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REFLECTIONS by Scott Rosenow

It has been over a year since we sent out our last newsletter. That is a very long time. Too long, in fact. But we have been through quite a number of things during this past year, things that have, at a minimum, prevented us from producing a newsletter on the timetable we would have chosen. In a word, our finances have been tight. This probably isn't news to anyone reading this, and it should come as no surprise that, during these difficult economic times, an organization that depends on private-sector donations for its existence should have experienced a bit of privation. Such is the common experience of charity-funded non-profits, and it is even understandable. Of course, knowing that this is the case doesn't make it any easier to figure out how to make ends meet.

As a result of these difficulties, and in recognition of some of the evolving needs of this ministry, we have found ourselves having to make some tough choices during this past year. As many of you already know, we made the difficult decision to terminate our Public Speaking ministry last spring. This was a clear choice for us, in that we—the Board of Trustees—felt a definite leading to refocus our energies and eliminate the expensive sub-ministry. But it was one of the most difficult decisions we've ever had to make because it required us, the members of the Board, to put a person out of work. Daryl Fulp was our full-time Communications Director and, as such, the heart and soul of the Public Speaking ministry. Our decision to terminate this sub-ministry and let Daryl go was in no way driven by or influenced by Daryl's performance, nor by any concerns on the part of the Board that Daryl wasn't doing an excellent job. Rather, it was the result of long periods of prayer and many discussions, and as I said earlier, the clear conviction that this was the step God was leading us to take. I am pleased to be able to say that Daryl is now actively pursuing a ministry of his own, Hope for Home Ministries. As stated on their Web site, Hope for Home "exists to educate believers regarding the incredible needs of children without families and challenge them to a biblical response. Through partnership with numerous ministries and agencies, we provide a public speaking program, a quarterly newsletter, and regular ministry trips to expose people to orphans and empower them to make a difference in their lives." If you would like more information about this new ministry, visit their Web site at hopeforhome.org.

Another obvious consequence of our financial challenges is that we have been unable to send out a newsletter since last winter, as I mentioned above. We have tried on several occasions to pull together the funds to produce and mail the newsletters, but each time we have decided that spending the amount of money required to do so would not be justified, would not constitute responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by God for this ministry. The cost of printing these multi-page documents and then mailing them—more than twelve hundred at a time—is considerable. These realities, coupled with our ongoing difficulties, have led us to the conclusion that, for the first time since our founding, we will have to resort to using an electronic-medium format. As you see, we have created a PDF version of the newsletter. We are working on ways to make sure that all of our supporters are able to read our newsletters, and we are certain there are still some who will not easily be able to access this electronic format. In such cases, we will mail a paper version of the newsletter, but such cases will undoubtedly be the exception rather

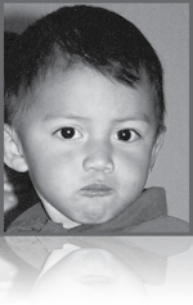
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WHAT WAS LOST – “I will seek **what was lost** and bring back what was driven away.”

The following children have come home since our last issue:

ISAAC



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In his Garden Valley, TX home.

BRAYDAN



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In his Byron Center, MI home.

HUDSON



Before: In China.

After: In his Waxahachie, TX home.

ANNIE



Before: In China.

After: In her Slinger, WI home.

SHANNEN



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In her Hamilton, OH home.

ANAH



Before: In Vietnam.

After: In her Hamil, NY home.

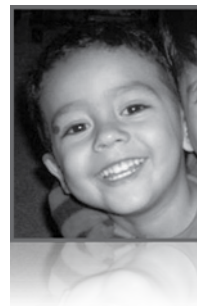
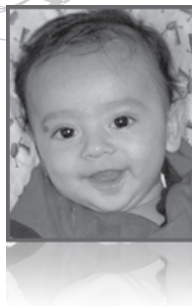
MADELINE



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In her Antigua, Guatemala home.

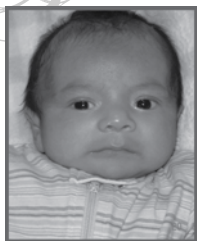
ANTHONY



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In his Byron Center, MI home.

ARTURO



Before: In Guatemala.
After: In his Coralville, IA home.

DECLAN



Before: In China.
After: In his Westminister, OH home.

CLAUDIA & MAGALY



Before: In Guatemala.
After: In their Surprise, AZ home.

NICK



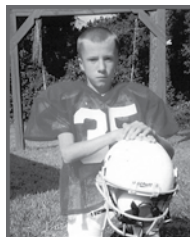
Before: In Russia.
After: In his Liberty Township, OH home.

