



FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Spring 2007



Above: Kelli Bennett

NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS

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

Aliona to parents James and Christine Edwards of Long Beach, CA • Nathan to parents Curtis and Joyce Hanz of Corona, CA • Ellyanna to parents Sebastian and Rita George of Allen, TX • Natasha to parents Hubert and Lynda Wick of Warsaw, NY • Sarah to parents Don and Tamara Coleman of Anaheim, CA • Ava and Emma to parents Joe and Susan Downing of Tyler, TX • Alina to parents Mel and Kathy Howard of Warrenton, VA • Reno to parents Chris and Laura Karageorge of Scarborough, ME • Ryan to parents Steve and Beth Riedel of Easton, MD • Kaden to parent

Huntington Beach, CA • Emilee to parents Donald and Carolen VanderPoel of McFarland, CA • Kelli to parents Bruce and Pi-Chuan Bennett of Rosamund, GB • Bruce to parents Robert and Linda Jones of Monterey, CA • Anara to parents Nathan and Amanda Hubartt of Indianapolis, IN • Mia to parents Kevin and Patricia McCarthy of Garden Grove, CA • Meredith and Michael to parents Richard and Jeannie Thalheim of Tibodaux, LA.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Whenever Kathryn tells me it is time for our next Newsletter, it seems that I just finished reading the last one – yet another example of time passing at the speed of life. Having a regular spot in the Newsletter brings with it a certain amount of pressure – I need to have something to say that you may be interested in reading. Well, I always have something to say and I hope that you will find some of it interesting or at least thought provoking.

I returned from my semi-annual trip to Russia two weeks ago with a feeling of renewal and frustration. Why can't the rest of the world see things the way we do? The accreditation process continues to move at a snail's pace, while the children in the orphanages look to the adults around them for answers. I find myself echoing the same mantra as our waiting families – don't they care about the children? And of course the answer is "that all depends". Those closest to the children, the caretakers and orphanage directors care very much for the children and want them to have families of their own. Those at the highest political places care about the issue of children as it affects their political position, but rarely translate that care into the needs of an individual child. But that's what we do – and it is a blessing to be able to serve God in this way. Please pray for an early resolution to the accreditation issue.

SNOWFLAKE ARRIVALS THIS SPRING!

By Megan Corcoran

In February, Jacen Tyler and Mara were born to Shayne & Tina, and Cory Joseph and Jonah

Bryan were born to Kevin & Janet. In March, Megan Grace was born to Mark & Missi, and Luke Alexander and Grace Marie were born to Alex & Lori.

Welcome home!



Above: Jonah and Cory

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: David

CHILD

David Michael

DATE OF BIRTH

March 16, 2007

PROUD PARENTS

David and Denise Field

Last Saturday, the focus changed quickly from children waiting in orphanages to children born as a result of our Snowflakes embryo adoption program. At an event at the local "jump house" (kids love those things and if my bones weren't still aching from transatlantic travel I might have tried it myself), 13 Snowflake children and *(continued on page 2)*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 1)

their siblings and parents got together to “pump up the volume” on embryo adoption awareness. Anytime you get 50 people together with kids, you know you’re going to have a good time. The Cochrans from Maryland were able to combine the event with a vacation to Southern California and qualified as the long distance champions. If you don’t love getting together with children for any conceivable occasion, you need to re-think your calling. To be called “Mr. Ron” by so many smiling faces was absolutely priceless.

This past week, I have been thrilled to see so many of our domestic clients stopping by the office for their post-placement visits and to help decorate our walls with precious little footprints. What a wonderful reminder of the critical service our social workers provide in counseling birthmothers to honor life for their expected children and trust God for their future. Each child has such a complex story behind them – but with the common thread that they were loved enough for their birthmother to endure the pain of loss to assure them of the life she was unable to provide.

As we have continued to watch our finances, we want to thank our dedicated staff for their sacrifices and service. Having a hiring and salary freeze for over a year has been difficult. But as our clients and friends have been so faithful in supporting us, we consider it an honor to serve families and children in whatever way the Lord allows. We pray that the opportunities for service will increase during the coming months and we hope we will see many of you at our annual reunion picnic on July 21st.



