



# FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Fall 2007

## NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS FROM CHINA, KYRGYZSTAN AND RUSSIA, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF...

Elijah to parents Tanner and Holly Jones from Tomball, TX  
• Elin to parents Simon and Helen Ye of Pomona, CA •  
Gabriela to parents Gary and Victoria Bordelon of  
Arnaudville, LA • Elizaveta to parents James and Patty Ogg  
of Lomita, CA • Jacob and Olivia to parents Frank and  
Kim Trader of Ontario, CA



Above: Elizaveta Ogg

## SNOWFLAKE ARRIVALS

By Megan Corcoran



### New Arrivals this Fall!

This fall we welcomed home six Snowflake babies! **In September**, Noel Grace was born to Brian & Debbie, Peter Elliot was born to Mat & Marbree, Anna Louise was born to Bart & Tammi, and Michael

Alton and Mary Ellen were born to Andrew & Cece. **In October**, Peter Joseph was born to Peter & Suzanne, Congratulations!

*Editor's correction: In May 2007, Tyler Ryan was born to Paul & Karen.*

As each of these precious babies are welcomed home by their loving parents, it is also important to acknowledge all the babies who we will not get to meet on Earth. These are the embryos that do not survive the thaw process, are transferred into the womb but do not implant, or implant and grow for a time but then cease growing for different reasons.

It takes courage to love these little lives, regardless of the outcome, and there is grief and sorrow when we know we won't meet them, hold them, and watch them grow here on Earth. One adoptive mother shared (continued on page 9)



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I just returned from Sandestin, Florida where I participated in the Christian Legal Society's annual conference. Flying in a small plane over the panhandle of Florida, I recalled lyrics from a song from the late 60's that brought images to my mind.

*"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got til it's gone; they paved paradise and put up a parking lot."*

Wherever you visit in the United States (or the world) and see commercial development, the local residents will tell you that 30 years ago there was nothing there but (pick one) trees, orange groves, swamps or desert. What is progress to some may be a loss of values to others. But what is clear is that change may be slowed but never stopped. Do you remember in the movie, **The Graduate**, when the key to the future was summed up in one

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## 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.**



Above: Jordan Christian



Above: Braxton Michael

CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	PROUD PARENTS
Braxton Michael	June 1, 2007	Tim and Kim Golbuff
Jordan Christian	September 12, 2007	James and Lorilee Grace
William Christopher	July 28, 2007	Greg and Laura Wakeham



Above: William Christopher

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued from page 1)

word, “plastics”? And now we find that it isn't bio-degradable. Changing without a clear idea of what the purpose of change is can be disappointing and contra-productive.

At Nightlight, we have to continually analyze change and re-evaluate what we do to make sure that we do a better job of meeting the needs of children and families. Forty years ago birthmothers who chose adoption sought the security and integrity of licensed agencies. Today, the majority of birthmothers are seduced by the slick ad campaigns of facilitators who market their client families with pre-packaged profiles. Intercountry adoptions were limited to Korea and a few other countries. The idea of adopting embryos would have been greeted as too futuristic to be taken seriously.

The world has changed and our agency has not only kept up but has led the adoption field with many innovations – such as summer tours for children from overseas orphanages and embryo adoptions. Our Board of Directors has recently authorized us to join the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability, obtain annual outside financial audits, and apply for accreditation under the Hague Convention on

Intercountry Adoptions. They have also set out to evaluate our organization's ability to meet the challenges of the next five years.

We want to be good stewards of the gifts, both people and financial, that God has given us. We invite you to be part of that process. Please share your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of Nightlight Christian Adoptions and your suggestions for change or improvement. You may email our Board Chairman, Rick Bee, directly at Rick.Bee@Biola.edu. Be assured that whatever changes we embrace will be directed at doing a better job of fulfilling our Mission Statement.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to share God's love by:

- Helping children, both domestic and international, to find loving families
- Assisting birthparents and genetic parents in making a wise and loving plan for their child's future
- Preparing families to be committed and effective parents to adoptive children
- Recognizing and advocating the personhood of pre-born children.

