



FAMILY ALBUM

A Quarterly Publication of Nightlight Christian Adoptions

Winter 2008

NEW ARRIVALS FROM OVERSEAS

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

Thomas to parents Shawn and Diana Antin of Hidden Hills, CA • Tatiana to parents Mark and Kathy Hontz of Torrance, CA • Nurlan to parents Mel and Kathy Howard of Warrenton, VA • Jonathan to parents Kenny and Lisa Kendrick of Metairie, LA • Sara to parents Robert and Jennifer Field of Upland, CA • Archer to parents Glenn and Teresa Zeleznick of Palos Verdes Estates, CA • Katherine to parents Chris and Jackie Sadler of Easton, MD.



Above: Tania at home with her family

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I hope that you all had a blessed Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Our office is always closed between Christmas and New Year's Day to allow our employees to have quality time with their families. On Christmas morning I was awakened early with a call from Russia announcing that Nightlight had been re-accredited

to do adoptions in Russia. This was a wonderful gift and one that I was able to quickly share with the 15 families who have been waiting to adopt older children from Russia.

I can't say that I am sorry to see 2007 end. Not that there weren't some awesome examples of God at work in our agency and in the lives of families and children—but like any time of testing, it is nice to be looking back at what we learned and how we have been strengthened. Our year-end appeal for support was met with the generous response of many of our families and friends. We are so thankful for the donations that were given—both large and small—and commit that we will continue to apply all that God brings to us in a responsible manner. Our new membership in the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability requires us to have annual outside financial audits. This is clearly an example of being in a position of having to do what we really want to do. At a time when many small to mid-size adoption agencies are in jeopardy of closing, we believe that Nightlight is in a good position to grow our ministry to families and children.

The challenges we will face in 2008 will also test our faith, strength, and resolve—but in different ways. And we know that the blessings of placing children with their forever families will far outweigh any challenges. We covet your prayers and continued support.


Ron Stoddart



Above: Amelia Grace

SNOWFLAKE UPDATE FROM FROZEN TO FOREVER FAMILY

By Megan Corcoran

The world was blessed with eight precious and unique Snowflakes this winter. In November, Mark

David was born to Mike & Stephanie. In December, Madeline Louise and Natalie Grace were born to Gerry & Stacie, and Mackenzie Joy was born to Pat & Noreen. In January, Amelia Grace was born to Jason & Heather, and Kasson Michael, Molly Claire, and Maren Olivia were born to John & Denise. Congratulations!

We give a huge measure of prayer and blessing to the amazing heroes who place these and all the other embryos for adoption with their loving families. Their names are in our hearts and minds and they will forever be heroes for doing everything they did to allow these lives to live.



NIGHTLIGHT'S ANNUAL GALA DINNER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008
6:00 P.M.
THE REEF IN LONG BEACH**



FAMILY ALBUM STAFF

Ronald L. Stoddart

Executive Director
Email Ron@Nightlight.org

Kathryn Deiters

Editor of the Family Album
Director of Development & Administration
Email: Kathryn@Nightlight.org

Rhonda Jarema

Director of Family Support Services
Email: Rhonda@Nightlight.org

Victory Allan

Director of Social Work
Email: Victory@Nightlight.org

Nightlight Christian Adoptions

801 East Chapman Avenue, Suite 106
Fullerton, California 92831

P: 714.278.1020
F: 714.278.1063
E: info@nightlight.org

www.nightlight.org

2008 WINTER REUNION



Please join us—and invite friends and family to this fun event!

Our winter reunion will be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2008 at Knott's Berry Farm**. You may visit our web site (www.Nightlight.org) to register. Whether it's visiting Camp Snoopy with your little ones, riding Ghostrider with your older



kids, or just enjoying the chicken dinner and chatting with old friends, a great time is to be had by all! If you prefer not to register online, feel free to call the office at (714) 278-1020 or mail a check to Nightlight (Adults are \$34.95 and children 3-11 years of age are \$24.50). The price is right—that is for all the rides, the dinner, AND seeing old friends.

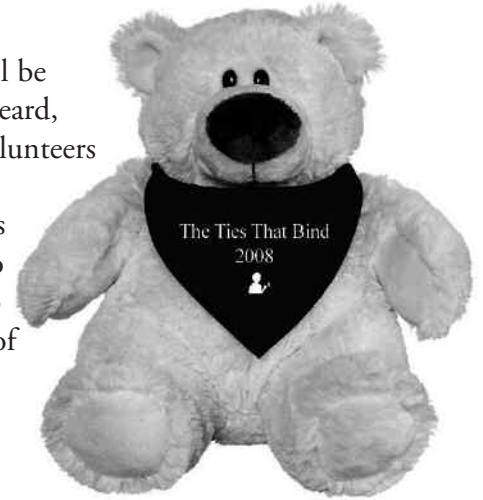


NIGHTLIGHT'S ANNUAL GALA DINNER (CONTINUED)...

