



FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Summer 2007

NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS

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

Jeslyn to parents Jay and Joanna Knobel of Ladera Ranch, CA • Zoe to parents Terry and Toni Taylor of Phoenix, AZ • Diana to parents Kevin and Brenda Larson of Buena Park, CA • Zhenia and Valentina to Ron and Annette Carcich of Fullerton, CA • Natalie to parents Dave and Tracy Catron of Murrieta, CA • Mia to parents Kevin and Christy Bock of Rancho Cucamonga, CA • Cana to parents Paul and Stacy Richards of Anaheim, CA • Sofia to parents Dan and Alyssa Lance of Riverside, CA • Joshua to parents Mike and Jen Berk of Chino Hills, CA • Hannah to parents Bob and Sloan Walsh of Altadena, CA • Bohden to parents Petr and Heather Chocholaty of Brea, CA.



Above: Cana Richards

SNOWFLAKE ARRIVALS THIS SPRING & SUMMER!

By Megan Corcoran

This spring and summer we welcomed home ten babies!

In April: Hudson Robert was born to Jon & Erin.

In May: Tyler Ryan was born to Scott & Gayle, and Reese Francis Ray was born to Dave & Ann.

In June: Ryan Samuel was born to John & Vanessa, Lucille Grace was born to David & Stacy, Aiden Christopher was born to Alan & Holly, and Christopher Stephen was born to Jim & Nellie.

In July: Morgan was born to Matt & Misha, Joseph Virgil Alfons was born to Rick & Becca, and Joseph David was born to Tom & Tina.

Congratulations!



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Time to Serve

I was recently introduced to a young lady at church by one of the girls who had been adopted through our agency several years ago. These two young ladies had recently met and found that they had something in common – both had been adopted through Nightlight. Although from different orphanages, they were both from St. Petersburg, Russia. I did not recognize the new girl until she told me her name – then the memories flooded back. She had been adopted 10 years ago and I had actually been at the orphanage and video taped her first meeting with her parents. I had not seen her for almost 8 years and she is now all grown up.

She had many questions for me – mostly about children from her orphanage that she had lost track of –

and offered me some new information on friends that she has remained in contact with. The most significant characteristic I remembered about her was her enthusiastic smile and cheerful demeanor. Although the intervening years

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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: Sarah



Above: Eva & Leah

CHILD

DATE OF BIRTH

PROUD PARENTS

Trevor Jeffrey

May 12, 2007

Jeff and Robin Cirar

Sarah Brielle

September 5, 2006

Paul and Stacy Richards

Eva Paige & Leah Claire

April 8, 2007

Robert and Lauren Thurston



Above: Trevor

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued from page 1)

had not always been positive, she still had that winning smile and talked enthusiastically about her job and her future. She probably has a lot she could share with other children who are going through the adjustment from life in an orphanage to life in a family.

My heart was touched – and yet troubled that there was more we should be doing to help.

A few days later, I learned from a good friend that the Christian school she has worked at for the past 15 years has a new superintendent. Halfway through the summer, the staff involved with the summer daycare program was advised that they would have to either eliminate their weekly field trips or cut staff. Even though the summer daycare program had always finished in the black, the rest of the school program needed them to contribute more revenue to the general school budget and cost cuts had to be made.

Why have I joined these seemingly unrelated stories? Because God has used both situations to remind me of His sovereignty and how He calls us to serve. I have shared with you frequently over the past year how our agency has struggled

financially, but how we have always seemed to have just enough to meet our needs – thanks in no small part to the faithful contributions of our supporters.

Sometimes, it is hard to think about new services that should be offered in a time of budgetary constraints. But I believe we need to look at new ways we can serve our clients and families and trust God to provide the resources if we are on the right track.