Ron Stoddart

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2007 SUMMER TOUR

Nightlight and Detsky Dom Partners will be bringing children out for our 2007 Tour again in July. We would love to have you join us at some of the events.



If you are interested in learning more about the tour, please email Kathryn Deiters at Kathryn@Nightlight.org.

Calvary Chapel 5605 E. La Palma Anaheim Hills, CA	Wed., July 19	7:00 p.m.
Orange County Fair Main Stage	Thurs., July 20	1:00 p.m.
Summer Reunion Los Vaqueros Park 1200 N. Carlsbad St. Placentia, CA	Sat., July 21	11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
EVFree Conejo Youth Room 999 Rancho Conejo Rd. Newbury Park, CA	Sun., July 22	9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Red Hill Lutheran Church 13200 Red Hill Ave. Tustin, CA 92780	Wed., July 25	7:00 p.m.

SUMMER REUNION – WITH A TWIST

Come on out for a fun day at the park. We're all meeting at a new park this year, one with more shade! We want to see all of you, whether you adopted a baby right here in the USA, a child from Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Belarus, or Bulgaria, OR gave birth to a Snowflake. We'd also love to give more children an opportunity to participate in the performance. So, if a group of children (Snowflakes or children adopted domestically or from another country) want to get together to sing a song or dance for us, we would



Above: Los Vaqueros Park – a new site for our reunion, with more SHADE!



Above: 2006 Summer Reunion

love to give you the opportunity (biological siblings are welcome to join in for support).

Saturday July 21, 2007 is the date for our **Annual Summer Reunion**. We'll have games, a raffle with some great items to win, a barbeque, and not to forget our tradition of watermelon eating!

Watch for information on our web site, with a map to the park. The address for **Los Vaqueros Park** is 1200 N. Carlsbad Street in Placentia. If you would like to help out, please contact Kathryn Deiters at Kathryn@Nightlight.org.

BABY NAWA OR BEENOW

By Amanda Hubartt



These are the nicknames for our newest daughter, Anara, bestowed upon her by her older sister, Violet. Our adoption journey has been amazing. We have had the opportunity to watch God provide abundantly in all things. For us,

adoption started long ago.... I (Amanda) have had a desire to adopt since I was a child. This desire was intensified by time spent with orphans in Romania and through studying institutionalized children in college and graduate school. Nathan didn't necessarily feel drawn to adoption from a young age. He comes from a family of six biological siblings and hadn't really considered adoption until our courtship when I spoke of my passion for adoption. Nathan has been fueled mostly by conviction that adoption is something that

pleases God and is a way to carry out His command to care for orphans. Throughout our journey, it became evident that both of these motivations provided a much needed balance. At times we would be fueled by excitement about a new child in our home, and other times we would be weary of the process and potential problems and this is when the conviction pushed us forward.

We entered adoption seeking a child under the age of our biological daughter (now two). When we received our referral for Anara, my husband was immediately convinced that this child was a Hubartt. Anara has a birth defect that requires a pretty significant surgery, but we had confidence that we could get her the help she needed. We were connected to a local pediatric urologist who has a reputation for correction of this particular malformation (bladder exstrophy and epispadia). He is a Christian and has made several trips to Guatemala to make this same repair in orphans there. He provided us with his pager number and consulted with us several times (free of charge) as we were preparing to travel to get Anara. Since returning home, we have met with him and we are well prepared for Anara's 12-hour surgery, 3-4 weeks in the hospital, and the likelihood of lifelong catheterizing. We feel confident in our doctor and are very thankful that he is caring for our daughter.

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OUR BLESSING

By Denise and David Field



We had been on the roller coaster of infertility for nine years when we discussed adoption as the way to form our family. We were unsure where to begin so we attended the informational seminar at Nightlight on June 8, 2006. We were so impressed with the stories that we heard and the wonderful and caring staff that we decided at lunch that day to start our paperwork for domestic adoption. We worked diligently to complete all of the requirements as quickly as possible. We were prepared to wait for “the call” and we were totally thrilled when it came, in September, much sooner than we had expected.

