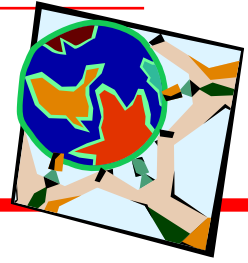


A CHILD'S HOPE



Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.

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LUCY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that it is autumn already and that school buses are once again rolling. Summer seemed unreasonably short this year to me, perhaps because of how busy I have been personally and professionally.

The "busyness" of life has been on my mind a lot lately, and I have been forcing myself to slow down, observe the world around me, and enjoy the fleeting moments of my children's youth. If I have not answered my cell phone as frequently or not seemed as available, it is probably because I have been taking a break to romp in the warm sunshine, tickle a preschooler, or simply sit and hold hands while reading a Dr. Seuss book for the 15,000th time! I would encourage each of you to slow down as well. Those of you waiting for a child can begin the "nesting" process of preparing a room and filling it with your love. Those of you with children can be with your children, filling them with your love.

When God granted me the gift of children, I was humbled, in awe, and confused as to how I could ever be trusted enough to care for God's miraculous creations. Sometimes in the "busyness" of life, I have forgotten my awe and my gratitude. When this sets in, I know I must back up and re-prioritize, because if I am not taking care of God's greatest gifts to me, my salvation and my family, I cannot serve God by helping others—much like the blind leading the blind.

Well friends, I have an appointment with two pre-schoolers and a pile of leaves, so I'll leave you for now with this simple message, "Slow down and enjoy God's presence in your life today!"

Many Blessings~

Lucy Armistead

"We like to think that all the spectacular colors of fall represent the people of the world. We all have different wants and needs, opinions and cultures; but we all come from the same root of humanity — the trunk of the tree of life." Ardath Rodale

K.A.S. NEEDS HELP TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION

As many of you are aware from having compared the fees from K.A.S., Inc. with those of other adoption agencies nationwide, our fees are among the lowest, if not the lowest, fees among all agencies. Each month we face difficult decisions because our staff is underpaid and are very busy because of the number of families we are assisting. As we have become busier, we have found a new location and hired new staff to accommodate the rising interest in adoption in this area. We greatly desire to increase the humanitarian aid we are able to provide overseas; however, we do not want to increase our fees to accomplish our mission of providing excellent service at low cost.

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☺ If you would like your story published in the coming issues of "A Child's Hope" Newsletter, please send your story and a family picture to the staff of K.A.S.

☺ We have added another staff member! Kim Hill has joined the staff of K.A.S. as an Adoption Specialist Case Worker.

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K.A.S. EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

The First Annual Picnic July 31st held at Yellow Creek Park was a wonderful experience for all who were able to attend! Many adoptive families as well as many prospective families traveled from surrounding cities and states to be a part of this special day. Seventy five people attended and mingled with one another and the staff. Children from a myriad of international origins were able to play together in the spray park as their parents laughed and talked about stories of their precious little ones with other families. God blessed us with beautiful sunny and breezy weather and safe travel. Thank you to all who participated in this event and we hope to see you again next year!

ADOPTION SEMINAR

The Seminar on July 30th featuring Patricia Johnston was informative and full of insight on adoption. Ms. Johnston is the adoptive mother of three grown children and offered a few elements of what she considers a successful family, such as strong well-prepared parents who parent as a team, are flexible, avoid "Ostrich Syndrome," and use a calm, consistent parenting style. Ms. Johnston also discussed the losses of infertility, attachment, and entitlement. An article by Peggy McIntire titled "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" was suggested to aid families in dealing with the emotions surrounding infertility and adoption. Patricia Johnston has also written several books published by Prospective Press focusing on aspects of adoption, including "Inside Trans-racial Adoption." Videos are available from this training for interested families.

TSUNAMI ORPHAN RELIEF SKATE-A-THON

K.A.S. held a back to school skate-a-thon at Skates-A-Live for all elementary students in the Daviess County area to benefit the orphans of the 2004 Tsunami. Over 100 students had a roller skating blast and three hundred dollars were collected for donation.

Many thanks to the participation of the students and parents of Daviess County!

CHINA PROGRAM—YOU CAN HAVE 1 POST- PLACEMENT FEE WAIVED!

In order to improve our services, we are seeking some additional feedback. We would like for the families who have utilized us for both homestudy and adoption placement services from China to attend a Forum on Monday, October 24th, 2005 beginning at 6 pm to discuss and review the adoption experience, some of our revised paperwork, and policies. In exchange for your participation, one post-placement fee will be waived! We are looking forward to this opportunity to learn more about avenues that will improve the adoption process.

Please call Janie or Charisse at (270) 684-2598 to take advantage of this opportunity.

MONANTERAS FAMILY STORY

Our China Journey... We always knew that we wanted to adopt from China.

We were happy to find that the process was both feasible and timely. The first few months, we completed our homestudy, got fingerprinted, and gathered the many documents required. Within three months, our paperwork was ready to be translated and sent to China. Then began our 6-month wait for a referral...

On January 31, 2005, we received the long-awaited call. We had a daughter in the Jiangxi province of China! We waited seven weeks for our travel approval from China and left six days later. Our first stop was in Beijing for the tour where we learned much about the Chinese culture. The following day, we traveled to Nanchang and prepared to receive our daughter. We then traveled to the Adoption Affairs building for the moment we had so long awaited.

