



*Striving to rescue the
neediest orphans of
God's flock...from any
place on earth.*



Prayer Needs

Please pray with us about the following:

- ❖ That adoptions in Viet Nam, Romania, and Bolivia, which are currently closed, will resume soon
- ❖ Several of the newly-arrived Shepherd's Crook children are currently undergoing surgeries; please remember to pray for them

reflections

I have a five-year-old son, and I decided a little while back that it was time he understood a little something about modern air conditioning. I am a mechanical engineer specializing in HVAC design, and I just thought Nathan needed some idea about the wider world out there, including heating, ventilating, and air conditioning design theory. So, I chose applied psychrometrics (you know, the study of the properties of moist air) as a good starting point. Now, I'm not an idiot. I knew I couldn't just jump right into psychrometrics without some background information, so we began with a little bit of practical physics and thermodynamics. We covered pressure, density, specific heat (constant-pressure and constant-volume), basic principles of heat flow, etc. Then, I launched into the real meat of psychrometrics. I explained the differences between sensible heat and latent heat, and then discussed dry bulb temperature, absolute moisture content, and pressure dew point temperature. I wanted to make sure there was a good foundation before talking about humidity ratio, relative humidity, thermodynamic wet bulb, and total enthalpy of a moist air mixture—which we did next. Then, having established a baseline of knowledge, I explained all about sensible heat, latent heat, total heat, grand sensible heat ratio (GSHR), room sensible heat ratio (RSHR), apparatus dew point, and coil bypass factor. Finally, satisfied that I had covered all of the basics, I walked him through an exercise of calculating the size of air conditioner that would be required for our house. I thought I would have to give him the U-values and all of the conversion factors and correction factors, but that he would then be able to do a decent job of calculating everything

from there. But he looked at me with this blank stare, and, in his inimitable five-year-old way, explained to me that he didn't have a clue what I was talking about. Can you imagine that!! I spent the better part of two hours explaining all of this in great detail, and the kid didn't get it!!

Of course, all of this was merely hypothetical: I didn't really subject Nathan to all of this ("No child was harmed in the preparation and execution of this column!"), and I would never be so stupid as to imagine that he would be able to understand it if I were to attempt it. I constructed this elaborate fabrication merely to make a point—viz., that we are pretty much like Nathan in my hypothetical scenario when it comes to understanding what God is up to. Many of us often find ourselves looking at the unfolding of events and asking, "Why?" "Why did this happen in this way?" "Why did God allow this couple to try for ten years before having a baby, only to lose her before her second birthday?" "Why did God bring this person into my life only to take him away just when we were beginning to grow together?" "Why did God show us this baby out there that needs a home, and then deny us the opportunity, after trying for two years, to bring him home?" And on and on it goes. I think the truth of the matter, at least in most cases, is that, were God to explain it to us, we would be like Nathan trying to understand psychrometrics. God does not withhold information from us merely because He doesn't have to tell us, but also because we wouldn't be able to understand it if He did. "His thoughts are not like our thoughts, and His ways are not like our ways."

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The Seitz Family

by Patty Morwood



L to R: Garry; Jennifer, 27; Rebekah, 10; Bethany, 16
Luke, 18; Rachel, 14; Benjamin, 14; Jan

When Garry Seitz talks of his children—Erich, Jennifer, Cary, David, Sharon, Jeremiah, Luke, Arunee, Bethany, Benjamin, Rachel, and Rebekah—does he respond to scripture passages such as, “to whom much is given, much is expected” grudgingly with a shoulder to the grindstone, or does he go forward every day with zest, vigor, joy, and purpose?

This is a question many standing aside, gazing on Garry and Jan Seitz, may let flutter through their thinking. But actually, it is answered by taking a step closer and observing just a little bit more intensely.

Former Ohioans Garry, a Ph.D. agronomist, and Jan were married 28 years ago, in 1975. They began their marriage with little Erich, Jan’s son, and knew they wanted more children. But adoption had not been a part of their discussions, though it was a daydream of Jan’s since childhood, until after Jennifer was born in 1976. That year this couple was “born again” and began the important lesson all saints eventually learn: that the Lord has a divine plan for each of His children’s lives—whether that child is an infant or an adult, and whether that “child” is the adoptee or the pursuing parent. Thus it was that one day Garry, out of the blue, “sheepishly asked... about adopting.”