DANIEL



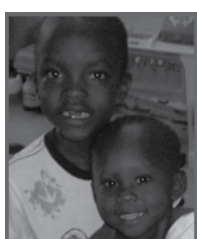
Before: In China.
After: In his Portland, OR home.

EDGARS



Before: In Latvia.
After: In his West Point, Georgia home.

EMMANUEL & JOSHUA



Before: In Uganda.
After: In their Tipp City, OH home.

AGNES



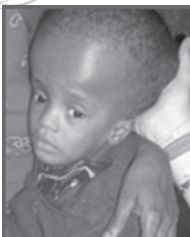
Before: In Uganda.
After: In her Tipp City, OH home.

ERIN



Before: In China.
After: In her Medford, NJ home.

ISAIAH



Before: In Liberia.
After: In his Kansas City, MO home.

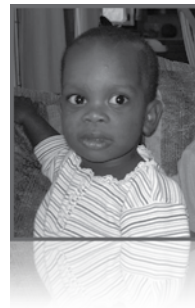
ADAM



Before: In Uganda.

After: In Spruce Grove AB (Canada) home.

JEANE



Before: In Uganda.

After: In her Spruce Grove AB (Canada) home.

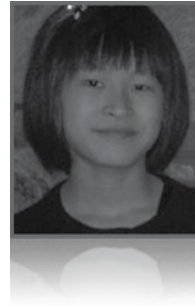
JESHUA



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In his Coralville, IA home.

JOANNA



Before: In China.

After: In her Lawndale, NC home.

JANIE



Before: In China.

After: In her Charlotte, NC home.

JOSHUA



Before: In Korea.

After: In his Washougal, WA home.

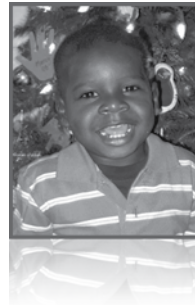
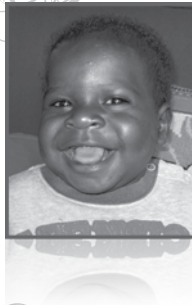
KATERINE



Before: In Guatemala.

After: In her Celina, OH home.

BENJAMIN



Before: In Uganda.

After: In his San Diego, CA home.

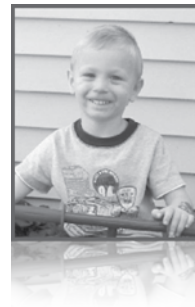
MERCY



Before: In Uganda.

After: In her San Diego, CA home.

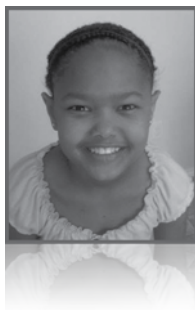
ELIJAH



Before: In U.S.A.

After: In his Ashland, WI home.

MESERET



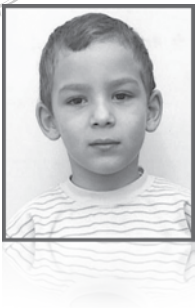
Before: In Ethiopia.
After: In her Nampa, ID home.

NICOLAE



Before: In Romania.
After: In his Modesto, CA home.

CRISTIAN



Before: In Romania.
After: In his Modesto, CA home.

KRISTIN



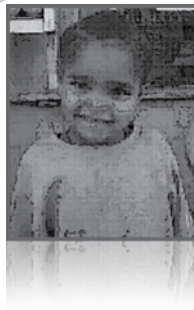
Before: In Liberia.
After: In her Sidell, FL home.

VANESSA



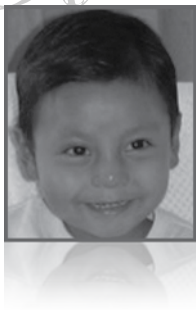
Before: In Liberia.
After: In her Sidell, FL home.

SENAIT



Before: In Ethiopia.
After: In her Nampa, ID home.

JONATHON



Before: In Guatemala.
After: In his Troy, OH home.

AMY



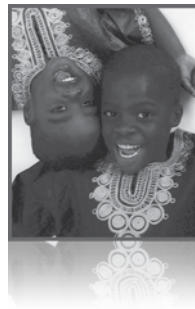
Before: In China.
After: In her Collinsville, OK home.

JAXSON




Before: In China.
After: In his Lynn, IN home.

ZACHARIA & JOSHUA

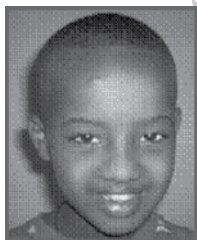


Before: In Uganda.
After: In their Milwaukee, OR home.



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:



ELISSA

Waiting: In Ethiopia.

