who spoke of her relief at finding a solution for their remaining embryos—placing them with another family. Marlene Strege spoke about the Snowflakes Program and what it has meant to her family and gave some historical perspective on the Program. The Strege's were the first Snowflake family. The Gillingham's gave birth to their second set of twin girls who became the 100th and 101st Snowflake babies.



After we heard from the speakers, we proceeded to the grassy slope where the families planted two beautiful liquid amber trees to commemorate the event and the life that has resulted from these embryos being placed with families who gave birth to them. All of the children were given their own little trowel to help with the planting process.



Next, we all moved on to enjoy our barbeque lunch. The children played while the adults talked with one another, sharing their experiences and asking questions to learn more about embryo adoption.

The first part of this grant is now nearly completed and we have conducted the training for the people who will represent us in our new regions: Pennsylvania, Kentucky (including surrounding states), and the state of Washington. We will continue Georgia and Southern California. If you would like to be involved in these outreach efforts, please contact Kathryn Deiters (Kathryn@Nightlight.org) to learn more.

TEXAS NEWS By Natasha Nechiporenko



Classes in Texas:

Adoption Orientation Classes will be held in Dallas. These classes cover both International and Snowflakes Embryo Adoptions. They will take place on the following dates, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Hope Cottage Building, 4209 McKinney Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75205

Dates in 2007: February 8 • April 12 • June 14 • August 9 • October 11 • December 13

For further information please contact Natasha Nechiporenko at Natasha@Nightlight.org or (972) 956-9988.

BABIES EVERYWHERE

GRACE MARIE POFFENBERGER ARRIVES



After a 90 minute maternity leave, Kelly Poffenberger (our social worker who works with our birthmothers), went into labor and on September 22, 2006, Grace Marie Poffenberger was born. She weighed 5 pounds and 15 ounces and is a beautiful baby girl who looks just like her proud papa, Dave. Little Grace is thriving and keeping her mom and dad very busy. Also welcoming Grace are sister, Kelsie and brother, Ryan.

CONGRATULATIONS, Kelly!

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ADOPT FROM CHINA?

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had to wait an entire month to see our baby's face.

Ten months to the day from our log in date (about two months longer than we originally expected), Kathryn Deiters called us with the news that our referral had come in and if we accepted it (no big question there!) we would be the proud parents of a little girl named Luo Xi who was residing at the XiangYin orphanage outside of Changsha (a major city), Hunan (the province), China. I immediately called Tim and then everyone else I could think of, until my cell phone battery ran out. We drove to Nightlight and finally got to lay eyes on our little beauty who we would name Abigail Lynn-Xi Atnip. That was an exciting day!

We left for China in the middle of May for a few fabulous days of sightseeing in Beijing and then flew to Changsha to meet Abby! We met her for the first time on May 22, 2006. She was 13 months, 11 days old. The sweet gals from the orphanage placed her in our arms and she stuck to us like glue. She was beautiful and cuddly. It makes me a little sad to look at pictures from those first few weeks as I can see in her eyes how sad and scared she was; although you wouldn't have guessed it from her quiet demeanor. Imagine everything around you changing . . . no other crib next to you, no babies sharing the room with you, people who look different,

smell different and talk different, different diapers to wear and different clothes to wear, a Mommy and Daddy who really never figured out the correct water-to-formula-to-rice cereal combination! (But then again, the hotel buffet was a lot more exciting than rice and formula!)

At first, Abby would not let us set her down and really didn't even like it if we were holding her while sitting down . . . she wanted us on our feet. In China, little by little, we set her down on the bed beside us and she'd venture a little further from us to get some Cheerios or toys we strategically placed a little farther away each day. By the time we headed home, it was obvious that Abby preferred us (and Kathryn Deiters, as we had the pleasure of having her along for our amazing trip) to anyone else. We were granted small glimpses of her outgoing personality, especially around the evening dinner table in China.

The first few days at home were tough, because Carter wanted our attention and Abby did not want to be put down. We started putting her in an exersaucer for a few minutes at a time. She screamed and we talked to her and told her it would be okay. Within a few days, she decided that it was much more fun to play than scream. Slowly, her sad eyes began to sparkle and she began to crawl through



our house exploring everything, much to Carter's chagrin!

As I look through pictures now, I can see the change in her face. Although I don't feel she was ever afraid of us, I do think Abby was apprehensive of everything around her. As she began to explore her new world and get to know us, the sparkling, mischievous eyes of her referral photo returned.