We are committed to carrying out our mission in a way that will bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*“In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:6*



Ron Stoddart

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## PRAYER FOR A SPECIAL LITTLE GIRL

This is a praise but also a request for further prayer—a special little girl, Juliana, has been undergoing treatment for cancer. Last March, 5-year old Juliana was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, muscle cancer. Since then, she has undergone lots of radiation, chemotherapy, loss of hair, and a very different kind of a life. But, for the most part, she has maintained a cheerful smile and a good attitude. Her family, of course has been devoted to her and has called on friends and family to get the word out to pray for Juliana.

The prayers are being answered and the last set of scans have come back with no visible signs of cancer. She will need to continue treatments for several more months, just to be sure though, followed by 5 years of careful monitoring. Please pray for Juliana and her family as she continues her cancer treatments. It's not a fun way to live when you should be able to run around and play like everyone else.

To follow her story, you may visit: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/julianacarver](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/julianacarver).



## NIGHTLIGHT'S ANNUAL GALA DINNER



Be sure to watch your mailbox in early January for the invitation to our Tenth Annual Gala Dinner. Our theme will be taken from the ancient Chinese Proverb about the Red Thread. This proverb says that there is an invisible red thread that connects a newborn child to all the people who will be important in their life. We feel that adoption is a special tie that brings people close together as well. We are connected to all of you and you each have a connection with one another.

Saturday, March 15, 2008, is the date for our next Gala Dinner and Auction. Please mark your calendars now. If you are able to start obtaining donations from your place of business, we will be happy to provide you with our donation request letters that include information about the event and about Nightlight Christian Adoptions. 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).

We are also looking for people who would like to begin early planning for our 50th anniversary, in 2009. If you have an interest in working on that, please let us know.

## WE'RE SO PROUD

*Sometimes it's a graduation, or the birth of a baby to a child who was adopted through Nightlight, or a piece that was written by one of "our" children, we like to share these special moments with all of you. When you have children graduating or experiencing something special in their lives, please share with us.*

### Graduation Announcement

*We are pleased to announce the following graduation:*



Mariya Maksimenko Kemp, adopted from Russia in 1999, graduated from Laguna Hills High School in June 2007, with honors. She is now attending Simpson University in Redding, California and is majoring in Liberal Studies.

Above: Mariya and her sister, Vera (adopted in 2005)

## THE BLESSING OF ADOPTING OLDER CHILDREN

By Suzanne Murray

It was three years ago that Peter and I attended our fourth Nightlight picnic. Ever since joining the Nightlight family in 2000, we always made a point to attend the picnic and all other activities we could possibly participate in. Three years ago we were so proud of ourselves for listening to God's calling not to pursue Snowflakes for our second adoption, but to pursue an international adoption.

We had just completed our homestudy and were waiting and praying for a referral of a child as young as possible (because we had done the big thing and given up the chance of being pregnant and having a newborn, so we wanted to at least make sure our referral was as young as possible), when we attended our 4th Nightlight picnic. Over the years we joyfully watched the visiting Russian children perform and thought to ourselves, "Oh, they are cute," but never felt a calling to adopt any of them. It was at this picnic that we were socializing and trying to make new friends who might have adopted internationally, when someone announced that the visiting orphans would be performing on the stage. I suddenly could not breathe! We were standing right in front of the stage. I looked at Peter and told him we needed to move to the other side of the park immediately. He asked why, and I explained, "Because we are going to fall in love with one of these kids, and we are not adopting older. We are adopting a baby!" I took Peter's hand and moved across as far as possible to the other side of the park. All the while, Peter was asking what was wrong with me, because for the past three years we had always watched the children perform. Why was this year different? We didn't learn until 8 months later, when meeting our sweet daughters Anya and Galina, that Anya was one of the girls performing on tour during the summer picnic.