They were obviously capable of having biological children, so, if they worked through the state, as they were to do for

several of their adoptions, available children would be handicapped, older, or sibling groups. Sometimes these circumstances seem daunting to younger parents, but Garry and Jan followed through after beginning the process, and surprisingly brought a child home only three months after their first inquiry. Twenty-seven year old Cary, then only 17 months, was born without a rectum, but had had preliminary surgery as an infant. Little did they know that, with this special child, they were embarking on an unbelievable life together.

Less than two years later, David and Sharon, then eleven and nine years, joined the family. They had experienced a mortally dangerous and traumatic situation, but were welcomed with love and wide open arms. Soon after, their biological son, Jeremiah, was born, and five years later, Luke. By 1985, after ten years of marriage, the family consisted of seven children—four biological, three adopted—and two very wonderful parents. They seemed to be through with growing a family, though they did welcome two foster children for several years.

But one day a social worker called with news of an 18 year old Thai girl who had been removed from an abusive home; she was too old for the state to help her, but she needed family; would they be interested? Arunee came home to the Seitz family and became a beloved daughter.

One day, a few years later, Jan was pitching out adoption fliers which were regularly in the mailbox, when she was struck by a spread of photos under the caption, “Vietnamese Children Waiting for Families.” Among the many faces in that brochure, these were the only ones who caught her eye. Over the next six weeks they prayed: Garry and Jan were to look for a brother and a sister who were younger than nine and older than five. The Lord even gave them the names of these two yet-unknown children!

Within a few weeks a Christian agency, of course incredulous over the specifics the Seitz had given, called about a brother and sister, ages five and seven, who had just come into the orphanage. So in March of 1995, Bethany and Benjamin left Vietnam and joined their family in Florida. Today they are sixteen and fourteen, athletes, members of the National Honor Society... and the source of “untold joy and pleasure” for their siblings and parents.

In fact, things were so blessed that Jan casually commented to someone that if they “had [their] youth and resources, [they] would adopt a dozen kids from Vietnam!” Happy with their ten children and seven grandchildren Garry and Jan felt their lives were complete.

But someone besides God had heard Jan’s comment.

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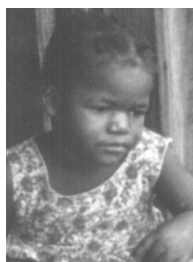
*"I will seek **what was lost** and bring back what was driven away..."*

Ezekiel 34:16

What was Lost

The following Shepherd's Crook children have come home to their families since our last newsletter was published.

Madlin



*Before, in a
Haitian orphanage*



*After, in her
Cincinnati, OH home*

Benjamin



*Before, in a
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in his
Cincinnati, OH home*

Ruthie



*Before, in a
Chinese orphanage.*



*After, in her
Ross, OH home*

Luke



*Before, in a Korean
foster home.*



*After, in his
Cincinnati, OH home*

Kaden



*Before, in a
Korean foster home.*



*After, in his
Washougal, WA home*

Maggie



*Before, in a
Chinese orphanage.*

Picture not available
at time of printing

*After, in her
Skandia, MI home*

"I will bring them out from the nations and...into their own land."

Ezekiel 34:16

Out From the Nations

Adoptions have been started on the following children since our last newsletter was published.



