



Host A Child In Your Home This Summer



Inside this Issue

[Host a Child from Colombia](#)

Family Stories:

[Domestic Adoption](#)

[International Adoption](#)

[Foster Adoption](#)

[Key Dates for 2016](#)

[Annual Gala](#)

Ways to Donate to Nightlight:

[Amazon Smile](#)

[Farmers and Merchant](#)

[AdoptionBridge](#)

[New Doors Opened](#)

Follow Nightlight



www.nightlight.org

Every 9-14 year-old orphaned child has so much potential and promise. Yet even the most resilient, intelligent, lively children cannot make it alone. They need a loving, committed family to support and guide them.

This summer, Nightlight is working closely with *Kidsave* to find loving parents for Colombian children, as well as *EveryChildHasAName* to bring kids to visit from Ukraine. We are giving a group of children a chance to find a family this summer, and we need your help. This unique program introduces amazing children to adoptive families in the US. Once people have the opportunity to meet them, hear their laughter, and experience the world again through their eyes - they fall in love.

If you live in a state where Nightlight has offices, you can provide a home for a child this summer and advocate for him or her by speaking to members of your church, workplace, and close friends.

If you have ever considered adopting an older child, hosting a child this summer is one of the best opportunities you will ever find. All children on this host program are legally available for adoption and in need of a permanent family.

Contact Rhonda@nightlight.org and let her know you are interested in hosting from Ukraine, or Lauren@kidsave.org to host from Colombia.

[Nightlight Host Programs](#), Ukraine

[KidSave Host Programs](#), Colombia



God Sees The Big Picture: A Domestic Adoption by the Ranstrom Family



Next month marks four years since Kristofer and I decided that we wanted to grow our family by having our first child. We were so very excited about becoming parents—if only we knew that our path was about to get a bit bumpy and rough. After a year of no success and doctor's visits, it was apparent that we were having fertility issues. We still continued to press forward through many of these, but after an invasive medical procedure in July 2014, we were informed our only options for having our own child (short of a miracle from God) would be IVF or adoption.

After receiving our diagnosis; we decided to focus on IVF and began saving. However, three months later, God laid it on our heart that we needed to focus our time, energy, and finances toward adoption. We were scared and excited all at the same time. We began researching which route we wanted to take when it came to adopting our baby and decided domestic would be the best option for us. As we were preparing, another huge change took place in our journey. God called us to move away from the comfort of our friends and family in Florida to South Carolina for a new job opportunity. Our adoption process was delayed, and we were worried it would take much more time to grow our family. However, God had bigger plans for us.

We moved to South Carolina on December 30, 2014. Unfortunately, we were unable to start our adoption process until our house in Florida sold. Finally, after what felt like an eternity, we were able to begin our home

study with Nightlight Christian Adoptions in August of 2015. Our home study went very smoothly aside from a hold-up in getting our medical reports because we were new patients. We reminded ourselves that all these small delays in becoming ready for adoption was part of God's plan, but it was difficult. We are only a piece in God's puzzle, but we tend to worry when seemingly rudimentary plans don't go the way we expect them to.

Going back a bit in time, after our move, we began searching for a church home where we could get involved. It wasn't until September of 2015 that we had found our new church, and we immediately joined a small group in order to meet new people while diving deeper into scripture. The second week into our Bible study, we were paired to pray with a couple in the group. At the end of our prayer, we began talking and getting to know each other better. Kristofer and I were asked the question that we had been asked thousands of times: "Do you have any

We always have to trust and remember that God has a plan and He always sees the big picture.

children?" That question had always been such a difficult question to answer...until now. We proudly proclaimed that we were almost done with our home study and we were hoping that we would be adopting our little one soon.

Two weeks later, we were contacted by Nightlight to inform us that our home study was complete and our profile was live. We were so excited and nervous about what was to come—Lord-willing we would meet our child soon. We could never have imagined that the very next day we would get the call we had been waiting for. Our friend from small group called to say that she was with a woman who just had a baby, and the birth mother wanted to make an adoption plan. Our friend mentioned that she remembered us telling her and her husband that we were hoping to adopt, and she wanted to know if we were interested; we of course said yes. We called Nightlight to find out what we needed to do, and then we rushed to the hospital to meet the birth mother and baby. The very next day, we brought our precious daughter home.