We would like to develop an internet based program that would help connect all of the children we have placed over the past 15 years. For many of the children who do not live in Southern California – or whose parents have not continued attending the reunions – there is a need we can help fill in making sure that old friends remain friends for life. In addition, it is important that Nightlight continue to learn from the experiences of all of the children and families so we can do a better job of serving the families adopting today. We typically hear about the children who are doing very well and the children who are having problems, but we don't hear how those problems were resolved and about the vast majority of children who have landed on their feet and are now productive adults.

We're not sure exactly how this program will work or how long it will take us to develop and implement it. But we do know that your input will be invaluable. Take a few minutes to email me your thoughts. We want to be good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us – and to experience the continued joy of serving His children. We hope we can continue to be worthy of your support.



Ron Stoddart

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NIGHTLIGHT'S ANNUAL GALA DINNER



Saturday March 15, 2008 is the date for our next Gala Dinner and Auction. Please mark your calendars now. We are beginning our planning already, with our first Guild planning meeting on October 10, 2007. Please contact Kathryn Deiters if you would like to help out in any way. We would love to have you join in on the fun.

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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

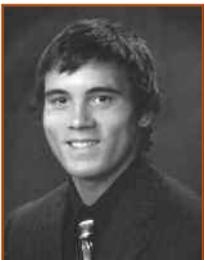
We are pleased to announce the following graduations:



Katya Brock, graduated from high school, class of 2007, and will be attending Rancho Santiago College in the Fall.



Dasha Kathryn Deiters, graduated from Esperanza High School on June 14, 2007 and is attending Fullerton College now. She plans to transfer to a four-year college and get her degree in international business.



Jonathan Artyom Gillis, graduated from Santa Clarita Christian School on May 25, 2007.



Judith Natalia Holcombe, graduated from Faith Academy on May 17, 2007.



Slava T. McDonald, graduated from Lighthouse Christian Academy, Class of 2007.

2007 SUMMER TOUR



Above: 2007 Summer Tour Group

The 2007 tour was very successful— with a very tearful goodbye at the airport on July 31st. The children from St. Petersburg and the Russian Choir (of children adopted from earlier tours) performed at several

churches as well as at the Orange County Fair. All had a wonderful time, especially the families who hosted the children. We are all praying that these children and the families will be able to see each other again very soon.

For those of you who live in Southern California and would be interested in hosting a child on a winter tour, please contact Kate Zyubenko or Kathryn Deiters to learn more. We are planning on bringing a few children out from Kazakhstan after Christmas to stay for about two weeks.

EMBRYO ADOPTION AWARENESS GRANT

This past summer was a busy time for embryo adoption awareness, as we held several events around the country. The end of June an event was held in Atlanta. In August,



Above: Pennsylvania Event

events and informational seminars were held in Columbus, Ohio; Hershey and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Southern California.

We have received numerous requests for information about embryo adoption as a result of these outreach

opportunities. As this grant is now winding down (it ended August 31, 2007), we look forward to new opportunities to increase awareness

through the new grant we have just been awarded. One of the exciting aspects of the upcoming grant will be to have video clips produced to place on the internet, increasing awareness of this wonderful option of embryo adoption utilizing the medium that so many of us are now turning to for obtaining the most current news.



Above: Audience Diversity at the Ohio Seminar

SNOWFLAKES PROGRAM THOUGHTS: GENETIC MOM, LISE, AND ADOPTING MOM, ANN



1) What were your thoughts when you heard about the Snowflakes Program?

LISE: A friend sent me a prayer book called *Joyful Mothers to Be*. Everything in it contained articles from Focus on The Family. Since many of the moms were pregnant with IVF babies, the back page contained The Snowflake Program. After our twins, Brady and Hannah, died at 5 months gestation, we still had 7 leftover embryos from our December 2003 IVF. I naturally conceived baby Emmaus (our 8th child) 6 weeks after they passed. When she was born, I would nurse Emmaus, and read JMTB. I knew it was a possibility but I didn't feel that this was the right time to place our "babies". I thought that if God put pressure on us we would hear Him shouting to place them asap!