It's back and better than ever! It's the Teddy Bear Blitz!

Due to the overwhelming response to last year's new addition to our Gala, we will be increasing the number of bears available this year. For those of you who haven't heard, midway through the live auction at our Annual Gala Dinner, we will have our volunteers rush out onto the floor to sell a limited number of darling, packaged teddy bears. 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). These bears will be different from last year, so get ready to add to your collection. Get your bidder paddles ready! The number of bears is limited to increase your chances at winning and they go FAST!

Be sure to register to attend the Gala - either send in the response card that came with your invitation or register online at www.nightlight.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



Do You Want To Contribute to our Auction, But Don't Know How?

We will help you brainstorm! We are sure that everyone has something to give! Are you or is someone you know....

- ... an artist with a gift for painting, photography or jewelry making?
- ... a baker willing to create a dozen beautiful cupcakes for that extra special occasion?
- ... a time share owner with extra points to spare?
- ... an Avon consultant willing to prepare a basket full of pampering goodies?
- ... a surfer willing to give private lessons?
- ... a florist willing to donate a centerpiece for a formal event?
- ... a pro shopper who is perfect at finding that unique item that everyone will love?
- ... a restaurant manager able to donate a dinner for two?
- ... a credit card user with airfare miles you won't ever use?
- ... a mechanic willing to give a year of free oil changes?
- ... a beautician who does facials, massages, or pedicures?
- ... a season ticket holder willing to share a game or two?

The list of options can go on and on! 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!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN DONATIONS:

Balboa Bay Club
Black Gold
Bradford Portraiture
Boomers!
Camelot Golf Land
Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts
Chomp Sushi and Teppan Grill
Disneyland
Gymboree
Jabez Salon
Inland Empire 66ers
In-n-Out
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
Lomeli's Italian Restaurant
Los Angeles Dodgers
Marshalls
Mimi's Café
Mozambique Restaurant
Pasadena Playhouse
Powers Family
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes
Regal Entertainment Group
Rowley Portraiture
Sea World Adventure Park
Six Flags Magic Mountain
Surf & Sand Resort
Strege Family
Umberger Family

EDUCATION: CLASSES, SEMINARS, AND SUPPORT GROUPS

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

ADOPTION SEMINARS

These are informational seminars on domestic, international, and embryo adoption. The seminars are held on **Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon**. There is no charge, but registration is helpful. Adoption seminars can also be held at local churches. If you would like an adoption seminar offered at your church, please call us at (714) 278-1020 and ask for Kathryn Deiters.

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

LIFE-LONG ISSUES IN ADOPTION

The Life-Long Issues classes are offered on **Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

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

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

Dates for 2008: March 27 • May 8 • June 26 • Sept 4 • Nov. 13. **Cost: \$50/Couple**

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

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

ATTACHMENT & OTHER ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION, Wednesdays from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Understanding the theory behind parent and child attachment is important for any parent. However, it becomes particularly important when adopting a child internationally. For those families planning on adopting internationally, “Attachment and Bonding” is a required class. It is most helpful if this class is taken in the beginning of the homestudy process. This class defines attachment and bonding, reviews the theories behind attachment, and provides practical advice on how to develop a solid attachment with your newly adopted child. It is a requirement of the homestudy for international clients; you will receive a certificate of completion at the close of the class at 9:00 p.m. Reservations are necessary as these classes fill up quickly. Please contact Rhonda Jarema, MA, Director of Family Support Services, with any questions about this class, by emailing her at Rhonda@Nightlight.org. To register, please contact the Nightlight office at (714) 278-1020.

Dates for 2008: March 19 • May 14 • July 2 • September 10 • November 5. **Cost: \$100/Couple**

ASIA ADOPTION WORKSHOP

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

Dates for 2008: February 16 • May 3 • September 13. **Cost: \$25/person. Registration is required.**

LIFEBOOKS WORKSHOP

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

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

So far, the Lifebooks that parents have made are beautiful and the children are excited to see them after each session. We have a lot of fun sharing stories and pictures from orphanages. Please join us! **Time:** 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Dates for 2008: February 17 • April 13 • May 18 • June 22 • August 10 • September 14 • October 12 • November 9.

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

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

As The Hague Standards now specify the material that must be covered in education programs, this will help to ensure parent education and preparation for inter-country adoptions.

Dates for 2008: April 26 • May 17 • July 19 • September 27 • November 1.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Cost: \$30/person.

Registration is required to reserve your seat.

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 Adopting Parent or Genetic Parent Yahoo groups, 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 and Taiwan - Families adopting from either China or Taiwan may join one of our Yahoo groups for these countries. This is a wonderful way to meet other families adopting from China or Taiwan. Please contact Kathryn Deiters at Kathryn@Nightlight.org to be added to one of these groups.

