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Open Arms Ministry - December Newsletter THANK YOU

ORPHAN PRAYER VIGIL: Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the Orphan Prayer Vigil last month. It was a very blessed, spirit-filled evening with special speakers: Pastor Terry, Justin Majawa from Save Orphans Ministries in Malawi, Johnny & Angie Robertson, and Brian Taylor. Orphan Sunday for 2010 is on November 7th. We will once again hold another prayer vigil!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you for all your support with the Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts. We had a record-breaking year with 780 boxes donated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 12 noon in room 152 for those who God is calling to adopt or do foster care. The session will include learning more about the types of adoption, agencies, countries, adoption funding/grants, and requirements on foster care. A question/answer period will be at the end of the meeting.

WEBINAR SERIES: There will be a Journey to Me Webinar Series on December 8th at 6:30 pm (MST). Logon to hear about transracial adoption by Rhonda M. Roorda, an author, speaker and transracial adoptee. Visit www.JourneyToMe.com for more information.

FOSTERING AND FOSTER ADOPTION CLASSES will be held on January 13, for 9 weeks for people interested in becoming licensed foster parents or for foster adoption. These classes will be held every Wednesday at Calvary Mid Rivers. For more information or to register call 939-4343, ext. 1250. Classes are free, but space is limited. Also, fostering and foster adoption are FREE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

PORTRAITS OF GRACE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help deliver and set up Portraits of Grace Gallery at host churches in the St. Louis area. We also need a volunteer to take charge of the Portraits of Grace Gallery schedule for 2010. If interested in either job please contact Kim Smith 636/939-4343 ext 1250.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLIND SIDE Movie: This is a must-see movie for the entire family! It's about a homeless teen who is taken in by a family who gives him hope and encouragement and who eventually adopts him. Go to <http://www.ccli.com/theblindside/> for more information.

ADOPTIVE/FOSTER MOMS' NIGHT OUT: There will be no ADOPTIVE/FOSTER MOMS' NIGHT OUT for the month of December.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Are you looking for a unique Christmas gift? Open Arms now has jewelry-necklaces, earrings, bracelets and table cloths from Malawi, Africa. Each piece is hand made by materials used in Malawi. 100% of the proceeds go to Save Orphans Ministries who is helping thousands of orphans and needy children throughout Malawi. If you are interested in seeing any of the products, please contact Kim Smith.

ADOPTION FUND RAISER: Catherine Dreher is selling hand-made soaps to raise funds for her adoption. These soaps would make great Christmas gifts! Check out her sudsy creations at www.topazbathgems.etsy.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Brian and Natalie Ames on the finalization of their adoption of Denny and Marcus in November. The Ames family attends the Connections campus. We are so happy to see this family grow in such a loving way and wish them a lifetime of happiness!

PRAY FOR:

Waiting families:

Stacey & Jim Maneage (adopting from China);

Page & Steve Galbierz (adopting from China);

Robyn & Dwayne Crecelius (adopting from China);

Catherine & Scott Dreher (adopting from Ethiopia);

Amy & Kyle Cordes (adopting from Vietnam); and

Jeremy & Sandy Poteet (domestic adoption).

Joseph & Michelle Clevenger (foster adoption).

Foster families:

Tracie Johnson

Monica Bembry

Paul & Jan Wilkin

Open Arms Ministry Team Leaders:

Laura Fox/ Chris Michalski - Leaders for Adoption Ministry

Staci Maneage/Brian Taylor - Leaders for Orphan Ministry

Kristen Johnson/Christy Kaufman - Leaders for Foster Ministry

We wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas. Open Arms Ministries is so thankful for the great leadership team it has, for all the volunteers that stepped up to help with projects or events, all the new adoptions taking place with Calvary families, 2009 Portraits of Grace photo gallery touching so many hearts on foster adoption or foster care, for the many orphans that we have been able to touch and make a difference in their life through new shoes, clothing, Christmas shoe Box gifts, and bringing to a one week bible camps.

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18



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Open Arms Ministry
Calvary Church
3998 Mid Rivers Mall Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376



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