



# A Child's Hope



Volume 2, Issue 3

**Kentucky Adoption Services, Inc.** Sept, 2006

## Lucy's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope you will enjoy this newsletter. Things continue to be busy around the office. I have been traveling quite a bit lately and the KAS staff is doing a great job keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently when I am away. We had to say good bye to two of our Adoption Case Specialists, Kim Hill and Sarah Clark. We will miss both of them, but

we have assigned their Home Study families to Kristy, who is doing a great job as Program Coordinator. We also welcomed the daughter of Amy Baird, Adoption Case Specialist, who was born on Sept. 18, 2006. Congratulations Amy & Chad and big brothers Tyler and Jacob! I wanted to take this opportunity to once again thank each of our growing number of KAS families! We are grateful to each of you for allowing us to be a part of your Adoption Journey!

## Special points of interest:

- ☺ Join our KAS clients yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kasclients>
- ☺ Check out the Missions of Love website: [www.missionsoflove.org](http://www.missionsoflove.org)

## Trip to Haiti

Because of the limited amount of space (and the fact that I can be quite wordy) this section is greatly shortened, from the entire article that I have written about my trip to Haiti. Sometime in October we will post the entire article on the KAS Clients yahoo group!

I had felt called to Haiti for about three years, but I had told God in no uncertain terms that I was not going to Haiti! I specifically prayed advising Him that if He wanted me to go to Haiti He was going to have to hit me "upside the head!" Well, God didn't hit me, but He did disturb my sleep and my general sense of peace until I agreed to travel to Haiti.

Having traveled a great deal I did not anticipate being surprised much by anything I would see in Haiti. How wrong I was! Overall, the cities of Port-au-Prince and Port de Paix were basically as I expected, with the exception of the roads. Even entering a neighborhood in the cities basically takes a 4 wheel drive vehicle, as the "roads" are not as we think of them. They are dirt roads with large rocks and potholes filled with rain water and mud. I spent a couple of days in Port-au-Prince before embarking on the more adventurous leg of my journey, which encompassed riding motorcycle taxis, a very LARGE tarantula who tried to join our Prayer circle, riding in the back of a small pick-up truck with 14 Haitians and supplies, crossing a river barefoot and encountering poverty like I have never seen before!

Once I arrived in Jolivert, Haiti, I was thrilled to look upon the land where we want to build our orphanage, which is right behind the Missions of Love (MOL) Compound. After talking with the owner of the land and coming to what I considered to be a fair purchase price I opened my Bible right to Hebrews 6:7: "Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God." I was also blessed to be able to meet "Grandma" (pictured at right), whose husband and children have all passed away. In a mud hut with a roof falling in and \$65 per month she cares for 9 of her grandchildren, none of whom are malnourished! Before one of her sons died she went to the MOL complex where she was given money to take him to a hospital in another town. Upon returning from this hospital visit, Grandma returned the change to MOL. The co-founder of MOL, Betty Johnson was astounded at this level of honesty from a woman with nothing! We want to help build Grandma a house, as she is basically running an orphanage in her hut. Watch out on the Yahoo Group for more about this Project, in addition to our orphanage!

*Bendiciones,  
Lucy*



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## FAMILY STORY—Troy, Shannon, and Marissa Brock

In 1976, at the age of 5, I told my mother that I was going to adopt my kids. When I met my husband (Troy), I was certain to discuss this with him, and was delighted that he came to share my dream.

We set out on the Internet in 2003 to research adoption processes, domestic and international, and agencies. I had several conversations with Lucy whom I had gone to college with. We felt drawn to adoptions in China for multiple reasons: Children from China are particularly precious to us. We loved what we learned about China's people and culture. We were excited that we could comfortably and safely tour and interact in the country of our future daughter's birth.

In December 2003, we began the home study process with Lydia, whom we had personal connections with in that her father-in-law had worked for years in our local high school with my mother. Since then, other such local connections between us surfaced. This all seemed to indicate to us that we were on the right path. Waiting for our first child was not easy at the time, but, in hindsight, our daughter's adoption moved very quickly. It took 12 months from start to finish.

While in China we toured Beijing's Forbidden City and the Great Wall and became acculturated to our daughter's wonderful homeland. It was in Nanchang, China, in the Jiangxi province where we first met Lu Ruo Qi (Loo Roo-ö Chee). She was nine months old at the time, and she was beautiful and precious. Qi means "beautiful jade" and it fits her so nicely. The remainder of our time in China is indelibly marked in our minds. It was a time of wonderful experiences and firsts with our new daughter. We flew home with

her on Christmas Eve 2004 and were welcomed home by my parents at the Nashville airport with 14 inches of snow and ice. When we walked into our home Christmas morning, we could see the recognition in our daughter's face that she knew that she was where she belonged.