Elena

*Down Syndrome; waiting in a Bulgarian orphanage.
Will soon be with her Coon Rapids, MN family.*



Kostadinka

*Waiting in a Bulgarian orphanage.
Will soon be with her Lomita, CA family.*



Caroline

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.
Will soon be with her Fletcher, NC family.*



Joshua

*Deformed left ear; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.
Will soon be with his Cincinnati, OH family.*



Caleb

*Developmental delays; waiting in a Korean foster home.
Will soon be with his Mason, OH family.*

Seong Jae

*Heart defect; waiting in a Korean foster home.
Will soon be home with his Cumming, GA family*



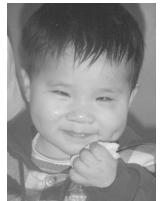
Nathan (see article on page 6)

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.
Will soon be with his Fredericksburg, VA family.*



Catriana

*Visually impaired; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



Yi Nan

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.
Will soon be with his Federal Way, WA family.*



Note:

*The departments **What Was Lost** and **Out From the Nations** show only the children who have come home or whose adoptions have been initiated since the previous issue. For a complete list of all Shepherd's Crook children—waiting, home, or being adopted—visit our website, at:*

www.theshepherdsbrook.org

Reflections *(Continued from page 1)*

But do you know what? Nathan doesn't care that he can't understand applied psychometrics (not to mention the fact that he doesn't even know what applied psychometrics is, or that it even exists!). He simply knows that Daddy takes care of things. When the air conditioning stops working, Mommy calls Daddy and Daddy takes care of it. And that's all he wants to know—and pretty much all he needs to know. He can't understand all that I understand, but he can understand, existentially, that Daddy loves him and takes care of him, and with that knowledge he is content. Oh, if we could only be more like our children!

Thank you, Father,
Amen



Family Spotlight *(Continued from page 2)*

An old friend and fellow adoptive parent called to relate a conversation she had with Kathy Rosenow, who had offhandedly mentioned two Vietnamese sisters needing a home. Jan began to network with Vietnamese adoption groups on their behalf. But at the same time, God was impressing her to really look no further: they were the family! Though most of the Seitz children—one a doubting holdout—were excited over two new sisters, Garry's feelings were stronger: it was impossible.

Foreign adoptions are costly and the process is formidable, as many will testify. And even though God had provided so much up to this time, learning a different dimension of faith was the next new step for the Seitz family. Financial complications and disappointments seemed to dampen the endeavor, until Kathy shared how God practically provides for His own in impossible situations. Upon her recommendation, Garry and Jan read *The Autobiography of George Müller* and were persuaded that God was leading them in this direction: if they were to be the parents of these Vietnamese sisters, if they were to adopt again—bringing the number of Seitz children up to twelve—then He would provide the adoption expenses and the needed space in their home.

One day Jan's daily devotional read from Exodus 3: 11-12:

"But Moses said to God, 'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelite children out of Egypt?' And He said, 'Certainly I will be with you...'"

Jan says that from that point on God confirmed His will, encouraged their hearts, and brought just enough funds for each crucial step. There was a particularly poignant twist to this story: Rachel was to turn fourteen on January 23 (2003), which was the last date that the Vietnamese government would allow her to leave the country. But the adoption process in Vietnam was actually completed just in time, and they were able to leave the country with their new daughters on the twenty-second, to arrive back in America on the twenty-third!

God's miraculous provisions for bringing Rachel and Rebekah home would fill a book. Jan writes that after "our initial commitment, there were many days when I felt the Red Sea was ahead and the Egyptians were at our back, but God always made a way and in the end definitely parted the Sea." Their church and local businesses provided material, labor, and prayer; not only was the Vietnamese side of the adoption process completed at the midnight hour and funds given to underwrite it all, but a new bedroom was built into their home especially for the girls.

Garry says that although they "did not solicit any funds or donations, it was amazing to see the people who God used to provide... Even more amazing was the degree of sacrifice that many of them made to help us... Our lives have changed in that there is more noise and more commotion, but joy and peace still reign!"

Now you, observer, count the Lord's blessings and measure the bounty, for He is surely good! □



On June 6th join us for
the Second Annual Shepherd's Crook
Celebration Banquet

Register online now at www.theshepherdcrook.org



Written by the Rosenow Kids

For nearly two years, the Rosenows vigorously pursued the adoption of Liu Xin, a little boy in Siping, China born with a severe cleft lip and palate. Finally, in March of this year, China notified the Rosenows that they would not be able to adopt Liu Xin. Heartbroken, they turned to God to provide another permanent home for this precious child, and very quickly He did. What follows was written by the Rosenow children as a way to say goodbye to Liu Xin, whom they knew as Aidan.

