



# Adoption Ministry

For families on the journey  
to build forever homes

## **Vision Statement:**

Kaleidoscope is a ministry of Topeka Bible Church created to shine light on God's heart for adoption and to support families along their journey to build forever homes.

*In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...*  
Ephesians 1:5

## **Mission Statement:**

The mission of Kaleidoscope is to provide adoption awareness and support for families that have been touched by the miracle of adoption.

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*  
Matthew 18:5

# Kaleidoscope

...for families on the journey to build forever homes

The journey to bring a child into your home through adoption can be a challenging one fraught with difficult choices, heartbreaking setbacks, and an excruciating wait. However, the end result is a miracle which has blessed millions of families worldwide.

**The Decision.** For many, making the initial decision to adopt is the most difficult part of the journey. The Kaleidoscope Ministry offers a connection with other families that have adopted, both internationally and domestically, to serve as mentors and to provide support during the decision making process.

**The Adoption Process.** Understanding the adoption process can be daunting. Kaleidoscope provides basic information and financial support to couples seeking to adopt.

**Risk.** All adoptions involve risk. Make sure to work with reputable professionals to minimize that risk. While this notebook was designed to provide some basic information to get you started, it is important that you do your own research and always check references for those you are working with regarding any adoption.

**The Wait.** One of the most difficult aspects of adoption can be the waiting time. Whether you are waiting for a birth mother to choose you as an adoptive family, or you are waiting to bring a child home from a foreign land, the wait challenges even the strongest individuals. Kaleidoscope provides spiritual and emotional support for families throughout the adoption process.

**Network of Believers.** Bringing a child into a Christian home through adoption is a miracle that is ordained by scripture. Kaleidoscope provides a network of other believers in Christ who have built or expanded their families through adoption.

**Resources.** The information contained in this notebook was taken from a variety of sources to provide a starting point for couples interested in adoption. It is also important that you seek out individuals who can provide personal testimony (see the Mentor List later in this section of the notebook) and that you do your own research to make sure your information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

# Adoption in Scripture

*Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.*

Isaiah 43:5

*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless...*

Psalm 81:13

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families...*

Psalm 68:5-6

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*

Matthew 18:5

*...I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him.*

Job 29:12

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11-13

***In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through  
Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...***

Ephesians 1:5

***...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan  
inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the  
redemption of our bodies.***

Romans 8:23

***I prayed for this child, and the Lord  
has granted me what I asked of him.***

1 Samuel 1:27

***...defending the fatherless and the oppressed,  
in order that man, who is of the earth,  
may terrify no more.***

Psalms 10:18

***Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is  
this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress....***

James 1:27

***You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus....***

Galatians 3:26

# Ten Questions to Consider As You Explore Adoption

1. What are my biggest fears regarding adoption?
2. Do/will my close family and friends support my decision to adopt? If not, why?
3. How do I define the concept of family? In other words, what is a family?
4. What personal experience(s) do I have regarding adoption -- whether positive or negative?
5. Does adoption seem “normal” to me?
6. If married, does my spouse have the same ideas about adoption?
7. What have I done thus far to educate myself about adoption?
8. What, if anything, do I feel that I would lose or be “giving up” if I choose to adopt?
9. Why do/would I want to adopt?
10. How do I feel about birthparents (i.e., the biological parents of children who are adopted)?

# Suggested Questions for Adoption Agency Selection Process

(Domestic Adoption)

Many couples choose to use a private attorney for domestic adoptions. See the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys at <http://www.adoptionattorneys.org/> for more information regarding private attorneys.

Use of an adoption agency is only one of several different means of pursuing adoption, but is a commonly used and often beneficial approach for many families. The following is a list of suggested questions that are designed to help families in selecting an adoption agency for a domestic adoption. A very important consideration in selecting an agency is determining whether the agency is a “good fit,” and this can generally be achieved by ensuring that the family has accurate information and realistic expectations about the agency, its services and costs, and its adoption process (in particular, estimated wait times). In addition to obtaining answers to the following questions, adoptive families are strongly encouraged to read carefully any contracts or policies that they are asked to sign or agree to by the agency and to ask questions (including consulting an attorney, if necessary).

