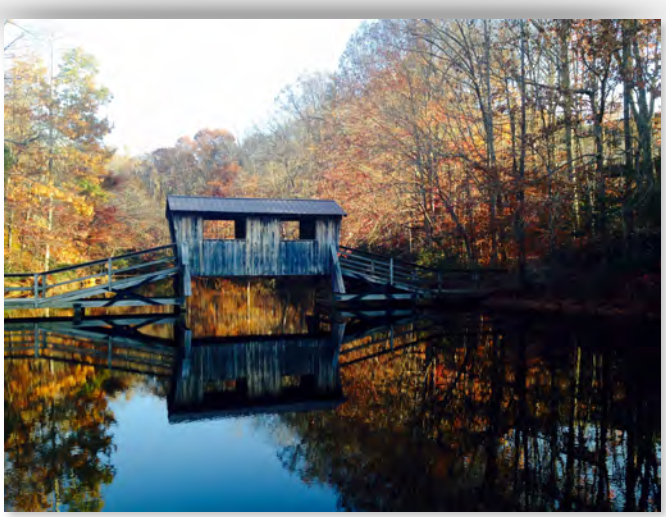
SIGNS FOR HOPE

Thankfulness!



My heart is overflowing… with THANKFULNESS! Not just because it is the season of Thanksgiving, but because I am constantly overwhelmed by how God has blessed me with so many brothers and sisters walking along with me, on this journey, we call life! If you have been keeping up with me, lately, you know how often God is focusing me on…the heart! I find, when I spend time with some of you, He is doing the same within you. Depending on the translation, the word heart appears between 700 and 950 times in God's word. If you are interested in a deeper study of "What is the heart?", click the question and go to one of my favorite websites.

Below are a few of the verses referring to what it is we do "from our hearts" and ironically, not from our minds, which we might assume.

Genesis 24:25, "Before I finished praying in my heart…"

Deuteronomy 5:29, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear Me and keep My commands always…"

1 Samuel 1:2, "…My heart rejoices in the LORD…"

1 Kings 9:4, "As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness…"

Job 31:33, "…if I have concealed my sin, as people do, by hiding my guilt in my heart…"

Psalm 13:12, "How long must I wrestled with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

Psalm 19:14, "May these words of my mouth and these meditations of my heart, be pleasing in your sight…"

Psalm 28:7, "The LORD is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in Him."

Psalm 66:18, "If I had cherished sin in my heart; the LORD would not have listened;"

Psalm 77:6, "I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked:

Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."

Philippians 1:7, "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

Colossians 2:2-3, "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Soon, we will once again focus our attention on the HEART of our LORD and His amazing plan of salvation for each of us, as the Christmas season begins. My prayer for you and for me, "Open the eyes of our hearts LORD, we want to see You!"

Signs for Hope 2014 – Give God the Glory!

- Your relentless prayer support!
- In January, Becky traveled, again, with the Collicott's back to Bulgaria to bring their second deaf son, Brett, home. She visited with them in their new home in Austin, TX in September and Brett is thriving!
- SFH began sending $100 monthly to Orphan Voice to help fund the training/support of a Vietnamese Sign Language teacher for the deaf children and their families in rural Vietnam. Fall classes have begun for those families!
- In February, SFH attended the Empowered to Connect Conference in Birmingham and held the SFH quarterly board meeting while there.
- Becky traveled back to Liberia, for the 6th time, February 20th and the rest of the team joined her March 1st. Among many other things, they visited and evaluated 6 schools for the deaf, met with the Ministry of Education and joined with the deaf children at the Oscar & Viola Stewart School for the Deaf (OVSSD) for worship on Sunday.
- In March, a sizable donation was shared with SFH as God had blessed one of our supporters, unexpectedly.
- SFH, Becky, Vandora and Blaire, exhibited at Deaf Nation Expo in Greensboro, NC.
- Early April, Becky met with SFH families on a road-trip to Birmingham and presented "Best Practices for the Adoption of Deaf Children" for all Lifeline Children's Services' caseworkers across the country.
- The April NC Road-trip extended from Asheville to Jacksonville (Hubert), NC with stops or overnight stays in 7 cities. Becky visited with several SFH adoptive families, as well as, those who support SFH prayerfully and/or financially.