We were told about Angela, and we were immediately drawn to her. We met her on September 22, 2006. She was just 15 weeks pregnant and the baby was due on March 17, 2007. It seemed so far away. When we met with Angela, Kelly Poffenberger and Mary Madison for lunch, Angela was well prepared with a long list of questions for us. We seemed to really have a lot in common and many of the same beliefs. After lunch we took Angela to a doctor’s appointment where she had an ultrasound and we got to see the baby for the first time. It was love at first sight. After that we saw Angela monthly and spoke to her every few weeks. We had a lot of time to get to know each other and we became closer as the months went on. We went to the 20 week ultrasound and found out that we were going to have a son and we received a videotape to prove it! The three of us had already discussed names for the baby and we had decided on “David Michael” if it was a boy. In addition to the baby being named after my husband, the

name held special significance for Angela as well. David is her pastor’s name and her brother’s middle name is Michael. As with so many other aspects of this match, it was a perfect fit.

As the due date approached, Angela took some time to herself to pray and reflect on her adoption plan. We took advantage of the last few weeks to prepare to bring our son home. Our families gave us a baby shower and we put the finishing touches on the nursery. We saw Angela at the end of February and we all expressed excitement that the next time we would all be together, it would be in the hospital. When March arrived, we started carrying the cell phones everywhere and jumping every time a phone rang. Ironically, when we DID get the call, we were asleep and didn’t hear the phone ring until the 3rd time Mary Madison called us. She called at 10:45 p.m. on March 15th to let us know that Angela had just been admitted to the hospital and that she was in labor. That was the first of many sleepless nights! We prayed for Angela to have a safe and speedy delivery and that is exactly what she had. Our son, David, was born at 2:14 a.m. on March 16th.

Angela wanted to be the one to introduce us to our son, so she planned it all out perfectly. We were summoned

to the hospital when everything was ready. Angela’s friends took pictures of us as we walked in and as Angela gave us our greatest gift, our son. It was so surreal yet so comfortable and so warm. We had a blessing ceremony during which we praised God for his hand in bringing us all together and for bringing baby David safely into the world. It was such a perfect way for our lives to begin as parents and a wonderful way to continue our relationship with Angela.

When it came time for Angela to go home, she hugged me and said, “Thank you for this privilege.” I was so overwhelmed when she said that, but that is how our whole relationship is. We all feel so blessed to know each other and we all feel so grateful for the different gifts that we have given to each other.

We continue to talk with Angela via email as we all settle into our new lives. We look forward to visits with her not only for her to be reassured in her plan for baby David, but for us to also watch her grow and thrive. We have two wonderful new members of our family and our lives are more complete than ever. Baby David will always know about the special place that he has in Angela’s heart and about the special place that she has in ours.

EMBRYO ADOPTION AWARENESS GRANT

Our Southern California event to raise awareness of embryo adoption on April 28th was a great success. The children and the parents enjoyed getting together. Many of them had an opportunity to talk with reporters from the Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register, who in turn will share information with the public through articles in their papers about embryo adoption.



Events of this type will also be held in other regions of the country. If you are interested in participating in Washington state, Georgia, Pennsylvania, or the Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky area, please let us know. We would love to have you be a part of this exciting work. You may contact Kathryn Deiters at Kathryn@Nightlight.org.

NIGHTLIGHT'S NINTH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Our 2007 Gala Dinner was held on Saturday, March 10, 2007. It was a great success, and for that we want to thank all of you who supported the event by your attendance or your donations.

The next Gala will be our Tenth Annual Gala and will be even grander. You won't want to miss it, so please mark your 2008 calendars (hard copy or computer versions) with Saturday, March 15th! It's never too early to be thinking about things you could donate for the auction. If an idea comes to you, please give us a call. You may let Kathryn Deiters or Sierra Schmidt know, so that we may plan accordingly.

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).