The loss of a loved one compares to very few things that we've ever experienced. Liu Xin (recently named Nathan by his new adoptive family) was a little boy we called brother from the time we saw him in photographs and videos nearly two years ago, and the pain when he was taken away from us is hard to describe. Sure, at first he kind of got mixed in with the other names and faces of brothers and sisters not yet home, but after a short time, we all noticed a joy in his face and attitude that isn't found much in orphans. We all had two years in which the worst we could imagine was that his homecoming would take a little longer to get here, "but it will."

Some people think, I'm sure, that when a child is across the world, there can't be that much sorrow when he goes to a different home. But he was Aidan to us, our little brother. We could almost hear him breathing over the baby monitor when we watched his eyes twinkle in his videos. With the slightest exertion of the imagination, he was there in his high-chair. It seemed like only moments passed, and suddenly he was gone. We recently discovered a song by Stephen Curtis Chapman that expresses some of our feelings better than we've been able to do ourselves. The song is called "With Hope"; following is an excerpt:

This is not at all how
We thought it was supposed to be
We had so many plans for you
We had so many dreams
And now you've gone away
And left us with the memories of your smile
And nothing we can say
And nothing we can do
Can take away the pain
The pain of losing you, but ...

We can cry with hope
We can say goodbye with hope
'Cause we know our goodbye is not the end, oh no
And we can grieve with hope
'Cause we believe with hope
(There's a place by God's grace)
There's a place where we'll see your face again

The hardest part of this situation was believing in the midst of it that God knew what He was doing, and that whatever happened, He was still in control. He has promised us that all things will work together for our ultimate good, and so we held on to that promise when nothing seemed to go right. God's ways are not always easy to understand, but they are always perfect. We are now actually excited about Nathan's future and new home. But that doesn't mean it doesn't still hurt.

Eventually, I'm sure the pain will diminish; hearts heal with time. We've been able to release Nathan into God's hands, and we rejoice with his new family and wish them all possible happiness with their new son. But we're not going to forget him.

We're just saying goodbye. □

P.S. Those of you who've followed Liu Xin's story from the beginning and wish to see it through to his homecoming can do so via a website created by his new adoptive family, at http://users.adelphia.net/~fredbo5/Bohalls/about_Liu_Xin.htm.

upcoming events

- ☑ On **June 6, 2003**, we will be praising God, at our second annual Celebration Banquet, for the work that He has done through The Shepherd's Crook during the past year. We pray that many of our families, even those out of state, will be able to join us so that everyone can meet the Shepherd's Crook children who have come home since last year's banquet. One of our remarkable families will be sharing their story, and we are planning a special music presentation involving many of the Shepherd's Crook children. Watch our website for the details of this celebration. Those on our mailing list should have already received an invitation; if you haven't and you'd like one, please let us know.
- ☑ Our next newsletter will be published in the fall, 2003.

*Our new website is
FINALLY up...*

You can see it now, at
www.theshepherdcrook.org

how can I help?

If you would like to help our ministry, here are a few of our needs.

- In our last newsletter, you read about the highly successful surgical trip that Dr. Jorge Lazareff and his nurse, Julie, took to northern China in November. We are already planning his next trip and have identified ten more Chinese children as candidates for this life-changing treatment. We will need to raise approximately \$14,000 to cover the medical costs in China (Dr. Lazareff donates all of his services); we currently have about \$4,000 toward that end. We have targeted May for his next trip, but the exact date will depend on the status of the SARS outbreak as well as how quickly we can raise the remaining funds. Please contact us if you would like to help with this most worthy undertaking.
- Our ministry of providing specially designed cleft-palate bottles and nipples, as well as other needed supplies to an orphanage in China and a hospital in Romania, continues to grow. The orphanage and hospital have no way to acquire these supplies themselves, and the bottles can quite literally mean the difference between life and death for cleft palate babies. The cost of keeping this area of our ministry going is approximately \$750 every six months. If you feel led to assist with this project, please contact us.

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*The Shepherd's Crook
Journal*

The Shepherd's
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