



FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Winter 2007



Above: Sarah Coleman

NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS

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

Sarah to parents Don and Tamara Coleman of Anaheim, CA • Emma and Ava to parents Joe and Susan Downing of Tyler, TX • Alina to parents Mel and Kathy Howard of Warrenton, VA • Natasha to parents Hubert and Lynda Wick of Warsaw, NY.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A belated Happy New Year! Although 2006 brought some exciting successes as Nightlight continues to bring children and families together, it also brought more than enough frustrations.

But as the saying goes, if it doesn't defeat you, it makes you stronger. And certainly, I believe that 2006 has made us stronger.

One of the hardest things we do is ask for financial support. Our focus is on children and families, and money (rather the lack of it) is usually a detail that just impedes progress. I am still overwhelmed at the generosity of some of our friends and clients. Our need was great, and you were up to the challenge. Receiving such support is very humbling as we focus each day not only on how to do our jobs better, but how to be worthy of the trust and confidence you place in our agency.

We truly serve an awesome, sovereign God! I could go on and on about the examples of how God has worked in the lives of so many of our employees and families. In fact, if you encountered me at the Winter Reunion, you probably heard about more than a few of the stories. It is tempting to generalize, but is also unmistakable that successful parents are not those who never encounter problems with their kids, but those that keep their eye on the goal and persevere.

(continued on page 2)

SNOWFLAKE UPDATE

FROM FROZEN TO FOREVER FAMILY

By Megan Corcoran



Above: Maggie Rose

We welcome this winter's newest arrivals:

In November, Shay Alise was born to Chad and Sheri. In

December, Matthew Ethan and Jenna Christine were born to Jim and Barbara, and Ian Scott, Evan Michael, and Emily Rose were born to Jon and Debbie. In January, Maggie Rose was born to Bill and Cherie. In February, John Mark was born to JJ and Tracy.

Welcome home!

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: Katherine Lea

CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	PROUD PARENTS
Sara Raelene	January 20, 2007	Ruben and Angela Hernandez
Joshua Andrew	November 26, 2006	Ken and Ebony Kale
Katherine Lea	December 18, 2006	Bill and Tammy Lapp

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 1)

It is certainly easy to share your brag book with friends – be it a photo album or verbal recap of your child's most recent accomplishments. Sharing successes makes us feel good, not only because we are proud of our child's accomplishments, but also because we think it reflects favorably upon our parenting skills. When successes diminish and problems seem to dominate, we often feel that this reflects negatively on our parenting skills. There is certainly enough credit and blame for parenting to last a lifetime – and often we don't know which decisions were good or bad until years later. But parenting isn't about earning medals or ribbons, it is about providing the loving, supportive, stable home that is necessary for a child to someday become a self-sufficient, productive adult. On behalf of the thousands of children that have been touched by Nightlight and who you are parenting – Thank You! Thank you for the great job you do as parents and thank you for getting up after you stumble and continuing to do your best. You are modeling the exact traits that the children must learn. Do your best and never give up.

Our Annual Banquet is coming up fast (March 10th). The Tricycle Guild is working hard at getting some great auction items and organizing the program. We were very excited that Assemblyman Chuck DeVore has agreed to be our guest speaker. Chuck has been a strong supporter of Nightlight and children and a vocal advocate for issues he believes in. At a time when political correctness seems to dominate, it is nice to have someone who can just express himself without calculating which way the wind is blowing. I am confident that you will enjoy his remarks. This is a great opportunity for you to buy a table and invite some friends who would like to learn more about Nightlight and adoption. We promise to behave ourselves and not embarrass you. ☺

I hope to see many of you on March 10th.



Ron Stoddart

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NIGHTLIGHT'S NINTH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Our 2007 Gala Dinner will be on Saturday, March 10, 2007!



Please send in your registration to attend this special event. Invite family and friends to make this a time to share a special evening together. Some of our families turn this event into a reunion with

friends and family. If your invitation hasn't come or has been misplaced, just give us a call and we'll send you the information. (continued on page 3)

NIGHTLIGHT'S NINTH ANNUAL GALA DINNER (CONTINUED)...

We have some great auction items for you to bid on.

