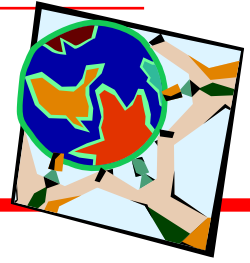


# A CHILD'S HOPE



Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.

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www.kentuckyadoptionsservices.org

Volume 1, Issue 1

June, 2005

## LUCY'S LETTER

Dear KAS Friends,

I am so excited that we are finally able to publish a newsletter! We are planning to publish A Child's Hope quarterly and look forward to your input.

As many of you know, our agency has experienced considerable growth since our beginnings in 2002! In three short years God has enabled us to touch the lives of hundreds of children and families. We have been immeasurably blessed in this ministry, and we look forward to the opportunity to serve Christ through helping children in the years to come. We have moved into a

spacious 1800 square foot building and we have hired several new staff. While growth is wonderful, we do not want any of our clients to receive anything less than the most personal and efficient service that has always been part of our strong reputation. If you have any suggestions for ways that we can improve our service or concerns please feel free to contact me directly. We care deeply about your adoption and your opinions and are always looking for ways to improve.

We have several new projects being developed and look forward to the opportunity to share these important

developments with you! We are working on a Social Educational Curriculum to be used in orphanages around the world! We are also actively working on a DVD/Video Adoption Educational-Training Program for Adoptive families. In addition, we are nearing completion of a computer system that will enable us to provide each adoptive family with more efficient service!

I hope to see each of you July 30th and/or 31st. We anticipate having a memorable weekend! Thanks for your support, patience and most of all your prayers!

Many Blessings!

*A. Lucy Armistead*



- ☉ Annual KAS Summer Picnic will be held July 31st at Yellow Creek Park from 2:30 - 5:30 pm. Hope to see You!
- ☉ Any family who would like their story published in the coming issues of "A Child's Hope" Newsletter, please send your story and a family picture to Charisse, Agency Coordinator of KAS.
- ☉ We are currently working on an educational DVD collection for adoptive parents. If any one would like to participate and share their knowledge or expertise concerning adoption or a country we are involved with through international adoption, please contact KAS.

## KAS WORKSHOP & 1st ANNUAL PICNIC JULY 30th & 31st

KAS is proud to present an Adoption Workshop led by Patricia Johnston, M.S., a renowned adoption educator. The Workshop is from 12 pm-4pm on Saturday, July 30th at Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, KY. Patricia is the author of several books on adoption including Taking Charge of Infertility and Adopting after Infertility. Pat has spoken at several national level conferences, is an adoptive parent and a well respected author. Cost for this presentation is \$5 per adult. Free childcare will be available!

Please join us June 30th for this exciting and informative workshop on adoption and infertility and June 31st for our 1st Annual Picnic for ALL KAS families including those in-process!! For additional information please see the enclosed flyers! CEU's can be given for mental health professionals. RSVP by returning the enclosed postcard. We look forward to seeing everyone!



***KAS Home Office in Owensboro, KY.***

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# MEET OUR STAFF

**"We can do no great things; only small things with great love."**

**Mother Teresa  
1910-1997**



## **Lucy Armistead, MAE, LPCC, Founder, Executive Director**

Lucy has a Masters Degree in Counseling from Western Kentucky University and is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. She has worked in adoptions since 1999 and enjoys an excellent reputation not only statewide, but also nationally for her adoption knowledge, experience and ethics. She is married to Dale and they have five children, two adopted from Guatemala at the ages of 10 and 7. Lucy's passion for adoption and love for people are apparent to all who speak to her.



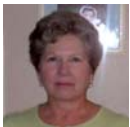
## **Charisse Gough, BS, Agency Coordinator**

Charisse graduated with a Bachelors of Communication degree and is currently working toward a Masters degree in Professional Counseling. Charisse is the newest employee at KAS, and is proud to be a part of the adoption process. She loves being able to be used as an instrument of God in bringing families together.