ANN: To accurately answer, I have to first say that our first infertility specialist was less than satisfactory and not very kind. He never offered embryo adoption to us and told us, basically, to give up on having children. Amazingly, that same week, three different people told us about Dr. Stewart who is our current specialist. We did see him soon after and at our first meeting, he introduced us to embryo adoption. I remember him handing us the brochure, and as soon as I looked at it, I knew what we were supposed to do. It was automatic for me. Looking back at the way everything transpired, I see how divinely orchestrated it was. I heard the Lord's voice and had certainty about how to proceed. We were offered another program, but chose to go with the Snowflakes program because it was Christian-based and we just had peace about it.

2) What were your fears or anxieties about going through such a program?

LISE: My fear, honestly, is never being

able to see Reese grow. Never receiving any pictures. Never having updates on his wonderful, blessed life. My husband's fear is me, falling in love. I told him that it was too late. It happened already. The 7 "babies" Ann and David adopted were conceived in love. They were prayed for, for God's will. They never belonged to us, but to Him, but that 'mommy love' is still there~ regardless of their size.

ANN: My fears and anxieties were that it just wouldn't work. But that's where that big voice had to be trusted! I think with any adoption, you also fear that the genetic parents will want the baby back.

3) When you received the profile, how did you know this was the right match?

LISE: It was all God. It was a sense of calm. Like these were the perfect mommy, daddy and puppies to raise this beloved child. God chose us, and God chose them. What has happened between Ann and David, and Mark and I has first passed through God's loving hands.

ANN: We prayed about this. Of course, what was there not to love about Lise and Mark and their beautiful family? I think once you read about the other person's story, you cannot help but become involved in some way. Eventually, it's as though it's one big extended family of sorts. And everyone just wants the best possible outcome. Both sides have immense gains to be had. Ultimately, we just waited for peace in our decision to pursue this with Lise and Mark.

4) Ann, when Lise & Mark chose you and Dave to adopt these embryos, how did you feel?

ANN: Humbled. We both cried and felt very, very humble. We also felt blessed and loved by the Lord to bring such a huge blessing to us. Gratitude doesn't even begin to describe our feelings towards Lise and Mark.

5) Lise, when you heard about Ann's pregnancy, what were your thoughts and feelings?

LISE: I was completely overjoyed. I yelled to our 5 living children, "Ann and David are PREGNANT!!!" and they kept saying, "Who's Ann and David???" :-)

We were so saddened by the loss of one or two...but we have believed and prayed for Reese continuously. 'Overjoyed' is an understatement. We have traveled down that infertility path for 16 yrs. Every child we have had, living here or in God's arms, has been a struggle to get here with us. So we know the heartache of not being able to have a child, or bring one home.

6) If and/or when doubts or fears came throughout the process, (for both of you) how did you calm them down? How did you really let the Lord take control and lead you through it?

LISE: I guess one fear is about Reese wondering about us, mostly about his genetic siblings, because there are 5 of them. But other than that there is a true sense of calm. I have wondered if Mark and I went through the IVF process as God's will for Ann & Dave, like our purpose was to help Ann and Dave become parents. It is awe inspiring that God chose us to fulfill His kingdom in such an altruistic way. God blessed us with a child whom we conceived naturally after the twins (which the doctor said was virtually impossible) If we had not conceived Emmaus, we would have used those embryos. It's thrilling to know that one more couple knows complete and awesome love that comes with loving a child (whether yours or adopted).

ANN: We certainly had scares during the pregnancy. I had bleeding early on. We had transferred 3 embryos in order to give them all a chance at life. It is our belief that 2 implanted and then we lost one, and hence, the bleeding. We prayed. We cried and we pestered the doctors a lot! They were wonderful, and no doubt, placed in our path by God to help us through it all. It was high anxiety time and all you can do is wait

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and believe that God's will is going to be done.