- ⊙ Vacation Getaways—Hawaii, Surf and Sand in Laguna, Big Bear, as well as a couple of week-long vacations you may design to fit your desires.
- ⊙ Unique educational products and toys for your children.
- ⊙ International products from Eastern Europe and China
- ⊙ Certificates for romantic evenings, family fun activities, and much needed pampering.

Something new and fun is being added to this year's Auction. We are going to have a **Teddy Bear Blitz**. What is that, you ask? Midway through the auction, we will have our volunteers rush out onto the floor selling a limited number of darling, packaged teddy bears, wearing Nightlight t-shirts! Upon opening their packages, one guest will be surprised to find that their bear is different from the rest. They will be the lucky winner of the grand prize (prize to be announced before the auction). Get your bidder numbers ready! You can't lose on this one and it will be exciting to see who gets the special bear.



For the Children, we will have special activities planned in a large room near the Ballroom.

There will be a station for children to watch a video, a place for arts and crafts, an eating station—with child-friendly foods for our young guests—and a place for your child to rest or go to sleep (please bring a little sleeping bag or favorite blanket). The cost for the childcare is \$30 per child. The charge is the same if your child would prefer to stay with you and eat a child's meal in the Ballroom.

Auction Donations still needed.....do you own a business or know someone who does?

- ...a florist who would donate a dozen roses for a special someone?
- ...a gourmet chef willing to give an in-home cooking lesson?
- ...a jeweler dying to give away a strand of pearls?
- ...a home owner with an available vacation rental?
- ...an artist with a painting or photography session to share?
- ...a Mary Kay consultant happy to prepare a gift basket?

If you know anyone with a talent or product to share....we would love your support!

We will be happy to provide you with a request letter for you to share with any interested parties. All donors will have their company logo and contact information in our evening program and have the opportunity to display company brochures or business cards near the item donated for the auction. Please contact Kathryn Deiters if you have questions or need copies of our donation request letter (Kathryn@Nightlight.org). Thank you in advance for your support!



LIST OF DONORS TO DATE:

Aerobie, Inc.
Aquarium of the Pacific
Balboa Bay Club
Black Gold
Camelot Golf Land
Castle Park
Disneyland
Fortress Networks
French 75
Jabez Salon
Journey to Me
La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts
Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim
Los Angeles Dodgers
Los Angeles Kings
Mimi's Café
Pasadena Playhouse
Peony Thai Grill
Rancho Bernardo Inn
Regal Cinemas
Richard Nixon Library
Russian Toys, Inc.
Salon Lujon & Day Spa
South Coast Repertory
Summit House Restaurant
Surf and Sand Resort
Sweet n' Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Several Individuals and Families

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 Snowflakes “Genetic Parents” or “Adopting Parents” Yahoo groups, please contact Megan Corcoran at Megan@Nightlight.org.

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

Dates for 2007: April 21 • June 16 • August 4 (International only) • October 6 • December 1

LIFE-LONG ISSUES IN ADOPTION

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

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

In this class we will look at the core adoption issues, which will give you an understanding of how you are linked to the other members of the adoption triad: the adoptee and the birth family. The material is applicable to all forms of adoption, domestic, international, or the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program, and will help adopting families develop understanding and compassion for everyone involved in the adoption process.

Dates for 2007: March 15 • April 12 • May 10 • June 14. **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: March 29 • May 31 • July 26 • September 27 • November 29. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

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

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

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

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

This is a class designed to help prepare our parents adopting from China. It covers trans-racial adoption, the Chinese culture, and provides information about the travel experience. It is a great opportunity to meet other families who are adopting through the program as well. The first hour of the class (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.) will cover the trans-racial component which will be helpful for domestic families who may be adopting a child of a different racial background.

Dates for 2007: June 2 • October 20. **Cost: No charge, but registration is required.**

LIFEBOOKS WORKSHOP

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

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

Where: Nightlight Classroom

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

Cost of the workshop is \$25.00 (includes instruction, refreshments, and some scrapbooking materials).

Please contact Megan (megan@nightlight.org) for more information, or to order discounted Creative Memories supplies. (Any orders must be placed two weeks in advance, so please plan ahead.)

Dates for 2007: April 22 (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.) • July 14 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CDS

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

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

WEB SITE FOR TRANSLATIONS

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

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: 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.