## **General Questions About the Agency:**

- What are the agency’s requirements for adoptive families (e.g., age, marital status, number of children already in the home, religious background, criminal background, financial considerations, health considerations)?
- How long has the agency been licensed in Kansas? How long has the agency been in operation?
- Is the agency a non-profit or for-profit organization? If a for-profit organization, who owns the agency?
- Does the agency have any religious or denominational affiliation?
- How long has the agency’s director been working in the adoption field? How long has he/she been the director of the agency?
- How many professionals are on staff with the agency? What is the average length of service at the agency for the agency’s case workers who are currently on staff?
- What is the education and licensing background of the agency’s director and professional staff?
- Will the agency provide contact with families who have recently used the agency to adopt (i.e., family references)?
- Are families allowed to specify the gender of the child they wish to adopt?

- Who handles the agency's legal work? Is the attorney a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys?

### **Questions About Fees and Costs:**

- What fees and costs are charged by the agency in connection with the adoption process and when are they due?
- What costs and expenses will likely be incurred in addition to the agency's fees and costs (i.e., home study expenses, legal expenses, filing and processing expenses, etc.)? *Note: It is advisable that you request a total estimate for all fees, costs, and expenses that can be expected in connection with the adoption process -- not just the agency's fees and costs.*

### **Questions About Wait Time:**

- What is the current estimated wait time for families? How many families are currently waiting? *Note: Wait times at most agencies are often highly dependent on the adoptive family's parameters (e.g., age, gender, racial/ethnic and health factors that the adoptive family is willing to consider). To the extent that an adoptive family has already determined certain of its fundamental parameters, questions regarding wait times should be asked in specific relation to those parameters (e.g., what is the estimated wait time for an infant girl).*
- What is the longest wait time for any of the families that are currently waiting?
- Have average wait times for families increased, decreased, or remained generally the same over the past several years (and if they have increased or decreased, why)?
- How often should I expect to hear from the agency workers during the waiting process?

### **Questions About the Agency's Previous Placement Experience:**

- How many children has the agency placed in each of the past five years?
- What is the general break-down along racial and ethnic lines of the agency's placements in the last several years? Has the agency experienced any noticeable trends regarding the race or ethnicity of children placed in the last several years (i.e., an increase or decrease in the number of placements of children of a certain race or ethnicity)?
- What number of failed adoption placements has the agency experienced in each of the past five years (i.e., how many instances of a family being matched with a child, but such match did not result in a final adoption)?
- How does the agency handle failed placements (e.g., where on the wait list is a family that has experienced a failed placement put? Are there any additional fees or costs imposed, etc.)?

### **Questions About the Agency's Matching and Placement Process:**

- What information does the adoptive family know about birthparent(s) and vis versa? How does the agency define terms such as "open" adoption and "semi-open" adoption?

- What degree of ongoing contact and/or communication between birthparent(s) and adoptive family/child does the agency require, promote, or allow?
- What role does the agency play in facilitating ongoing contact and/or communication between birthparent(s) and adoptive family/child?
- How does the agency's matching process work? How are birthparents and adoptive parents matched?
- If adopting an infant, how involved is the adoptive family with the birthparent(s) prior to the baby being born?
- If adopting a newborn, when is the baby generally placed with the adoptive family?

**Questions About Services Provided by the Agency:**

- What pre-placement training does the agency offer to adoptive families? What other support services does the agency provide (e.g., support groups, social events, newsletters, etc.)?
- What post-placement services for adoptive families are provided? What help or services are available for adoptive families experiencing post-placement challenges and difficulties relating to their adoption?
- What counseling and support services do the birthparent(s) receive both prior to and after the adoption?