I am also blessed to have my very best friend to be my husband as well. We talked about all of our fears openly and prayed. Talking about fears can dispel them quite effectively. Then you have to let go and let God be in control.

7) What were the most frustrating times of this process?

LISE: Because the twins were born at 5 months their features were small. The twins and Reese are all coming from the same retrieval so we're anxiously anticipating seeing what our twins would have looked like. What's also frustrating is conflicting emotions, bittersweet emotions. I did not anticipate feelings of overwhelming confusion. I know without a doubt we do not desire another child. So we know this is the right, God-filled and willed decision. But to know that there is one more child out there who will look like our 5 living...it sort of sucks the breath out of me.

ANN: The most difficult times for both of us probably had to do with taking all of the medications to prepare the uterus for the embryo transfers. Once pregnant, you continue to take them for several months. They are not pleasant! They are high doses of hormones, which taken for an extended period of time, can make you think you are going to lose it!

You can tell you are not yourself, but you cannot change it. It's PMS to the max!

The other thing that was very difficult for us was when the first 2 embryos, from another family, did not survive the thawing process. It was very painful. We grieved, not only for ourselves, but for the other family as well. We had to accept this, but it was not easy.

8) What are your feelings about Reese's arrival? How do you share these with friends or family? How do they support you?

LISE: My friends who have gone through the grieving process with us about Grace (died from a hole in her diaphragm) and Brady and Hannah's deaths, have been wonderfully supportive. It doesn't matter what our families think because this is what we truly believe God wants. How can we choose to keep our embryos frozen when there are couples who desire and need a child or children to fill empty arms?

ANN: We are so excited for Reese to arrive! We love him soooooo much already and now just want him to be well and happy. I do have some sadness over the ending of the pregnancy. For nine months I have carried him and taken care of him. Every time he moves, I am filled with joy. I will never feel as though he is not mine or ours. He is a part of me, and therefore, a part of Dave. This is the amazing blessing of this type of

adoption. It's simply a miracle! We are also apprehensive, just hoping to be good parents for him. But I understand this is rather normal for new parents. We have read a lot and plan to continue to learn every thing we can to be the most effective, loving parents we can be.

We stay current with friends and family via phone, email, or one on one interactions. Everyone at our jobs stays on top of things. I am fortunate to work with a couple of people who will be more like Reese's aunts than friends. They have even given us a baby shower (or two). They are very supportive and attentive. One of these people is also having the same "sympathy" symptoms I have had. We have also had a baby shower thrown by two of my nieces.

9) What advice can you give to parents just starting this process, to help them overcome their fears, doubts, or worries and begin to move forward?

LISE: This is a hard one. I'd say Pray, Pray, Pray!

ANN: Trust yourself and the Lord. Research and read all you can. We even called Nightlight and our doctor with questions before we proceeded. Talk to others who have been through the process if possible.

Lise and Ann enjoy emailing with one another and watching Reese grow, each in their own special way.



THE NIGHTLIGHT SHOPPE

NIGHTLIGHTS

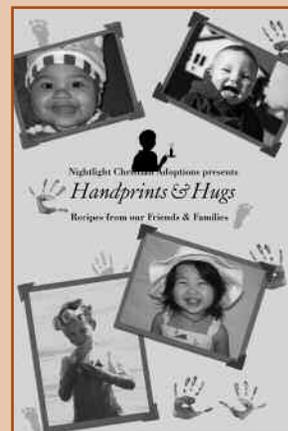
These rechargeable nightlights plug into the wall. At dusk the nightlight automatically turns on. It can also be unplugged and used as a flashlight—very handy to have around the house. If you would like one, please send in your check for \$20 to cover the cost of the nightlight and shipping.

NIGHTLIGHT COOKBOOKS

By Julia McColister

Dare we say it? The holidays will be here before we know it! We are sure that you'll want to include *Nightlight's Handprints and Hugs Cookbook* on your 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!