My most memorable experience with our daughter, Marissa Claire Qi Brock, while in China was how she would look up and lock her eyes with mine, and give me the sweetest, toothless smile one has ever seen. She did this many times over the first month of our time together. It was a precious look with her eyes full of love and it seemed to have a sense of amazement to it. This family bonding experience has proven invaluable.



She is now 2 ½ years old and has grown and flourished into a wonderful spirited toddler. We are now "paper chasing" for a baby sister from China. We know the wait will be longer this time, but we're pretty busy with Marissa now. We hope to travel again in 2008 or sooner. Marissa will travel with us and visit China once again. She should be about four years old and we hope she creates some memories of this China journey. At least she'll have photos of herself on the Great Wall and other areas in China. After our second adoption and when our girls are older, we will return, at least one more time, to China. Our hope is to go on a Building Project with Half the Sky, to tour areas significant to each daughter's history and to tour other regions of China.

We are forever grateful that life has taken us this journey for our daughters.

### KAS IN THE NEWS

Two KAS families were featured in a recent New York Times Article, that also quoted KAS Director, Lucy Armistead! The **NYT** contacted the Dave Thomas Foundation to get information about corporations that offer adoption benefits, which led them to the corporation where our very own Katie Ledbetter works. The **NYT** article interviewed Katie and her husband Russ since she is currently in the process of adoption and taking advantage of this benefit. The

**NYT** also interviewed Lucy and another one of our adoptive families, Matt, Mandy, and Clayton Lawson. The article ran on August 31, 2006.

KAS and families were also the subject of a **FRONT** Page article in the *Messenger Inquirer* on August 14, 2006. The local Owensboro paper sent a reporter to the KAS Summer Picnic where she interviewed many adoptive families and KAS staff!

## KAS ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

The Second Annual Summer Picnic was a huge success this year. The picnic was held on August 13, 2006 at Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro, KY. We had almost 200 children and adults in attendance, which was doubled from last year. It was such a wonderful time watching all of the children play in the spraypark and climb on the playground. Thank you to all who donated items to send to Guatemala/El Salvador. We collected 55 packages of socks, 20 packages of underwear, 2 shirts, 34 boxes of pain reliever, 16 boxes of vitamins, 4 boxes of lice treatment, and 22 tubes of diaper rash cream. Thank you for making the KAS Annual Summer Picnic such a great success!

## SUPPORT A SOLDIER

KAS is supporting a soldier and needs your help. We would like to support Sheila & Jim Davis's son, Adam T. Davis. Sheila & Jim recently brought their daughter home from Guatemala. Adam is currently serving our country in Iraq. We would like to send a care package to Adam every other month and send cards the alternating months. If you would like to participate please mail a card to KAS with Adam written on the envelope. We will ship the package of cards to Adam. If you would like to donate items to the care package please ship them or drop them off to KAS. The following is a list of possible items that can be sent to Adam.



Sunscreen  
Gold Bond foot powder  
Mouthwash, Toothpaste  
Hand sanitizer  
Baby wipes  
Lip balm  
Cold water wash (Woolite)  
Deodorant  
Toothbrush

Pringles  
Dry drink mixes (Gatorade, Tea)  
Lotion  
Q-Tips  
Toilet Paper  
Individual Packets of medicine (Tylenol, Immodium, Advil, etc.)  
Bug Spray  
Floss



If you wish to participate, please send us your cards and care package items by the end of October. You may also donate money for items for the package and we will get items to send or you can donate money to help cover shipping.

## FAMILY WEBSITES

West Family: [www.bestofthewests.blogspot.com](http://www.bestofthewests.blogspot.com)

Springob Family: [www.totsites.com/wait4alex](http://www.totsites.com/wait4alex)

Cross Family: [www.freewebs.com/akspudua](http://www.freewebs.com/akspudua)

Lawson Family: [www.freewebs.com/clayton0122](http://www.freewebs.com/clayton0122)

## FAMILY NEWS

**Mandy Lawson** has started a new business called 3 Hearts Keepsakes. Her business includes creating announcements (birth and adoption), invitations, keepsake videos, thank you cards, mommy cards, and T-shirts. She is currently taking orders for Holiday Photo Greeting Cards. If you would like to look what Mandy has to offer please visit her website at [www.3heartskeepsakes.com](http://www.3heartskeepsakes.com)

Have a happy and safe  
Halloween!





