Signs for Hope

Spring 2010

Hello to all, family and friends!

Spring time is my favorite season of the year! We have had an absolutely beautiful spring here in Western North Carolina (WNC). Maybe since our winter was so harsh, spring-time has been more captivating to me this year. During the winter, as we had snow on the ground—almost continually—from December 18th through the end of February, I remember longing, frequently, for spring-time. The hope of spring's arrival and the assurance that it would indeed appear, as it always does, was something that helped me endure the winter. Spring-time brings with it the promise of *new life*. To watch the grass become green again, to see the trees begin to sprout leaves again, and to see flowers of various colors push their way up through the earth (or snow) is inspiring. How can anyone not believe there is a God orchestrating all of this magnificent display?! In WNC it is obvious why God chose spring-time for His Son's resurrection! Hallelujah! He is risen, indeed!

While writing the SFH winter 2010 newsletter I was consumed by the planning for the Share His Hope 2010 Orphan Care Conference, which was held just a little over a month ago. What a blessing it was to hear the numerous God-stories of Him walking along side those who are caring for the orphan –around the world—in so many different ways. We were so privileged to hear about the adoption stories from the Carr family, the Jordan family, and the Martin family as they shared how they followed God's leading them in adopting their precious deaf or hard of hearing children from China and Guatemala. We were challenged by general session speakers to "not give up in well-doing" even if those around us "didn't get it, yet." Break-out session leaders were well equipped and provided the best possible information to benefit their small audiences in their endeavors to follow God's heart in caring for the orphan. It is also inspiring to know that those who attended Share His Hope 2010 are now impacting their own communities for the sake of the fatherless. The vast number of volunteers made Share His Hope 2010 a wonderful success. The huge prayer support, prior to the conference and throughout the weekend, was truly evidenced. Thank you all, again—you know who you are. Yes, Lord willing, Share His Hope will be back in 2012. In the mean time, something a little different is on the horizon for 2011. Additional details for the 2011 event—which will benefit foster families, adoptive families, and all other families—will be included in the SFH summer newsletter.

LIBERIA – here we come!! Plans for our trip to Liberia, June 17th though the 26th, are proceeding. Graciously, God has already nudged some of you to help with the financial opportunity of supporting me in this trip—thank you. I trust He will continue to do so with others. **Pray that all Liberia mission team members will be blessed abundantly above what they ask or think by those who desire to support them financially, as well.** Thank you, in advance, for what you will do in obedience to our Lord as you partner with me and Signs for Hope as we care for Liberian deaf orphans and others. I want to stress to you, once again, the vital need for your prayer support for me during this journey. I have no doubt God will open my eyes and heart to understand more about His plans for the foundational structure of Signs for Hope through this Liberia trip. But, at the same time, **I want to**

be all that I am supposed to be to each of the Liberian children I meet. I want to be His hands—signing with them. I want to be His arms—holding them. I want to be His love—surrounding them. I want to be His hope—for each of them. I cannot do this without His help and your prayers.

I am pleased to announce to you that as of February 11, 2010, Signs for Hope, Inc. is a recognized non-profit corporation in the state of North Carolina. Thank you, Lord! The next step is to prepare and file papers requesting 501c3 status. The 501c3 process is ongoing and will be expectantly completed before the end of 2011. I know that sounds like a long way off, but if any of you have ever been involved with attaining a 501c3 status you know the process can be a long and arduous one. Allow me to remind you that we have already obtained a 3-year business plan required for the non-profit status. **But, will you continue to join with me in praying for the selection of board members for Signs for Hope?** This is of vital importance and must be solidified as soon as possible, so we can begin meeting and praying together.

In the past few months, several of you have given monetary gifts to me (SFH) for the express purpose of helping support the ministry of Signs for Hope in this beginning phase—thank you. You will never know how much this has helped inspire me to persevere on many different levels, after the initial surprise. Others have asked about the possibility of monthly supporting the ministry of Signs for Hope. Basically, I have put you off, until now. I have to tell you it is humbling to have someone offer to give you money to do…*whatever needs to be done*. Not to mention the overwhelming feeling of responsibility to use what is given appropriately. All of this is a new experience for me and I am learning to swallow my pride (albeit false) in order to accept these blessings and challenges, knowing He alone will help me continue to make wise decisions. After several months of denial, I believe God has made it clear to me that I must enlist the financial support of individuals and churches to be able to establish a strong financially sound foundation for Signs for Hope, even in this "start-up" phase. I know what you are thinking, because I am thinking it too, "How can this be—given the uncertain financial crisis in our world, today?" God is continually reminding me, "you have not, because you ask not." I must constantly remind myself that I am not asking for me, but I am asking on behalf of deaf and hard-of-hearing orphans around the world—the least of the least—who are in such great need. If God's call had not been so blatantly clear, I can assure you I would not be doing what I am doing. He knew in advance I would need that defining moment in order to motivate me to persevere in "coordinating the adoption of deaf orphans in the world" and whatever that entails.