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: 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: 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: September 27 • November 29. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

ATTACHMENT & OTHER ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION, 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 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. **Cost: \$100/Couple**

Dates for 2007: November 7 • **Dates for 2008:** January 16, March 19, May 14, July 2, September 10, November 5

ASIA 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: 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? Come join us at this workshop to begin putting together your child's LifeBook! Please send questions or RSVPs to megan@nightlight.org.

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

When: Please contact Megan Corcoran for the next Lifebooks Workshop.

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).

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.

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

Beginning September 29, 2007, 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 was a guest speaker at one of Rhonda Jarema's classes and she has taken a few of his seminars. He is an expert in the field of International Adoption Medicine as well as being very personable and an excellent presenter. We know those of you in attendance will enjoy the 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. Other agencies are having their families complete their education through on-line programs. Please check with your social worker to ensure you have all the components required for your Hague Standard 96.48 pre-adoptive training.

We are pleased that Nightlight Christian Adoptions has been able to provide this training on site for our local families. The Hague education requirements have been provided on our website along with which class covers the required material. Please contact us if you have further questions about this aspect of The Hague.

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2007 • **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • **Cost:** \$30/person

Registration is required to reserve your seat.

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.

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: October 11 • 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 or (972) 956-9988.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

REBECCA LONG



Rebecca Long is a new addition to the Nightlight social work staff. She and her teenage daughter recently moved to Southern California from Idaho. There she had a variety of experiences in the social work field, with her favorite being the 9 years she worked for a long-term residential care facility for children and adolescents. Most (though not all) of the youth in care there were adopted, some domestically, some

internationally, so Rebecca had the opportunity to learn about a lot of adoption-related issues in the work with those kids and their families.

One of the primary reasons she was interested in working at Nightlight was that education is an integral component of the adoption process here. The time she has spent with the kids and families of disrupted/dissolved adoptions really reinforced for her just how important education and preparation is. It is impossible, of course, to be prepared for everything – but the more “tools” we have in our “tool belts”, the more likely it is that we will be able to successfully negotiate the challenges that come our way. We look forward to having Rebecca become an important part of that preparation for the Nightlight families adopting internationally as they go through the homestudy process. And she also looks forward to continuing to support families after children come home. We know you will enjoy meeting Rebecca (Becky) if you have the opportunity to work with her. We’re certainly enjoying having her on our staff.

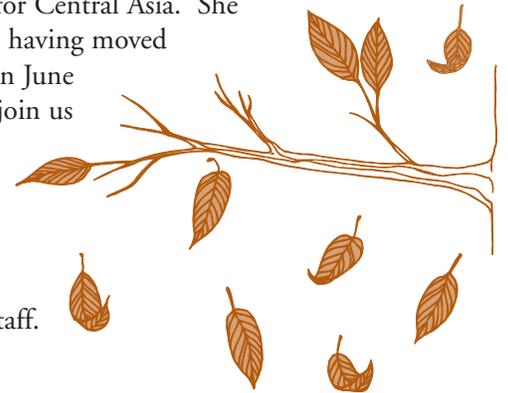
KATE ZYUBENKO



We would also like to introduce Kate Zyubenko to our staff at Nightlight. She will be working on Central Asia Adoptions at Nightlight. Kate was born and raised in Kazakhstan. She became a Christian in 1995 and became active in her church. There she was involved in the church's Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and their ministry for street children, which led her into orphan ministry.

She came to the U.S. in 1999, where she attended the Master's College, graduating in 2002. In 2004, she developed a Kazakhstan adoption program, developing relationships with orphanages in Kazakhstan, visiting orphanages to distribute humanitarian aid, and finding volunteers to work with the orphans.

Now Nightlight is blessed to have Kate join our staff, where she is our Coordinator for Central Asia. She now resides in Brea, having moved to Orange County in June of this year. Please join us in welcoming Kate to our staff. We're sure you will enjoy working with her as much as we enjoy having her on our staff.