We came home with Abby a little over five months ago. She now runs happily screeching through the house as her brother chases her. She is almost 19 months old and is very confident and strong. Abby's Nena (my mom) always comments on how full of joy Abby is. One look at her smiling face and one listen to her giggle, would fill anyone's heart with joy.

If you'd like to read about our trip to China and see past and current pictures, go to www.babyjellybeans.com and then search for Abigail Atnip.

EDUCATION: CLASSES, SEMINARS, AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Nightlight offers the following classes in our offices. If you would like further information on any of these classes, please call us at (714) 278-1020. Pre-registration is required for most of the classes and is helpful to the staff for all of them.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The “Mom’s Support Group” is continuing to meet on a monthly basis in the South Orange County area. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rhonda Jarema at Nightlight for more information. Rhonda@nightlight.org

EMAIL SUPPORT GROUPS

Snowflakes - If any of you would like to be added to Snowflake information lists, please contact Megan Corcoran at Megan@Nightlight.org. Marlene Strege and Doni Brinkman are very good about sharing information they learn with people on their lists. They would be happy to add you on as well.

China - Families adopting from China may join our Yahoo group to meet other families adopting from China and hear all of the latest news on China Adoptions. Please contact Kathryn at Kathryn@Nightlight.org to be added to the group.

CHINESE CLASSES AT NIGHTLIGHT

Sabrina Chang, Nightlight’s China Adoption Coordinator, teaches Chinese classes. The classes are designed for children (Chinese and non-Chinese) to learn simple Chinese characters, conversational phrases, and a bit about the history and culture of China. The children learn to count from 1 – 99, how to say their birth date, and how to apply words and phrases. Sabrina also teaches the children why the Chinese celebrate certain holidays. The classes are fun and child-friendly.

To learn more about the classes or to sign up, you may call Nightlight and ask for Kathryn Deiters or you may call Sabrina Chang at (626) 589-6767.

RUSSIAN CLASSES

Russian Saturday School - Russian speech development, Russian language and literature, Russian history, and Foundation of the Orthodoxy are classes that are offered in Los Angeles through the Holy Virgin Mary Russia Cathedral. These classes are offered to children from 6 to 16 years of age. Classes are free of charge. The church is located at 650 Micheltorena St., Los Angeles, 90026. The phone numbers are (323) 666-4977 and (626) 429-8827.

Russian Class in Yorba Linda - A beginning level Russian class is usually offered each quarter in Yorba Linda through the North Orange County Community College Program. The classes meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-9:30 for 10 weeks. The cost of the class is \$75. If you are interested in registering for the next session, the number to call is (714) 808-4645. It will be helpful though if you can get a group of people together—they require a minimum of 12 students to hold the class.

ADOPTION SEMINARS

These are informational seminars on domestic, international, and embryo adoption. The seminars are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. There is no charge, but registration is helpful.

Adoption seminars are also held at local churches. If you would like an adoption seminar offered at your church, please call us at (714) 278-1020 and ask for Kathryn Deiters.

SEMINAR DATES:

2006 - December 2, 2006

2007 - February 3 • April 21 • June 16 • August 4 (International only) • October 6 • December 1

LIFE-LONG ISSUES IN ADOPTION

The Life-Long Issues classes are offered on weekday evenings, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Life-Long Issues in Adoption (Part 1; required for all adopting couples)

In this class we will look at the core adoption issues, which will give you an understanding of how you are linked to the other members of the adoption triad: the adoptee and the birth family. The material is applicable to all forms of adoption, domestic, international, or the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program, and will help adopting families develop understanding and compassion for everyone involved in the adoption process. **Dates for 2007:** January 11 • March 15 • April 12 • May 10 • June 14 • July 12. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

Domestic Adoption Decisions Class (Part 2; required for all Domestic Adopting Couples), from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Dates for 2007: January 25 • March 29 • May 31 • July 26 • September 27 • November 29. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

ATTACHMENT & BONDING CLASSES, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Understanding the theory behind parent and child attachment is important for any parent. However, it becomes particularly important when adopting a child internationally. For those families planning on adopting internationally, "Attachment and Bonding" is a required class. It is most helpful if this class is taken in the beginning of the homestudy process. This class defines attachment and bonding, reviews the theories behind attachment, and provides practical advice on how to develop a solid attachment with your newly adopted child. Reservations are necessary as these classes fill up quickly. Please contact Rhonda Jarema, MA, Director of Family Support Services, with any questions about this class, by emailing her at Rhonda@Nightlight.org. To register, please contact the Nightlight office at (714)278-1020.