Coming home: To Skandia, MI.



MAEHA

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Creve Coeur, IL.



MOLLY

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Hamilton, OH.



FENG MIN LE

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Batavia, OH.



GUAN YAN

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Bozeman, MT.



YANG ZHI MING

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Maineville, OH.



Ji DOU DOU

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Cincinnati, OH.



MIKA

Waiting: In China.

Coming home: To Schaumburg, IL.



MARIA

Waiting: In Romania.

Coming home: To Escondido, CA.



AMY

Waiting: In India.

Coming home: To Arlington, TX.



NASKO & SEVDALIN

Waiting: In Bulgaria.

Coming home: To Waynesville, OH.



NATHAN

Waiting: In Uganda.

Coming home: To West Milton, OH.



NAHUM

Waiting: In Vietnam.

Coming home: To Skandia, MI.



VALERIE

Waiting: In Kazakhstan.

Coming home: To Sidell, FL.



REBECCA

Waiting: In Uganda.

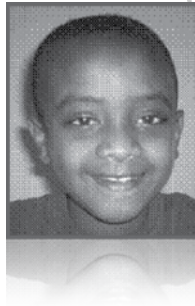
Coming home: To West Milton, OH.



DAVID

Waiting: In China.

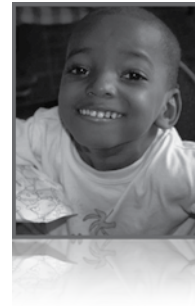
Coming home: To Troy, OH.



ELIJAH

Waiting: In Ethiopia.

Coming home: To Skandia, MI.



TEDDY

Waiting: In Liberia.

Coming home: To Branchburg, NJ.

NEW LAMBS

We are pleased to announce that we have found a replacement product for our TSC lamb. OK, I'm guessing that many of you are saying to yourselves something like, "I didn't know TSC had a lamb?" Or, "What is the TSC lamb?" Or, "I didn't know you were looking for

a replacement." Let me explain: a number of years ago, Kathy and I began giving little stuffed lambs to TSC kids whenever they came home to their families. It was sort of to say, "Welcome home, little TSC lamb." The lamb served both as a little gift and as a reminder of the fact that this child was a TSC child. We searched and searched until we found just the right little stuffed lamb to use. It was made by Gund, and it was called "Fluffles." Many, many children have received these stuffed animals over the last several years.

Unfortunately, Gund has discontinued "Fluffles," and so we were forced to look for a replacement. We have found it in a little lamb made by Mary Meyer. From this point forward we will be using this new

TSC Lamb to send to all of our TSC kids, and we wanted to let all of you know about it. Below are pictures of both "Fluffles" and the new TSC Lamb.



"Fluffles" – now retired



The new TSC lamb

than the rule.

One of the changes we made about the same time as our decision to end our Public Speaking ministry was to take on a full-time Administrative Assistant. We had tried a number of strategies to meet our need for this position, short of hiring someone to fill it, but none proved sufficiently effective; in the end, the Board decided that we had no choice but to take on this new position and trust God to fill in all the pieces that would be required. The consequence of not having an Admin Assistant was that I ended up doing most of the administrative tasks that needed to be done, with the result either that the administrative tasks were not done on time, or were not done well, or, conversely, that much of the Director's work that I really needed to be doing was left undone, or was done later than it should've been done, or was done hurriedly and thus not well. All of us on the Board came to the conclusion that we would indeed have to hire an Admin Assistant, and so we did. Greg Godwin has been working in this role since last spring, and he has been doing an excellent job. Greg has a deep passion for this ministry, and he also just happens to be our son-in-law—an added bonus. Greg very clearly felt God's leading to take on this role with the ministry, and we are pleased that he is so obviously equipped to do it for us.

One final change we've made recently is the decision not to have an annual banquet this year. This was another very difficult decision for us to make, and it, too, required much prayer and discussion among the Board members. Our banquet each year serves a two-fold purpose: first, it is a celebration of the wonderful things God has done through The Shepherd's Crook during the year; and second, it is a means of raising funds and increasing awareness for the ministry. The reality is that the banquet has never been very successful at the second purpose, and we feel that we must, in this area as with our newsletter, be very discerning as stewards of the resources God gives us. We are investigating alternative ways of accomplishing the first purpose, and we will let you know as plans in that regard develop. Know that the banquet is only one of the means we use for celebrating publicly what the Lord is doing in this ministry, and that we will be creative in continuing to proclaim His goodness in every way we can. Also, the fact that we have decided to forego our banquet this year does not mean we will not have one the following year. We are attempting to manage our financial straits and get back on our feet as quickly as possible, and this is one of the steps we're taking in that process. But our desire to hold the banquet—to meet with our families and supporters and to share the good news of what God is doing—remains strong, even passionate.