HAGUE CONVENTION UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION EDUCATION

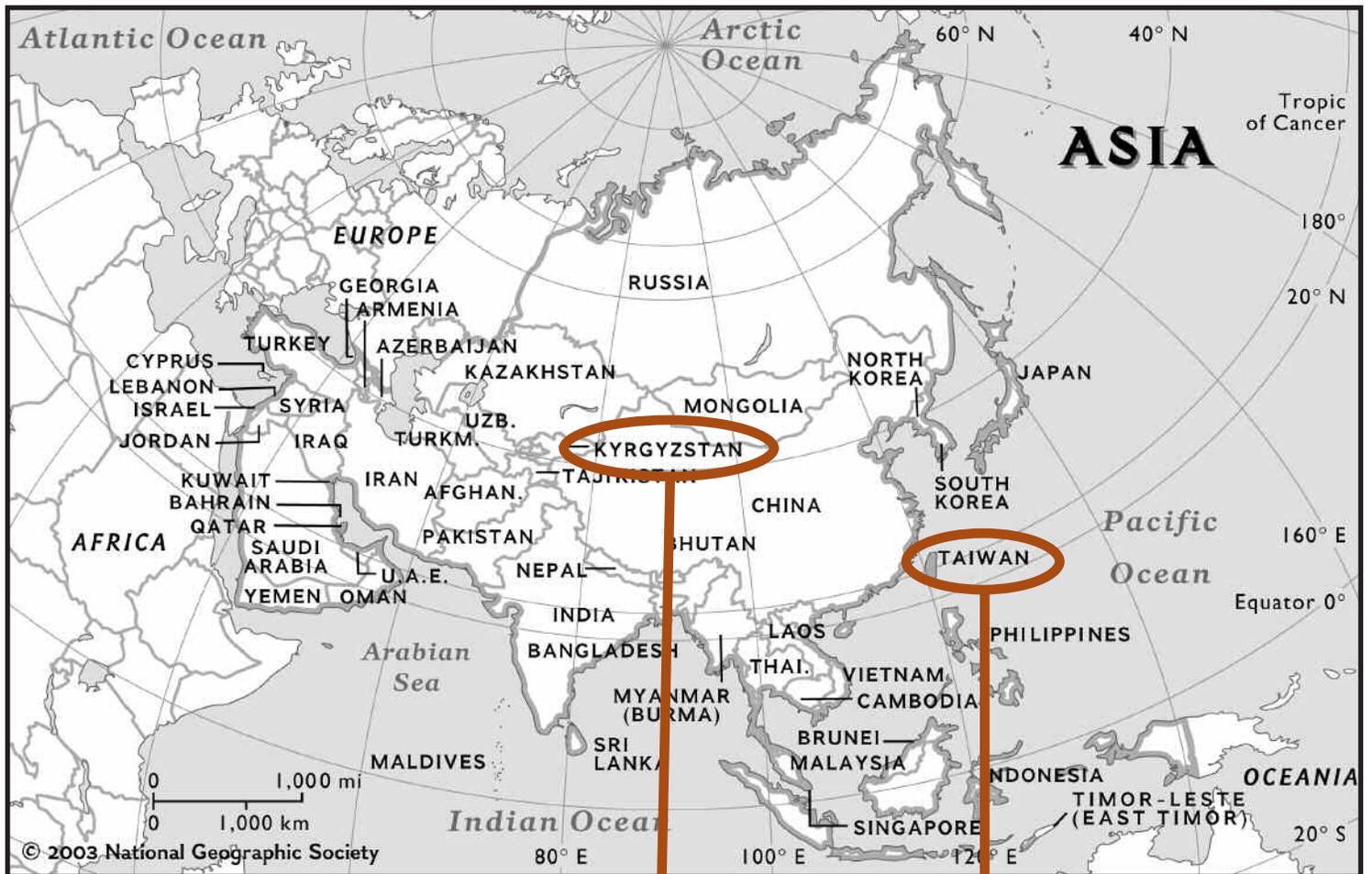
By Rhonda Jarema

As the date for ratifying The Hague Convention approaches here in the United States, more prospective international adoptive parents are becoming aware of how it will affect them. It has been affecting international adoption agencies for some time as we update and develop new policies and procedures to address the new federal regulations. The goal of The Hague Convention is to better regulate international adoptions in order to better protect children who are being adopted.