## **Tammy Styke, BA, Office Manager**

Tammy graduated with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and Sociology. She has been happily married for 20 years and is the mother of 2 boys, Paul and Daniel. Both boys were adopted from Guatemala. Being an adoptive parent, Tammy is very compassionate toward all adoptive families and loves working at KAS!



## **Janie Carrico, MAE, Receptionist**

Janie is a retired elementary school teacher with a Masters degree in Education. Janie is the mother of two grown sons and has been employed in several clerical positions before joining KAS.



## **Lydia Fusco, BSW, Homestudy Coordinator**

Lydia graduated with a Bachelors of Social Work degree and began working with Lucy in international adoptions in 2001. She is the proud mother of 3 children. Lydia loves watching children in need of homes find such wonderful families ready to offer the world to their little ones!



## **Kiesha Arnold, BSW, LSW, Post-Adoption Coordinator**

Kiesha graduated with a Bachelors of Social Work degree and obtained her license in Social Work in 2001. She is married and the proud mother of a little girl. Kiesha and her family enjoy being active in their church and spending time as a family. She holds unconditional love for children and works in adoption to assist in finding those children a happy home!



## **Amy Baird, BSW, Adoption Case Specialist**

Amy graduated with a Bachelors of Social Work degree and began working at KAS in August of 2004. Amy is the mother of two boys, Jacob and Tyler. Amy loves the opportunity to assist our wonderful families find their forever children as well as seeing children find loving and nurturing homes. She has a great deal of experience in disciplinary issues and has proved to be a wonderful resource for families adopting older children with challenging behaviors.



## **Sherriane Leach, BSW, Adoption Case Specialist**

Sherriane graduated with a Bachelors of Social Work degree and after choosing to be a homemaker for sixteen years, is excited to be using her degree to help children find the family God has chosen for them. Sherriane is married to a local veterinarian and they are very active with their children and their church community.



## **Ellen Henry, MED, Adoption Case Specialist**

Ellen graduated in 1997 with a Masters degree in Education. After working for a few years as a Special Education teacher, Ellen and her husband adopted their second child from Guatemala. Ellen knew then that she wanted to work in adoption to help other families know the joys of adoption! She is married to Charlie and is the proud parent of two children!



## **Sarah Clark, MSW, Adoption Case Specialist**

Sarah recently graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Work from Spaulding University. She has returned to her native Owensboro and we are pleased to have her join our dedicated team! Sarah is excited to be employed by an agency that is so devout in family and Christian values!

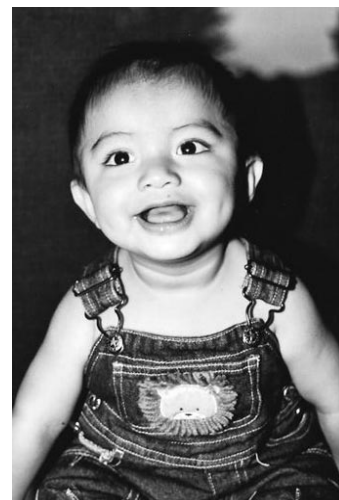
# FOLKERSON'S FAMILY STORY

The Fulkersons had gone through many tears and much grief in their efforts to conceive. After resolving that they were unable to conceive a child and praying for some time, they decided to look into adoption.

Sheridan Fulkerson heard of Kentucky Adoption Services through a friend, and there were several adoptive families with Guatemalan children in their community. They made the decision to utilize KAS in an international adoption from Guatemala. When they made the call to Kentucky Adoption, "Keisha Arnold was the first voice of the agency, and she made the adoption process a realistic possibility." The Fulkersons felt they were finally to become parents to the baby they had yearned for so many years.

The Fulkersons were attending a family member's military graduation when they received the call telling them that their child had been born! From the first moment they laid eyes upon his picture, they knew that God had meant this baby for them.

Heath and Sheridan agreed, "Through the good days and the hard days of the adoption process, the staff of K.A.S. was supportive and helpful each step of the way. When we arrived in Guatemala and held the baby in our arms for the first time, it was worth all the trials and paperwork! His smile went straight to our hearts, and Kody will forever be the child of our dreams. Thank you to the staff of Kentucky Adoption Services for making this a possibility in our lives!"