Here is the beauty of our story and why we always have to trust and remember that God has a plan, and He always sees the big picture. There were so many instances

To continue see The Big Picture on page 6

When God Calls You Out Of Your Comfort Zone: An International Adoption by the Cooper Family

We were excited to get started on our adoption through China's Special Needs Program, and we dove into the mountain of paperwork. When we filled out our special need checklist (special needs we were willing to accept), we checked all of the easy stuff, things we were comfortable with, but I knew in my heart that God was going to push us out of our comfort zone. I prayed that we would be able to say yes to whatever He had in store for us. In July of 2014, we said yes to a beautiful 2 year-old girl with Spina Bifida, and yes, that was out of our comfort zone. She had surgery at birth and everything seemed like a successful repair. We would not know for sure until we got her home, but we were ready for whatever came our way. We named her Jennifer Lynn and fell in love with her while we waited. We were scheduled to travel to China in December and were excited she would be home by Christmas.

On October 11th, our world stopped when we found out Jennifer had cancer. Doctors in China had recently removed a malignant tumor, and the orphanage director wanted to know if we wanted to continue the adoption. Needless to say, cancer was way out of our comfort zone, but we spoke with doctors and prayed about our decision. We were very discouraged when the orphanage director denied our request for tests and scans, but God answered our prayers and got everything we requested. Whenever there were obstacles, and there were many, God was there to handle them. We were overwhelmed by the people that were helping us and praying for us and Jennifer. Nightlight went above and beyond helping and supporting us during this time. On November 7th, we said YES we wanted to continue the adoption! Nightlight expedited her case, and we were on a plane to China on November 13th. We had a wonderful trip in China, but we were full of concerns and could not wait to get home to get some answers. We started going to doctors' appointments just days after we were home. We were

shocked to find out she had a grapefruit size tumor and the cancer had spread to her lung. She was in Stage 4, and they started chemo right away. It was a whirlwind to say the least, but Jennifer was amazing. She had a total of 4 rounds of chemo and a surgery to remove scar tissue left by the tumor. Her treatment was successful and she is now cancer free!

We checked all of the easy stuff, things we were comfortable with, but I knew in my heart that God was going to push us out of our comfort zone...

Needless to say cancer was way out of our comfort zone.

After we were finished with Jennifer's treatments, we went to a neurologist about her Spina Bifida. He reviewed her scans and told us she does not have Spina Bifida and never did! There is no way to know what they repaired at birth, but he didn't have any concerns. We got 2 miracles!

Jennifer is a wonderful little girl; she is happy and healthy. She has a huge personality and wins everyone over as soon as she meets them. God pushed us out of our comfort zone and blessed us more than we could have ever imagined.



Key Dates for 2016

California

Gala Dinner and Auction: March 19

Reunion Picnic: July 16

Vivian's Hope Fundraiser: October 1

Monte Carlo Night: November 5

Colorado

Reunion Picnic: June 24

Kentucky

Reunion Picnic: June 25

South Carolina

Reunion Picnic: May 14



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Every time you want to buy something on Amazon, simply

go to <http://smile.amazon.com> instead of the regular Amazon site. It's the same products, except they donate a percentage to your non-profit (choose Nightlight).

Visit the Nightlight website ([follow the link here](#)) to see other ways to support Nightlight .

 **nightlight**
christian adoptions presents the
Annual Gala and Auction
*For where your **Treasure** is, there will your **Heart** be also*
Luke 12:34

Why you must come this year:

- Hear adoptive family experiences from a Snowflake Donor Family, Domestic Family, and International Family
- Great deals on auction items that support Nightlight



Join Nightlight Christian Adoptions for our Annual Gala and Auction at the Oasis Event Center. Enjoy an evening with a live band, unforgettable auction items, and a delicious dinner. Hear adoptive family experiences from a Snowflake Donor family, Domestic family, and an International family. The money raised will help keep the cost of adoptions at an affordable price for adopting families. Save the date and invite your friends!

