



IN THIS ISSUE:

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT
The Farrells...p2

WHAT WAS LOST
...page 3

OUT FROM THE
NATIONS
...page 5

NEWS ITEM
TSC Prayer Needs...p8

REFLECTIONS by Scott Rosenow

I would like to use my column this time to bring you up to speed on where things stand with the ministry and to let you know about a couple of exciting developments. One of the things we talked about at our annual banquet this past June was how to measure the success of an organization like The Shepherd's Crook Ministries. Are we successful if we manage to help bring one hundred children home to permanent families in one year? or if we provide needed surgery to twenty children in other countries? or if we help provide medical supplies and basic necessities to ten hospitals and orphanages that wouldn't otherwise have access to these things? Is that how we measure the success of The Shepherd's Crook? Well, the answer is, yes and no. Yes, if we manage to do the things I listed, we might well say we have been successful for that year. But I submit there is at least one way in which the answer might be no. If we were to do all the things I mentioned but do them in a way that did not bring glory to God, or that in some way detracted from His glory, then we would not have been successful. Also, as a corollary consideration, if we did not manage to accomplish the sorts of numbers I mentioned, would that mean we had not been successful? Would we have been successful if we helped bring home only ten children? or helped with only two surgeries? or provided supplies to only one hospital? How do we truly measure success in this ministry?

I would like you to look at a face (right). This little girl—who at the time of this picture was waiting in an orphanage in Xian, China—was born with spina bifida. As she waited for a family to find her and complete the lengthy process to bring her home, she began to

lose sensation in one of her feet. A family subsequently found her and fought hard to bring her home this past year, and I am pleased to say that this beautiful little girl is now Bella Moorhouse. (See photo at left.) But not only did her family fight to bring her home, they fought to get her the medical care she needed so badly, even having to challenge the neurosurgery team responsible for Bella's care. Once they obtained the MRI on Bella's spine, and especially once they saw the condition of her spinal cord during surgery, it became clear that Bella's condition was indeed both complicated



THE FARRELL FAMILY by Elizabeth Mock



Every parent knows that what a child wants and what a child needs are rarely the same. Yet, to the child this truth is less than self-evident. It never enters the mind of a child that what he or she wants could be anything less than the fulfillment of a life-long dream. How quickly we forget what it's like to be a child. We live and grow and our memory fades until we forget, we forget that this simple truth still applies regardless of our age. Time and again we convince ourselves that what we want is what we need. In His infinite mercy, however, God always gives us what we need.

Few people desire the struggles and hardships of adoption; it is not something we want. Adoption, however, is something we all need. Without our adoption by God, we would be lost—without purpose, without hope, without life. Just as God adopted us at a great price, we too are called to tasks that will require sacrifice. We do not want to sacrifice. We want comfort and security. We want convenience. God requires sacrifice, the sacrificing of ourselves to Him. The Farrell family's journey to receive what they needed began with a tragedy that

seemed to stop their desires, their desires for children.

Pat and Sue Farrell both came from families with five children. They loved growing up in large families, and early on in their relationship they expressed a desire for a family of their own. In her early twenties, however, Sue was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Shortly after their first child, Carrie, was born, the disease came out of remission. All attempts to control the disease proved ineffective at best. When Carrie was two years old, Sue and Pat were forced to make a difficult decision. Sue underwent a permanent colostomy. "Prior to this surgery, the surgeon warned me that infertility was a possible side-effect of this major abdominal surgery," Sue explained. "I made Pat promise me that he would be open to adoption if that ever occurred. He did with reluctance. That was the first we ever spoke of adoption—July 1995."

Time passed and no more children came. In 1997 friends of the family adopted a child from Romania. They knew of the Farrells' desire for more children and gave them information on the process, but adoption was not a serious consideration at the time. God continued to bring adoption into the Farrells' lives when they began attending a new church, North Cincinnati Community Church, in 1998. "One of the first families we met were Scott and Kathy Rosenow," said Sue. "They were in the middle of their first adoption from Bolivia. We weekly kept up with their progress with great interest. It all seemed so natural just

watching them."

As the Rosenows' adoption process continued, they recognized the Farrells' interest and invited them to a Shepherd's Crook informational meeting at their home with several other couples. "After hearing all the requirements of adoption, we lost interest," Sue admits. "Embarrassingly, we never mentioned the meeting to them again for months. When we finally mentioned it to them, we told them the hurdles were too great. Carrie was hooked, though." While her parents wavered, Carrie actively kept up with the Shepherd's Crook's postings on children in need of a forever family.

