Signs for Hope

Winter 2010

Hello to all you friends of Signs for Hope. January 2010 is history and I wish I could announce that we have launched the Signs for Hope website, however I cannot. It is in the works and I pray it will be launched by March. There is a precious young lady—she is Deaf—working diligently to get things designed and operational, so please pray for her and for her perseverance.

Allow me to bring you up-to-date on many aspects of my life and Signs for Hope. My life is extremely busy and I thank God for your continued prayers because it is evident only God could give me the strength to do all that I do day in and day out. He truly is my strength!

Early in November, my sister-in-law spent her vacation helping me with various aspects of Signs for Hope and the foundational ground work for the Share His Hope 2010 orphan care conference—more below. The two of us went back to the Christian business man I told you about in the fall and with his expertise were able to devise a 3-year business plan for Signs for Hope. This is required before we can proceed with the 501c3 (non-profit) application. Praise the Lord for this answer to prayer!

In December, the new hearing pastor at our church and I *inherited* the Deaf Ministry. We have experienced some major challenges in the past year in our Deaf Ministry, but it is evident God's hand is on this ministry. Three Deaf from the community have been saved in the past 3-4 months and we are praying for God to send us a Pastor to the Deaf and a way to support him and his family. In the mean time we have visiting Deaf pastors scheduled twice a month to teach and preach. The need for a Deaf church in Western North Carolina is great—please pray with us that God will provide this man soon and the means to pay him.

In the fall newsletter I shared with you briefly about the Share His Hope 2010 conference our church is hosting March 19-20. The past two months I have been consumed with planning and organizing this event. I am so thankful for a pastor who caught this vision last October and for those who have come along side me to see this conference come to fruition. I am also thankful for the continued support of a loving and praying husband throughout this process.

God has great things in store for those who attend this conference. It is so exciting to see His love for the orphan and how He is awakening His children—His Church—to share that love. See the section "Share His Hope 2010" for more information. It is a "Deaf friendly" conference.

This brings me to some wonderful news and another answer to prayer. In mid-December, my husband and I met with Angel Rutledge—and others—at Christian Adoption Services in Charlotte. You will remember that Angel is one of the connections God has given me to deaf orphans in Liberia. Following this meeting Angel contacted African Child Sponsorship in Liberia and you can now go on-line and sign up to sponsor a deaf child at the Mission for Deaf Children in Liberia. Read more about this opportunity under "Liberia Mission for Deaf Children."

While on the topic of Liberia, plans for me to visit the Mission for Deaf Children in Liberia are proceeding. A dear friend of mine and I attended an organizational meeting for this trip a few weeks ago in Angel's home outside of Charlotte. Another friend interested in joining this trip attended via cell phone. The passion this

group has to see lasting change for the orphan in Liberia is inspiring. I will share more details for this trip in the spring newsletter, but please begin praying now for all aspects of this trip scheduled for June 17th -26th. Pray for God to reveal "who" He wants to join me on this trip. Several ladies are praying about this possibility. The desire for a man with a heart for the deaf and skilled in ASL has been requested by trip organizers. Pray for wisdom to know how to prepare appropriately for this trip. Pray for God to provide the funding for each of us for this trip. Pray for each of the deaf children at the Mission for Deaf Children and how we can best minister to their needs.

As I close this portion of the newsletter, let me urge you to continue to pray for the establishment of Signs for Hope and all that involves. In late November, I woke up early one morning with a feeling of urgency to define the vision for Signs for Hope. The mission came as a mandate from God; "coordinate the adoption of deaf orphans in the world." The vision—while it is still in the infancy stages of development—has been more challenging to define. The statement below represents the culmination of that feeling of urgency in November and a continued searching for His perspective concerning the eventual "vision" for Signs for Hope.

"Signs for Hope envisions a world where the lives of all deaf and HOH orphans are enhanced by adoption endeavoring to provide each of them with the greatest opportunity to achieve their full potential in this life."

As I have thought about and studied the word adoption for many months, especially in its all encompassing meaning, I have come to the realization that ultimately there are three ways deaf orphans can be "adopted." They can be adopted into a single family home, they can be adopted into a church-based family home, and they can be adopted into our Heavenly Father's home. And you and I have the privilege and duty of participating in each of these.

A single family home represents a single family adopting a deaf/HOH orphan. You and I can help that become a realization by first praying for this family in this arduous process and secondly, by helping fund their adoption.

A church-based family home—preferably smaller in size with a high care-giver to child ratio—is another form of adoption. Indigenous churches will be encouraged to become involved in these homes if they are not already. The opportunity for other churches and individuals to partner with them in providing for the needs of these children will be encouraged.

Of course, our Heavenly Father's home is the most significant adoption available for each of these children granting them abundant life here on Earth and eternal life in their forever Heavenly home through Jesus Christ.

The strategies for accomplishing the above are still being sought through prayer and wise counsel and I suspect will continue to evolve over time. I covet your prayers for God's continued leadership in these many decisions, as they will have eternal ramifications on the lives of each of the children Signs for Hope impacts.

Only by His mercy,

Becky

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Share His Hope 2010

Share His Hope 2010 will be held in Asheville, NC on March 19-20, 2010 at Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church. The purpose of this event is to connect individuals and churches with organizations that love and serve the orphan and train individuals and churches in how to carry out orphan care ministry through their local church. God has commanded His children to care for the orphan and we are long over-due in obeying. Exhibitors and presenters (Deaf and hearing) will be sharing their information and this event will be open to the Deaf community. Sessions will all be interpreted or lead in American Sign Language. Voice interpreting will be provided for hearing attendees when needed.

Three precious families will share their "deaf adoption story" during one of the Breakout sessions. During another Breakout session, listen to the experiences of what life is like to be the hearing sibling of an adopted deaf brother.

Registration for Share His Hope 2010 is open on-line at http://sharehishope.eventbrite.com.
Please pray God will use this event to raise awareness for the more than 132 million orphans in need around the world. Also, pray God will touch the hearts of many—hearing and Deaf—to adopt or sponsor the numerous deaf orphans struggling to survive.

Liberia

Mission for Deaf Children

As I told you earlier in this newsletter the opportunity for sponsoring a child at the Mission for Deaf Children in Liberia is now available on-line through African Christian Fellowship International. Presently, Liberia is closed to adoption so the need for sponsorship is of utmost importance. Simply log onto the following website to find that special child you will be willing to pray for and support financially on a regular monthly basis. All the details are listed on the website and if you choose to support one of these children before my trip to Liberia in June, I will be more than happy to deliver any special gifts you might want me to transport. Better yet, join me on the trip and you can deliver them in person!

http://www.AfricanChildSponsorship.com

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:

to look after orphans and widows in their distress and

to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27