The Hague Convention is a program that governs the way international adoptions are conducted throughout the world. The United States ratified this program and is finally in the process of implementing it. This basically puts the decision-making process and control in the hands of a central authority in each country that works in international adoptions.

One of the components of The Hague is the mandated education of adoptive parents. Each prospective adoptive parent is required to take a minimum of 10 hours of education, in addition to the home study. The area of material that must be covered in these 10 hours of education is actually specified in the regulations. So, it is a 'federal regulation' for anyone adopting internationally to have at least 10 hours of education in addition to their home study, according to Hague Standard 96.48(b)(2). We have also found that we would need to speak at warp speed, without

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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KYRGYZSTAN?

Because of the pioneering spirit of 15 Nightlight families, the way to Kyrgyzstan is now a well-traveled road. Nightlight is preparing to renew its contract with the Ministry of Education for Kyrgyzstan and expects to be able to place 30-35 children during the coming year. Many of the children are under one year of age and most are of Central Asian descent. Although we have many families waiting to adopt children, we do not have enough families open to adopting Central Asian children.

Each family has to make their own decision as to how to build their family and how open they may be to different ethnic backgrounds. We are sure that the current shortage of families has more to do with the fact that working in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) is new for Nightlight. So if you know of potential adopting families who would like to visit the historic Silk Road and diversify the ethnic character of their family, please have them email Kate@Nightlight.org for specific information. And while you're checking out the location of Central Asia, take a look at our new country pages on the web site. Kelly Ross has given the pages a new and exciting look – and will help you know exactly where in the world Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are.

ADOPTION FROM TAIWAN

Our new program in Taiwan is taking off as our first pioneer families complete their dossiers so that they can travel to pick up their children. We have received referrals of both babies and older children. Everyone loves cute little babies, but somehow those 3 year olds and the young school-aged children melt your heart as you look into their eyes and see the potential they could have with a family of their own.

If you are interested in learning more about adoption from Taiwan, please contact Kathryn Deiters. You may email her at Kathryn@Nightlight.org.



BUILD-A-BEAR™ AND THE OUTCOME OF GIVING TO OTHERS By Rhonda Jarema

Sometimes we go on with our lives, forgetting some of our early experiences. This becomes particularly poignant when we think of our children who spent years in foster or orphanage care, where they had nothing to call their own. Although most of us cannot remember the first toy we ever received or even the first Teddy Bear, I'm sure that many of our children do have that memory and often it is because we provided that first stuffed bear to our child, giving them something to

hold and remember us by, as we made our first visit and commitment to them that we would return someday soon to bring them to their forever home.

Build-A-Bear™ gave us all a wonderful opportunity to participate in a very special experience this summer. Many of our families went to a Build-A-Bear™ store to help build a bear that would in turn be given to an orphan somewhere around the world, a child who had no toys of his or her own. One of our families participated in this process. Beverly and Sveta Wiesen agreed to take 50 bears with them on their cruise to Eastern Europe, dropping the bears off at the orphanage far outside the city of St. Petersburg, Russia, where Sveta was adopted. We were very thankful to the Wiesen's who made space in their luggage as they traveled on their European vacation, to take 50 bears to the orphans of Kronshtat.

Sveta kindly shared her letter to the CEO of Build-A-Bear™ Workshops (below). It is a good reminder for us all of the meaning of giving to others. Sometimes we hesitate to remind our children of their early experiences. However, Sveta's experience in bringing the bears to the children of her orphanage, shows that by helping others, we learn ourselves.

