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## Open Arms Ministry - November Newsletter

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Future Events Coming Soon!

**JOURNEY TO ME** will present a Webinar Series on October 13th. You can hear "20 Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed" by author, Sherrie Eldridge. Go to [www.JourneyToMe.com](http://www.JourneyToMe.com) for more information.

**COMMUNITY WIDE CANDLELIGHT PRAYER VIGIL** for orphans, waiting children, foster children and care givers will be Friday, November 6th, at Calvary Mid Rivers Campus in the teen warehouse at 7pm. Special guest speaker will be Justin Majawa from the Save Orphans ministry in Malawi, Africa, and our very own Christian musician, Kiersten Venezia will be performing. Desserts and African coffee will be served following the vigil. Free childcare will be provided with an RSVP to 636-939-4343 x1250. The RSVP must be received no later than Tuesday, November 3rd. Please join us and invite your coworkers, neighbors, family and friends.

**STEPHEN CURTIS CHAPMAN LIVE CONCERT** via webcast will be shown on Orphan Sunday, November 8th, from 4-6pm at the Mid Rivers Campus in the teen warehouse. This webcast is being brought to us by The Cry of the Orphan. It will include music by Stephen Curtis Chapman, Geoff Moore and the Children of the World Choir. Speakers include Jim Daly (Focus on the Family) and Dennis Rainey (Family Life). Join us for a great afternoon! Must RSVP by calling 939-4343 x1250. Limited seating!

**ADOPTIVE/FOSTER MOMS' NIGHT OUT** on Friday, November 13th, from 6-9pm, at the St. Charles Coffee House. Details will be emailed at a later point or you may contact Chris Michalski at [chris@perlguy.net](mailto:chris@perlguy.net).

**ADOPTION CELEBRATION FOR ST. LOUIS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** Have you and your family been touched by adoption? Come join the Christian community in St. Louis to celebrate adoption during National Adoption Awareness month! Fostering Faithful Families and New City Fellowship church will host a worship service and dessert reception on Saturday, November 14th, at 7pm. New City Fellowship is located at 1483 82nd Blvd., University City. Come celebrate the blessings of

adoption! This event is free. Visit [www.fosteringfaithfulfamilies.org](http://www.fosteringfaithfulfamilies.org) for more information.

**FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING** Have you ever considered being a foster or adoptive parent for kids in Missouri state custody? One Heart Family Ministries will be hosting an informational meeting for people interested in foster care and adoption on December 1, from 7-9pm. You will learn about the requirements, licensing and training process. You will also hear personal stories from "seasoned" foster and adoptive families. If you feel God calling you into this ministry, come join us to get your questions answered. Reservations are required by emailing [emilyn@ohfm.org](mailto:emilyn@ohfm.org) or calling 314-835-1690.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** shoe boxes will be collected November 1-22. Stop by the ministry table and pick up a brochure. Choose a girl or boy and age, fill an empty shoe box or a plastic container (shoe box size) with items for a child such as toiletries, toys, candy, and school supplies, and drop off at the collection table at any of the three campuses. It is a great way to bless and give joy to a orphan or needy child. For many of these children, it is the first gift they have ever received!

On Sunday, November 22nd, after the second service, volunteers are needed at the Mid Rivers Campus to help pack up and load all the shoe boxes we collect. Pizza and drinks will be supplied for lunch. If you can help out, please contact Staci Maneage at [jsmaneage@aol.com](mailto:jsmaneage@aol.com) or call 636-939-4343 x1250.

**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!

#### **UPCOMING WEBINAR SERIES BY JOURNEY TO ME:**

Sensory Integration and the Adopted Child - November 11th at 6:30pm

10 Ways to Celebrate National Adoption Month - November 18th at 6:30pm

**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED** to donate a dessert or to help set up the dessert reception for the Candlelight Prayer Vigil on Friday, November 6th. Please contact Cindy Arnel at [scarnel1@yahoo.com](mailto:scarnel1@yahoo.com) if you can help.

**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](http://www.topazbathgems.etsy.com).

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Monica Bembry on the adoption of her son, Alfanzo, on September 16th. Monica and her family attend the Connections campus. So happy to see your family grow in such a loving way. Much happiness to your entire family!

## **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

Pray for God to protect the ministry team as we prepare for the Prayer Vigil; pray for God to touch hearts of Calvary Families on adoption or foster care; safe travel for Justin & Ruth as they drive from Michigan to St. Louis to be at the Prayer Vigil; to provide strength and peace to our families in waiting; and to bless all of our foster families who are opening thier homes to foster children; and pray for the ministry team who is under much attack from Satan.

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