Dates for 2007: January 10 • March 14 • May 2 • June 27 • September 5 • November 7. **Cost: \$100/Couple**

CHINA ADOPTION WORKSHOP/TRANS-RACIAL ADOPTION CLASS, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This is a class designed to help prepare our parents adopting from China. It covers trans-racial adoption, the Chinese culture, and provides information about the travel experience. It is a great opportunity to meet other families who are adopting through the program as well. The first hour of the class (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.) will cover the trans-racial component which will be helpful for domestic families who may be adopting a child of a different racial background. **Dates for 2007:** January 20 • June 2 • October 20. **Cost: No charge, but registration is required.**

LIFEBOOKS WORKSHOP

Each child has a story of their unique conception, birth and journey to their parents' waiting arms. What is your child's story? Have you wondered how to tell it in terms s/he can understand? Have you thought about some of the difficult details that might be challenging to discuss? You will learn the importance of the LifeBook so you can begin to write the most important story your child will ever read.

Who: All adoptive parents, from all stages of the adoption journey. Your child does not have to be living with you yet.

Where: Nightlight Classroom

What to bring: Pictures and/or documents from your child's adoption, appropriate journal entries or notes and your scrapbooking supplies.

Cost of the workshop is \$25.00 (includes instruction, refreshments, and some scrapbooking materials). Please contact Megan (megan@nightlight.org) for more information. **You must RSVP two weeks in advance to attend!**

Creative Memories scrapbook products are available to pre-order at a 10% discount. Orders and payment must be received 2 weeks in advance to ensure materials arrive by the workshop date. Or you may choose to bring your own scrapbook and supplies.

Dates for 2007: January 20 (1:00 – 5:00 p.m.) • April 28 (12:00 - 4:00 p.m.) • July 14 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CDS

Teresa Kelleher has developed user-friendly language CD and handbook sets to help adoptive families communicate with each other starting on "Day One". Teresa and her husband adopted a 3-year old in 1997 and learned Russian in order to be able to speak with him. In 1999, she produced *Adopting from Russia, a Language and Parenting Guide*. In 2002, she added *Adopting from China and Adopting from Latin America*. There is also a language CD to help children adopted from Russia learn English, called *Rush into English, Russian to English for Children*, which is very popular with children.

These CDs provide the words and phrases that families need when speaking with adults at the orphanage or with their child when they first meet and begin spending time together as a family. To learn more about the language sets or to order, please email Teresa Kelleher at Adopttlc@aol.com.

WEB SITE FOR TRANSLATIONS

If you want to translate a word or phrase from English to Russian or Chinese or vice versa (they don't seem to have various Chinese dialects though), you may find this Web site helpful, <http://translation2.paralink.com/>.



BAND AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

For Southern California families who are choosing to homeschool, there is a wonderful new opportunity open to you. Orange Coast Musical Arts, founded by Nightlight clients Donn and Anne-Marie Hallman, provides children wanting to learn how to play an instrument with the opportunity to grow musically through lessons and performance in three levels of band and orchestra. If you would like more information, you may call Donn or Anne-Marie at (714) 222-5079.



RUSSIAN CHOIR

During the tour performances over the past three years, we have had children who have already been adopted participate. They sing two or three Christian songs in Russian.

If you would like to join our Russian Choir, please let us know. The Choir is open to girls and boys. Choir Practice begins in late March 2007, one day a week, at Nightlight. The day and time will be determined by the group. Please be thinking if this is something you might like to participate in next year. For more information or to sign up, please contact Kathryn Deiters (Kathryn@Nightlight.org).

THE NIGHTLIGHT SHOPPE



NIGHTLIGHTS

These rechargeable nightlights plug into the wall. At dusk the nightlight automatically turns on. It can also be unplugged and used as a flashlight—very handy to have around the house. If you would like one, please send in your check for \$20 to cover the cost of the nightlight and shipping.

NIGHTLIGHT T-SHIRTS

Nightlight T-Shirts are available by sending your check for \$10 to the address below. Indicate which T-shirts you want to order and the sizes you need.