**Heath & Sheridan's  
miracle, Kody Fulkerson**

## CULTURE CORNER

Guatemala is Central America's westernmost country, bordering Mexico. Guatemala is rich in Mayan culture. Today, descendants of the Maya, or the Indigenous, as they are locally called, account for more than 50% of the Guatemalan population. The culture is vibrant and thriving. The traditionally dressed woman shown weaving in the picture displays the Guatemalan culture wonderfully. The design of the women's colorfully embroidered tunics dates to pre-colonial days. Specific details of the garment and design identify the wearer's group and village and can also have a variety of religious meanings. Weaving is one of the outstanding Mayan crafts which is an ancient art now becoming famous world-wide. Spanish is the most commonly spoken language in Guatemala, and a Mayan blended version of Roman Catholicism is the most common religion.



## BOOK REVIEWS by Janie Carrico

### How It Feels to be Adopted by Jill Krementz

We enjoyed the varied perspectives of adoptees presented in this book. Although it was written several years ago, it is worthwhile reading presenting insights and experiences in the language of adoptees from eight to sixteen years old. This book would be useful for parents and adolescents in understanding the many emotions adoptees may experience.

### C is for China by Sungwan So

An alphabetical picture book with photographs illustrating China's landscape and attractions is a great educational tool for families learning about or sharing Chinese culture. Chinese writing accompanies each photograph, and the natural beauty of China shines through in the photographs of Sungwan.

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# WELCOME HOME FOREVER FAMILIES OF 2004 & 2005!

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- ◆ The Huskys welcome Emma from China
- ◆ The Arnolds welcome Christian Thomas from Guatemala
- ◆ The Bennetts welcome Allison from Nepal
- ◆ The Blevins welcome Hanna Kellene Grace from America
- ◆ Ann Marie Brickzen welcomes Carmen from Guatemala
- ◆ The Fulkersons welcome William Kody from Guatemala
- ◆ The Millers welcome Kayden Michael from Korea
- ◆ The Jacksons welcome Isabelle Hope from Guatemala
- ◆ The McCombs welcome Anya Grace from Russia
- ◆ The Paynes welcome Maya Elizabeth from Guatemala
- ◆ The Montaneras family welcomes Mia Elise Peng from China
- ◆ The Wards welcome Macy Sung Mi from Korea
- ◆ The Beckers welcome Quinelle Becker from Guatemala
- ◆ Donna Blincoe welcomes Sophi Grace from China
- ◆ The Bocks welcome Jasmine Jade from China
- ◆ The Brocks welcome Marissa Claire from China
- ◆ Martha Castlen welcomes Maria Kathryn from China
- ◆ The Cowherds welcome Molly Josephine from China
- ◆ The Evans welcome Gabrielle Faith from Guatemala
- ◆ The Gillespies welcome Joshua, Denis, Elizaveta, & Nikolay from Russia
- ◆ The Grauers welcome Keili Suzanne from China
- ◆ The Greens welcome Madalyn Choe Lee from Korea
- ◆ The Greenwells welcome Misha & Vanya from Russia
- ◆ The Huddys welcome Katelynn Bo Fan from China
- ◆ The Jones welcome Brantley Isaac from Russia
- ◆ The Josephs welcome Isaac Thomas from Guatemala
- ◆ The Walkers welcome Marley Jo from Korea
- ◆ The Unruhs welcome Jeremy from Guatemala
- ◆ The Roberts family welcomes AnaKaye from Guatemala
- ◆ The LeMasters welcome Rowan Aguilar from Guatemala
- ◆ The Maddox family welcomes Chandler Elizabeth from China
- ◆ The McDonalds welcome Micah Alexander from Russia
- ◆ The McGills welcome Johana Renee from Guatemala
- ◆ The Mobleys welcome Dareen Danger from America
- ◆ The Olsens welcome Bonnie Elizabeth from China
- ◆ The Penners welcome Jami Larke from China
- ◆ The Polites welcome Caden Emmanuel from Guatemala
- ◆ The Russells welcome Gabriel Carlos from Guatemala
- ◆ The Smiths welcome Malea Jin Lirong from China
- ◆ The Storys welcome Knox Garrison Akyl from Kazakhstan
- ◆ The Wells welcome Angela Cate from Russia
- ◆ The Smith family welcomes Maggie Kei from China
- ◆ The Wilsons welcome Andrew Michael from America
- ◆ The Henrys welcome Lisbeth Leticia from Guatemala
- ◆ The Larimers welcome Thomas from Guatemala
- ◆ The Cimatots welcome Christine from Guatemala
- ◆ The Evans welcome Gabrielle from Guatemala
- ◆ The Bowmans welcome Hallie Mae from America
- ◆ The Hausners welcome Addison from Guatemala
- ◆ The Cassidys welcome Anna from America
- ◆ The Goddards welcome McKenna from America
- ◆ The Osborne/Dixon family welcomes Maya from Guatemala
- ◆ The Raymers welcome Kelsey Nicold from America
- ◆ The Sheltons welcome Maleigha from Guatemala
- ◆ The Stokes welcome Nathan from Guatemala