In spring 2003, the Rosenows had begun pursuing the adoption of a little boy from China with a cleft lip and palate. Unfortunately, the government canceled the little boy's adoption, as well as several other adoptions-in-progress. The little boy came back up as adoptable shortly after this incident, and the Rosenows sent out a plea on his behalf. "After a couple months of deliberation, Pat allowed me to call the Rosenows to inquire more about him," Sue recalls. "After two days of phone tag, we were told he had already found his forever family. I was crushed. I cried for days. I couldn't understand how I'd misunderstood the Lord's calling."

Now that Carrie realized that her parents were open to adoption, she began stalking the Shepherd's Crook Web site. In May 2003, Carrie found several little boys from China who also had cleft lips and palates. Sue remembered her reaction when Carrie called her. "I felt nothing. But in a short

Continued on Page 9

WHAT WAS LOST – “I will seek **what was lost** and bring back what was driven away.”

The following children have come home since our last issue:

JOHN



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In his Hudson, OH home.

SIMON



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In his Eudora, KS home.

CHRISTA



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In her Kings Mill, OH home.

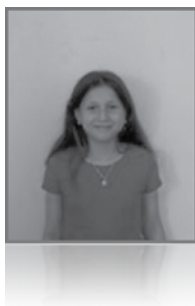
JOSHUA



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In his West Chester, OH home.

ANASTASIA



Before: In a Kazakhstani orphanage.

After: In her Cincinnati, OH home.

LIN LI



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In her Rowlett, TX home.

JOSE



Before: In a Guatemalan orphanage.

After: In his Charleston, WV home.

BELEN



Before: In a Guatemalan orphanage.

After: In her Batavia, OH home.

RUBEN



Before: In a Guatemalan orphanage.

After: In his Cincinnati, OH home.

JAYLA



Before: In a Guatemalan foster home.

After: In her Warrenton, OR home.

SEAN, DANIEL & AARON



Before: In a Guatemalan foster home.

After: In their Fairfield, OH home.

JONATHAN



Before: In a Vietnamese orphanage.

After: In his Pickton, TX home.

SAMUEL



Before: In an American foster home.

After: In his San Diego, CA home.

DANIEL



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In his Stokesdale, NC home.

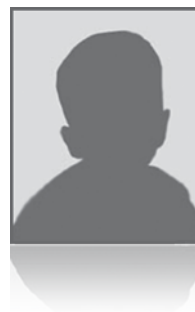
DELLA ROSE



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In her Lawrenceville, GA home.

JIANG HAN



Before: In a Chinese orphanage.

After: In his Frederick, MD home (No Picture Available).

CELEBRATION BANQUET 2006

We have a new page on our Web site that showcases highlights from this year's banquet. On that page you can see pictures from the banquet, view brief video highlights, and listen to the songs performed this year. The page can be accessed from our Home Page or by going directly to <http://www.theshepherdscrook.org/banquet06>.



OUT FROM THE NATIONS “I will bring them **out from the nations** and into their own land.”

The following adoptions have been started since our last issue:



ABNER

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Garden Valley, TX.



ALEXANDER

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Richfield, MN.



SHANNEN

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Hamilton, OH.



BRADEN

Waiting: In Korea.

Coming home: To Wagoner, OK.



JONATHAN

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Hamlin, NY.



CHARLIE

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Medford Lakes, NJ.



LOURDES

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Bernville, PA.



CLAUDIA & LUZ

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Surprise, AZ.



MADDIE

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Phoenix, AZ.



CARLOS

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Dayton, OH.



BRENDON

Waiting: In Mexico.

Coming home: To Snohomish, WA.



KASSIDY

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Needville, TX.



KYRSTIN

Waiting: In Russia.

Coming home: To West Chester, OH.



SOPHIA

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Leesburg, OH.



COOPER

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Loveland, OH.



LILLIAN

Waiting: In Liberia.

Coming home: To Lubbock, TX.



TAMAR

Waiting: In Vietnam.

Coming home: To Richland, WA.



HANNAH

Waiting: In Vietnam.

Coming home: To Belleville, PA.



JOHN

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Odin, IN.



SETH

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Pickton, TX.



MARIELLA

Waiting: In Colombia.

Coming home: To Waxahachie, TX.



ROSALEONA &
LYDIA

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Coralville, IA.



LEIGHANNA

Waiting: In Taiwan.

Coming home: To Cabot, AR.



MADELINE

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Pickton, TX.



SETH

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Wilmington, DE.



NICOLAS

Waiting: In Guatemala.

Coming home: To Evadale, TX.

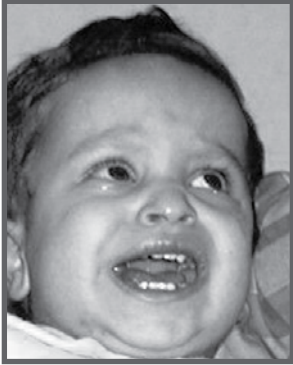


NIKOLAI

Waiting: In Russia.

