

*A Tri-annual Newsletter of The Shepherd's Crook Ministries*



*Hallowed be thy name...*  
**Prayer Needs**  
*Our Father, who art in heaven*

Please pray with us about the following:

- ❖ Join us in thanking God for providing TSC with six new staff volunteers to help meet the needs of TSC families.
- ❖ Please pray that God would increase our funds so that we would be able to award more grants to our families in the coming months.

## reflections

We at TSC often bring ourselves back to examine the reason we do all of this, this adopting of special-needs orphans. Obviously, we do it to rescue children from virtually hopeless situations and give them all of the love, nurture, and care we think every child should have. But there's actually a more fundamental reason, a higher calling, if you will. We do it to glorify God. "OK," you say, "that sounds all well and good, but how does adopting children glorify God? What does it even mean to glorify God?" Now that second question is a good one! In fact, if I could answer it and answer it well, I would probably end up with a best-seller. If I could do it in the space of this column, I'd probably end up with a string of speaking engagements so I could share my pearls of wisdom with a wider audience. So, I will not pretend to be able to give a definitive and satisfactory answer to so involved a question. I will say that, for our purposes here, to glorify God is to highlight in some intelligible way the incomparable excellencies of His character, His Word, and His work in this world. (I'd love to spend a page or so breaking that definition down and examining every word, so that its overall meaning and my intentions were unmistakably clear. Oh well...) Given this working definition of what it is to glorify God, then how does adopting special-needs and hard-to-place children glorify God? Again, I won't pretend to be qualified to give a definitive answer, but with your indulgence I'll explore the question just a bit.

We know from His Word that God is very concerned about widows and orphans. Repeatedly the Scriptures admonish us to care for widows and orphans. In fact, in James we are told that true religion, that which God finds accept-

able, is "to care for widows and orphans." (Jas. 1:27) God repeatedly refers to Himself as a father to the fatherless. Why all this concern about widows and orphans specifically? First of all, God demonstrates throughout Scripture that He is most concerned for the welfare of the helpless, and He wants those who serve Him and who bear His name to share His concern for the helpless. As a side note, I think it is interesting that the all-powerful God of creation—the One who "laid the foundations of the earth" and the One who says to the oceans, "here your proud waves must stop"—condescends to extend His deepest concern and His most tender compassion to the very weakest of us weak humans.

Jesus tells us that God alone is good. (Luke 18:19) Thus, He is the very manifestation of what is good, and whatever He does is good by definition. So we conclude that, because God is concerned about the welfare of the helpless, and because God is Himself the definition of goodness, then it is a good thing to be concerned about the weak and the helpless.

Furthermore, in the ancient world, the cornerstone of the familial economic system was the man. Society permitted the man to be a wage earner but not the woman. Thus, if a child lost his father or a woman her husband, he or she also lost his or her ability to be provided for. Without other near relatives to care for them, these children and widows became destitute; they became helpless.

*Continued on page 6*

*"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.*

### *Caleb*



*Before, in a  
Korean foster home*



*After, in his  
Mason, OH home*

### *Jonathon*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in his  
Grand Rapids, MI home*

### *Naomi E.*



*Before, in a  
Vietnamese orphanage*



*After, in her  
Owens Crossroads, AL home*

### *Naomi S.*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in her  
Yuma, AZ home*

### *Joshua*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*

### *Danny and Angel*



*Before, in a  
Guatemalan orphanage*



*After, in their  
Middletown, OH home*

### *Amanda*



*Before, in a  
Korean foster home*



*After, in her  
Tuttle, OK home*

### *Jesse Q.*



*Before, in a  
Korean foster home*



*After, in his  
Delta, CO home*

### *Mailee*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in her  
Williamston, NJ home*

### *Danielle*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in her  
Wilmington, OH home*

- **Note:** Here is the 'after' picture of Maggie that we were unable to include in our last issue.



*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.*



### **Caitrin**

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



### **Samuel**

*CdLS; waiting in a Japanese hospital.  
Will soon be with his Mauston, WI family.*



### **Jasmin**

*Spina bifida/club feet; waiting in a Romanian foster home.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



### **Sasha**

*Burns; waiting in a Russian orphanage.  
Will soon be with his South Charleston, WV family.*



### **Elijah**

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



### **Marius**

*Blind; waiting in a Romanian foster home.  
Will soon be with his Sarasota, FL family.*



### **Moses**

*Limb deformities; waiting in a Bulgarian orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Skandia, MI family.*



### **Iris**

*Waiting in a Guatemalan orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



### **Timothy**

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



### **Jesse H.**

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



### **Lee**

*Pre-mature birth/developmental delay; waiting in an Korean foster home.  
Will soon be with his Cincinnati, OH family.*



### **Audriana**

*Burns; waiting in a Romanian foster home.  
Will soon be with her Skandia, MI family.*



### **Cristian M.**

*Down Syndrome; waiting in a Romanian institution.  
Will soon be with his Middletown, RI family.*



### **Evan**

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Romanian institution.  
Will soon be with his Cincinnati, OH family.*



