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Volume 3, Issue 8

December, 2010

Merry Christmas!

From The Staff at Embraced by Grace!

Volume 3, Issue 8

December, 2010

December 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Events

- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 12/31 New Years Eve
- 1/1 New Years Day

All Donations to EBG must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 to be eligible for a tax deductions 2010

Mission Statement

Embraced By Grace, Inc. is an adoption and home study agency dedicated to the glory of God and the proclamation of Christ, and the promotion of family through the adoption process. We seek to partner with biblical churches in order to cultivate awareness of the scriptural focus and need for adoption, assist families in need, and provide adoption services. We are devoted to the ministry of placing adoptable children into permanent godly, Christian homes.

Galatians 4:4-6

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

CH22858- A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7452) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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Luke 2

The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.





The Adopted4Ever conference was the first Bible conference ever hosted by Embraced by Grace. The goal was to communicate the glorious truth of our adoption as God's children into His forever family through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as well as the implications for living that out in a missional way. This two day event featured the teaching of Tom Ascol, Rich Jensen, Burk Parsons, and R.C. Sproul, Jr. as well as music by Andrew Peterson. Thanks to our volunteers and all who helped with this conference. Plans are being made for the possibility of another such event in 2011.

A Desire From Above by: Dana Robbins

In our Christian pilgrimage, God gracefully guided our steps to adopt a child. Our desire to invite a child(ren) into our home came from the very heart of God. His love and burden for foster children began overflowing in our hearts. We began our steps toward discovering the children God would place in our lives and our home. Step by step the doors were opened wide to the many children that needed forever families of their own. Our hearts grew more burdened as these children crossed our path. Each time we saw a picture, video, or attended a matching event and saw these precious children, God affirmed in our hearts that we were called to adopt children into our home and fill their need for a family.

Our desire to adopt children was and is unshakable. Through much prayer, godly counsel, and faith in God, He began to open our eyes to the many older children in the foster care system. Most of these children never experienced a family devoted to raising them. They have never experienced the unconditional love of Christ. Statistics show that the majority of children in the foster care system over age eight will never know the warmth of a mother's embrace or the guidance of a loving father. Sadly, many Christian families are fearful of bringing these children into their homes. They are the forgotten and unwanted children. Perhaps there are fears that these children may harm their biological children and disrupt their whole world with rebellion. We were brought to our knees in prayer and our burden for these children grew stronger as God wrestled with our sinful and selfish hearts. It was God who was at work in us and He began to transform our hearts and minds to see His plan for our family.

We began our search for an older child who God wanted us to raise as our own, in and through the love of Christ. We knew God would lead us to the child He wanted in our home. We carried our prayers and petitions to Him, and left all of our fears at the foot of the cross. During this time, Embraced by Grace was introduced to our family. They assisted us by preparing our home study, providing an adoption training course required by the state for families adopting through the foster care system, and helping us every step of the way in the adoption process.

Since then God has opened the doors and led us to the path that brought Stephen in our lives in 2008 and Kara in 2010. When we first met Stephen, he gently rocked us back and forth as he hugged us for the first time. When we first met Kara, she stood with a big smile and received our hugs with gentleness and a grateful heart. All of us received a hug from heaven those days, and Stephen and Kara received their first picture of the unconditional love of God. During our first times together with each child, it was apparent that they were so thrilled that their long awaited journey to finding their forever family was finally coming to an end. Their days consumed with abandonment, neglect, abuse, and instability were over.

Stephen and Kara have adjusted well into their forever family! There have been many moments of bonding, laughing, praying, sacrificing, learning, playing, smiling, crying, holding, rebelling, disciplining, forgiving, protecting, teaching, conquering, overcoming and persevering. Every moment with them is an opportunity to share God's Word, in the sweet moments and in the rebellious moments. Whatever the day brings, they are now free to live in the family God planned for them from the beginning of time. They live in a Christian home where they are exposed to His Word and His Spirit to guide and lead them to delight themselves in Him. They have a home where their hearts are being taught the path that leads to life through all circumstances. Their forever family will encourage them to seek the love of God and a forever home in heaven!

Our journey in adopting children has been sweet and overflowing with God's peace and guidance. We plan to continue to invest our lives in ministering to foster children. It is a blessing to invest our lives in such a way. Our prayer is that as we persevere to help foster children, God will encourage others to join us and experience the fulfilling ministry of caring for the fatherless.

EMBRACED by Grace

Core Values & Objectives

Embraced by Grace is an adoption and home study agency created for the sole purpose of glorifying God. Our focus is to show compassion to the children who need homes and place them in a God-centered environment which values truth, life and family.

Families: We believe children can thrive in homes where they are given the opportunity to bond with a mother and father through loving family relationships.

EBG's Lending Library Bookshelf

Featured Book: **Successful Adoption**
A guide for Christian Families
By: **Natalie Nichols Gillespie**

Inside these pages, you'll discover all this and much more

- How much adoption costs and how the IRS will help you pay for it
- What questions to ask to find an agency or attorney you can trust
- Where the adoptable children are
- What paper work has to be done and how you get stated
- How long it really takes before you can bring your child home
- What the differences are between domestic and international adoption
- How you can help orphans at home and around the world, even if you are not adopting

(For info on how to borrow this book or others from EBG, please call 386-615-9767)
Hebrews 10:24
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.



Choose Life by Myra Gaziano

A decade has passed since Florida became the first state to have Choose Life license plates. It was during the 1999 legislative session when House Bill 1509 was passed that created the specialty license plate entitled Choose Life. Marion County commissioner, Randy Harris was the founder of Choose life, Inc., the organization responsible for sponsoring the legislation. Since August 2000, when the program was implemented in Florida, over 350,000 license plates have been bought or renewed totaling over \$7 million in sales.

Each county is eligible to receive funds generated from the sale of the specialty license plates within their respective county. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles administers the program and disperses the funds due each county. Counties receiving funding are mandated to disburse the funds from the Choose Life license plate program to non-governmental, not-for-profit agencies that reside within the boundaries of their respective county according to the provisions set forth in Florida Statute, 320.8058. Qualifying agencies must provide services that are limited to counseling and meeting the physical needs of pregnant women who are committed to placing their children for adoption.