I have admittedly at times mourned the loss of not having them in our lives from birth. Missing a sweet infant, that doesn't talk back or roll their eyes at you in disagreement. But this past summer, God spoke very clearly to my heart about all the wondrous blessings of adopting an older child, and I thought I would share a recent one. It was the last day of Vacation Bible School for Galina. They were having an 11:00 a.m. service, with the ending being the children in each grade singing a few songs. They told me Galina's class was performing at 11:50 am. I was watching

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## STAFF CHANGES AT NIGHTLIGHT

In October, we sadly said goodbye to **Sarah McColister**, who had been with Nightlight for 7 years. Sarah has always been so helpful in maintaining Nightlight's database, organizing registration for our events, and helping out with seminars, in addition to a myriad of other critical tasks. She has also been going to school full time, working hard to earn her master's degree in social work at Cal State Long Beach. Now that she's nearing the end (she'll graduate in May 2008), her classes and internships need her undivided attention. We are all very proud of her and commend her for being able to endure minimal sleep as long as she did. We wish her well!

We also bid a sad farewell to **Jody Rediger**, who worked with our families traveling to Russia and Central Asia to adopt their children. She, too, is working to complete her master's degree—in Marriage and Family Counseling. We were sad to see her go, but do wish her well and know that she will do very well as she moves into counseling work.

**Kelly Ross**, who had been doing our website and graphics work, as well as calling on maternity homes, shelters and hospitals, is now working in the International Department, in Jody's past position. She will be the one you speak with if you're about to travel or if you need post-adoption reports turned in. We are happy that Kelly is staying with us and adding a little variety to her work here.



**Erin Garcia** has moved into Kelly Ross' position. She graduated from Biola this past May, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a graduate program in Clinical Psychology (most likely a PhD program) to become a marriage counselor.

She was excited to learn that Nightlight Christian Adoptions was looking for a new member to the staff as she is a strong advocate of adoption. "The way that God shows His love and faithfulness to orphans and families through adoption is such a beautiful thing," she says. Two years ago

she spent the summer with a team from Biola in South Africa, ministering to children in impoverished areas. They spent their time doing minor construction and teaching at pre-schools, nurseries, and orphanages in the area and for the foster care community that hosted them (called Villa of Hope), playing with the kids and putting on a Vacation Bible School. The experience was incredible and the whole trip fueled her passion for adoption even more.

We are very pleased to have Erin working with us and know you will enjoy her as well.



Above: Kimberly Tyson in our Colorado Office

Nightlight has a new office located in Loveland, CO.

**Kimberly Tyson** was hired in September as the Program Manager for a new Health and Human Services grant

recently awarded to Nightlight. The purpose of the grant is to increase awareness that embryos are available for donation and adoption.

Ron has his own space in this new office and will work from there one to two weeks out of the month. We hope that all of you will join us as we creatively develop methods to increase awareness about the availability of embryos for donation and adoption. Please feel free to contact Kimberly—or Ron when he is in Colorado—at (970) 663-6799.

Under the auspices of this newest grant, there has already been a significant campaign launched targeting the legal community: a Law Student Essay competition. You can visit the web site for more information

about the competition at [www.embryolaw.org](http://www.embryolaw.org). Do you know a law student who may be interested in earning a \$2,500 award? Tell them to check into this opportunity. The competition is open to any law student at an ABA approved school who has completed one year of study.



## 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 COOKBOOKS

By Betsy Johnson

Ever since the Nightlight Cookbook came out, I've been a big fan. I love giving friends and family this cookbook. It has great recipes from all over the world and has also made a great hostess gift. I've enjoyed trying out several of these yummy recipes for family and friends. People always enjoy what I've made!

I'm not even a client of Nightlight—I guess I'd be in that category of Nightlight Friend. But I love sharing this cookbook and have given at least 20 of them away already. Give it a try. I'm sure you'll enjoy it!

**Editor's Note:** To order your cookbooks, please send a check to Nightlight for \$15.00. If you prefer, you may order a CD of the cookbook for just \$10. Check out the cookbook on our website, [www.nightlight.org](http://www.nightlight.org), under "Support". There are even a few sample recipes to try out!