Coming home: To Liberty Township, OH.

and serious, and had she not received surgery when she did, she most certainly would have continued to lose function, ultimately becoming paralyzed and debilitated as a result of damage to her spinal cord. However, Bella is home now with her family, she has had the necessary corrective surgery, and her future is extremely bright. That is success! Even if we had not been able to complete one other project this past year, I would have to say—as I look at Bella’s picture and consider her story—that this was indeed a good year. In fact, we have helped to bring over thirty kids home, all with stories as poignant and meaningful as Bella’s.



Please take a look at another face (left). This little boy’s name is Ali. Ali lives in Slobozia, Romania, and suffers from tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart condition characterized by four separate heart defects. When we first encountered Ali back in 2004, he was extremely cyanotic, or blue-skinned, due to poor blood flow caused by his heart condition. He was unable to run or play—or even move about for more than a minute or so before being forced to gasp for air. Through the efforts of Alison Gutterud, our Medical Ministries Coordinator, and the generous contributions of many TSC supporters, as well as the diligent and sustained work of our attorney in Romania, we managed to make arrangements for Ali to receive two surgeries to correct his heart condition. The second and final surgery was done just this past spring, and all reports are that Ali is doing remarkably well. (See photo at right.) Untreated

tetralogy of Fallot usually results in death before the age of twenty, and Ali’s case was so significant that he was unlikely to have lived for more than about six months after we discovered him. Now, he has the prospect of a full and normal life ahead of him, and he is in virtually every respect just a normal four-year-old boy. That is success! Even if we had not been able to help with any other surgeries this past year, I would have to say—as I look at these pictures of Ali and consider his story—that this was indeed a good year. In fact, we were privileged to help with fourteen surgeries and medical procedures during this past year, not all as dramatic as Ali’s, but all equally important and equally appreciated.

I want to praise God and thank Him for allowing us to be a part of these stories, and all of the other TSC “successes” of this past year. We know, and we want to state publicly, that these successes are the result of God’s working in and through us, and not the result of our own efforts. Psalm 127 tells us that “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” Our efforts to help these children are equally in vain unless the Lord blesses those efforts.



Next, I want to bring you up to date, just briefly, with where things stand concerning the position of full-time director. I came aboard full-time last June, knowing only that we had enough financial commitments to get us through the end of the calendar year. We are now at roughly a year and a half following that exciting development, and still God continues to provide, although we remain in a state of month-to-month dependency. Our Board of Trustees recently had to increase the compensation package to take care of a dramatic increase in medical premiums, and we have no idea where the money is going to come from to meet our expenses through the end of the year. But God is faithful, and we are trusting Him still to raise up additional supporters to provide for our ever-increasing monthly expenses. We know this is His work, and so we trust Him to provide what is needed. Please consider whether God may be leading you to begin supporting this ministry on an ongoing basis, since it is the monthly, ongoing support that we need, both to fund our salaries and to be able to plan the important work we are doing.

I want to tell you about one other exciting development in the ministry this past year, which I touched on briefly in our previous newsletter. We were approached by a couple who completed the adoption of a TSC child, a little girl, from Korea last November. Daryl and Wanda Fulp (see the Family Spotlight article in the Spring ’06 newsletter) attended last year’s Celebration Banquet and were so fired up about what they could see as God’s hand in this ministry that they began to feel God’s leading in their lives. They approached us a few months ago to say they felt led to begin to work full-time in adoption ministry, and that they felt particularly led to work with The Shepherd’s Crook to spread

Concluded on Page 9



News Item PRAYER NEEDS

The Shepherd's Crook Ministries held a special prayer gathering for TSC board members and staff on Tuesday evening, October 10, 2006. We need much in many areas, and we are asking God and believing His promises for some big—even impossible—things. Matthew 19:26 says, "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" Would you please join us in praying for the following things. We look forward to sharing miraculous answers to these prayers in the coming months.