# Suggested Questions for Adoption Agency Selection Process

(International Adoption)

Use of a licensed adoption agency is generally required when pursuing an international adoption. The specifics of an agency's adoption program vary considerably by country. The following is a general list of suggested questions that are designed to help families in selecting an adoption agency for an international adoption. Families should also ask additional questions relating to specific country programs. However, a very important consideration in selecting an agency is determining whether the agency is a "good fit," and this can generally be achieved by ensuring that the family has accurate information and realistic expectations about the agency, its services and costs, and its adoption process (in particular, estimated wait times). In addition to obtaining answers to the following questions, adoptive families are strongly encouraged to read carefully any contracts or policies that they are asked to sign or agree to by the agency and to ask questions (including consulting an attorney, if necessary).

## General Questions About the Agency:

- What are the agency's requirements for adoptive families (e.g., age, marital status (including previous divorce(s)), number of children already in the home, religious background, criminal background, financial considerations, health considerations)? *Note: Requirements will vary by country.*
- How long has the agency been in operation?
- In what countries does the agency have adoption programs? How long has the agency had an active adoption program in the country of interest?
- Has the agency's program in the country of interest ever been suspended or terminated (as a result of loss of accreditation or otherwise)? If so, why and for how long?
- What is the current adoption climate in the country of interest? How stable has the country program been in recent months/years?
- In what regions/cities within the country of interest does the agency work? Can families specify a specific region/city with the country?
- Does the agency have any religious or denominational affiliation?
- How long has the agency's director been working in the adoption field? How long has he/she been the director of the agency?
- How many professionals are on staff with the agency? What is the average length of service at the agency for the agency's case workers who are currently on staff?

- How long has the director for the country of interest (i.e., the country program director) been working with adoptions from the country of interest?
- What is the education and licensing background of the agency's director and professional staff?
- Will the agency provide contact with families who have recently used the agency to adopt from the country of interest (i.e., family references)?
- Are families allowed to specify the gender of the child they wish to adopt? *Note: The ability to specify gender will vary by country.*
- How are waiting children cared for in the country of interest (i.e., orphanages/institutions, foster homes, etc.)? How is the funding for such care provided?
- Does the agency have any affiliations with orphanages, social service agencies, facilitators, or others in the country of interest that will be significantly involved in the adoption process? If so, obtain details regarding such arrangements (including the length of such relationships).
- Who handles the agency's legal work in the country of interest? In the United States?

#### **Questions About Fees and Costs:**

- What fees and costs are charged by the agency in connection with the adoption process and when are they done?
- What costs and expenses will likely be incurred in addition to the agency's fees and costs (i.e., home study expenses, legal expenses, filing and processing expenses, etc.)? *Note: It is advisable that you request a total estimate for all fees, costs and expenses that can be expected in connection with the adoption process -- not just the agency's fees and costs.*

#### **Questions About Wait Time:**

*Note: All questions regarding wait times should be asked in relation to a specific country program.*

- What is the current estimated wait time for families? How many families are currently waiting? *Note: Wait times at most agencies are often highly dependent on the adoptive family's parameters (e.g., age, gender, and health factors that the adoptive family is willing to consider). To the extent that an adoptive family has already determined certain of its fundamental parameters, questions regarding wait times should be asked in specific relation to those parameters (e.g., what is the estimated wait time for an infant girl).*
- What is the longest wait time for any of the families that are currently waiting for an adoption?
- Have average wait times for families increased, decreased, or remained generally the same over the past several years (and if they have increased or decreased, why)?
- How often should I expect to hear from the agency workers during the waiting process?

### **Questions About the Agency's Previous Placement Experience:**

- How many children has the agency placed in each of the past five years from the country of interest?
- What number of failed adoption placements has the agency experienced in each of the past five years (i.e., how many instances of a family being matched with a child, but such match did not result in a final adoption)? *Note: Although generally uncommon even in the context of domestic adoptions, "failed placements" are even more uncommon in the context of international adoption and the risk of a failed international placement will vary greatly by country.*
- How does the agency handle failed placements (e.g., where on the wait list is a family that has experienced a failed placement put? Are there any additional fees or costs imposed, etc.)?