## 2008 WINTER REUNION



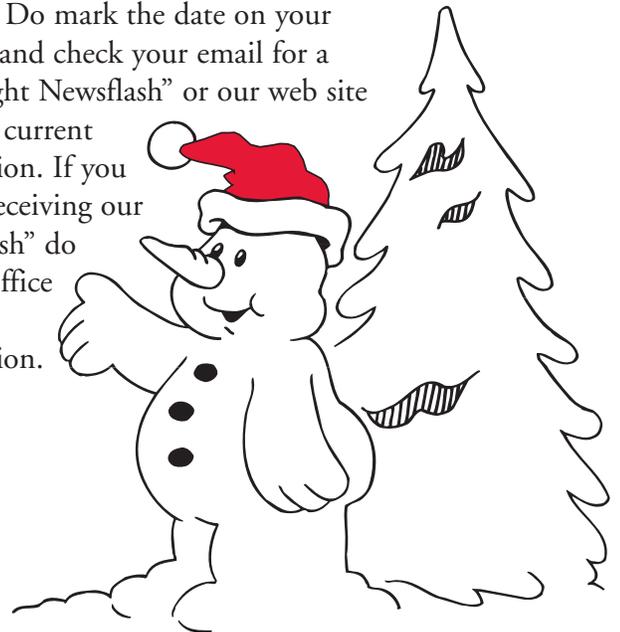
Although the date has not yet been etched in stone, or in this case, a wooden roller coaster, we do plan on having our winter reunion return to Knott's Berry Farm this coming January. Please tentatively mark your calendars for Saturday, January 5, 2008.

That should give you time to return from the holidays, refreshed and ready to begin the new year by seeing old friends, making new friends and enjoying the excitement of seeing just how many times you can go on Ghostbuster! I believe the record is 18 times in a single day.



Hmmm, I'd much rather peruse the shops, talk with families and eat the chicken dinner, but that is the wonderful thing about a reunion at Knott's Berry Farm, there is something

for everyone—including Camp Snoopy for the younger children. Do mark the date on your calendar and check your email for a "Nightlight Newsflash" or our web site for more current information. If you are not receiving our "Newsflash" do call the office for more information.





## **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.

### **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 can also be 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.

**Dates for 2007:** December 1

**Dates for 2008:** February 2 • April 5 • June 7 • August 2 (international only) • October 11 • December 6

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### **LIFE-LONG ISSUES IN ADOPTION**

**The Life-Long Issues classes are offered on Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 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, including 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 2008:** Jan 10 • March 27 • May 8 • June 26 • Sept 4 • Nov. 13. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

**Domestic Adoption Decisions Class (Part 2; required for all Domestic Adopting Couples), held on Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Dates for 2007:** November 29

**Dates for 2008:** Jan 31 • March 20 • May 15 • July 24 • Sept 25 • Nov 20. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

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### **ATTACHMENT & OTHER ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION, Wednesdays from 4:00 – 9:00 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. It is a requirement of the homestudy for international clients; you will receive a certificate of completion at the close of the class at 9:00 p.m. 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 2008:** January 16, March 19, May 14, July 2, September 10, November 5. **Cost: \$100/Couple**

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### **ASIA ADOPTION WORKSHOP**

This is a class designed to help prepare our parents adopting from China or Taiwan. It covers the Chinese/Taiwan culture, the travel experience and is a great opportunity to meet other families who are adopting through the programs as well. If you have any questions about the class, or to register, please contact Kathryn Deiters (Kathryn@Nightlight.org).

**Dates for 2008:** January 19 • May 3 • September 13. **Cost: \$25/person. Registration is required.**

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### **LIFEBOOKS WORKSHOP**

If you have not begun your child’s Lifebook because you’re having trouble knowing where to start, come join us in **January and February** for your child’s pages about “**The Day You Were Born,**” and “**Your Birthparents.**”

In **April** we will concentrate on “**Before you joined our family—People who loved and cared for you before we met.**”

So far, the Lifebooks that parents have made are beautiful and the children are excited to see them after each session. We have a lot of fun sharing stories and pictures from orphanages. Please join us!