# ANGEL IN ADOPTION AWARD!



We are proud to announce that A. Lucy Armistead, Kentucky Adoption Services's Founder and Executive Director has been selected as a Congressional Angel in Adoption after being nominated by Ron Lewis, Representative from Kentucky. Lucy accepted her award in D.C. on Wednesday, September 20th. Here is the press release with more information on this award and why Lucy was selected for this honor.

Owensboro, KY resident, A. Lucy Armistead has been selected by U.S. Representative, Ron Lewis, to be one of 174 Congressional Angels in Adoption™ for the year 2006. The Angels in Adoption™ event will be hosted by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) during a national ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, September 20, 2006.

CCAI is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to raising Congressional and public awareness about the tens of thousands of foster children in this country and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes; and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their need of a family. The Angels in Adoption™ program was created in 1999 to raise public awareness of the many different ways that committed individuals can help children and families through adoption. There are millions of children around the globe in need of adoptive homes. In the U.S. alone, more than 500,000 children are in the foster care system with tens of thousands available for adoption.

When asked about her selection as an Angels in Adoption™, Mrs. Armistead responded, "I am honored to receive this award and look forward to continuing to work in the field of child welfare to assist children throughout the world in need of forever families. It is truly a joy and blessing to be able to serve the Lord in this capacity."

Mrs. Armistead founded Kentucky Adoption Services (KAS) in 2002 in Owensboro, Kentucky and serves as the Executive Director of the agency. KAS is a Christian, state-licensed, not-for-profit international child placement agency which has been active in international and domestic adoptions, as well as international humanitarian aid.

Mrs. Armistead is currently serving as the Vice-President of the Kentucky Adoption Coalition and as the Co-Chair for the government Affairs Committee for Joint Council on International Children's Services.

Each year, CCAI invites all members of the United States Congress to participate in the Angels in Adoption™ program, as it is a unique opportunity for federal legislators to recognize individuals from their home states who have improved the lives of foster children and orphans. Additionally, this year's National Angel in Adoption award recipients include Daunte Culpepper, Quarterback for the Miami Dolphins; Invisible Children, a documentary and grassroots movement; and Darryl DMC McDaniels, hip hop legend of RUN DMC. Darryl DMC McDaniels and Mark Schultz, award winning recording artist, will be providing this year's entertainment. The Honorable Roy and Mrs. Abigail Blunt will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Angels in Adoption™ gala. Since the program's inception in 1999, members of Congress have awarded over 900 Congressional Angels in Adoption™ from all 50 states and invited them to attend the extraordinary awards banquet in their honor.

## KAS KULTURE KORNER!

### Chinese Moon Festival

The Chinese Moon Festival, sometimes called the Mid-Autumn Festival, takes place from September to October. The festival dates back to the Tang dynasty 618 A.D. and celebrates the biggest and brightest full moon of the year, the harvest moon.

As with many Chinese celebrations, there are ancient legends to explain the holiday. The Chinese were, and still are, an agricultural society. In ancient times, they planted and harvested by the lunar calendar, using the moon as an important time reference and guide. The Moon Festival is a big holiday with family reunions, moon gazing activities, and feasting on "moon cakes" which are round pastries filled with red bean paste, fruit and friends and relatives at the festival.



## CHINESE MOON CAKE RECIPE

### How to make "moon cakes"

#### Ingredients:

- Homemade dough or "ready to use dough"
- Rolling pin
- 1 small jar of grape jam or bean paste
- round cookie cutter (2")
- cookie sheet

If using homemade dough, roll out to about 1/4" thickness. Cut into rounds with a cookie cutter. If using prepared dough from the tube, roll 1/4" thin and shape or cut into 2" rounds. Place the rounds on a cookie sheet and let rest for a few minutes. Bake according to the tube or the homemade dough recipe. Prick the rounds with a fork to prevent puffing while cooling the rounds or "moon cakes" from the oven and place on a cooling rack. Let cool. Spread the jam or bean paste on one "moon cake" and top it with another "moon cake".