### **Isaiah S.**

*Severe burns; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Skandia, MI family.*



### **Molly and Joshua C.**

*Developmental delays/ siblings; waiting in a Korean foster home.  
Will soon be with their Carthage, MO family.*



### **Ezekiel**

*GI fistula; waiting in a Guatemalan orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Mechanicsburg, PA family.*



### **Nathan K.**

*Heart murmur; waiting in a Korean foster home.  
Will soon be with his Arlington, TX family.*



### **Nicolae and Cristian V.**

*History of physical abuse; waiting in a Romanian institution.  
Will soon be with their Modesto, CA family.*



### **Silvia**

*Emotionally detached and Strabismus;  
waiting in a Romanian institution.  
Will soon be with her Harrold, SD family.*



### **Peter**

*Cerebral palsy; waiting in a Russian orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Harrold, SD family.*



### **Carlos**

*Speech delays; waiting in a Guatemalan orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Valparaiso, IN 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 The Shepherd's Crook children—waiting, home, or being adopted—visit our website, at:*

***[www.theshepherdsbrook.org](http://www.theshepherdsbrook.org)***

**\* Due to the large number** of new children in this issue, we were forced to cut our **Family Spotlight** feature from this edition. The **Family Spotlight** will be back next issue.



## *From The Shepherd's Crook Staff*

### *For Samuel*

All of us at The Shepherd's Crook are asking you to pray for us, because we have suffered a great loss. On August 22, little Denis—renamed Samuel by his adoptive family and still waiting in Bucharest for his adoption to be completed—went home to be with the LORD. This is the first death of a Shepherd's Crook child whose adoption was in process, and we are all mourning him deeply. We know that the pain of his family must be far greater. If a person who had never adopted were asked to say when a child really belongs to his family, he might tell you that it happens when the last form is signed. Or perhaps he would say that it is when the child comes home to his new house. But those who have adopted know that it happens much earlier. It begins when adoptive parents first hear their child's name and see his picture. Over the next few months, his family begins to think about him more and more. When walking into a playroom full of toys, his family cannot help but wonder which will be his favorite. Each time his adoptive mother walks past a children's clothing store, she stops to try and guess what size he is wearing now. When watching neighborhood children play, the parents ask, "How much longer until our new little one will be out there, too?" Before long, they think about this child who is still oceans away as often as they think about the children already living in their home. In a very real way, Samuel's family has lost their son, and we ask you all to pray that God will help them through their grief.

We know that little Samuel is in a better place now, in the same way that a long drink of cool water is better than a mere mirage. We know that he is no longer suffering. We know that somehow this is all part of God's plan for His glory and our greater good. We do draw comfort from all of this knowledge, but it does not stop the pain in our hearts. Even though our faith is not shaken, we often feel that we must ask God why. Why would He choose to end this little boy's life just after he had found a family to love him forever? Why did God not heal him? We know that He could have done so. But we know that these questions are too big for us, and that the answers are not the real issue; instead, we trust the One Who made us and Who will one day bring us home to Himself. Please join with us and with Samuel's family as we grieve. Please join us also as we thank God for little Samuel's brief life, which has already touched so many people.

Eric and Kim, we want to tell you how much you and your children have blessed us. Even through your pain, you have been a model of Christian suffering and an encouragement to us all. We mourn with you, we love you, and we so look forward to meeting Samuel with you in Paradise. □

### **Reflections** *(Continued from page 1)*

We have been commanded by our Lord to extend His care to these helpless ones—in our case, the orphans specifically—and when we do so in His name, we thus highlight intelligibly the paramount excellencies of God's goodness (one aspect of His character) in His concern for these helpless children: we glorify God.

Our mission at The Shepherd's Crook is to glorify God by working to find families for special-needs and hard-to-place orphans from anywhere on earth. And so our success must be measured not by how many children are placed, or how much money we raise, or how many people say great things about us, but by how faithfully we represent Him in the world and by how clearly and consistently we glorify His name. We pray that God would bless our work and grant us success in it.

Thank you, Father,  
Amen





- ☑ Mark your calendars now for **June 5, 2004**, when we will observe our third annual Celebration Banquet. This year, the banquet will be held at North Cincinnati Community Church in Mason, OH. More details will be provided as the event draws nearer.

- ☑ The Rosenows will be speaking to the Mariemont Kiwanis club on January 22.

- ☑ Our next newsletter will be published in the spring/summer, 2004.

## *Our Newsletters are now available on the web...*

Visit the new information page at [www.theshepherdscook.org](http://www.theshepherdscook.org)

- ☑ On January 1, The Shepherd's Crook Ministries will be celebrating its second anniversary. The past two years have been an incredible witness to God's faithfulness and goodness. Please join all of us at TSC in thanking and praising the Lord for all that He has done. We hope to continue in this ministry of service for many years to come.



P R A Y E R C A R D S

*Now you can request  
prayer cards online...*

Visit the **new Hope Eternal** page at [www.theshepherdscook.org](http://www.theshepherdscook.org)

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