**Dates for 2008:** January 13 • February 10 • April 13 • May 11 • June 15 • August 10 • September 14 • October 12 • November 9.

**Time:** 12:00-4:00 p.m.

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## **SPECIAL CLASS ON MEDICAL ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION** By Dr. Gary Feldman

Dr. Gary Feldman will be presenting his “Medical Issues of International Adoption” class here at Nightlight Christian Adoptions. This class satisfies the medical issues training required by The Hague. Dr. Feldman is an expert in the field of International Adoption Medicine. We know those of you in attendance will enjoy this informative class.

As The Hague Standards now specify the material that must be covered in education programs, this will help to ensure parent education and preparation for inter-country adoptions. Many agencies are providing this education on site as we do at Nightlight. Please check with your social worker to ensure you have all the components required for your Hague Standard 96.48 pre-adoptive training.

**Dates for 2008:** January 26 • April 26 • May 17 • July 19 • September 27 • November 1. **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$30/person. **Registration is required to reserve your seat.**

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## **BEYOND CONSEQUENCES**

We all love our children—but some days it’s just a lot harder to like them. *Beyond Consequences* is a program you won’t want to miss. Heather Forbes, LCSW, is co-founder of Beyond Consequences Institute, LLC. As a clinical therapist, Heather’s work has focused on helping families find healing by creating environments of unconditional love. Her most recent book, co-authored with Dr. Bryan Post, is **Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: A Love-based Approach for Helping Children with Severe Behaviors**. This book has equipped parents to de-escalate the most chaotic of situations.

Nightlight will be co-sponsoring a conference in Los Angeles on Thursday, January 24, 2008. To register online you may go to [www.beyondconsequences.com/bc/live/](http://www.beyondconsequences.com/bc/live/). There is no charge, other than the charge for the book (\$19.95), which is your admission ticket.

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## **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](mailto:Rhonda@nightlight.org)

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## **EMAIL SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Snowflakes** - If any of you would like to be added to the Snowflake Adopting Parent or Genetic Parent Yahoo groups, please contact Megan Corcoran at [Megan@Nightlight.org](mailto:Megan@Nightlight.org). The Snowflake families are great about sharing information they learn with others in the group. We would be happy to add you on as well.

**China and Taiwan** - Families adopting from either China or Taiwan may join one of our Yahoo groups for these countries. This is a wonderful way to meet other families adopting from China or Taiwan. Please contact Kathryn Deiters at [Kathryn@Nightlight.org](mailto:Kathryn@Nightlight.org) to be added to one of these groups.

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## **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.

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## **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:** December 13

**Dates in 2008:** February 8 • April 12 • June 14 • August 9 • October 11 • December 13

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

## EMILY THE EMBRYO SPEAKS OUT



Hello! My name is Emily, and I am a frozen embryo, currently in storage at Coldwater Cryobank in Connecticut. You want to know what it's like in here? It's pretty dark. I am not afraid though, because I have my brother and sister here with me. There are three of us in this straw. We've been here since 2003. Just waitin'.

The woman and man who were going to have us as children in their family, they had twins! Our sister Kaylee and our brother Kaleb were born three years ago. I remember the day they were born. The embryologist came in to check on us so she could tell the woman how many more babies she had waiting for their chance to grow. Seven. There are seven of us in total. Just waitin'. I'm pretty sure Kaylee and Kaleb have filled their lives with joy and love and lots of responsibilities! Their cup overfloweth.

We have all our DNA: 23 chromosomes from our egg donor, and 23 chromosomes from the twins' daddy. A nice lady, Amy, was our egg source. She's called an anonymous donor. She gave her eggs to this couple and they were fertilized with the husband's sperm so they could have healthy eggs to try to have a baby. So we are genetically related to the dad of the twins, but not to the mom. The mom is a lovely woman though. I love to hear her laugh with her husband and coo at her babies. She really loved seeing them for the first time when they were born. She was so happy!