## PROGRAM UPDATES

**Guatemala** - Guatemalan adoptions continue to process fairly smoothly. PGN has slowed down in recent months, but the average age of children arriving home remains between 5 1/2—6 months. We are receiving referrals at a very rapid rate and are seeking additional families for this Program, particularly those interested in the adoption of a son! There have been many rumors about Guatemala closing due to the impending formal ratification of the Hague Treaty by the US. This ratification is tentatively scheduled to occur at the very end of 2007. In addition, families who have already filed their I-600A at this time are unlikely to be effected in their adoption process.

**China** - The China Program is taking a little longer for referrals, as families are now waiting 12 - 14 months for the referral of a child. There are many rumors

that China will increasingly restrict the families they are willing to accept for adoptive placements. The CCAA has assured agencies that should they decide to implement these restrictions they will not be enforced retroactively.

**El Salvador** - KAS is ready to accept our first families for this Central American country! Fees will be lower than for Guatemala. Wait times for the completion of an adoption range from 12 - 20 months based on the time period it will take to receive a referral, which will vary based on the children available. We expect the adoption process following referral will take approximately 12 - 15 months. Families must have been married for a minimum of 5 years and due to the length of time for adoption completion we are preferring families who already have children, which makes the emotional wait of adopting a bit easier.

**Domestic** - KAS continues to serve expectant mothers interested in making an adoption plan.

**Korea** - Families are still waiting an extended period of time for their referred children to come home. Families can expect to wait 7 - 10 months after referral for their children to arrive in the US.

**Vietnam** - Program Coming for Kentucky residents!

**Haiti** - Many of you have asked about how quickly we will begin processing adoptions from Haiti. We anticipate accepting applications for this program within 6 months, but prefer to establish ourselves and move carefully as we proceed so that we can best assist our clients with knowledge and confidence!

## KISSES IN THE WIND

I hold you in my heart and touch you in my dreams. You are here each day with me, at least that is how it seems. I know you wonder where we are...what's taking us so long, but remember child, I love you so and God will keep you strong. Now go outside and feel the breeze and let it touch your skin...because tonight, just as always, I blow you kisses in the

wind. May God hold you in his hand until I can be with you, I promise you, my darling, I'm doing all that I can do. Very soon, you'll have a family for real, not just pretend. But for tonight, just as always, I blow you kisses in the wind. May God wrap you in his arms and hold you very tight. And let the angels bring the kisses that I send to you each night. **-Author Unknown**

## WELCOME HOME!

Matt and Mandy Lawson	Clayton	Guatemala
Bruce and Tonya White	Liberty	China
Tony and Kathy George	Isabella	Korea
James and Sheila Davis	Callie	Guatemala
John and Dawn Brugger	Cai	China
Tony and Vicky	Tahjenay	United States
Matt and Tracy McGary	Ashlyn	Guatemala
Joseph and Natalie Folz	Macon	Guatemala
Dave and Joy Springob	Alex	Guatemala
Sarah Greattinger	Isabella	Guatemala
Tom and Jennifer	Sara	United States
TJ & Jenny	Kayleigh	United States

We have done our best to include everyone! Please let us know if we inadvertently left you out!

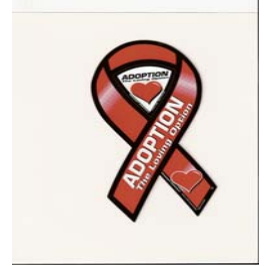


## FUNDRAISERS

**T-Shirts:** KAS has t-shirts for your "Gifts from God" for the price of \$10.00 each (which includes shipping). KAS will receive \$4.00 to go towards Humanitarian Aid with each purchase. We have the following sizes: Large onesie, 2T, 4T, and child small. To place an order, please call Kristy Knelson at the KAS office or email her at [kristy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org](mailto:kristy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org)

**Cathy Maddox** is an adoptive Mom and a Pampered Chef Representative. She is conducting a Pampered Chef Party, a portion of the proceeds of which will go to Humanitarian Aid, on OCTOBER 21, 2006 in Owensboro (location- TBA). There will be Door Prizes, Finger Foods and Drinks, new Fall Items and all orders will be in by Thanksgiving! Please RSVP to Kristy and say you are coming!

**ADOPTION MAGNETS:** KAS still has adoption magnets for sale. Families can purchase these adoption magnets for \$10.00 each (which includes shipping). KAS will receive \$5.00 to go towards Humanitarian Aid with each magnet sold. To place an order, please call Kristy Knelson at (270) 684-2598 or email her at [kristy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org](mailto:kristy@kentuckyadoptionservices.org)



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