Once the non-profit status is secured all monetary donations will be considered tax-deductible, as will all those donations given during the 26 months prior to that time. For those of you who feel God leading you to give to Signs for Hope—either a one-time gift or ongoing donation of any amount—you can do so by writing a check to Signs for Hope and mailing it to PO Box 460, Fairview, NC 28730. We will keep a record of your gift(s) and you will receive the needed receipt(s), for tax purposes, once non-profit status is complete. When the Signs for Hope website is officially launched the ability to utilize PayPal will be an additional option for your financial support.

Some may be wondering…"What would our gifts of support be used for?" I am more than happy to share some of those opportunities with you.

Printing expenses: Recently, I have printed new business cards and an informational card explaining the purpose and goals represented by Signs for Hope. These were available at the Share His Hope 2010 conference. If you would like some of these to display at your church or share with others please let me know and I will gladly ship them to you. Printing cost for these items was approximately $215.

Laptop: Many of you know that my laptop has been unreliable and so the need for purchasing a new laptop will be soon. I suspect a new laptop, equipped adequately, will cost close to $2,000.

Conference fees and travel expenses: The Signs for Hope website will be a leading provider of free information for pre- and post-adoptive families dealing with a plethora of issues related to adoption, education, communication options, and health specifically pertaining to deaf and hard-of-hearing children. I continue to gain much information, free of charge, through the Internet—in relation to the adoption processes and the raising of deaf children. However, the need for me to receive training and attend conferences in these fields of expertise is becoming more and more apparent. Some examples of conferences I would like to attend in the future include:

The Statewide Conference on Education of the Deaf/HOH in Fort Worth, TX. July 22nd -24th http://www.swced.org (North Carolina does not offer one).

Together for Adoption – Oct. 1st -2nd Austin Texas. http://www.togetherforadoption.org

The American Society for Deaf Children's biennial conference June 22-26th 2011 at the Maryland School for the Deaf. http://www.deafchildren.org

Additional training in some areas is offered on-line, but access fees apply for these, as well.

Website Design & Hosting: We have been praying for this from the very beginning. While a few precious volunteers have worked to get the SFH website up and running, it has become clear to me that the need for a professional web-designer and host will be required to adequately accomplish all that the SFH website desires to offer. The cost for this service will probably range from $100 - $150 per month. I, of course, will be the one to provide all the information to the designer-host for the website. The SFH website will become known as a great resource for pre- and post-adoptive families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and beyond.

Well, if you are still reading this newsletter at this point, may God bless you! In the future most of this type of information will be shared on the website. While the above is not an exhaustive list of expenses, it does give you an understanding of what it can cost to run a ministry like Signs for Hope.

Please, if you feel led to share these opportunities of support with a friend, a family member, your church, or any other organization…do not hesitate to do so. You simply do what God directs you to do and **then ask God to lead those whom He wants to partner with Signs for Hope, whether in prayer support and/or financial support.**

Specific prayer requests have been high-lighted throughout this newsletter. **Please pray for me and the ministry of Signs for Hope as God reminds you to do so.**

What a pleasure it is to partner with you in this calling of God "to coordinate the adoption of deaf orphans in the world." I look forward to how God will continue to lead in His calling and how you will be involved in His calling to care for the orphan and specifically for deaf orphans all around the world.

Only by His mercy,

Becky

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Liberia Sponsorships

Will you show His hope?

As I told you in the winter newsletter, Christian Adoption Services in partnership with the Mission for Deaf Children in Liberia is now offering the opportunity of sponsorship. Liberia is *closed* to adoption right now, but the blessing of sponsorship is wide open.

We shared this opportunity with those at the Share His Hope conference and the oldest; Jeremiah age 19, now has his sponsor family. Thank you, Lord! **Please ask God to show you if you are to be the sponsor family for one of the four, cuties, below.**

Samuel Gbayee
Birth Date: 05/04/98
Favorite Subject: English
Like to do: Volleyball

Jennah Bayee
Birth Date: 06/07/01
Favorite Subject: Spelling
Like to do: Kickball

Annie Flanah
Birth Date: 11/04/97
Favorite Subject: Science
Like to do: Ball

Akio Flomo
Birth Date: 01/26/96
Favorite Subject: English
Like to do: Soccer

Everything you need to do to begin sponsoring one of these precious children is found on the website: http:www.africanchildsponsorship.com

"But You, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless."

Psalm 10:14