While we've been in here, others have come and gone. There used to be Evan, Ethan, Ella, and Elise. They were adopted. They had their chromosomes from the egg of the mother and the sperm of the father. They were genetically related to both their original parents. I also remember Matthew, Morgan, Micah, Madison, Mia, and Melissa. They had the same story. Genetics from the mom and the dad. They were adopted too!

People are sometimes afraid to adopt my siblings and me. They worry about not having our genetic history. I hope

someone will tell them that Amy, our anonymous egg donor, filled out a long medical history questionnaire just like most anonymous egg donors do. When the donor agency screened Amy, they made sure her background didn't have evidence of a history of genetically linked traits that would cause us to live our lives with genetically coded hardships. Of course life will bring its own hardships, and there's always the unexpected surprise, but what is known of our health history is medically healthy. The husband and wife who chose Amy read through her medical history because they really wanted to make sure she was healthy. And the twins are beautiful!

Other times the parents who want to adopt embryos don't want to adopt us because they are not sure how they're going to explain our conception to us when we're older. I'm just an embryo, just a few days old, and I don't know much, but I do know that honesty is what I'd prefer. I'm a beautiful and unique creation, and no matter where I originated from, I'm proud of who I am and I want to know the truth so I can be proud of what is true!

Sometimes other people in the couple's life tell them it's wrong to have a baby created with an anonymous donor. They think a baby should only be created by a man and his wife in a union of marriage. I think there are lots of babies born into this world who weren't created by a man and his wife in a union of marriage, and no one is turning away from them saying they can't have an opportunity at life. God is the giver of life, and He started my life and gave the responsibility to love and nurture me to my Mom and Dad...wherever they are.

I bet, when I start growing in your belly, you'll fall in love with me. Finally, I'll get to be the baby sung to and cooed at. I'll be your daughter and you'll be my mama and my daddy. Mama, you'll teach me your grace and confidence, Daddy, you'll teach me to stand up for myself and be respectful to others. I will be proud of you, because you're my parents and gave me life and love.

I hope you understand more where I'm coming from. And maybe, if you're thinking about adopting embryos, you won't be afraid or uncertain about adopting me. If you've been waiting for a baby and I've been waiting for a chance to be born, what are we still waiting for? Our miracles are right around the corner.

## CHINA AND TAIWAN REUNION

Please mark your calendars all China families, Taiwan families, and those interested in adopting from one of these countries. On Saturday, February 16, 2008, 11:30 a.m., we will have a gathering over lunch at the China Buffet in Fullerton. For more information, please contact Kathryn Deiters ([Kathryn@Nightlight.org](mailto:Kathryn@Nightlight.org)) or Sabrina Chang ([Sabrina@Nightlight.org](mailto:Sabrina@Nightlight.org)).





## HAGUE CONVENTION UPDATE

By Rhonda Jarema

Around the country, international adoption agencies are working hard to put new policy and procedures in place to address new federal regulations that are being put into place to comply with The Hague Convention. Peer evaluators from agencies around the country are helping to evaluate one another, using very strict guidelines. Nightlight Christian Adoptions was evaluated in Mid-October. We have always sought to use 'best practice' and worked very hard to insure that our programs met or exceeded Hague standards. Our evaluation went very well and we look forward to hearing with all the other agencies when the results are announced in April 2008.

In the meantime, I was offered training to become an evaluator and have been traveling around the country, as a Hague Evaluator through the Council on Accreditation. Although it does take me away from the office, it also gives me an opportunity to visit other adoption agencies around the country, learning how other agencies work as well as getting an even deeper understanding of The Hague. Ultimately, The Hague regulations are meant to provide a safer, more positive international adoption experience for everyone involved. It is meant to provide protection for children, who are the most vulnerable. For families, there are protections as well. Education programs are more consistent throughout the country; contracts, fee schedules and programs are required to meet very specific and tight standards. So, if you are frustrated about needing to take 'one more class,' know you are not alone and prospective parents throughout the country are also following the same requirements.