Next, I want to let you know about an exciting opportunity that has been presented to us. The Rosenow family will be traveling to Huntsville, Alabama in March on a speaking tour. No, it's not really all that glamorous: we will be the same old people, but we are privileged to be able to represent The Shepherd's Crook and the millions of orphans around the world, as we take God's message to some of His people in Huntsville. We will be speaking in three different venues over a four day period; the group organizing the events is hoping to pull attendees from over twenty different churches in the area. As I said, this is an exciting opportunity for us, and it is our passion to tell the story God has given us to tell, and to be something of a voice for the fatherless. Please join us in praying that this trip will be successful, that many hearts will be turned to follow God's call in this area, and lastly, that God would provide the funds needed for this trip. We are stepping out in faith that God will provide the funding, and we are asking His people to help us with this important and urgent work. We are also praying fervently that one of the results of this trip would be an increase in the number of monthly financial supporters of this ministry: the pressing need that we have is for a base of support sufficient to allow us to do the work we need to do and to budget our plans for the future and for growth.

And finally, I note briefly that our Fund-raising Team is working hard to restructure and re-energize the fund-raising efforts of the ministry. We are praying that God will reveal new areas in which we can and should be pursuing support from His people, and we are also praying that He will direct our efforts so that they will remain true to His standards of acceptable tactics. You will likely be hearing more about these efforts in the coming months.

As I close this column, the point I want to emphasize, the thing I want to leave you with, is the truth that we are comfortable with where God has us right now. Not that we are particularly happy to be experiencing financial difficulties, but that we know that this ministry is and has always been God's ministry. We have said from the very beginning that we want to be used in the ways He chooses to use us, and that when He is through with The Shepherd's Crook, we will all be ready to move on. We all—the Board and staff of The Shepherd's Crook—remain convinced that God is not through with us yet, that He has more work for us to do, more children and families to reach. And so we continue. And it remains our fervent prayer that “the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make [us] complete in every good work to do His will, working in [us] what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.” (Heb. 13:20-21) God will equip us, and if that means providing the funding we need, then He will provide that, too. We rejoice that, though things have been tight, we are still here. Please join us as we move forward, doing the good work our Master gives us to do.

Thank you, Father. Amen.



News Item ROMANIA TRIP

This article is long overdue, but this newsletter is, too, so I guess it all fits. You may remember quite some time ago we were raising funds to be able to send a team to Romania to provide occupational therapy, physical therapy, and orthotic intervention for a number of children there. These children are for the most part institutionalized, although there were several in need of help who were still living with their



families. This whole project came out of a dream to be able to help a little girl in Bucharest who needed new orthotics, or braces, for her legs. This little girl was born with lipomyelomeningocele spina bifida, and she is unable to walk without the assistance of braces and crutches. It occurred to us that it might be a really cool thing to send someone over there to provide some new braces for this little girl. From this idea grew the vision of sending a team over, to help this child and as many others as we could have access to; and we thought we could also provide some training to the caregivers for these kids, to multiply the effectiveness and impact of this project. Well, to make



a long story short, we did a lot of planning and organizing and fund raising, and ultimately were ready to send our team. We were privileged to have on our team: Abby Breck, OTR/L, (occupational therapist); Sherrie Conner, PT (physical therapist); Jill Recker, OTR/L (occupational therapist), all of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; and Doug Van Atta, LPO (orthotist/prosthetist). The team was supplemented by Alison Weibert, RN, our Medical Ministries Coordinator, and her husband, Jason Weibert, as well as Rebecca Hampshire, a missionary serving in Bucharest who has been a friend of this ministry for many years. Alison, before she became connected with The Shepherd's Crook, served as a missionary in Bucharest for two years, and she is still fluent in Romanian and still knows her way around there like a native.

The trip was made possible through the generosity of many friends of this ministry, as well as some welcome help from Children's Hospital Medical Center here in Cincinnati. The team left for Romania in late October, 2007, and returned early in November. We are pleased to be able to report that the whole trip was an overwhelming success, as the team ministered to five children on an individualized basis, and more than ten children in a large institution. We were even able to send Sherrie and Doug back to Bucharest in January (2008) to follow up with some of the kids, for whom Doug had fabricated orthotics. I wish we had space to display the hundreds of pictures we have from the trip, but we simply don't. I will include just a few snapshots, to give you a taste of what the team accomplished and experienced. We are thanking God for this opportunity, and we are praying that He will open doors for similar therapy trips in the future, perhaps in other countries.