1. All TSC kids and the families who will come forward to adopt them.
2. Funding for the operating expenses of the ministry, including salaries for the Director and for Daryl Fulp, our Communications Director. Our monthly income is currently not enough to cover these expenses. We received a large cash donation last year, and we had a pretty large surplus from our banquet last year, and those cash reserves have carried us through this year; we dip into those reserves to meet our expenses every month—including salaries—and those reserves are just about depleted.
3. Additional monthly funding to permit us to hire an administrative assistant. This has been a pressing need for quite some time now, and the need is becoming urgent.
4. That we will once again be in a position to award financial grants to our adoptive families, as we have been privileged to do in the past. This, too, requires money, on top of everything else we need.
5. A recreational vehicle (RV) for our Communications Director's use, either through gift or loan, during his extended trips in colder weather. He and his family travel with a pop-up camper during warm months, but this mode would not be satisfactory during the colder months.
6. For Daryl and Wanda (Fulp) to be able to sell their house so they can move to the Cincinnati area to be closer to "the ministry."
7. Office facilities: this is a bit indefinite, but we ideally would like to have office facilities connected to the Rosenow house—with office space for four or five staff members. It would be really cool if we had a large piece of land on which to put this house/office complex, with additional space for TSC's various uses. (This would be a joint Rosenow family/TSC answer to prayer!) This is one of those "open-ended" dreams, in which we want to dream as big as we can so as not to limit God in any way.

the word to the Christian community about adoption. And so in May of 2006, Daryl began working part-time with TSC as our Communications Director, speaking to churches and other groups about God's heart for orphans and His passion for adoption, and challenging other Believers to think about what God has to say about adoption and about how they might—should—be involved themselves. At the beginning of Sep-tember, Daryl transitioned to full-time work with the ministry, spreading the word in God's name. He is working now to line up speaking engagements for the coming year, so if you might be interested in having Daryl speak to your church or other group, please send an e-mail to communications@theshepherdscook.org, and let us know what you have in mind.

We are excited about what God has done in our ministry during this past year, and we are equally, if not more, excited about what He will be doing in the coming year. Please continue to pray for us, for the families adopting these special children, and most especially for the children themselves. (Take a look at our current list of prayer needs on the opposite page.) The prayers of God's people are powerful and effective, and we are all admonished to lift up each other and God's work on a regular basis. How privileged we are to be a part of this life-changing ministry.

Thank you, Father. Amen.

THE FARRELL FAMILY *Continued from page 2*

paragraph above, a little girl with imperforate anus was listed.” There was no picture, and Sue was unaware of what the specific condition meant, but Sue said that “[s]omehow I knew she needed a colostomy to save her life, just like me! It all started to make sense and seemed really right. What seemed like was meant for my harm, God used for good.”

A week after Carrie's phone call, they began the adoption process for Caitrin, eight years after their first stirrings about adoption. When the Farrells had first considered adoption after Carrie was born, their first fear was, “What if we adopt and the child is not perfect?” God transformed this initial fear into the very reason they knew they had to adopt Caitrin. After eight and a half months of waiting, they brought Caitrin home when she was twenty months old. She is now four years old.

As Caitrin assimilated into their family, the Farrells felt God's leading again for another little girl from China. They still felt a calling for a cleft lip child, and Carrie once more began her Internet hunt. During her search she found a young girl name Miao-Miao with a cleft lip and palate. As Sue read her biography, she felt a bond with the little girl. “Her biography stated her favorite food was meatball soup,” she recalled. “I love to cook, and meatball soup is my favorite, too! Silly how you find connections in the smallest of things.” Unlike Caitrin's adoption, Christa's ran into problem after problem regarding their paperwork. After seven and a half months, Christa came home when she was four years old.

Reflecting back on both journeys, Sue affirmed that “[a]doption has been an amazing experience for our family. With our first adoption, we were surprised how easy it was to love a child who was not biological. It really felt no different than it did after giving birth.” As we struggle in this life to discern the difference between what we want and what we need, Sue reminds us that “at some point in [our] lives, [most people] end up having special medical needs. When considering Caitrin, I wondered what my mom would have thought, if she [had known] how much I'd suffer from Crohn's Disease. Would she have been scared? Definitely. Would she have wished I hadn't been born? Absolutely not.

“This adoption has required much ‘blind obedience.’ This is, doing what is required without understanding why and without all the affirming feelings. It is a true test in waiting for God's larger picture to unfold. In the middle of all this, God has asked me to keep my heart open to adoption. ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’ (Matthew 9:37b-38). I think of orphans lately as I ponder this verse. It was not written in this context, but the world is full of needy orphans, it aptly applies. I ask you to pray with me, therefore, that the Lord would, indeed, send you in some way as a laborer for His harvest of orphans.” n



P.O. Box 773
West Chester, OH 45071

THE Shepherd's Crook
MINISTRIES



We would love to hear your
IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS
for our newsletter.



E-mail our Editor at
newsletter@theshepherdscook.org

THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott Rosenow
Design and Layout: Allan Rosenow
Contributing Writers: Elizabeth Mock
Deb Amend
Photo Editor: Rachel Whitmire

The Shepherd's Crook Ministries

P.O. Box 773
West Chester, OH 45071
www.theshepherdscook.org