I wanted to express my thanks to the clients of Nightlight who responded to the government's request for comments, sharing their experiences with our agency. Our evaluator shared that she was impressed by the comments made and some even brought tears to her eyes, they were so poignant. It meant a lot to each of us as we heard about the huge number of our clients who shared their experiences of bringing children into their families. Each and every one of us at Nightlight cares very deeply about finding the best homes for the children around the world, who seek that light, that 'Nightlight' that brings them home to their families.

## SNOWFLAKE ARRIVALS

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the following verse as an encouragement to everyone who has loved an embryo who was not able to grow to full term.

The verse is Revelations 20:12—"And I saw the dead, both great and small." She shared with me that she believes the "small" include these embryos and even though you will not meet these children here, they are loved and they are waiting for you. You will meet them someday in heaven and they will know who you are.

## THE BLESSING OF ADOPTING OLDER CHILDREN

(continued from page 3)

my sister's three kids under the age of three, plus Mary who is four. There was no way I was going to make it. My plan was to put the babies in bed at 12 and head out for the end of VBS at 12:15 to pick up Galina and her cousin, leaving Anya, age 14, to babysit the sleeping ones. Yesterday, Galina asked me twice if I were going to see her sing and I had to tell her both times that I couldn't.

When her dad arrived home from work, she asked him as well. There was such a look of disappointment when he said no, he couldn't make it.

I arrived at church ready to pick up the girls. I went to her classroom and it was empty. I walked over to the church and our pastor was talking to the kids. Next thing I know Galina and her group went up and began singing....evidently they were running late and so I was able to see her perform. She was singing and doing the sign language to the song when she made eye contact with me and SMILED FROM EAR TO EAR! She couldn't stop smiling the whole time and was singing her heart out. ....tears began to flood my eyes and stream down my face. She looked so angelic and adorable up on stage.....I literally began thinking of the 14 childless summers prior to becoming a mom and just kept thanking Jesus for the wonderful gifts he has bestowed me with....and began realizing that with babies you have to wait years for the awesome milestones of your 8th grader bringing home a report card with a 3.67 GPA (even though she didn't speak English two years ago), the awesome experience of buying your 14 year old a pretty dress for her first dance, watching your child play volleyball (or any other sport), and finally watching your child sing their heart out for Jesus and smile ear to ear because they see you....THEIR MOM! With babies, you wait forever for these moments. Adopting older I got to experience them sooner!

I love MY KIDS!

## INDEPENDENT SUPPORT GROUPS



Nightlight Christian Adoptions has placed over 1,000 children from countries in Eastern Europe and Asia with families in Southern California and throughout the United States. We established a family support service over 10 years ago and consider helping families and children adjust to their new homes extremely important.

Education prior to adoption is an important part of this service, but we recognize that post-adoption services are also important. Our agency also welcomes questions from parents on issues related to the adjustment of their children and will do

our best to provide practical assistance and referrals whenever possible. We have, from time to time, set up support groups to provide a different venue for families to discuss problems and share experiences. If you are interested in participating in one of our groups or having us start a new group, please contact Rhonda Jarema, MA at the Nightlight office. Additional agency-led groups will be made available when there are sufficient requests to justify an additional group (8 or more individuals willing to commit to a day and time for a minimum of 6 months)

In addition, we have had requests from families to set up their own networks, independent of the professional services offered by our agency. Since independent support groups might be very beneficial to some families, we do not want to discourage the formation of such groups. However, since we have no direct input into the advice and referrals that such independent groups may give, we must provide a disclaimer releasing liability and responsibility. Consequently, it is our policy to ask adopting families if they would like to be contacted by “independent support groups” made up of Nightlight families. For those that are interested in being involved in an independent support group, we will provide email addresses to group organizers.