Burgundy Nightlight Christian Adoptions T-Shirts - A Nightlight T-Shirt that promotes adoption in all three forms—Domestic, International, and Embryo—on an attractive burgundy-colored t-shirt.

Nightlight's Summer T-Shirts - Our 2006 Summer T-Shirts are available, if you would like to purchase one. This year's t-shirt represents all of our programs, Domestic, Snowflakes, Russia, and China, with a handprint on the front of a Kelly green shirt.

For all orders, make checks payable to:
"Nightlight Christian Adoptions"
and mail to the following address:

Nightlight Christian Adoptions
801 East Chapman Ave., Suite 106,
Fullerton, CA 92831

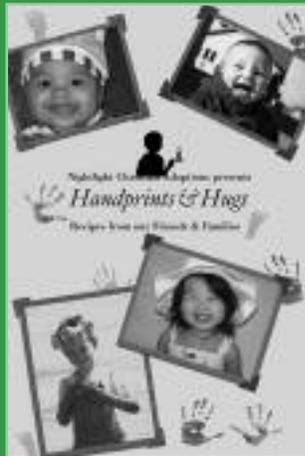


NIGHTLIGHT COOKBOOKS

By Julia McColister

With the holidays fast approaching, we are sure that you'll want to include **Nightlight's Handprints and Hugs**

Cookbook on your holiday shopping list. It makes a fantastic gift! The cookbook contains 600 delicious recipes from all over the U.S. and world and is sure to delight everyone's tastebuds.



To order your cookbooks, please send a check to Nightlight for \$15.00 per book (plus \$2 for shipping, for a total of \$17). If you prefer, you may order a CD of the cookbook for just \$10. Check out the cookbook on our Web site, www.nightlight.org, under "Support". There are even a few sample recipes to try out!

FAS BOOK REVIEW

by Rhonda Jarema

One of the best books I've read recently is *Fantastic Antoine Succeeds*. It is a book about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the successful ways many parents, therapists and kids have responded to that diagnosis. However, as I read this book, I realized that the interventions shared by these specialists (parents sharing their stories), were similar to what many parents experience when they are working with their newly adopted kids. It really does not matter if your child does not have FAS or anything like it. This book shares stories and insights about dealing with children who have challenges in life.

Our children have already faced challenges that home grown children could not even imagine. The way we approach a child who comes from an orphanage environment and does not speak the language, is very different than a child who has grown up in a home here in the United States. Strategies that may have worked with your biological children may serve only to frustrate a child coming from an orphanage environment. I would encourage every parent to read this book. It is a book of hope and success along with a wonderful learning tool. You will find approaches in this book that might help you reach your child in a way you may not have thought possible.

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THE HAGUE – THE BEGINNING OF A NEW WORLD WITH INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

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control inter-country adoption under *The Hague*. The intent was to set up regulations that would protect the interests of children but would be able to be realistically implemented. Although the regulations are on the books, they don't actually take effect until a sufficient number of agencies become accredited and meet the regulations. This is expected toward the end of 2007.

In the United States, the Department of State was designated as the Central Authority. They designated two organizations to monitor agencies that will be providing services for inter-country adoptions to *Hague* member States. Those organizations are the Council on Accreditation (COA) and State Department of Licensing in Colorado. They are responsible for evaluating and insuring that agencies comply with *The Hague*, providing accreditation for those who meet the criteria.

The intent of *The Hague* is admirable and certainly fits our aim for any adoption, whether domestic or inter-country. However, these new regulations have resulted in a

mountain of paperwork that will accompany the implementation of *The Hague*. Policies and Procedures now need to be re-written to fit the required wording, classes need to be restructured to prove that families really are learning the required material, and more documentation will be required for each adoption.

Agencies that provide inter-country adoption to *Hague* members (Russia and China are signatories) must be accredited by either COA or the State of Colorado (for agencies in Colorado). These programs cost money and will take more staff time, so it is expected that there will be increased costs to families.

Families may not see much of a difference with an agency such as Nightlight Christian Adoptions, where we already provide most of the required services to our clients and do keep our services 'transparent.' The changes will not be that noticeable. However, there still are changes that will need to be made.

I am currently developing two classes, one for families adopting older children and another for all families adopting internationally that will address the medical and developmental issues faced with a child who comes from an institutionalized background.

Although these classes are being developed as part of the pre-adoption training, they will be open to all families as are the other classes we provide.