\*Please forgive us if we have omitted your information.

We will be certain to include it in a future newsletter if you will bring it to our attention.

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# **IMPORTANT LEGISLATION**

## **.Intercountry Reform Act of 2003**

### **“ICARE”**

According to Hannah Wallace, Director of Focus on Adoption, the ICARE bill currently before Congress has two distinct purposes. The first is in regard to citizenship rights of children adopted abroad and the manner which those children enter the United States. The second establishes a national Office of Intercountry Adoption within the U.S. State Department that will be headed by an Ambassador at Large who is appointed by the President.

The parts of the bill dealing with the citizenship rights of the children are very beneficial. They take commendable action in easing the process for adoptive families as well as establish a precedent for equal legal rights and privileges of internationally adopted children and biological and domestically adopted children. This section of the bill also makes great strides by agreeing to consider allowing children with two living parents to be adoptable.

We feel that further research into this bill is needed, and the bill would most benefit the adoptive community if broken into two pieces of legislation in order to separate the aspects dealing with the establishment of an Office on Intercountry Adoption. As the bill stands, the powers, funding, objectives, and policies concerning the office are vague and could lead families to encounter issues that may limit a child's opportunity to find their forever family through intercountry adoption.

Information provided by [www.focusonadoption.com](http://www.focusonadoption.com)

## **▪ The Hague Convention**

On October 6, 2000 President Clinton signed into law the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the US implementation of the Hague Convention on International Adoption. The Hague Convention is a multilateral treaty that includes 66 prospective member countries. The Convention serves to set internationally agreed upon norms and procedures for countries who participate in intercountry adoption. The goal of the Convention is to protect the children, birth parents, and adoptive parents involved in intercountry adoptions and to prevent child trafficking and other abuses. The regulations that will govern the actual ratification of this treaty by the US have not been finalized yet. A public comment period occurred at which time all interested parties could voice their support or concern regarding the proposed regulations.

### **Benefits of the Hague Convention**

1. Provides, for the first time, formal intergovernmental and international recognition of intercountry adoption.
2. Establishes a set of internationally agreed minimum requirements and procedures uniformly to govern intercountry adoptions when a child moves from one Convention party country to another.
3. Facilitates the adoption by U.S. adoptive parents of children from other party countries who will qualify for immigration and automatic naturalization in the United States.

### **Criticisms of the Hague Convention**

1. Adds an additional layer of bureaucracy.
2. Only applies to other Hague party countries which creates two systems.
3. It could prove difficult for developing countries to implement, which are usually the sending countries.

The biggest criticism of the Hague relates more to the US proposed regulations than the actual provisions of the Hague Convention. One concern is that the additional bureaucracy created will further increase the fees associated with adoption as many of the provisions of the proposed regulations will be cost prohibitive and next to impossible for smaller agencies to comply.

Information provided by JCICS & Lucy Armistead