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 2008: April 12 • June 14

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

CHINA AND TAIWAN REUNION

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

OLDER ADOPTEES GROW UP

By Rhonda Jarema

Recently, I had the pleasure of seeing two young adults take a huge step into adulthood. What was particularly special about this, aside from the fact that one was my daughter, was that these two young adults spent their early formative years in a Russian orphanage. All too often, I hear that older kids are ‘damaged’ and already bring so many problems with them. However, I’ve been a part of an amazing and very fulfilling experience, that of parenting older children who had spent their early years in an orphanage. These two children in particular, have taught their respective families about resilience, bravery and love.

When these two young adults were only seven years old, they already had experienced many hardships in their young lives. Yet they opened themselves up to another potentially terrifying experience. They left everything and everyone they knew, to go off with total strangers who lived on the other side of the world and offered to be their new families. They wanted a family. They wanted parents to keep them safe, hold them when they were frightened and make sure that there was food in their tummies and an adult who really cared about them. Sure they were told that being adopted was a ‘good thing’ and would give them a future. But what does a seven-year-old child know or understand about their future? Most seven-year-old children are more concerned about dolls, racecars and

video games. These two children and so many more ‘older’ children have taken such a ‘leap of faith’ going off with ‘new’ families. They have gone willingly into a new life in a new country and have faith that the new life would be different. They went with the hope and faith that their new family would love and care for them.

Yesterday I got the opportunity to sit in the stands with about two thousand or so proud parents, siblings, grandparents and friends as 588 young men became inducted into the Marines. One of those young men, for they truly are men now, marched in step with his ‘brothers’ belonging to a larger group, a ‘family’ of Marine ‘brothers’ who stand together as warriors, trying to make a better world for all of us. I was so impressed by this young man, who stood proud and strong. He was respectful, confident yet gentle as he put his arm around his mother, who gazed at her son with pride. This young man strode purposefully with his pack on his back as we walked to the car, sharing confidences with his dad. It was hard to believe this ‘warrior’ was once a shy little boy, who also showed a strong sense of bravery, just a small sign of what was to come, when he left his homeland and friends behind to come to the United States with his new parents. We are proud of this young man and hope you will keep him and his comrades in your prayers!

After the emotional experience of attending the Marine recruit graduation, we then attended opening night of an Edward Albee play at the local college. That other young



seven year old, now a young lady of nineteen, was starring in this production. Certainly she is no warrior, but she too, in her own way, has shown bravery and perseverance to come so far from that Russian orphanage of 12 years ago. Throughout the evening, I could see her snatch quick peeks at us, her family, out in the audience. She could see the ‘other’ seven year old, also now nineteen, as they both shared that evening, the experience of moving from childhood into adulthood, just as they had 12 years earlier.

When people ask me why someone would consider adopting an ‘older’ child, I wonder, why not? I’ve gained so much more by being the parent of my amazing daughters. I see that with friends who also took that huge leap of faith, despite the warnings and concern of family and friends. I look at my daughters and so many of our families and although it certainly is not an easy road and for some it is extremely challenging, I would not change it. Those two young adults remind me just how precious life is and that I am so lucky to know and love them.

THE NIGHTLIGHT SHOPPE

NIGHTLIGHTS



These rechargeable nightlights plug into the wall. At dusk the nightlight automatically turns

on. It can also be unplugged and used as a flashlight—very handy to have around the house.

If you would like one, please send in your check for \$20 to cover the cost of the nightlight and shipping.



NIGHTLIGHT COOKBOOKS

By Betsy Johnson

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

I’m not even a client of Nightlight—I guess I’d be in that category of Nightlight Friend. But I love sharing this cookbook and have given at least 20 of them

away already. Give it a try. I’m sure you’ll enjoy it!

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

DETSKY DOM PARTNERS



Detsky Dom Partners is the humanitarian foundation that is

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



Above: Children at Detsky Dom 31

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 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.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 20th at 11:00 a.m. Please let us know if you would like to join us for lunch that day.

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

NIGHTLIGHT CALENDAR

2008

February

- 16 Asia Adoption Workshop
- 16 China/Taiwan Reunion
- 17 LifeBooks Workshop
- 20 Tricycle Guild
- 23 Winter Reunion

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

- 07 Adoption Seminar
- 22 LifeBooks Workshop
- 26 Life-Long Issues in Adoption

July

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

August

- 02 Adoption Seminar (international)
- 10 LifeBooks Workshop

September

- 10 Attachment & Other Issues
- 04 Life-Long Issues in Adoption
- 13 Asia Adoption Workshop
- 14 LifeBooks Workshop
- 25 Domestic Adoption Decisions
- 27 Medical Issues of Intl Adoption

October

- 11 Adoption Seminar
- 12 LifeBooks Workshop

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

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