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

We need **FOSTER FAMILIES** to help out when a birthmother has not yet selected a family to adopt her baby. The family should live in or around Orange County and will need to meet certain requirements, but if the family has adopted recently those requirements may already be covered. The main requirement is that the family wants to care for and love a baby on a short-term basis, usually 2 to 3 days. Please contact Victory Allan if you are interested in learning more ([Victory@Nightlight.org](mailto:Victory@Nightlight.org)).

We would be very grateful if someone could donate a **2-DRAWER LATERAL FILLING CABINET**. Please contact Kate Zybenko if you feel you may have something she could use ([Kate@Nightlight.org](mailto:Kate@Nightlight.org)).

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.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Interested clients may contact the Nightlight office for referral to an appropriate support group related to their needs.
2. Staff led support groups are listed in Nightlight's newsletter.
3. Additional agency led groups will be made available when there are sufficient requests to justify an additional group (8 or more individuals willing to commit to a day and time for a minimum of 6 months)
4. Contact information on lay-led groups is available at the Nightlight office.
5. Nightlight does not sponsor or promote lay-led groups.
6. For a referral to a lay-led group, a client may contact Nightlight via email or phone to request contact information on a lay-led group.
7. The client will be provided with the email address of the lay leader.
8. A disclaimer will be included with the referral, stating that the group is independent of Nightlight and that Nightlight does not participate in, nor is it responsible for information, advice or referrals given by independent groups.

## DETSKY DOM PARTNERS



Detsky Dom Partners is the humanitarian foundation that is helping orphans around the world. The first project of the new organization was to raise money to send sweatshirts to children in the orphanages in St. Petersburg, Russia. If you would like to learn more about Detsky Dom Partners and other humanitarian projects it is undertaking, please contact Kathryn Deiters (Kathryn@Nightlight.org).



Above: Children at Detsky Dom 31

## 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 events—like our Summer Reunion in July or our Gala in March.

Wednesday, October 10, 2007, we had a Guild Brunch and Planning Meeting to start preparations for the 2008 Gala Dinner and Auction. Our next meeting will be **November 28th**, to continue planning. Please let us know if you would like to join us that day. We will begin at 11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in joining The Tricycle Guild, please contact Kathryn Deiters at (714) 278-1020 or Kathryn@Nightlight.org for further information.

## 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.

## NIGHTLIGHT CALENDAR

2007

**November**

- 28 Tricycle Guild Meeting
- 29 Domestic Adoption Decisions

**December**

- 01 Adoption Seminar

2008

**January**

- 05 Winter Reunion (tentative)
- 10 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
- 13 LifeBooks Workshop
- 16 Attachment & Other Issues
- 19 Asia Adoption Workshop
- 24 Beyond Consequences
- 26 Medical Issues of Intl Adoption
- 31 Domestic Adoption Decisions

**February**

- 02 Adoption Seminar
- 10 LifeBooks Workshop
- 16 China/Taiwan Reunion

**March**

- 15 10th Annual Gala Dinner
- 19 Attachment & Other Issues
- 20 Domestic Adoption Decisions
- 27 Life-Long Issues in Adoption

**April**

- 05 Adoption Seminar
- 13 LifeBooks Workshop
- 25 Medical Issues of Intl Adoption

**May**

- 03 Asia Adoption Workshop
- 08 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
- 11 LifeBooks Workshop
- 14 Attachment & Other Issues
- 15 Domestic Adoption Decisions
- 17 Medical Issues of Intl Adoption

**June**

- 06 Adoption Seminar
- 15 LifeBooks Workshop
- 26 Life-Long Issues in Adoption

**July**

- 02 Attachment & Other Issues
- 9-28 Summer Tour (tentative)
- 12 Summer Reunion
- 19 Medical Issues of Intl Adoption
- 24 Domestic Adoption Decisions

**August**

- 03 Adoption Seminar
- 10 LifeBooks Workshop

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

# FAMILY ALBUM

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

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at Christmas*



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