

Kingdom Kids Adoption Ministries

Supporting Adoption as a Ministry of the Church

Feedback on the England Conferences

“We want to say a big ‘thank you’ for the conference in Poole. The workshops were informative and helpful. Please thank your children for being so happy and willing to share with us too. Seeing and hearing your children is the greatest testimony for adoption. Thank you so much.”

“We would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in the conference at Winchester. It was so good to hear first hand from those who have already experienced the blessings, the challenges, and the highs and lows of adoption. May our Lord truly bless the fruits of your labour as you share with God’s family the importance and relevance of adoption as a ministry for oris children.”

Kingdom Kids goes international!

Many months ago a family in England contacted Kingdom Kids for information about the success rate of adopting older children. As emails flew back and forth we all began to feel the Lord was directing us to present an adoption conference in England.

Last month what began as a dream actually happened! Two of our staff members and three of their children presented at two of the best conferences we’ve ever seen. The England contingency organized and publicized the events and the Kingdom Kids staff presented the general sessions and most of the workshops.



Over 120 delegates from all over England attended. There was a strong emphasis on the Biblical basis for adoption and adoption as a ministry as well as practical topics such as adopting older children and blending birth and adopted children.

Adoption is more difficult in the U.K. than in the United States due to more difficult adoption laws, so fami-

lies were very eager to receive encouragement and help.

We were asked to consider presenting conferences in northern England and Scotland as well. We are very interested in doing this but need to raise the funds for airfare. The conference fees paid for all the in-country expenses but not for airfare, so we will need to see how the Lord provides to make this outreach possible.

Our mourning turns to dancing!!!



“God can use adoption to work in your life, your children’s lives, and the lives of everyone watching to bring glory to Himself.”



In our last newsletter we shared with you how Steve and Michelle Gardner’s plans to adopt nine year old Fikadu and his little sister Tsaynesh were abruptly revised when Tsaynesh died suddenly in her Ethiopian orphanage. Two weeks after her death Steve flew to Ethiopia and spent four days with Fikadu, assuring him that the Gardners loved him and were committed to him.

During that visit Fikadu stated that he still wanted a little sister. The Gardners felt it was important to honor this request, knowing it probably wouldn’t work well for Fikadu, who had lived on his own for several months, to be the youngest of seven children.

Steve asked the women who run the orphanage about available little girls, thinking a three or four year old might work out well. In fact, he told Michelle that he wouldn’t consider anyone under age two. Incredibly,

at that moment in time in this large orphanage of over 200 children there were no little girls who had not already been assigned to families except for a very tiny, delayed little ten month old. This little one had come to the orphanage weighing less than two pounds and at seven months of age weighed only eight pounds. When Steve saw her she was ten months old and couldn’t roll over or even hold her head up. However, her eyes were alert and she didn’t seem to miss anything going on around her.

Steve quickly emailed Michelle and told her he had fallen in love with a beautiful little girl. He explained he had meant he wouldn’t consider anyone under age two MONTHS! The Gardners committed to little Dinah and asked the women in charge to let Fikadu visit her regularly and help with her care to help the children begin to bond.

Two months later Michelle flew to

Ethiopia to bring the children home. Although still tiny, Dinah has shocked her doctors by developing skills so rapidly that she is within the normal range for her age! At eighteen months she toddles around, climbs on everything and says several words. A very affectionate child, she is truly a reminder that when we take a risk we can receive an incredible blessing.

Fikadu is a happy, busy, talkative young boy who is adjusting very well to his new life. The stories he tells of life in his African village make us all roll with laughter or erupt in tears. He grieves for Tsaynesh but is healing as the Gardners work with him and help him see the Lord’s plan for his life.



“A Child’s Prayer” fundraiser report

Julie Hehn, the mother of twenty-one children, brought the audience to tears with her heart-felt stories at our second annual dessert fundraiser on September 25. An incredible silent auction with items for every fam-

ily member created some intense bidding wars. Delightful dessert selections accompanied by songs by Pony Baldwin, Christian recording artist, rounded out the evening.

Our fundraising goal was \$20,000.

After expenses we took in just over \$16,000, so we were pleased that we came so close to meeting our goal.

These funds will be used for general support for the ministry for the next year, paying all the

monthly expenses required to keep a business running.

A big thanks to everyone who donated toward the auction and who attended and purchased items and tipped the crazy waiters!

“I want to make a difference!!!”

Maybe you’ve adopted a child or two, but you want to do more to minister to children. You see pictures of waiting children and wish so badly you could bring more of them home! Partnering with Kingdom Kids truly is a way you

can make a difference. You can obey the Lord’s challenge to believers to minister to orphans without having to go out and buy a bunch of beds to fill up your house!

Would you consider making an end of the year

donation to Kingdom Kids? As with any ministry we have regular monthly operating expenses. We also seek donations to help with the expenses of adoption conferences and producing resources.

Additionally we

desire to give many more grants to help families with adoption expenses.

If the Lord leads you to commit to supporting Kingdom Kids, please complete the enclosed card and return it to us. Thank you so much!

News you can use

Our website is being updated. Soon you will be able to order resources, make a donation, and register for a conference on-line! The new web address is listed on page four.

Interested in having us present an adoption conference in your

area? Contact Kingdom Kids for an information packet on what is involved in being a conference host! We still have a couple of dates available for 2005, and are working on our 2006 conference schedule as well.

Want free toys, clothes or kitchen

products for your family? Kingdom Kids has received several donations from Spokane area businesses earmarked for the use of adoptive and foster families.

Come in to our office at **1417 N. Lincoln in Spokane** on Saturday,

December 4, 2004 from 12 to 4 p.m. and help yourself!

If that time doesn’t work for you call us at (509) 465-3520 to schedule an alternate time to come by and take a look at what we have and pick up some items for your family.

“Kingdom Kids Family” Update:

In the past eight months our staff and board members have welcomed nine new adopted children into their homes! Jonah and Leah Bade, ages 1 and 3, are domestic U.S. adoptions, Tarmine Darcy, age 5, is from Haiti, Andrew Fikadu and Dinah Keziah Gardner, ages 9 and 1, are from Ethiopia, Lucy Lee, age 1, is from China, Sam Powell, age 3, is from India, and Mikias and Yohannes Repsold, ages 8 and 5, are from Ethiopia. You can't believe the noise level around here sometimes!



Taking risks for the Kingdom

Kingdom Kids is finishing its third year of operation, and what a ride this has been! Starting in the Gardners' basement with a handful of volunteers, we quickly realized we needed office space. Soon we outgrew that and now own a wonderful old Victorian home with offices, a conference room, and a playroom for the children of staff and volunteers.

Over the past three years we have presented **fourteen adoption conferences** all around the United States, and **two conferences in England**.

As a result of these conferences over 450 children have been placed in families!

We have given **financial grants of \$316,646 to 108 families** to help them pay for adoption expenses. These families have adopted 139 children.

Of the hundreds of adoption resources available, very little is from a Christian perspective. One of our goals is to fill

this void. Michelle Gardner has written **two books** which are making an important contribution to the field.

Now we are at the point where it is obvious that we need at least one full-time staff person. Our board of directors has asked Steve Gardner, the president of Kingdom Kids, to take the position of Director of Operations.

Steve has joyfully agreed and will begin working full time for Kingdom Kids in January, 2005. This is a giant step of faith for our ministry as we need to fund this position. Would you be interested in stepping out in faith with Kingdom Kids? We know that finances are tight for many of us. We also know that when the Lord calls us to obedient risk-taking He will provide. Might it be through you?

If you are interested in being part of this exciting step of faith please return the enclosed commitment card.

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