### **Questions About the Agency's Matching and Finalization Process**

- What children are available in the country of interest (i.e., children of what age, gender, sibling groups, etc.)?
- How does the agency's matching process work for the country of interest?
- What background information (e.g., medical, social, family history, etc.) is generally available regarding the child and/or the child's biological family?
- Does the agency provide pictures and/or video of the referred child?
- Once matched, does the agency provide the adoptive family with pictures and/or videos of the child? Does the agency provide updates regarding the child's growth, medical condition, and/or development?
- Once matched, does the agency allow the adoptive family to travel to visit the child? If so, are there any significant limitations regarding such visits?
- What are the travel requirements for the country of interest (i.e., are families required to travel in order to bring their child home, or is an escort service available as an option)? Are both parents (if applicable) required to travel? How long must they stay in the country?

### **Questions About Services Provided by the Agency:**

- What pre-placement training does the agency offer to adoptive families? What other support services does the agency provide (e.g., support groups, social events, newsletters, etc.)?
- What post-placement services for adoptive families are provided? What help or services are available for adoptive families experiencing post-placement challenges and difficulties relating to their adoption -- specifically relating to parenting children of a different racial, ethnic, and/or cultural background?
- What humanitarian aid/support does the agency provide to the countries in which it operates?

# Licensed Adoption Agencies in Kansas

(sorted by location)

Agencies				
Agency	Address	City	State	Zip
Adoption Connections, Inc.	105 E. Rhondda	Andover	KS	67002-9635
Family Life Services of Southern Kansas	305 South Summit	Arkansas City	KS	67005
The Farm	528 Commercial, P.O. Box 2224	Emporia	KS	66801
Kansas Mentor	1503 East Fulton Terrace	Garden City	KS	67846-6784
Catholic Social Service	2546 20th St.	Great Bend	KS	67530
Catholic Community Services	2220 Central Avenue	Kansas City	KS	66102
St. Joseph Adoption Ministry	8160 Parallel Pkwy., Suite 103	Kansas City	KS	66112-2011
The Family Conservancy	626 Minnesota Ave.	Kansas City	KS	66101
The Shelter Adoption Services, Inc.	105 W. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lawrence	KS	66044
DCCCA, Inc.	3312 Clinton Parkway	Lawrence	KS	66047
Fields of Promise	3017 Oxford Rd.	Lawrence	KS	66049-2830
Action for Adoptions	433 Shawnee	Leavenworth	KS	66048
Holt International Children's Services	5330 College Blvd.	Leawood	KS	66211
Adoption of Babies & Children	9230 Pflumm	Lenexa	KS	66215
Arms of Love	2500 Marlatt Ave.	Manhattan	KS	66502-8132
Prairie Band Pottawatommi Social Services	11400 158th Rd., P.O. Box 174	Mayetta	KS	66509-0174
Youthville	900 W. Broadway	Newton	KS	67114
TLC for Children and Families	480 S. Rogers Rd.	Olathe	KS	66062
KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc.	21350 W. 153rd St.	Olathe	KS	66061
Childrens Hope International	11011 King, Suite 260	Overland Park	KS	66210
Christian Family Services of the Midwest	10500 Barkley, Suite 216	Overland Park	KS	66212

Agencies				
Agency	Address	City	State	Zip
Jewish Family Services	5801 W. 115th St., Suite 103	Overland Park	KS	66211-1824
LDS Family Services	7100 Hadley, P.O. Box 4040	Overland Park	KS	66204
Downey Side	4811 Tomahawk	Prairie Village	KS	66208
Catholic Charities, Inc.	425 West Iron	Salina	KS	67401
Saint Francis Foster Care	509 E. Elm, Modular A,B,C,D	Salina	KS	67401
Families Thru International Adoption	20285 Metcalf Ave.	Stilwell	KS	66085
A Child's Dream	2915 SW Wanamaker Rd., #100	Topeka	KS	66614
Shiloh Adoptions	5020 SW 28th, Suite 201	Topeka	KS	66614
Adoption Centre of Kansas, Inc.	1831 Woodrow Ave.	Wichita	KS	67203
Adoption Choices, Inc.	100 N. Broadway, Suite 500	Wichita	KS	67202
Blessings Social Services, Inc.	3063 River Park Court	Wichita	KS	67203-2072
Catholic Charities, Inc.	425 N. Topeka	Wichita	KS	67202
Dillon International	5934 E. 10th N.	Wichita	KS	67208
Hopscotch Adoptions, Inc.	1831 Woodrow Ave.	Wichita	KS	67203-2932
InserCo	5120 E. Central, Suite A	Wichita	KS	67208
International Family Services, Inc.	10806 W. Harvest	Wichita	KS	67212
Kansas Childrens Service League, Inc.	1365 N. Custer	Wichita	KS	67201
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	3310 E. Pawnee	Wichita	KS	67218-5598
Salvation Army Foster Care	350 N. Market St.	Wichita	KS	67202
Special Delivery International	310 W. Central, Suite 211	Wichita	KS	67202

List provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, September, 2007.

For information regarding private adoption attorneys, see the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys at <http://www.adoptionattorneys.org/>

# Adoption Costs and Financial Assistance Resources

The financial costs relating to adoption are often one of the primary challenges that families face when pursuing adoption. However, many people are unaware that there are an increasing number of ways to meet this challenge through a variety of adoption financial assistance resources. This overview is intended to help you better understand the costs of various adoption options and identify potential ways that you may be able to better address the financial cost challenge.

## Overview of the Costs of Adoption

How much will it cost? This is the inevitable question that is often asked when people begin to consider adoption. So they go in search of solid information about the cost of adoption and quickly find relatively unhelpful ranges of adoption costs such as \$5,000 to \$40,000. This type of information leaves many asking the obvious question -- which is it, \$5,000 or \$40,000?

When it comes to the cost of adoption, the most honest answer often is -- *it depends*. But don't despair because there are some general guidelines that you can rely on in order to help you identify the range of adoption costs you are likely to face.

## The Type of Adoption Process Matters

The type of adoption process that you are considering will greatly influence the overall adoption costs that you are likely to encounter. For example, families can often adopt children from the state foster care system for very little or no financial cost. In addition, families are often able to adopt privately without using an adoption agency or facilitator (e.g., adopting independently, such as by sending "Dear Birthmother" letters to family and friends in order to identify a birthmother) for a total cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000. However, as a general rule, the use of an adoption agency for a domestic or international adoption will result in much higher costs than adoptions from foster care or independent adoptions.

## Some General Guidelines Regarding the Cost of Adoption

In early 2006, *Adoptive Families Magazine* conducted a non-scientific readers' survey on the cost of adoption. The survey reflects the experiences of 937 respondents (of which 67% adopted internationally) and reveals some interesting facts:

- 40% of respondents spent between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for their adoptions
- Many people paid nothing for adoptions through the foster system, while \$60,000 was the highest amount paid for a single adoption

- In general, domestic adoptions, on average, cost less than international adoptions
- Of those who adopted internationally, 19.1% of the adoptions cost \$20,000 or less, while 26.3% cost \$20,000-\$25,000, 26.3% cost \$25,000-\$30,000, and 28.4% cost over \$30,000 (before tax credits and employer benefits)
- Of those who adopted domestically, 45.2% of the adoptions cost less than \$15,000, while 19.4% cost \$15,000-\$20,000, 16.1% cost \$20,000-\$25,000, and only 19.0% cost more than \$25,000 (before tax credits and employer benefits)
- Regarding international adoptions, respondents reported that Russia and Kazakhstan adoptions cost the most (over 60% cost in excess of \$30,000), while China and Korea adoptions cost significantly less (over 70% cost less than \$25,000, with 28% of Chinese adoptions costing \$15,000-\$20,000)

For more information regarding the 2006 *Adoptive Families Cost Survey*, visit The Cost of Adopting special section at [www.adoptivefamilies.com/adoption-cost.php](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/adoption-cost.php).

### **Financial Assistance Resources for Adoptive Families**

As the costs of various types of adoptions continue to escalate, there has been a similar increase in the financial assistance resources available to help families deal with these costs. Information regarding several of these financial assistance resources is provided below.