To register visit: adoptionbridge.org/gala/

ADOPTION BRIDGE

Waiting Children Profiles | Adoption Crowd Funding | Dear Birthmother



Nightlight recently launched a new adoption crowdfunding and waiting children website. It's called AdoptionBridge.org. Take a look, browse our families who are fundraising, build your own profile, and link it to social media. It's all as easy as posting to Facebook! We are making adoption more affordable through this crowd-funding resource.

In addition, see our regular updates of new waiting children. You can subscribe to updates and be notified whenever we post new profiles. The AdoptionBridge is bridging all members of the adoption triad: adoptive parents, waiting children, and birth mothers.

From Heartache To Dream Life: A Foster Adoption by the Bennett Family

My husband and I started the adoption process 3 years ago after we had tried to conceive on our own for 5 years and were unsuccessful. We started with one agency in CO, moved to CA, and since our agency didn't transfer, we met Nightlight Christian Adoptions in Orange County. We were very close to getting matched with a baby after a birth mother met us, but right before she gave birth, she had a change of heart. This was a very hard reality that my husband and I had to endure, and the pain of telling all of our family and friends who had been rooting for us was almost unbearable. My husband's job moved us back to CO, and we met Meaghan through the



of our trainings and paperwork done as quickly as we could. She would call us to give us updates about potential kiddos. The waiting was short, but to me it felt like forever! In January, Meaghan answered our prayers. She called me at work to say that she had a little guy in mind, but we would have to take him the very next day! We knew nothing about him, but we so badly wanted to find out! We took the leap of faith and told Meaghan we

would love to bring this little boy into our home. We shopped like crazy the night before to get ready for him and had to child proof our house! The next day we waited for him to show up and instantly fell in love! He walked right into our home and acted like he had been there a hundred times! He has been with us for only a few weeks and we feel like we have never been without him. God answered our prayers in more ways than we could ever imagine. I truly believe we had to go through so much heart ache to receive our little miracle. Thank you Meaghan and thank you Nightlight! We are now the family we always dreamed we would be!!



Meaghan through the Nightlight office in Loveland. We decided that we wanted to foster to adopt because we wanted to be parents so bad and knew there were over 200 kids alone in the state of CO who were needing forever families. We worked with Meaghan to get all



Support
Nightlight Christian Adoptions
 nightlight®
 christian adoptions

Nightlight just closed escrow on our new building! Our mortgage was provided by F&M Bank, which is offering a great fundraiser for Nightlight if you open an account. See the details here:

<https://www.nightlight.org/wp-content/uploads/Nightlight-Christian-Adoptions-Rain.pdf>

The Big Picture from page 2

where we could have missed our daughter. Had we not moved to South Carolina, started our home study when we did, gone to small group that night and prayed with that couple...If any of these events hadn't taken place (and we are just mentioning the obvious ones), we would have missed our opportunity to have this sweet little girl enrich our lives. Our daughter was born ten miles from our home on October 6, 2015—the same day that our home study was complete and a little over nine months after we moved to South Carolina. We know without a shadow of doubt that we moved in order to bring our daughter home. We are so incredibly grateful for God's beautiful plan and that He was always faithful even when we had our doubts and heartache.

We finalized our adoption on January 19, 2016, and we are so happy to have our sweet Elin Sofie forever a part of our family. She has brought us so much joy and happiness and we are so thankful that God called us to this great adventure!

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. I cling to this verse over the past few years, and I still cling to its truth: no matter where we are in our journey, have faith in knowing that this is God's will for you. He has a beautiful plan, and we have the opportunity to watch Him put the puzzle pieces together right before our eyes.



New doors opened in 2015

- Nightlight merged with LoveBasket, opened an office in Missouri, and began offering adoptions from India.
- Nightlight merged with Heritage Family Services and opened an office in Oklahoma.
- Nightlight opened an office in Athens, Georgia.
- Nightlight began operations in Ghana, with 4 adoptions underway!
- We purchased a 6000sqft building in Santa Ana, California.
- We became a California foster treatment facility and began certifying foster families.



Talk with our experts * [714.693.5437](tel:714.693.5437) * info@nightlight.org

Nightlight provides adoption services as a permanent response for children without parents through child advocacy, parent education and lifelong support...because every child deserves a loving family.

Copyright © 2015 Nightlight Christian Adoptions