

Bundles of Joy

A periodical newsletter of God's Grace Adoption Ministry

November 2003

This Issue...

Question and answer session with Darin and Fran Denlinger

Pictures and names of recently adopted children, plus a special letter

Banquet guest speaker Stephanie Fast and her story

News&Notes

Q&A

with Darin and Fran Denlinger

1) How many adoptive families contact GGAM on a weekly or monthly basis?

Approximately 20 applications are sent out each week plus applications are downloaded from the web site at www.ggam.org. The review committee meets every two months and we have about 25 completed applications to review during each session.

2) What is the largest obstacle in the adoption process?

Money and money! Adopting a child can average from ten to twenty thousand dollars, but can also be more depending on the circumstances. The expenses are not paid in one lump sum but are spread out over a period of time as the adoption process is being completed. Monies go to local adoption agencies, international liaison agencies, governments, and towards travel expenses. For example, Russia requires adoptive parents to travel to the country two times prior to completing the adoption.

3) How long does the adoption process take?

On average the process takes about one year from start to finish although there are times when it takes much longer. The family can influence the pace by the speed in which they complete the required paperwork.

4) Where are children coming from?

We see many adoptions from the U.S., China and Russia, although children come from many other countries around the world as well. Programs in other countries can change frequently.

5) In your experience, what are conditions like in orphanages around the world?

We have all heard stories about different orphanages where children are mistreated or not properly cared for. These do exist, however, in our limited experience, the conditions we have seen have been good.

5) How do you make an adopted child feel a part of the family?

Every child is different but lots of love and holding helps reassure the child and starts the bonding with their new parents. It really helps



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**Spring Banquet ~ February 21, 2004
First Baptist Church Family Life Pavilion ~ Modesto**

Q&A

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if parents educate themselves by reading books and talking to other parents who have adoption experience. Parents can even help the bonding process by sending pictures or videos of themselves to the child before the adoption is completed. Parents also have to consider that their new child's disobedience may be related the fear that a child experiences with a new country, home, siblings, or conditions. Adopted children tend to really blossom in a family setting.

6) Can you tell us about an instance or two where God miraculously provided for an adoption need?

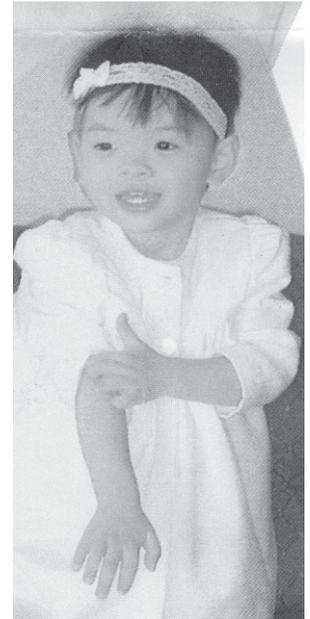
One family was sponsoring an international child and decided that they wanted to adopt. Although they didn't have enough money, someone in their local church family gave them the difference they needed to fulfill their need. Another time, we called a home to let them know that G.G.A.M. would be able to assist with some of their adoption expenses. The mother had been praying about the adoption and had stopped to answer the phone. A direct answer to prayer! We should always remember that our view of a situation is clouded by human limitations but God always has a greater plan.

7) Do you have any specific goals or plans for G.G.A.M.?

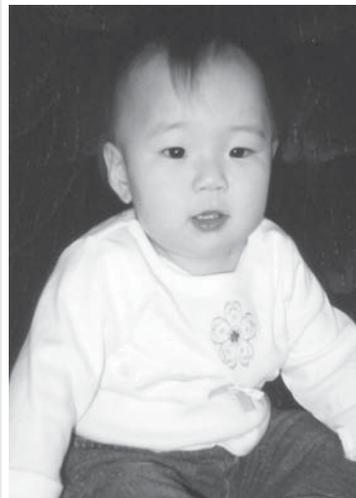
We think faith building is very important and we want to be a cog in the wheel as God uses G.G.A.M. to help families. God can use the ministry in whatever way he wishes. In big, huge, or even little ways, it is up to Him.



Benjamin Erickson



Bethany Niles



Emma Olson



Anna Graves



Nicholi & Tatianna Randolph

news¬es

Special thanks to Walco Business Systems for their donation of a copy machine.

Volunteers needed: banquet, car raffle, paperwork, other. Please contact us for details.

Interested in serving on the G.G.A.M. Board?? Then we're interested in you! See Darin for more information.

Year-end is coming up. If you would like to support G.G.A.M. monetarily please use the form provided.

Families



Kamryn Pulley



Jubilee Goeman



Charity Clarissa Kristin



Slava Mitchell



Anastasia Mitchell

not pictured
Caleb Brein
The Smith Sisters
Baby Burton

update 2003

Dear God's Grace Adoption Ministry,

My Parents often tell me how God's Grace was shed on me. They have taught me that blood is not always thicker than water. I love hearing stories about how God brought me into the world. My Parents said that you played a huge role in my adoption. I love hearing how my mommy went to check the mailbox shortly after praying for a financial miracle, and she learned of your agency! She always cries when she tells that part. They said that without ever meeting them, you encouraged and supported them in my adoption. I am so grateful that you work for God.

I wanted to tell you that I am now 3 years old! I have so many fun cousins and wonderful relatives who love me. I love to read and color. I also like to play dolls. My parents just bought me a doll for my birthday that looks just like me! Her name is Sara. I named her all by myself. Have you heard that I want a baby brother or sister? We've been praying. My parents told me to be patient and wait upon the Lord.



My parents said that your love and what you did was a reflection of Christ and His love. I love Him too.

Love & Eternally Grateful by Grace,

Jaycie Olivia Provence

Spring Banquet

Noted speaker, Stephanie Fast, will be sharing her incredible autobiographical story at the G.G.A.M. Spring banquet. The banquet will be hosted at the First Baptist Church Family Life Pavilion in Modesto on February 21, 2004.

Abandoned at the age of four to wander the war-torn Korean countryside, persecuted and tortured because of her biracial ethnicity, abused on the city streets, and finally discarded and left to die, Stephanie Fast will tell her remarkable story of survival. Few have endured such hardship. Stephanie has unique authority and credibility when she teaches that once we grasp the magnitude of God's love for us, each of us can surely say, "there is no event in my life that I would be better without." Stephanie will rivet you as she weaves Biblical truths into her message of life and destiny.

God's Grace Adoption Ministry, Inc.
P.O. Box 4
Modesto, CA 95353



Board Members
Darin Denlinger
Fran Denlinger
John Gish
Eric Layman
Larry Moe

God's Grace Adoption Ministry Partnership Response Card

YES! I want to partner with you by contributing in the follow way.

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I pledge a one time gift of \$ _____ by (date) _____

I will commit to pray for God's Grace Adoption Ministry

All financial gifts are tax deductible

Please make checks payable to:

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P.O. Box 4
Modesto, CA 95353

Contributer Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone(____) _____



Angel Ly

Our Mission Statement ~

Our goal is to promote the adoption of children by Christian families and specifically, to minister to the financial burden that adoptive families bear. God's Grace Adoption Ministry is a California nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowable by the law. I.D. #77-0488466