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Prayer Requests

- We encourage you to pray fervently for the children of the world who are waiting for their families to find them.
- Pray for the adopted children and their families, particularly as they go through the sometimes-painful process of getting to know each other and becoming a family.
- Pray for The Shepherd's Crook Ministries: that God would bless us financially and allow us to continue doing this important work in His name.

From the Director

Welcome to the first edition of TSC's fully electronic newsletter. We have been wrestling for quite some time with the question of just what this newsletter should look like—i.e., what features we should include, how things should be arranged, how much we should embed (versus linking to a Web site), etc. As you can see from the fact that this newsletter arrived in your inbox, we have settled those questions, at least preliminarily. Our plan is to send one of these out around the fifteenth of every month, so long as circumstances do not intervene to prevent it.

Some of you may find yourselves wondering why we are sending out an electronic newsletter when we are already in the practice of sending out periodic ministry updates via e-mail. We intend for the tone and features of this newsletter to be different than the information we provide in our ministry updates, which focus primarily on TSC children and their adopting families, as well as news and information items of a more urgent nature. These newsletters, on the other hand, will provide information of a more general nature, having to do with the ministry as a whole. We intend to include the following items in each newsletter: 1) some sort of column from me; 2) a spotlight article, which will focus on a particular country or program, or a TSC family, or even sometimes on a particular child associated with the ministry; 3) a small sampling of TSC children that have recently come home to their families; and 4) additional items that we deem relevant or important to include. We hope you will enjoy and benefit from this periodical, and we welcome any feedback you can provide, whether having to do with content or format.

By the way, if you wish to receive our regular e-mail updates—in addition to these newsletters—and aren't currently doing so, please [click here](#). If you received this electronic newsletter from someone else and would like to begin receiving them yourself, just let us know by replying to this message with your name and e-mail address.

I also thought it would be a good idea to bring you up to speed on where things stand with the ministry right now. Before Kathy and I traveled to China back in July, TSC went through a financial crisis that brought us to the brink of collapse. (Some of you may not know that Kathy and I, through God's supernatural intervention, were granted permission to bring home our fourteenth adopted child back in July. This little guy, who has spina bifida and partial paralysis in his legs, is from Henan Province in China and is seven years old—and he is an absolute delight to our family.) God intervened mightily and provided the funds for The Shepherd's Crook to continue operating, not just for that month but for several months afterward. We are still praising God and thanking Him for this abundant blessing, and we give all of the glory to Him for the fact that we're still here. I want to issue a special thank-you to the people of our home church, North Cincinnati Community Church, for serving as God's primary instrument in this most recent deliverance. But I also want to remind everyone that we continue to operate below our necessary expenses every month, and we continue to seek additional supporters who will come alongside this ministry and provide ongoing financial support for our general fund. This fund covers the expenses associated with running the ministry, without which we would not be able to operate. Please consider becoming a monthly supporter of TSC's general fund, and join us in praying that God will raise up a number of others to join in this important work.

As we continue to be about our Father's business, doing the work He has given us to do, we will continue to keep you apprised of that work and the amazing things God is accomplishing in the world. Our fervent prayer is that He would find us faithful and that His name would be glorified, both through our efforts and through seeing His purposes accomplished in us. Soli Deo gloria!

Spotlight: Philippines

The Philippines is an archipelago of just over seven thousand islands located in the South Pacific, not far from Vietnam. It is the twelfth most populous nation in the world today, with a population of approximately 92 million, and its official languages are Filipino and English. The U.S. has historically had good relations with the Philippines—the latter was an American territory for quite some time—and thus it is not surprising that adoptions from the Philippines to the States are rather common. In fact, over the past five years, an average of 270 Filipino children have been adopted by U.S. families annually. In January of this year, The Shepherd's Crook Ministries began listing special-needs children from the Philippines on our Web site. In that time, however, we have received only two inquiries about these children, and neither resulted in a committed adopted family.



There are currently seventeen waiting children on our site, and you can view them [here](#). They range in age from two years to thirteen. The most common special need is Global Developmental Delays, but several of these children have been diagnosed with more specific encephalic disorders. Although we are not allowed to put their pictures on-line, photos are available to interested families. Be aware that the Philippines is party to the Hague Adoption Convention, so that will result in some Hague-specific requirements in the adoption process. Please take a few minutes to read about these children, to pray for them, and to consider whether God might be calling you to adopt one of these orphans.

Completed Adoptions

The following children have come home to their adoptive families during the last few months. We include them as representatives of all of the children who have come home. Their faces provide just a glimpse into how significantly these lives are changed, as the children transition from the hopelessness and aloneness they once knew, to the comfort and security that come from belonging to a family. Thank you for helping us make these dreams realities, both for the adopted children and for their families.



Audrey, in China



Audrey, home in California



Daniel, in Liberia



Daniel, home in Oklahoma



Owen, in China



Owen, home in Ohio