



November is National Adoption Month



Since December 2006, Embraced by Grace, has been joyfully serving churches and our community through the ministry of adoption. We are very thankful to be a part of what is such a clear picture of the gospel. As the parents' rights are transferred in adoption, so it is with the believer. God becomes our Father. We become His heirs. His glory is our inheritance. Orphans also have a special place in God's heart. He boldly proclaims to be the Father to the fatherless. Pray with us, that more Christian families would be called to foster these fatherless. The need is tremendous.



Foster Care by: Kristin Matherly

Children who are placed in foster care are often removed from their homes due to no fault of their own. It is common for them to have more trauma in their lives than any child should ever have. Combine these circumstances with no scriptural training in righteousness and you have what many call a burden to society. For some foster children, the chain of hopelessness can be broken through the willingness of godly parents to foster these children through the most difficult times of their lives as they wait for godly forever homes. Godly parents are now gaining the opportunity to remove these children from difficult situations and show them new lives in Christ. This task is both exhilarating and challenging. Knowing, believing, and applying God's truths to their lives changes everything. Children desperately need this change in their lives. Our job is two-fold: We must first lay the foundation for our foster children to be trained biblically, and we must use our testimony and successes to show the power of biblical truth to a world who is searching for answers to a problem that is spreading exponentially. Families are being destroyed by the thousands; yet truths, which will set them free, are being suppressed. As godly families take in these children and use God's Word as a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path, the world will notice a difference. They may not agree with how we achieved a change, but truth is undeniable, and the evidence is unmistakable. How could such a temporary setting benefit a child for eternity? God's Word never returns void. We can plant the seeds of truth in these children, which will benefit them far greater than the physical needs that we will be blessed to meet. The task is challenging. We must give up our selfish fears, insecurities, doubts, overall comfort zones, and conveniences to allow these children in for a short time! What if you are not able to give that child away? My friend...you can do all things THROUGH Christ who strengthens you. Exchange your fears for faith, your weakness for HIS strength, and your selfishness for a desire for His glory! God has not called all of us to this purpose...but He has commanded all of us to take care of orphans. How will you be involved? Have you ever thought of being a foster parent? Maybe you can break the chain of hopelessness for a child this year.



Foster Care Adoption Facts



**DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®**

On any given day in North America, more than 500,000 children are in the foster care system, and nearly 123,000 of them are available for adoption, just waiting for the right family to find them. Their birth parent's legal rights have been permanently terminated and children are left without a family.

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

More children become available for adoption each year than are adopted. In 2009, 69,947 children had parental rights terminated by the courts, yet

only 57,466 were adopted.

Children often wait three years or more to be adopted, move three or more times in foster care and often are separated from siblings. The average age of waiting children is 8 years old.

Last year, 29,471 children turned 18 and left the foster care system without an adoptive family.

Adopting from foster care is affordable. Most child welfare agencies cover the costs of home studies and court fees, and provide post-adoption subsidies. Thousands of employers offer financial reimbursement and paid leave for employees who adopt and Federal and/or state adoption tax credits are available to most families.

Many children in foster care have special needs. All of them deserve the chance to grow up in a safe, loving, permanent home. Support and other post-adoption resources are available.

Adopting from foster care is permanent. Once a child is adopted out of foster care, the birth parents cannot attempt to claim them or fight in court for their return. A family formed through foster care adoption is forever.

According to a National Adoption Attitudes Survey commissioned by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 63 percent of Americans hold a favorable view of adoption and 78 percent think more should be done to encourage adoption.

Nearly 40 percent of American adults, or 81.5 million people, have considered adopting a child, according to the National Adoption Attitudes Survey. If just one in 500 of these adults adopted, every waiting child in foster care would have a permanent family.

International Adoption Pursuit



FOUNDED 1977
HAGUE ACCREDITED



Exciting news!! Embraced by Grace has been pursuing Hague accreditation to provide international adoption services. The site team visited our agency this summer. The application that was currently under review by the Council on Accreditation has been approved!!



Our board will determine what country or countries we will be working with. Please pray for God's direction as we seek to glorify God by placing adoptable children (from here and around the world) into godly Christian homes.

Watch this newsletter for future updates!!



EBG Adoption Stories

To all Families considering adoption through Embraced by Grace,

My wife Sarah and I are in our 40's. We were married six years ago and tried several times to have children of our own. The low point in our experience was carrying our little boy Noah full term only to find out two-thirds of the way through that he had serious genetic deficiencies. This was a shock to both of us, but we saw it as God's will and we decided to continue the pregnancy hoping for a miracle. When the miracle did not occur and Noah passed away shortly after birth, a part of us died along with him. While we tried a couple more times to have children, we both came to realize that adoption simply made more sense.

My wife Sarah was adopted as an infant, so she has carried a torch her entire life for the process. While I was on board for anything that would make her happy, I was worried about the cost, the circumstances, and how long it would take. I was forgetting to trust in the Lord and have faith that His timing would prevail.

Sarah and I found Embraced by Grace (EBG) through a mutual friend in Ormond Beach in 2009. We were taken back with the charm and good nature of each person we talked with from day one. It was preferable for us to deal with a Christian agency, but it was even better that they were people who really did take an interest in us and the process as a whole.

We progressed over a period of around six months of getting all of the paperwork, background checks, and MAPP course completed for the State of Florida and for EBG. Long story short, from the time we were eligible it was only a few months before we heard that our profile had been chosen by a birth mother.

We met Julie* in May 2010. She was a young birth mother who made a heroic decision to place her baby for adoption hoping that her selected adoptive parents could raise him and give him a better life than the one she could provide at such a young age. Sarah and I both fell in love with her courage and her determination to do what she felt was the right thing. In September 2010 she gave birth to our new son. While it has only been a few short weeks since Alex's birth, Sarah and I can both honestly say, bringing this little boy into our home and into our lives has been a game changer. It has been an event that there are no words to describe.

We both look forward to the days ahead and raising this little boy up in the ways of the Lord. He is the apple of our eye already and he will always know love in our household. For anyone considering adopting a child, I do not believe you can go wrong with Embraced by Grace. Listen to them. Take advantage of their wisdom and expertise and most importantly put your faith in God to see you through.

-Brad



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.

Children: We believe children are a gift and a blessed heritage from the Lord. Children are not to be treated as an inconvenience, an accident, or a burden.



EBG's New Lending Library Bookshelf



Featured Book: *Shepherding a Child's Heart*
By: Tedd Tripp

"With the plethora of material on parenting and the family, it is surprising—and distressing—to see how few books are genuinely biblical. Here is a refreshing exception. Tedd Tripp offers solid, trustworthy, biblical help for parents. If you are looking for the right perspective and practical help, you won't find a more excellent guide."
—Pastor John MacArthur Grace Community Church

(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.



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November, 2010

November 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				

Upcoming Events

Adopted 4Ever 11/5-6
National Orphan Sunday 11/7
National Adoption Day 11/20
Thanksgiving 11/25

Happy
Thanksgiving!!
2010

STAFF

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Director of Social Services

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Association Executive/
Birth Parent Liaison

Patti Parks
Office Administrator

Deirdre Gaetano
Administrator Assistant

Ephesians 1: 4 - 6

Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He

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.

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