- **Federal Adoption Tax Credit**

Currently, there is a federal adoption tax credit that provides a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$10,960 (for 2006) for unreimbursed “qualified adoption expenses” and is subject to certain income limitations beginning at \$164,410 (for 2006) of Modified Adjusted Gross Income.

See IRS Tax Topic 607: Adoption Credit ([www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html](http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html)), which provides general information about the current federal adoption tax credit.

*Note: Please be sure to consult your tax adviser for additional information and to understand how the federal adoption tax credit may impact you.*

- **Adoption Grant and Loan Programs**

Below is a partial list of potential financial assistance resources (in particular, various grant and loan programs) that are generally available for potential adoptive parents:

Topeka Community Foundation, Building Families Fund, 1315 SW Arrowhead Rd., Topeka, KS 66604; (785) 272-4804; Fax (785) 273-2467;  
[tcf@cjnetworks.com](mailto:tcf@cjnetworks.com)

Shaohannah’s Hope -- [www.shaohannahshope.org](http://www.shaohannahshope.org)

Adoption Financing -- [www.adoptionfinancing.com](http://www.adoptionfinancing.com)

Life International -- [www.lifeintl.org](http://www.lifeintl.org)

The Gift of Adoption Fund -- [www.giftofadoption.org](http://www.giftofadoption.org)

International Children's Adoption Resource Effort -- [www.intlcare.org](http://www.intlcare.org)

The Abba Fund -- [www.abbafund.org](http://www.abbafund.org)

National Adoption Foundation -- [www.nafadopt.org](http://www.nafadopt.org)

Fore Adoption Foundation -- [www.foreadoption.com](http://www.foreadoption.com)

National Council for Adoption's Adoption Assistance Program through MBNA American Bank <https://www1.fni-stl.com/cgi-bin/ncanet.pl>

Kingdom Kids -- [www.kingdomkidsadoption.org/Default.aspx?tabid=37](http://www.kingdomkidsadoption.org/Default.aspx?tabid=37)

- **Employer Benefits**

More and more employers of all sizes are offering employees adoption benefits. These benefits typically range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 and up, with the average benefit around \$4,000. For more information, visit [www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org](http://www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.org).

- **Other Resources**

Special Report: Affording Adoption -- [www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid = 1272](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid = 1272)

How We Afforded Our Adoption - [www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=1259](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=1259)

# Mentor List

**Paul and Karen Bodner.** We recently completed the adoption of a little boy from Guatemala. We experienced infertility and two miscarriages. We were an older couple when married and this is our first child. Please contact us at 478-4853

**John and Christie Chance.** We adopted to extend our family. I (Christie) have worked with children's homes across the nation and have had a heart for adoption since I was young. When we got married, we discussed having several biological children and then adding to our family through adoption. We have two biological children, Sydni (12) and Dalton (9). God has led us through a soul-searching, incredible, and sometimes frustrating journey to our third child, Camryn (1). We started the adoption process March 2005, and brought Camryn home from China on June 1, 2007. Please contact us at 286-0764 or [jcchance1@cox.net](mailto:jcchance1@cox.net).

**Erik and Michelle Epperson.** We started our family with the adoption of Meira from Guatemala this year. We had an incredibly smooth process, but understand and appreciate that not all cases go this well. Michelle is now a stay at home mom that will be in MOPS and also using Parents as Teachers and Erik travels with his job. Please contact us at 267-3121 or [epperson.michelle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:epperson.michelle@sbcglobal.net).

**Joshua and Ann Kuebler.** We are adopting to extend our family. We have two biological sons, Jakob (8) and Noah (6). We recently completed the adoption of a baby boy, Malachi (1) from Guatemala. We are also currently in the process of adopting a baby girl, Micaiah (7 months), from Guatemala. Please contact us at 272-2396 or [express34us@yahoo.com](mailto:express34us@yahoo.com).

