



Open Arms Ministry

Reaching out to orphaned and abandoned children around the world.

May Newsletter

Calendar

May

National Foster Care Month

10 - Community Outreach Project at Epworth Children's Group Home, 10am-4pm

16 - "How to Launch an Orphans Ministry in your Church" training class @ Calvary MR Campus

17 - Adoption Ministry Training class, 9am-12 noon, Room 103

21 - Prayer Vigil for Foster Children @ 6:30 pm in Room 153

30 - Adoptive/Foster Mom's Night Out @ 6:30pm, location to be announced later

June

8 - Shoeless Sunday

8 - Informational meeting for Dallas Mission trip

July 31 - August 3 - Mission trip to Buckner warehouse

The Collection Bin

Shoes - We need donations of brand new shoes, socks and shoelaces. Sizes are infant through adult and the shoes/socks can be any style. We will be collecting the shoes at all campuses on Sunday, June 8, which is "Shoeless Sunday." Ask your friends, neighbors, coworkers, schoolmates, care groups, etc. This is an easy way for people to get involved!

Shoebboxes - Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes year-round! Fill a box any time during the year and turn it in early, or shop clearance sales year-round to fill more boxes during our church's shoebox drive in November. Have your children fill a box and write a letter to enclose in the box.

Ways to Get Involved

-] **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:** We need for 15 adults (age 20 or older) to help with a landscaping project at Epworth Children's Group Home on Saturday, May 10th from 10am-4pm. This is very important to this ministry since we are trying to make a difference in those organizations who are helping children who can no longer be living with family or don't have a family. Sign up on Calvary's website under "SERVE" or contact Danna Fowler at (636) 262-5416 or Dlfowler6@yahoo.com.
-] **VOLUNTEERS** needed to help direct class participants and set up room for the "How to Launch an Orphans Ministry in Your Church" class on Friday May 16th at 6:30pm. Needed for only one hour 6pm-7pm. Contact Kim Smith 636/688-0166.
-] **TRAINING CLASS FOR MINISTRY TEAM** - Open Arms is offering a training class on Saturday, May 17th, from 9am-12 noon, on the different types of adoption for those who are interested in helping prospective adoptive families with answering questions and guidance. Three adoption representatives will do the training. Please RSVP to Laura Fox at (314) 409-8445 or Laura@paradatafinancial.com. Calvary families who are thinking of adopting are also invited to attend.
-] **PRAYER VIGIL for FOSTER CHILDREN:** Wednesday, May 21st, is our regular monthly meeting but instead we will meet at 6:30pm in room 153 and hold our own vigil of prayer for children in foster care. Please spread the word and let's see if we can get a huge group to come out and join us in praying.
-] **WE NEED SOLEMATES:** Children around the world are looking for "Solemates" which are people like you who will provide shoes for them. Simply collect at least 12 pairs of new shoes. You can do it alone or with friends, family, or co-workers. Bring the shoes to Calvary on Shoeless Sunday, June 8th. We are challenging each of you to become a solemate to 12 orphaned children by providing them shoes!
-] **INFORMATIONAL MEETING for DALLAS MISSION TRIP** will be held on Sunday, June 8th at 6:30pm in room 153. The trip is July 31-August 3rd in Mesquite, Texas, at the Buckner warehouse. We will be sorting shoes for orphans. This is a perfect mission trip for families with children of all ages. For further information contact Kim Smith at (636) 688-0166 or Jen Huff at (636) 614-1919.

Mission Trips

FAMILY MISSION TRIP to the Buckner Warehouse in Dallas ,Texas, July 31-August 3rd to help sort and pack shoes for orphans around the world. Call Jen Huff at (636) 614-1919 for further information.

BUCKNER MISSION TRIP to the Texas/Mexican border to deliver shoes to orphans. Two trips are scheduled: September 17th-21st and October 22nd-26th. For more info: itsyourmission.com/tripcalendar.shtml.

Why we do it ...

If you have been involved with the Open Arms Ministry for any amount of time, you have already heard some awesome stories. Our adopting and fostering stories are simply amazing and in this section, we will feature an adoption or foster story each month. Give God the glory as you read the amazing things He is doing in the lives of orphans and our families.

From Angie Robertson ...

Johnny and I decided to adopt when...well, never. Rather, God put me in an audience at F2F when Kim Smith was the speaker. She needed families who could volunteer to "house" Russian orphans when they came that summer for a camp. The purpose of the camp was to allow American families to meet these orphans and possibly give one of the children a permanent home. "Sure", I thought, "we can house a child for 3 weeks."

When Dima came that summer, two things happened. First, there were not enough families who pledged to adopt, and second, we loved this little boy who was in our house. So, with less thought than you might imagine, we signed up to be his "forever family." He had to return to Russia while we had to do all the necessary paperwork. I read every adoption book I knew about. "Dima" showed signs of trauma when he was with us, and I wanted to make the transition as smooth as possible.

He has been with us 3 years this month! Today is his 10th birthday. We love him completely

even though he is still full of mysterious emotions and habits. Mostly, God has taught us about what it is like for Him to adopt us. We don't realize our blessings, so we pout. We want our own way, so we throw a fit. God is always patient and unconditional. Johnny and I are not, but we cling to Him with all our strength. Mainly, I have learned that I am helpless. There are just way too many areas of Dima's past that formed him and I wasn't there. So, I continually ask God to stand in the gap for us...both Dima and us! "Show us the way," we all cry out! I could go on and on, but I have to go get a pet turtle and scrape mud off some shoes.

Last night, Dima opened some of his birthday presents. Of course, he wanted to stay up late and play with them instead of going to bed. I told him to go to sleep; the toys would be there tomorrow. In typical Dima fashion, he sheepishly looked down at his feet and said, "unless Jesus comes back tonight."

Prayer Requests

-] **Families currently in the adoption process** - We have families working towards adoptions of children in Vietnam, Russia, China and America. Please be in prayer for these families as they tackle paperwork, wait and prepare for their child(ren).

 -] **Foster families** - Pray for our many foster families, as they provide for their foster children and as they seek God's will for the children.

 -] **Pray for orphans** - Pray for God's guidance and protection in their lives, that He will use their stories to change people, and that more Christians will be enthusiastic about helping them.
-