

# Signs for Hope

May 13, 2012



The last month and a half, here at Signs for Hope, has been full to overflowing. A 2-week trip to China with the Barnes family as their ASL interpreter and friend turned out to be an unforgettable, wonderful experience! We prepared for the worst, knowing older child adoption can bring with it many disconnects for a child, and challenges for their family, but we were pleasantly surprised by all the positives we enjoyed through this 8-yr old Deaf Chinese boy...Tie William Barnes. The Barnes family continues to transition into a family of seven and you can follow their unfolding journey of adoption on their blog [Raised in Love](#). Please help them pay back the interest-free covenant-loan they received from [ABBA Fund](#), which paid for all their travel expenses. Make your checks payable to Fayetteville Deaf Church, 1136 Thornwood Place, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Put "Barnes Adoption" in the memo line. This is *one way* you can satisfy God's desire and plan for you to 'care for the fatherless.'

Allow me to clarify one thing for you. The Barnes family was not charged anything for my joining them on this trip to China. I want you to understand that this is a part of the Signs for Hope ministry and is provided as a service to them and other Deaf families who adopt...free of charge.

*Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*  
Psalm 82:3

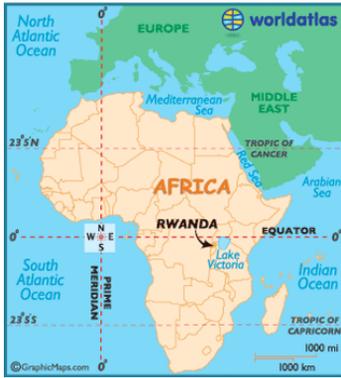
## 501c3 Update

I am delighted and relieved to announce to you that all the paperwork for Signs for Hope to become an IRS recognized non-profit (501c3 status) has been completed. Since I will be out of the country for 27-days—traveling to Rwanda and Liberia; May 14<sup>th</sup> through June 9<sup>th</sup>—and the deadline for submitting this paperwork is May 30<sup>th</sup>, it was vitally important for this to be completed before I left. One of the major reasons for my delay in completing this paperwork was an incomplete Signs for Hope governing board.



Last week, in His own timing—which is *always perfect*—God provided the needed number of board members to proceed with pursuing the 501c3! July's newsletter will introduce each of the Signs for Hope board members to you. It is exciting to see God put this initial board together! There will be a few additions to the Signs for Hope board at our next business meeting. This board will continue to seek His plan for those who He desires to help make vital decisions for this ministry in the future. This has been a 3-yr. long prayer request and to finally see His answer is...inspiring! Many of you have been praying for this day and you can now thank our God, profusely, for providing abundantly!

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!*  
Ephesians 3:20-21



# Rwanda & Liberia 2012



Rwanda and Liberia are both located on the continent of Africa, but they have completely different histories and cultures; as they are two totally different countries. Rwanda boasts of a pleasant climate throughout the year, while Liberia—typically—is quite warm (really it's HOT) and humid with 6 months of rain and 6 months of dry. There are approximately 3,000 miles separating the two countries—'as the crow flies'—and flying from one to the other is just as time-consuming and costly as flying between any two countries located anywhere else. Sometimes we mistakenly think of Africa as being one country having different states like the US, but in actuality each African country located on the Continent of Africa is unique from the others, in almost every way. Knowing this fact helps to develop a more accurate picture of the vastness of the African peoples and their cultures.

You are probably asking yourself, "Why is Becky going to Rwanda?" That is a very good question. Earlier this year, I became increasingly frustrated with my own stubborn and unrelenting western mind-set. I remember sharing my concerns, one day last February, with a good friend. Immediately she thought of a ministry she had heard of through a speaker at her church. She remembered the name "ZOE" and a quick Internet search revealed the website for [ZOE Ministry](#). The Orphan Empowerment Program ZOE uses has had great success over the past 5 years with empowering over 27,000 orphans in four African countries to live independent, self-sustainable lives.

When I say "Western mind-set", I mean the idea that if we "give" those in need something **we think they need** that we have done a *good deed*. The only problem with that initial *good deed* is that it often causes a ripple effect whereby they just ask for more which creates a never-ending self-entitlement attitude and lifestyle. Ultimately, we have not really "helped them" but have instead "hurt them." As I learned more and more of the plight of more than a hundred million orphans around the world, after God called me into this ministry to Deaf orphans, I had already begun to question such practices in my mind. Then over Christmas break of 2009, Joseph, our son, introduced me to the book ["When Helping Hurts"](#). This book helped propel me beyond my mere thinking about these things to one of...I can't do this anymore and my "helping" mind-set must be changed into one of "empowering!" I so want to apply this to the lives of the Deaf orphans/children who will never be adopted.

When Charles and I learned of a ZOE Ministry trip to Rwanda scheduled for May 2012, which led right into the already planned Liberia 2012 trip, we began to see God's leading in my joining ZOE in Rwanda before Liberia. Charles will not be joining me on either trip this year. Yes, the cost for these two trips is greater than just the annual Liberia trip, but by putting the two back-to-back the overall cost is reduced by at least \$1,600. The time away, 27-days, is very long, but Charles is in full support of these two trips 'for such a time as this'. This Rwanda/Liberia trip is one of faith, since we are moving forward without the funds already being donated. We are trusting God to provide for this trip in whatever way He has planned. If you have been thinking about supporting the Signs for Hope ministry, now is a great time to begin doing so. Any amount is a blessing. Please mail your tax deductible donations to Signs for Hope, PO Box 460, Fairview, NC 28730, today!

Your continued prayers for me as I traverse across Africa, are greatly appreciated and vitally important! Please continue to pray for the Signs for Hope ministry (and Charles) back here at home, while I am away.

I look forward to sharing all God accomplishes through these trips in the June 2012 Prayer Newsletter.

My prayers are with you, too! *Becky*