NEW ADOPTION PROGRAMS

We are now recruiting adoptive families for children of all ages from Lesotho in Africa and from Nepal. For program requirements and more information on these programs, please contact social worker Jackie Grignon at (866) 676-4462 or email at Grignonent@earthlink.net

NEW ADDITION TO OUR STAFF



We are pleased to introduce Mary Madison to you. Mary joined us last September, and brings a great deal of experience in social work with her. It's hard for us to believe she's been here

such a short time—she has fit in so nicely and become such a magnificent asset to our agency. Those of you working with our Domestic or Snowflakes Programs will come to know and appreciate Mary. We welcome her to our staff.

EZEKIEL'S STORY

By Simon and Tiffany Huang

God is a creative God. He finds ways to surprise us at every turn; this is especially true of how Ezekiel came to our family. His journey is a testament of God's loving-kindness and sovereignty.

Four years into our marriage, we learned that we would not be able to have biological children. Through some research and prayer, we decided to go through embryo adoption to start a family. We thought this was one way for us to rescue one of God's children.

In the summer of last year, God faithfully matched us with a family who had three remaining embryos. Because they feared God and respected the sanctity of human life, they placed the three for adoption. In April of 2006, we became their parents. Of the three, only one embryo turned out to be viable. We took comfort then that it was God who made the choice of who lives and who dies. We knew that as parents we did what we could and it was God's decision.

August 18th of last year, the remaining embryo was implanted in Tiff's womb. There, he grew and developed. In December, we went in for a routine ultrasound. We found out we were having a boy! Later that afternoon, we got a call from the nurse saying that we should go back

in for a more in-depth ultrasound. We found out he had a condition called hydrocephalus, which means he had extra fluid in his brain. In addition, we found out he also had a cleft palate and a right hand that could not open.

We went home and wept. Over the next few weeks, we asked many from the church to pray, and we named him Ezekiel which means "God's strength." We knew he needed to be strong to overcome his handicap as well as depend on God's strength, not his own. The response to our request was overwhelming! People loved Ezekiel and loved us by praying for healing. We prayed for healing, but above all, that God's will be done. Simon's parents even flew in to pray with us!

On Monday, January 22nd, God revealed his will, and the answer to our prayer—in a way we did not want him to answer. God took Ezekiel home. We had the MRI earlier that day which revealed much greater developmental complications than the previous ultrasounds suggested, and later in the day we went back to the hospital because Tiff realized that Ezekiel had stopped kicking. We are very sad. Our cries of "WHY! WHY! WHY!" will likely never be answered. How could there be an answer sufficient to us?

I asked Tiff after we lost Ezekiel, in the midst of the deepest grief we've ever experienced, "If we knew this

embryo adoption was going to end this way, would we have chosen this path?" Her answer was "I hope so." I'm not sure what we would choose in life if God showed the ending to us first. We don't know what is best for us, God does.

Whatever we may have chosen if we were given foresight, we do not regret going through this experience. Yes, it is unfair. Yes, it was too short. After all, wasn't Ezekiel supposed to bury us? Yet, how can we complain about 25 weeks of having Ezekiel grow inside Tiff? How could we regret the experience to love him by simple things such as preparing a nursery (not completed as of yet) for him? How could we miss out on the blessing of God's people praying for Ezekiel? Would I trade our times of praying for him and feeling him kick for anything? NO! We would not trade this for anything. The experience of loving Ezekiel is irreplaceable. He is our son. By faith, we know God is still good and worthy of our deepest praise.

As for his name "Ezekiel" – yes, we still require God's strength for comfort!



**Ezekiel Huang Memorial,
January 28, 2007
Lauderdale, Minnesota**

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*
Matthew 19:14

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE TO FAMILIES

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

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

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.

THE TRICYCLE GUILD



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

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

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

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

In addition, we do have some other needs:

We are in need of **FAMILIES** to share their adoption stories at our seminars.

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.

NIGHTLIGHT CALENDAR

2007

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

- 02 China Experience
- 02 Trans-Racial Adoption
- 14 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
- 16 Adoption Seminar
- 27 Attachment and Bonding

July

- 11-30 Summer Tour (tentative dates)
- 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
- 27 Domestic Adoption Decisions

October

- 06 Adoption Seminar
- 20 China Experience
- 20 Trans-Racial Adoption

November

- 07 Attachment and Bonding
- 29 Domestic Adoption Decisions

December

- 01 Adoption Seminar

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

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