Signs for Hope

January 2012

It is hard to believe that the first month of 2012 is now history. We have enjoyed a very mild winter here in Western North Carolina, thus far, and hopefully it will continue that way. As I think about the weather and the inability forecasters have for predicting—accurately—the weather from one day to the next, I am reminded that our God, the Creator of all that we can see and all that we cannot see, knows everything there is to know about your future and mine…from now until we leave this earth and beyond. His knowledge is not only 100% accurate, but our future is also perfectly planned to accomplish His purpose, if we are willing to follow Him wholeheartedly. I am so thankful you and I do not have to worry about what we will wear tomorrow, spiritually, as we are clothed in Christ and His righteousness and that alone gives us the complete protection we need from the Evil One.

I cannot tell you how exciting it is to be involved in orphan care and Deaf ministry at the same time. Yes, both have their challenges and disappointments, but God…is there to help us through those times. Often, it is in those challenges and disappointments we grow closer to Him. I never dreamed I would be involved in either of these ministries until about 11 years ago. These are two groups of people—the Deaf and orphans—that God has His hand on and seeing Him work and move and changing lives is awe-inspiring, to say the least. Who is it that thinks Christian's lives are dull and boring? My life is far from dull and is never boring! Most of the time I am trying to keep in step with all the Lord is doing. I know it is only by your prayers that I can continue doing what I do. Thank you!

Deaf Adoption Update

We just finished an adoption fundraiser for one of the families I have had the privilege of walking alongside during their adoption process from the very beginning. They are Boris and Donna Katic and they are both Deaf. They are adopting a precious Deaf boy from Russia. The *Signs for Hope* 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch after church, this past Sunday, provided $800 in donations to help with their adoption expenses. What an awesome way for so many of God's people to come together and experience the pure and undefiled religion that James talks about (James 1:27).

God continues to teach me that He uses each of us—His children—to accomplish His will as we collaborate together. If you have known me very long you have heard me say that God does not expect us to be "Lone Ranger" Christians, but instead desires for us to work together to accomplish greater things than what we can do alone. Collaboration is work, but it is work that God blesses. I encourage you to review what God has called you to do and ask Him how you can involve others to accomplish this task that might seem to be impossible for you to conquer alone. He often has others waiting in the wings, when we willingly acknowledge we cannot accomplish His plan without others locking arms with us in the process.

Please pray for the nine families from seven states that have contact me, seeking advice, as they progress through the process of adopting Deaf/HOH children. Some of these families have finished their paperwork and are waiting to get the call to "go" pick up their children. Some are still trying to determine God's plan for them concerning adoption and others are in varying stages of the adoption process. Please join me in praying for their relationships to God to be strengthened as

they seek His plan for their families and for His leading to be clearly understood. Adoption, there is nothing like it!

The Deml family is currently in Ukraine spending time with their three boys (brothers; the oldest is Deaf) waiting for incountry paperwork to be completed. Just before Christmas they were informed their boys had been chosen by a family from France and they would no longer be available. In Ukraine you are not officially "matched" with a child until you arrive. The Deml's did not allow this news to end their adoption journey, but instead decided to fly to Ukraine and trust that God knew who their children were, even if they did not. In His sovereignty, the adoption by the couple from France fell through and the three brothers were left for the Deml's to claim as theirs. Read about their amazing adoption journey of faith on their website "Filling the House with Blessings."

Many *Signs for Hope* website updates are in the process to provide much needed resources for these families on their adoption journey.

In the fall newsletter I asked you to join me in praying for God to provide the funds to pay for interpreter services for Deaf/HOH parents in the adoption process. Not only is He providing funds for homestudies, training, interviews, etc. for those who need it, but He has also provided the funds for paying the expenses for an interpreter to join the family as they travel to bring their children home. Please thank God for this amazing answer to your prayers.

God places the lonely in families. Psalm 68:6

Liberia Mission Trip 2012

The Liberia Mission Trip for 2012 is on the calendar. We will leave May 24th and there is an option to stay one or two weeks. I am praying for God to send others to Liberia with me. Let me know ASAP if you are interested in joining me on this trip to love on Deaf orphans in Jesus name!

In addition to the Liberia trip for this year, God has some amazing plans for fundraising events for the vocational trade school at the Deaf Mission. I hope to be able to share some of this exciting news with you soon! Please continue to pray for God to open the hearts of many to heed the call to support Deaf and hearing children in Liberia in such a tangible way.

In closing, allow me to thank those of you who sponsor Deaf/HOH children in Liberia at the Deaf Mission. I cannot express to you how important your financial support is, but also the emotional and spiritual encouragement this grants these precious children is beyond our comprehension. Please be in prayer for your sponsored child(ren) daily. Life in Liberia is extremely challenging for the children and those who care for them. You and I really have no clue as to all they endure, even today. Your prayers for these children can have an eternal impact on their lives. Encourage others to join you in sponsoring one or more of these children, as there are still 40+ children needing sponsors. Have them contact me.

My prayer for you… "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Only by His mercy and His grace,

Becky

***Check out the new Signs4Hope blog ***