**Scott and Ingrid Oen.** After 1 1/2 years of infertility treatments, we were ready to pursue adoption. God blessed us with two infants through domestic adoptions. Luke is now 5 years old and Olivia is 3. We tried for a third infant adoption. Instead, we experienced two failed adoptions. These were heartbreaking. Then God led us in a different direction. In December 2006, 3 foster children (siblings) moved into our home. In July 2007, we started the adoption process for these children. We would love to speak to others regarding infertility, domestic adoptions, and foster care to adopt. Please contact us at 379-0636 or [sio@fhrd.net](mailto:sio@fhrd.net).

**Todd and Sandy Pigg.** We are in the process of adopting a baby girl from Guatemala named Mylee. She was a year Aug. 6th and will hopefully be joining her forever family in a couple of months. We have been married for 12 years and have experienced infertility. This whole process is an emotional roller coaster and we have enjoyed having the support of our friends and family during this difficult year. We would love to share our experience. Please contact us at 286-7403, Todd's Cell 215-1599, Sandy's Cell 215-1597 or [wildcatfan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildcatfan@sbcglobal.net).

**Don & Kristin Scott.** We are forming our family through adoption. We are adopting a boy and a girl from Guatemala. The process is definitely a journey and you will want to be informed upfront. We enjoy sharing and working with others throughout this very difficult decision. Please contact us anytime at 224-9068, 272-5410, or [scottdk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scottdk@sbcglobal.net).

**Marvin and Debbie Spees.** After years of infertility treatments and the pursuit of the childfree lifestyle, we recognized that adoption was the BEST plan for forming our family. Hunter and Chloe were placed in our home as newborns. Marvin is a small business owner and Debbie is a stay at home mom. Hunter is 16 and Chloe is 11. Please contact us at 233-0929 or [debbies@cco-ks.com](mailto:debbies@cco-ks.com).

**Jason and Trisha Williams.** We have been married for seven years and have suffered with infertility. We have always talked about adoption, but thought it would be in addition to our family. God had a different plan. After going through fertility treatment and medication, our faith was weakening that we would be able to conceive on our own. In the end of July, 2006, we received a call that a little girl from Guatemala was looking for her forever home and we knew this was our plan. On June 28th, 2007, Isabelle Grace Williams came to her forever home. This process has made us appreciate and grow even a deeper heart for adoption. Everyone always says what a lucky girl she is, but we believe we are the lucky ones to be blessed with such a beautiful little girl. Please contact us at Jason's cell 224-9000, Trisha's cell 633-2256 or [Jasonandtrish@unfranchise.com](mailto:Jasonandtrish@unfranchise.com)

**Deric and Kimberly Winn.** We met and married later in life. Deric was 40 and Kim was 36 when we met. Even before we got married, we talked about adoption and really feel like the Lord has guided us in this direction. We did not know whether getting pregnant was an option or not, but decided that either way, we wanted to start an adoption. In May of 2006, we accepted the referral for a little boy from Guatemala. The process took a little over a year and Christopher has been home since May 25, 2007. In the middle of this process, we found out that we were pregnant and we had a biological child on September 25, 2007. In other words, we went from zero to two children in four months! It truly all is in the Lord's plan and not ours! We are open to talking to other couples about adoption, infertility, pregnancy, child-rearing, or any other topic for that matter. Please contact us at 272-8064 or [kwinn@lkm.org](mailto:kwinn@lkm.org).

# Legacy of an Adopted Child

Once there were two women,  
Who never knew each other.  
One you do not remember,  
The other you call mother.

Two different lives,  
Shaped to make yours one.  
One became your guiding star,  
The other became your sun.

The first gave you life,  
The second taught you to live it.  
The first gave you a need for love,  
And the second was there to give it.

One gave you a nationality,  
The other gave you a name.  
One gave you the seed of talent,  
The other gave you an aim.

One gave you emotions,  
The other calmed your fears.  
One saw your first sweet smile,  
The other dried your tears.

One gave you up,  
It was all that she could do.  
The other prayed for a child  
And God led her straight to you.

And now you ask me through your tears,  
The age-old question through the years:  
Heredity or environment –  
Which are you a product of?

Neither, my darling, neither,  
Just two different kinds of love.

--Author Unknown