SLEEP ISSUES FOR NEWLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

By Rhonda Jarema

I always warn the families with whom I work, that the first month is the most difficult as your child is adjusting to a total change in time zone, along with all the other changes in their lives. I know when I've traveled to Eastern Europe or Asia; it takes ME several weeks to get back to my normal sleeping schedule. Imagine how much more difficult it is for a small child who doesn't really understand all the changes in his or her short life. The child is going from an environment where there are lights and caregivers working day and night, in amongst a group of many children who sleep together in the same room. All those children are moving around in their cribs, rocking themselves, mumbling in their sleep and perhaps crying due to a wet bed. The environment is far different when that child comes home. Some kids adjust within a few weeks and others take months or even a year or so to get used to the many changes in their lives.

Children in an orphanage setting are not getting comforted right away when they are hungry, soiled, or frightened. They don't have a mommy or daddy there to meet their every need. So, these babies learn to self-soothe. Often, they soothe themselves by rocking or through other forms of self-stimulation. That is why I encourage new parents to rock and hold their newly adopted children, treating them as they would a newborn, holding, cooing and reassuring that child that he or she is safe and will be cared for. It is important that Mommy and Daddy DO meet the child's needs so that child can learn to trust and attach to the parents.

My kids were a few years older; yet they loved being rocked and getting a back massage as they'd lie down to go to sleep. We'd lie down together, read a story and often I'd fall asleep next to them, mid story. Later on I'd wake up and go to my own bed. However, the first few months, we all slept in the

same room, a blow up mattress next to our bed for our kids. By the time we transitioned them to their own room, they were ready to go. Our youngest two daughters (ages 5 and 7) actually slept in the same bed for about 6 months. They had their own beds, but chose to sleep together. It helped them to feel comfortable and safe. That was the most important to us.

A child who is terrified to go to sleep in a new environment may have had a frightening experience at night or perhaps the child is terrified of being alone. I do not believe in forcing a child, particularly a newly adopted child to face their fears alone, even if it is in a well lit, beautiful nursery. If rocking your child to sleep and then having him or her in the same room worked when you were traveling, I'd encourage you to do the same now, until your child has acclimated and feels safe and comfortable in his or her own room.

I've had many new parents share that they ALL slept better once they moved their newly adopted child into their room. It was easier to bring the crib/cot or sleeping bag into their room for their child, than leave the child crying in their room. The children slept much better as mommy or daddy read to them, talked with them, and perhaps even gave a massage to help relax the child. Some parents would lie down with their child until they fell asleep. Routine does help. Some children were fine sleeping in a room if they have a sibling with them. However, very few kids have been able to sleep in a room by themselves, at least not when they first came home.

It is very important to develop a sense of trust and safety with your child. I don't think it is a good idea to put your child to sleep, knowing that being alone in the room terrifies him. Think back to the first few days you had your child and what comforted him. That is what I'd encourage you to do to help him sleep now.

Sweet dreams!

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 the Snowflake information list, please contact Megan Corcoran at 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 - 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.

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: 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, 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 2007: July 12 • September 13 • November 15. **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: 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: June 19 • September 5 • November 7. **Cost: \$100/Couple**

ASIAN 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 or Taiwan. 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 programs as well. The first hour of the class 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: 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). **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: July 14 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

SUSAN BURNETT, PH.D.—EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT AND ADVOCATE FOR SPECIAL KIDS

Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Come to Nightlight for a special seminar by Dr. Burnett. All interested families are invited. Dr. Burnett's expertise is in helping families to advocate for their children within the school system. Discussion about ISP's, IEP's, educational testing, timelines and children's rights to resources and services will be included. Help ensure that your child is getting the most out of his or her Individualized Educational Program. There will be a question and answer period following Dr. Burnett's discussion. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come meet with Dr. Burnett and have access to her expertise in what can oftentimes be a confusing and overwhelming matter. Please call to reserve a space (714) 278-1020.

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 quickly. Choir Practice begins soon and will be held 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. The Choir is open to girls and boys. For more information or to sign up, please contact Kathryn Deiters (Kathryn@Nightlight.org).

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: June 14 • August 9 • October 11 • December 13

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

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.