Transitioning our agency into the 'next generation' through *The Hague* will certainly bring changes in each agency providing inter-country adoptions. We hope that ultimately the goal of better educated families and children placed into loving, nurturing, forever homes, will make the stresses that accompany these changes worth every moment.

It truly is a 'brave new world' with inter-country adoptions and *The Hague*.



FAS BOOK REVIEW

(continued from previous page)

Here are some of my favorite ideas from the book that I believe are helpful with any child:

1. Establish a routine. As routine is predictable, it helps the child to feel safe in their environment.
2. Make directions simple, using as few words as possible, showing what you want with visual cues.
3. Model appropriate behavior. When you wonder where your child picked something up, sometimes you need only look in a mirror.
4. Frequent encouragement is critical to building self esteem. Encouragement will teach your child more about what behaviors you desire than punishment.
5. The same strategy does not always work. Be open to trying something new or different.
6. Talk about what you are seeing or feeling all the time. You are being a role model for your child, explaining feelings, behavior and improving vocabulary.

I hope these insights from the book are helpful to you but I really would encourage you to read the entire book as it is filled with gems of hope for any parent.



OUR JOURNEY

by Chad & Tanya



Our journey to parenthood began in the fall of 2001

when we both separately learned about the Snowflake program. We had been hoping and praying for a child for some time, and we had an appointment with an infertility specialist scheduled for the end of that year. Chad heard about Snowflakes through a Focus on the Family radio broadcast, while Tanya learned about it through the Focus on the Family website. At the time, we thought that the program was very interesting, but we had no idea that God was preparing our hearts to adopt in this way.

At the beginning of 2002, we received the diagnosis that it is medically impossible for us to have a genetic child. This news was obviously heartbreaking, but thankfully, we felt confident that God was leading us to the Snowflake program. We value all types of adoption, but we were excited about the possibility of being pregnant with our adopted child. After much prayer, we applied in the spring of 2002, completed our homestudy in the summer, and were officially accepted that fall. We were thrilled to be matched within a couple of months, and we were so thankful for the genetic parents who were allowing us to adopt their embryos.

Our first frozen embryo transfer happened in April 2003. We were so excited, and we were hopeful that it would result in a pregnancy since we were confident of God's

leading. When we received the news that our pregnancy test was negative, it was almost as heartbreaking as our original diagnosis had been. It was hard to mourn the loss of our four little ones, but we found comfort knowing that they are now safely in our Father's arms. The next three years brought about six more transfers, including one transfer which did not actually happen because the embryos did not survive the thaw. We were matched three different times with three genetic families, while continuing to pray that we were still doing what God wanted for us. Prior to our third match, we made the decision that if we did not have a child as a result, then we would pursue a different type of adoption. The process had been both physically and emotionally difficult for us, but we continued to believe that God had a perfect plan for our life and that we were acting according to His will.

We were thrilled in August 2005 to learn that we were finally pregnant with a Snowflake baby! However, this excitement turned to devastation when we lost this baby at about 8 weeks into the pregnancy. We had one last transfer in January 2006 and were again thrilled to learn that we were pregnant. And this time, the joy was doubled – we were expecting twins! But then at an ultrasound at 16 weeks into this pregnancy, we learned that one of the twins had died at sometime between 9 and 11 weeks. Again, we mourned the loss of another baby. We were also concerned for the health of the surviving baby, and we pleaded with God to allow us to carry this little one to term. God graciously answered

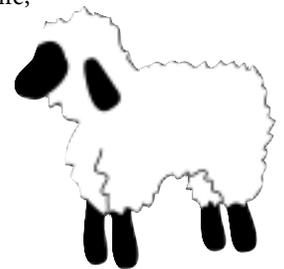
“yes” to our prayers, and Ethan Richard was born on October 19, 2006! We are enjoying learning our new roles as parents



as we experience new blessings each and every day.

Our journey has been a long one, and God has taught us much

through it. We have learned that His plan and timing often differ from ours. We have also learned that obedience does not guarantee that things will work out as we had hoped or planned. But God is always faithful to go with us through the hard times and to give us the strength and patience to endure. Looking back, there are many moments in the past few years that we survived only because we relied on God and the knowledge that His ways and plans are perfect. We are so thankful that God led us to the Snowflake program, and we are thankful for our 29 Snowflake babies in heaven as well as for Ethan, our one Snowflake baby still here with us. We are confident that God must have very special plans for Ethan's life, and we know that Ethan is truly a miracle.



