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Open Arms Ministry - May 2010 Newsletter

ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATION & SUPPORT AT CALVARY

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING: In the Bible, God calls every Christian to help orphans. Just one person can change the life of a child. We invite you to attend this month's meeting and become involved in the ministry that is truly helping the fatherless. We will meet on Wednesday, May 19th, at 7pm in room 131.

CALVARY CHURCH ADOPTION/FOSTER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP: The next adoption/foster support group meeting will be held Friday, May 21st (meeting date moved up due to Memorial weekend), from 7pm until 8:30pm in room 131. Childcare (ages birth to 11 years old) will be provided only for those who RSVP by Tuesday, May 18th, by calling 636-939-4343, x1250. We invite all our Calvary families who are in the process of adoption, have adopted, or are affected by adoption or fostering.

STARS FOSTER TRAINING CLASSES FOR FOSTER OR FOSTER ADOPTION: We will be offering a new STARS class on Monday evenings starting June 21st at 6pm at Calvary Mid Rivers campus. No childcare will be provided. To register call 636-939-4343, x1250. Class is limited so please sign up quickly.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"RESCUED": CNN presents "RESCUED" reported by Soledad O'Brien on Saturday, May 8th from 7-8pm CST. This is a presentation about the plight of those left most vulnerable in the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake - Haiti's children. Told through the eyes of 7 year-old, Cendy Jeune, and former child slave, Marchenson Oliphi, O'Brien reports on how Haiti's orphans struggle to overcome immense obstacles such as crushing poverty and the shame of child slavery. Our ministry team was able to see a clip of this presentation at the Orphan Summit and highly recommends watching it.

DALLAS MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING: Join us on Sunday, May 16th, in room 153, to learn more about this trip. It will take place on Thursday, July 29th-Sunday, August 1st. This trip is great for families with children of any age, singles and retirees. This year we are taking a church shuttle to transport everyone to Dallas for those who do not want to fly or drive on their own. There is limited space on a first come-first served basis. In Dallas we will be working at the Buckner International warehouse sorting and packing new shoes for orphans around the world.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE PRAYER VIGIL MAY 16-23: Many kids in Foster Care feel like they don't have a prayer...Let's change that! Host a prayer vigil with your growth group, friends, and family during the week of May 16-23. Prayer vigil guides are available at the Open Arms Ministry table in the welcome center at Mid Rivers Campus or download a sample prayer guide and outline for step-by-step instruction by going to www.FosterCarePrayerVigil.org.

EPWORTH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES POLO MATCH: Epworth Children & Family Services is hosting their 15th annual polo match on Saturday, June 5th, at Blue Heron Farms in Defiance (located at 4020 Benne Road). We are looking for many volunteers to help out at the Polo match with setting up and working during the match. If you are interested in volunteering, call 636-939-4343, x1250, to find out times and where volunteers are needed. You can also just come out to the event for the day with your family to enjoy mouth watering BBQ, entertainment, amusements, plus lots of activities for kids. Gates open at 3pm and the polo match will be at 4pm. Cost is \$25.00 per car.

SAVE ORPHANS MINISTRY GOLF SCRAMBLE: Save Orphans Ministry will be holding a golf scramble on Monday, August 2nd, to benefit orphans of Malawi. It will take place at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters. The scramble will be a four Person scramble with a shotgun at 1:00pm. Cost is \$150.00 per golfer (includes golf, dinner, beverages and tee gift). Not a golfer? Bring along your friends and family for dinner. Cost is \$35 per person. For questions or to register contact Johnny Robertson at 314-265-6062. 100% of proceeds go to the orphans of Malawi.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HAS GOD GIVEN YOU THE GIFT OF COOKING?: We are needing volunteers to help with cooking a simple meal and delivering it to our newly adoptive families and foster families receiving new children into their homes. We have three families just in the month of May. Contact our meal coordinator, Cindy Arnel, at 636-379-6226 or Scarnel1@yahoo.com.

LOVE TO TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE OR HOW TO HELP ORPHANS?: Open Arms Ministry is looking for volunteers who can help at our

ministry table in the welcome center at Mid Rivers Campus, just one Sunday every few months. You can help answer questions about our ministry, adoption, foster care and upcoming events or classes or just give them a ministry contact name and phone number. If you are interested in helping, contact Kim Smith at 636-939-4343, x1250.

DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION? Open Arms Ministries is in search for a volunteer that could help with typing up a list of Ministry families, support group families and any typing letters or mass e-mails when needed. If interested contact Kim Smith 636-939-4343 x1250.

SAFE FAMILIES COORDINATOR FOR WEST CAMPUS AND MID RIVERS CAMPUS AND HOSTING FAMILIES NEEDED: Open Arms Ministries is starting a new program in partnership with Bethany Christian Family Services called Safe Families. This program protects vulnerable children from having to go into the foster system because of homeless parents or abusive situations who are in need of a temporary shelter while parents receive help from Bethany. Our part is to provide Christian homes through Calvary Church that will give a safe environment to these vulnerable children. There are 81 homeless families right now in the St. Charles area needing our help. First, we need two people who are willing to be a coordinator/contact for the Mid Rivers Campus or at West Campus. Tracie Johnson will be the contact at Connections and will be the leader to oversee the whole program for Open Arms Ministries. Second, we are in need of loving Christian people who are willing to open their homes and hearts to these children temporarily. Remember the State is not involved. This is to prevent children from going into the foster system. Training classes will be available. Dates to be announced. If you would like more information, are interested in being the campus contact, or are willing to open your home, please call 636-939-4343 x1250.

PRAY FOR:

Waiting families:

Stacey & Jim Maneage

traveling to China on May 6th to bring home their daughter, Elliana;

Page & Steve Galbierz (adopting from China);

traveling to China on May 20th to bring home their son, Liam

Amy & Rob Anderson (domestic adoption);

Joseph & Michelle Clevenger (foster adoption).

Sharon & Paul Young (domestic adoption);

Foster families:

Tracie Johnson

Monica Bembry

Paul & Jan Wilkin

Buddy & Kristen Johnson

If you are adopting or plan on fostering or know of anyone within Calvary that is not on our list, please let our ministry know so that we can add the family to this list, and lift them up in prayer.

Open Arms Ministry Team Leaders:

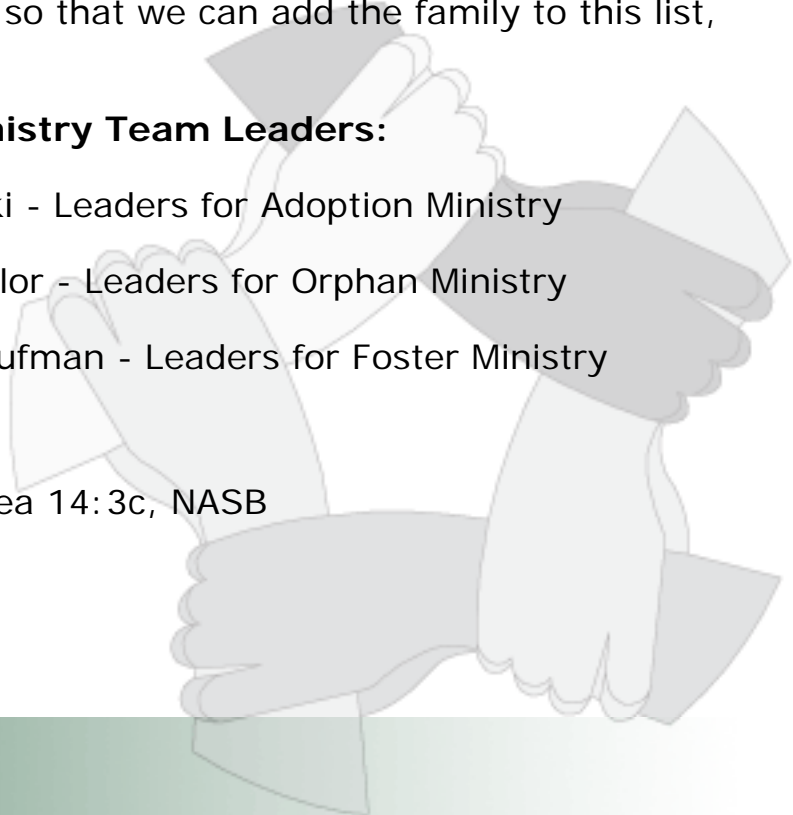
Laura Fox & Chris Michalski - Leaders for Adoption Ministry

Staci Maneage & Brian Taylor - Leaders for Orphan Ministry

Kristen Johnson & Christy Kaufman - Leaders for Foster Ministry

For in You, the orphan finds mercy. Hosea 14: 3c, NASB

Kim Smith
Director of Open Arms Ministries



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