August 9, 2007

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you very much for the wonderful bears. I was very happy to have all those 50 bears to take to the orphanage in Russia where I was adopted three and a half years ago. I'm sure the kids will love those bears when they see them. The bears are very cute and cuddly for the kids to hug and sleep with. I know because I have one, too!

The day I landed in America from Russia was in 2003, on Thanksgiving Day. My mom's friend picked us up at the airport and she brought me one of your Build-a-Bears that can talk. Her young son had recorded the message on it and it said, "Welcome to America". I didn't know what that message meant when I got the bear, but I still really liked the bear. I'm almost 13 years old and I still have the bear sleeping next to me on my bed. Also, I still listen to the message, "Welcome to America"!

I'm very happy to be here in America and it was really nice to share something that is so special to me with the kids who haven't had the good luck to be adopted to America.

Thank you again to you and your organization for your generosity and for putting smiles on the faces of so many kids!

Warmly,
Svetlana Wiesen

HAGUE CONVENTION UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION EDUCATION

(continued from page 8)

addressing any questions, if we were to cover this material in just 10 hours, so our program will require 11.5 hours of classroom training.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions has always placed a high value on education. It is our belief that families who are well educated and prepared for the adoption of post institutionalized children helps to promote a successful adoption. Families who work with Nightlight Christian Adoptions make the commitment to complete an education program that covers all the material required by The Hague Standards. For those clients who are local to our Fullerton office, we provide 4 programs that meet the Hague education criteria.

Our Information Seminars actually cover several areas of the Hague education material. Our ongoing classes have been updated to address the Hague components. These required classes for internationally adoptive parents, are "Attachment and Other Issues of International Adoption" (formerly Attachment and Bonding) and "Lifelong Issues of Adoption."

2007 SUMMER REUNION



The summer reunion was a great success. We had several hundred people attend this year's event. It was great to see all the families with their children—some

who had just returned and some who were adopted in the early 1990's!

The park we selected for this year's reunion served our needs beautifully and was so much cooler! There was lots of shade for everyone. This year we had performances from children adopted through our other adoption programs. We had children from China modeling their lovely Chinese attire. Children adopted domestically sang a patriotic song for us, "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue". Our Snowflakes sang "Jesus Loves Me". We would love to have more of you participate next year. Please be sure to let Kathryn Deiters know if you would like to be a part of the Reunion performance or if you'd like to be in the Russian Choir which participates at each of the tour performances.

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. The shirts were delivered to two Detsky Doms (2 and 31) and were gratefully received. We will be sending sweatshirts to Detsky Dom #26 next. If you would like to learn more about Detsky Dom Partners, 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 will have a Guild Brunch and Planning Meeting to start preparations for the 2008 Gala Dinner and Auction. Please let us know if you would like to join us that day. We will begin at 11:00 a.m.

If you would be 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

We are very grateful to Rose Drive Friends Church for their continued support. Every January they hold a baby bottle fundraiser with our bottles and then send us the money that has been raised by their generous congregation. 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

September

- 27 Domestic Adoption Decisions
- 29 Medical Issues of International Adoption

October

- 06 Adoption Seminar
- 10 Tricycle Guild Meeting
- 20 Asia Adoption Workshop
- 20 Trans-Racial Adoption

November

- 07 Attachment & Other Issues
- 10 Medical Issues of International Adoption
- 13 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
- 29 Domestic Adoption Decisions

December

- 01 Adoption Seminar

2008

January

- 16 Attachment & Other Issues

March

- 15 Annual Gala Dinner
- 19 Attachment & Other Issues

May

- 14 Attachment & Other Issues

July

- 02 Attachment & Other Issues

September

- 10 Attachment & Other Issues

November

- 05 Attachment & Other Issues

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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Summer 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 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.