Although she would be our third child, we could not wait to be given our bundle of joy! We were the first family to be called, and there she was! The most beautiful 10-month-old with black eyes and hair. Mia was bundled from head to toe in layers of clothing (which is Chinese tradition) even though it was over 50 degrees outside. Mia never whimpered; she came to us like she was already ours. She seemed to be so happy and at ease. What a blessing! Over the next 5 days, we toured parts of Nanchang and completed the paperwork for the adoption and passport. We then traveled to Guanzhou for the remaining 5 days to wait for our appointment with the American Consulate and spend time with our daughter. When she was granted an American visa, this meant we could return home. After 13 months, on April 7, 2005, we arrived home with a new addition to our family, Mia Elise Peng Monanteras.



CULTURE CORNER

Chinese Recipe: Festive Chinese Chicken Salad

Serves 8 as a main dish, 20 or more as a side dish

Ingredients:

- 1 head lettuce, thinly sliced
- 1/2 bunch fresh spinach, torn (optional)
- 2 whole cooked (baked or broiled) chicken breasts, shredded (allow to marinate in 1/2 the dressing while preparing other ingredients)
- 1 carrot, julienned
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 to 2 tbsp. Thinly sliced red pickled ginger (optional)
- 4 oz. Rice sticks

Dressing:

- 1 tsp. Dry mustard or use 1-2 packages of Chinese mustard
- 4 tbsps. Sugar
- 4 tsps. Soy sauce
- 2 tbsps. Sesame oil
- 1/3 cup salad oil
- 6 tbsps. Rice vinegar
- 2 to 3 tbsps. Toasted sesame seeds.

Combine and blend completely.

Directions:

- Pour salad oil into pan 2 to 3 inches deep. Heat 375 to 400 degrees.
- Drop small handful of rice sticks into hot oil - it should puff in just a few seconds. (If it doesn't, remove and allow oil to heat up). Turn over to cook evenly. Remove as soon as crackling stops. Drain on paper towels.
- Toss vegetables and chicken. Add rice sticks and toss in a huge bowl.
- Pour dressing over and mix gently.

WELCOME HOME FOREVER FAMILIES!

- The McGarys welcome Bryson from Guatemala.
- The Abedis welcome Willow from Korea.
- The Goatleys welcome Patrick Eugene from Korea.
- The Folzs welcome Faith Katherine from Korea.
- The Marshalls welcome Kaden from the United States.
- The Howards welcome Colt Davis from the United States.
- The Clarks welcome Allyson Nicol from Russia.
- The Josephs welcome Rebekah Kathleen from Guatemala in 2004.
- The Armisteads welcomed David and Gabby from Guatemala in 2004!

*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.



!IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU!

- K.A.S. has created an on-line group for all prospective and adoptive parents to get to know one another, share information, and read the latest Agency postings and information! Important happenings in various countries will be posted on this list, so it is a valuable source of accurate and timely information. To access this group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kasclients>
- We need everyone's email address A.S.A.P.! Please send your email address at your earliest convenience to Janie@kentuckyadoptionservices.org
- Hopefully, you have received a letter letting you know about the Adoption Book we are working to create. K.A.S is putting together a book full of our families' adoption stories! If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, call us for more information!
- The Board of Directors has voted to implement a temporary surcharge in addition to the \$.36/mile being charged currently on homevisits and post-placements beginning October 1, 2005. The IRS recently raised the national mileage reimbursement rate to \$.4805/per mile. We would like to be fair to our adoptive families and the Case Workers who travel throughout KY to assist adoptive families. We anticipate this being a temporary surcharge, all of which will be paid to the Case Worker. Round-trip from Owensboro will be as follows:

CURRENT LEGISLATION

TAX CREDIT BEING DISCUSSED

Legislation was discussed in April, 2005 by Congressman Ford of Tennessee to increase the tax credit for adoptions up to \$15,000. The proposed Childhood Adoption Act will increase the adoption tax credit and exclusion that the federal government grants eligible taxpayers for certain expenses paid to adopt an eligible child from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The Childhood Adoption act will make the credit fully refundable in order to make the credit more meaningful to people with lower incomes. This proposed Act will also increase the total federal funds authorized for payment to states as adoption incentive payments by \$43 million per year. If you are interested in supporting the proposed Childhood Adoption Act, you can call, email, or send a letter to your local Congressperson.

K.A.S. NEEDS HELP TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION contd.

It has always been my opinion, as Founder and Executive Director, that as long as the lower fees can remain, the more children that will find loving families. This is true now more than ever as the fees associated with adoption and with daily living expenses continue to increase.

We are in need of volunteers to help with fundraising ideas and endeavors. If your church or civic group donates to worthy causes, we would love to be considered. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are tax-deductible. We have several ideas for needed projects overseas, as well as fundraising events, but unfortunately, we are short on time and resources to accomplish these. We are in need of your assistance!

We have already created a fund that we hope will grow over time to be able to financially sponsor children for adoption. This fund is called "Gabby's Gift," named after the daughter of Rex and Jackie Smith, who were the impetus of our beginning with the Guatemala program. If you would like to make contributions to this fund, please designate "Gabby's Gift" on your donation.

In addition, we are in need of funds to assist with the general running of the office and humanitarian projects. All contributions are appreciated and go toward furthering our objective of reaching out to God's children. If you have fundraising ideas and/or would like to contribute in any way, please contact Charisse Gough, Agency Coordinator.

We thank all of you for all the time and kindness you have graciously given to Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.!

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

**Mother Teresa
1910-1997**