NIGHTLIGHT'S NEEDS – YOU CAN HELP, AND YOU DO!

During our severe time of financial need, we have been greatly touched by the support of so many of our families. We still need your support, but are very grateful for the outpouring we have already received.

In addition, we do have some other needs:

We are in need of a **REFRIGERATOR**. If any of you have one you were thinking of getting rid of, but that is still in good working order, we could use another refrigerator.

We always need **VOLUNTEERS** to help with upcoming events. Please consider joining our Tricycle Guild!

Keep sending us **CUTE PICTURES** of your children. Whether it's for our brochures, the Web site, the newsletter, or the displays we use for adoption seminars, we always need pictures.

Please contact Kathryn Deiters if you have any questions or know that you can help out in any of these areas.

DELAYED REGISTRATION OF BIRTH

Nightlight is offering a packet to help families who would like to file for a Delayed Registration of Birth (similar to a birth certificate but for a child adopted internationally). The packet will contain the instructions for filling out the forms and filing with the appropriate government offices. Having a California birth certificate will be a significant advantage for all of those occasions when you need identification – registering for school, little league, driver's license, etc.

Cost: \$25 per family. Please mail in your check to order a packet.

CARS 4 CAUSES

If you would like to donate an old car, truck, or van, regardless of where you live, you may contact Cars 4 Causes and they will take care of everything.



Phone (800) 766-CARE (800-766-2273). Tell them you would like the proceeds to be given to Nightlight Christian Adoptions. Cars 4 Causes will pick up the car, towing it if necessary, without charge to you. Cars 4 Causes fixes up the car, sells it, and sends a check to Nightlight.

If you have any questions about the program, please call Nightlight at (714) 278-1020.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISERS



These fundraisers are a very successful means of allowing churches to become involved in a profound way in support of Nightlight Christian Adoptions and our ministry to help women who are facing a crisis pregnancy. Please talk to people at your church to find out if they would like to support a fundraiser. You may contact Kathryn Deiters for more information.

IN THE NEWS

Nightlight appeared in the news in the following places. If you see or hear us mentioned in the media, please let us know.

Tulsa World covered the Dill family in an article entitled, "Adoption Now an Option for Frozen Embryos," on August 24, 2006, discussing the family's desire to place their remaining embryos for adoption with another family.

MSN's Lifestyle covered the Houk and Fisher families, who placed and adopted embryos, in their article entitled, "Real Adoption Stories: Baby of Their Dreams," on November 3, 2006.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE TO FAMILIES

Please be sure to include @nightlight.org and @toadoptkids.org to your accepted email domains so that you are able to receive our emails to you. If you have recently changed your email address, please notify us by phone or email. It is so much more effective to be able to send you reminders of upcoming events via email.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or want to send a new email address to us, please contact Sarah McColister at Sarah@nightlight.org.

NIGHTLIGHT CALENDAR

2006

December

02 Adoption Seminar

2007

January

10 Attachment and Bonding
11 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
13 Winter Reunion
20 China Adoption Workshop
20 Trans-Racial Seminar 9-10 a.m.
20 Lifebooks Workshop
25 Domestic Adoption Decisions

February

03 Adoption Seminar

March

10 **Nightlight's Ninth Annual Gala Dinner**
14 Attachment and Bonding
15 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
29 Domestic Adoption Decisions

April

12 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
21 Adoption Seminar
28 LifeBooks Workshop

May

02 Attachment and Bonding
10 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
31 Domestic Adoption Decisions

June

02 China Adoption Workshop
02 Trans-Racial Seminar 9-10 a.m.
14 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
16 Adoption Seminar
27 Attachment and Bonding

July

11-30 Summer Tour (tentative dates)
12 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
14 Lifebooks Workshop
21 Summer Reunion
26 Domestic Adoption Decisions

August

03 International Adoption Seminar

September

05 Attachment and Bonding
27 Domestic Adoption Decisions

October

06 Adoption Seminar
20 China Adoption Workshop
20 Trans-Racial Seminar 9-10 a.m.

November

07 Attachment and Bonding
29 Domestic Adoption Decisions

December

01 Adoption Seminar

For more information on any of these events, please call the office:
(714) 278-1020.

FAMILY ALBUM

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

801 East Chapman Avenue, Suite 106
Fullerton, California 92831

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FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Fall 2006

Happy Holidays!