DETSKY DOM PARTNERS

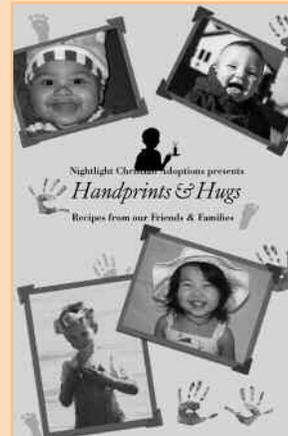
A year ago, we formed a new foundation, Detsky Dom Partners, to become the organization to bring out cultural tours and provide humanitarian aid to orphans around the world. *Detsky Dom* literally means *Children's Home* in Russian. The organization will also help children in the other countries in which we work.

The first project for the organization has been to have sweatshirts made for the children in the orphanages in St. Petersburg. The logo of the shirts was designed by Natasha Garces who was adopted from Russia in 2002. It illustrates the partnership of people across the seas, helping one another. Children adopted from Russia and some of their parents have raised money, \$20 per sweatshirt, to help the children in Russian orphanages.

If you would like to help out with the Sweatshirt Project or have an idea for a service or humanitarian aid you would like to provide for orphans in Russia or another country where we are working, please contact Kathryn Deiters at Kathryn@Nightlight.org.

NIGHTLIGHT COOKBOOKS

By Julia McColister



Nightlight's Handprints and Hugs Cookbook

makes a wonderful gift for any family. 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!

JCICS CONFERENCE UPDATE

By Rhonda Jarema

The JCICS international adoption conference had a very strong emphasis on the plight of families trying to work their way through a progressively more difficult process of international adoptions. The State Department (the "Central Authority" of International adoptions for the US) representatives went through one country after another where there are 'slow-downs' or temporary holds on international adoptions. As you may remember from an article I wrote recently about "The Hague" international adoptions are undergoing a change as countries are designating a "Central Authority" and specific regulations for each country in the hope to better protect the best interests of children around the world. However, one of the consequences of this change is that adoptions are moving much more slowly and it is taking longer to get children into permanent,

loving homes. We can only hope as the US and other countries make these changes, that ultimately, more children will grow up in loving, nurturing and stable homes.

For those who are in the process of international adoption, there will be more educational requirements. Nightlight has long promoted and required additional education beyond the home study in order to better prepare our families for the issues related to adoption and particularly international adoption. However, there will now be more structured requirements that are certified by the State Department. At Nightlight, we will be supplementing our classes with a medical module offered on line or via an additional book. For those unable to take our classes, the education component will be covered with on-line classes.

There was also some interesting information about the latest in adoption research. I think my favorite session was with Dr. Julian Davies, a pediatrician from the East Coast. He talked about "From Snake Oil to Fish Oil" the solutions that we as parents seem to gravitate to, trying to find the ultimate, best resource for our kids. He reviewed many of the vitamins, supplements and 'new' treatments that are being proposed as treatments for kids who have been exposed to all sorts of toxins and come from an institutional setting. Basically the items that showed the most promise are some that have been around for a long time! Great-Grandma was right when she insisted on taking and giving cod liver oil. The research is showing that Omega 3 and 6 supplements have benefits. The significance is still being studied, but it is probably a

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KID'S CORNER

Since Art Linkletter is no longer publishing new *"Kids Say the Darnedest Things"* anymore, we are going to boldly fill the void. Particularly with the change of language experienced by children adopted internationally, we hear some really funny stories. But nothing compares with the brutal honesty that children show before they learn to be politically correct. Please share your funny stories with us—if you prefer, we can always print them anonymously!

ONE CHILD'S OPINION

A little boy adopted a few years ago from Russia recently wrote a letter to his parents (probably as part of a school project).

Dear Dad and Mom,

Dad and Mom thank you for picking me to come to America. Dad and Mom thank you for taking care of us. You are the best Dad and Mom ever. But Mom is better than you, Dad.

Love,

Your Son

JCICS CONFERENCE UPDATE

(continued from previous page)

good idea to consider adding them to your morning regimen. You can get them in cod liver oil, however, I prefer the Omega 3/6 pill version myself. Check them out at your local health food store.

Dr. Davies also recommended a good multi-vitamin with minerals. He claims that many kids seem to have a tendency towards anemia. Low iron can really affect behavior. However, his most important message, Eat right – fresh food, not

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On March 3rd, in Columbus, Ohio at the Arnold Sports Festival, Cory Everson received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Governor Schwarzenegger. He acknowledged



her lifelong involvement in the promotion of physical fitness and health. He also made note of Cory and her husband Steve Donia's

international adoptions of Nina and Boris. Included within the video montage was the footage of the first day they met their children in Russia. This created a big, emotional standing ovation.

Nina and Boris were there just beaming in the audience to accept the well wishes from thousands of fans including from the Governor himself. *"I could not be more proud at this moment. The fact that my kids could see me do something great, (other than being the stressed out Mom telling them to do their homework and put their shoes away) really meant a lot to me. Boris told me how proud he was of me and Nina said she did not know her mother was such a celebrity. How adorable and how blessed I am to have these amazing children,"* Corry said.

processed, eat your vegetables and don't overdo it on the quantity of food!

Other recommendations from this seminar: kids really benefit from martial arts and yoga. Both help them get in touch with their bodies and improve self-image and control, issues that many of our kids struggle with. If you are looking for the magic answer, I don't know if that exists. However, there are some good options out there.

BABY NAWA OR BEENOW

(continued from page 3)

When we started the process, we weren't sure where the finances would come from. We are a single-income family and didn't have the money up front. We knew that adoption was expensive, but we felt strongly that it was worth pursuing and knew that God would provide the finances. God has provided abundantly through numerous people. He has used our family, our friends and even people we have never met. If you are reading this right now and you gave to our adoption, we want to say, "Thank you so much!" Nightlight raised \$2,500.00 for our adoption from individuals at the Annual Gala this past March.

As of this writing, we have been home for eight days. Anara is doing well, Violet is adjusting, we are finally over jet-lag, and soon we will be settling into a routine and a new "normal". This adoption experience has taught us God's faithfulness to provide for His children. He has taught us that He is sovereign and we can see that He was in the big things and the small things. We understand that He accepts us into His family as orphans and we pray that our experience might help other families accept orphans into their families. We hope to have more biological children, and we would also like to adopt again. Thank you, Nightlight, for everything that you have done to bring Anara home. Thank you (reader) for having a heart for adoption and making our adoption possible.

Finally, Nightlight staff received some recognition. Natasha Nechiporenko, our Southern Regional Director was elected as the Chairperson of the Ukraine Caucus. I was elected as the Co-Chair of the Government Affairs Committee on The Hague.

ADOPTING THE OLDER AND SOMETIMES WISER CHILD

By Ashlee and Tony Florez

We came upon a story in the newspaper of orphaned children who were visiting California. These children were sharing their rich Russian culture with their host families and performing at several churches and public venues in our community. Detsky Dom Partners sponsored this program. It made us resolve to adopt an orphaned child and we met with Ron Stoddart, the Executive Director of Nightlight Christian Adoptions to discuss adoption in general.

Our 4-year-old biological daughter was very clear from the start that she wanted to remain the "baby" of the family so we felt comfortable as a family unit proceeding with the adoption of an older child. Excitedly, we told people of our plans to adopt an older girl between 6-10 years old. Unfortunately, well-meaning friends, neighbors and others mainly had negative stories to share. Why? It seemed like blanket judgment to consider all older children a problem in terms of adoption. There was always someone who felt compelled along the way to tell us why we shouldn't consider adopting an older child. Truly, there are difficult

children of all ages but there are absolutely tremendous blessings when adopting an older child as well.

Our daughter could be the poster child for adopting an amazing older child. She has truly been a ray of sunshine in our lives. You might wonder about the language barrier. Surely I never even imagined just how quickly a child could pick up a new language. She's been here just about 10 months now and speaks beautiful English with an adorable accent that she is quickly losing. It's already difficult for us to tell the girls apart on the phone.

Angela has been a blessing and gift to our family in so many ways. People who meet her always tell us, "She's so lucky!" We smile but think, "They just don't get it. We know we are the lucky ones." She's young enough to still be such a little girl, but old enough to understand actions, reactions and consequences. Showing maturity, wisdom and grace well beyond her age, she seems to be an "old soul" inside. She knows full well the statistics for the lives of older orphans in Russia and has clear appreciation for the life she now has. Often times, when our youngest daughter refuses a home cooked meal, Angela will say, "Milan, this is good food. Do you want I tell you what we eat in Russia?" We joke about how the orphanage caretakers would probably not make a second option for a child refusing a meal at the Detsky Dom.

We have given Angela a second chance at childhood and a family. She has given us a beautiful new daughter, a wonderful older sister, a parent's pride and joy. She has given us far more than we ever anticipated in a daughter. We've clearly seen our youngest daughter grow and mature because of the positive influences of her older sister. For older parents who are feeling they are not ready for



Above: Angela with her younger sister, Milan.

an empty nest, couples who married later in life and are not able to have children, and for so many people for whom the idea of diapers and all the elements of an infant is not an ideal situation, we encourage you to consider adopting an older child.

Surely we'll have some issues in the future to deal with; we do fully expect this. At the same time, we're confident that we've created enough of a bond with her to be able to work through the difficult times together as a family.

If you're even considering adoption for any number of reasons, or have any questions which would resolve any doubts about whether you would, could, or should adopt a child, go to a seminar and talk with the staff. They are reassuring, calming and informative. Adoption may not be for you, but there are other ways to give to the orphans of the world. Offering your time, sponsoring a child, or donating money to help the children left behind in the orphanages all make a difference in the life of a child. After our meeting, we knew we were meant to adopt an older child. We wouldn't have it any other way. Angela completes our family!



JACKIE GRIGNON IS MOVING EAST

Social Worker,
Jackie Grignon,

who has worked for Nightlight for five years, will be leaving our agency and moving with her family to North Carolina. Her husband will soon be accepting a teaching position there and Jackie, no doubt, will become a wonderful asset to an adoption agency in North Carolina.

Jackie, we thank you for all your work and devotion to Nightlight and wish you God's speed in this new adventure with your family.

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.

On May 10, 2007, the **Orange County Register** carried an article entitled, “*Frozen Embryos Give new meaning to Mother’s Day*”, covering information about the Snowflakes Program, its history, and the Embryo Adoption Awareness Event.

An article appeared in **The Southeast Outlook** in Louisville, Kentucky in December 2006, entitled, “*Snowflake Babies*”. The article shared information about Kathryn Testrake, who was born to Steve and Debbie last year.

The Tyler Morning Telegraph carried a story about Max, adopted by the Mayfield family last year at 13 years of age, entitled, “*New Family Celebrates first Christmas Together*” on December 15, 2006. Max came over to Texas for one of Nightlight’s Christmas Tours. The Mayfields knew they wanted to adopt him, but before they were able to, Max became critically ill. Through prayer and the generous donation by another Nightlight family of some expensive antibiotics, Max recovered and was adopted before Christmas 2006. He is now doing well and is very happy with his new family. Christmas was very special both for Max and for his new Mom and Dad!

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.



If you would like to join 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

May

31 Domestic Adoption Decisions

June

02 Asian Adoption Workshop
02 Trans-Racial Adoption
05 Educational Consultant and Advocate for Special Kids
16 Adoption Seminar
19 Attachment and Bonding

July

11-30 Summer Tour
12 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
14 LifeBooks Workshop
21 Summer Reunion (Los Vaqueros Park, Placentia, CA)
26 Domestic Adoption Decisions

August

04 International Adoption Seminar

September

05 Attachment and Bonding
13 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
27 Domestic Adoption Decisions

October

06 Adoption Seminar
20 Asian Adoption Workshop
20 Trans-Racial Adoption

November

07 Attachment and Bonding
15 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
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

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Fullerton, California 92831

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FAMILY ALBUM

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Spring 2007

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 searching for someone who would like to become our **HISTORIAN**, gathering together photos and memorabilia from Nightlight's past.

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.