- There are only 2 deaf children at the OVSSD who are not currently Heart Adopted. This is the highest number of ongoing Heart Adoptions in Liberia since we became involved in 2010. Do these funds fully support all the daily needs of the deaf children? No. However, they certainly help and they do provide the deaf children the knowledge and encouragement someone DOES love them and is praying for them on a daily basis. HOPE!
- The SFH AdoptDeaf Families Facebook group has grown to over 155 members, representing more than 140 families. Weekly, S4H Virtual Chats have recently begun to add additional support for these families as they journey through adoption and more specifically the adoption of deaf children.
- The S4H blog post series, "So You Want to Adopt a Deaf Child?" was launched in June with Part 7 now in the works. Part 1, alone, has generated more than 550 views. The goal of this series is to help educate families desiring to adopt a deaf child and agencies that work with them; giving them a better understanding of the needs of the deaf adopted child. Most topics, for this series, have come directly from the SFH adopting families Facebook group.
- CAFO 2014 was in Chicago the 1st weekend in May. Charles and Becky both attended this year.
- We closed out May with our SFH quarterly board meeting. Jonathan and Michelle Walterhouse joined our team soon after this meeting. Jonathan as a SFH board member and Michelle, as a SFH advisory board member.
- Becky and Vandora attended the 2014 Annual American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) Conference, which was held in June at the Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, MA, just outside of Boston.
- Donations to cover the re-adoption expenses of Miss Mia, now with the Worrell family in Austin, were received in July. From the overflow of the HEART!
- TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Interventions) pre-course online training began for Becky in July. This course ($3,000) was gifted to Becky through Show Hope. On-site training was in Fort Worth in September and post-course online work begins December 2nd. AMAZING!
- Becky traveled to KY in July to take the NIC (ASL National Interpreter Certification) exam. She also met with Tony and Cindy Brewer of Orphan Voice while in KY. Becky was informed in mid-September she had passed the NIC. This was the culmination of a 14 yr. long pursuit. PRAISE GOD!
- More than a dozen deaf children, have come "home" to families connected to SFH during the year 2014. Becky has no idea how many families are in the process of adopting deaf children, currently. She can no longer keep up with these numbers.
- Ebola hits West Africa, hard, in July. Liberia was placed under a state-of-emergency in August. Facebook messaging one-on-one relationships with hearing and Deaf brothers and sisters in Liberia are forged with Becky during the summer. God's promises and truths, in the midst of Ebola and the collateral damage it has caused have been shared reciprocally, via the Web, for encouragement and perseverance. The SFH October trip was cancelled due to Ebola. November 13th, the state-of-emergency was lifted! PRAISE GOD!
- God continues His amazing connections throughout the year 2014! Re-connections have also been made! ONLY GOD!
- August's SFH board meeting began to focus on the Passport to Deafness (deaf awareness) event that was held here in Asheville earlier this month.

- September 11th ushered in 5+ weeks of almost constant travel for Becky. Five SFH families attended the Empowered to Connect conference in Washington, DC and Becky shared the ministry of SFH with Open Bible Deaf Church in College Park, MD, a SFH monthly supporter.
- Four days in Austin, TX visiting with multiple SFH families preceded Becky's week - long TBRI training in Fort Worth, September 22 - 26. Some special God-connections were also made during this TX trip!
- Next trek came the first week in October, a trip to Denver for Joseph and Kate's wedding. Praise God!
- From Denver Becky met Jonathan Walterhouse in Los Angeles, CA for the National Center for Biblical Parenting presenter training, October 9 – 11. INCREDIBLE!
- SFH and Lifeline Children's Services shared the travel expenses for Grayce Fleet to join with Kris and Barbi Colvin, as their ASL interpreter, for their China trip to bring their deaf daughter, Baylee, home!
- Back in Asheville for a few days before driving to Goldsboro, NC for a deaf adoption fundraising event and meeting with SFH adoptive families.
- Off to Simpsonville, SC for the Together 4 Adoption annual conference October 17 - 18.
- All SFH board members were in Asheville for the SFH Passport to Deafness event, November 8th. Three SFH adoptive families attended, as did others from the community. Over $5,000 was received through donations, sales and the silent auction. SFH board members spent some extra time together and had our quarterly board meeting. All are already excited about and planning next year's event.
- God continues to grant Charles the ability to be a constant support and encourager for Becky to keep on keeping on!

WOW! As I was recapping some of this year's many activities, blessings and opportunities, once again, I am overwhelmed by what our God is doing through this ministry, called Signs for Hope. Had someone asked me 2 years ago where did I believe God would lead this ministry in the near future, the vast majority of the above would never have entered my mind. This is certainly His ministry and He is leading it! That's why I am in such desperate need of your prayers as I do my best to follow His leading. What is not shared above are all the personal and often intimate one-on-one conversations, prayers, communications, etc. that I have the great privileged to be a part of in the midst of all of the above. You know those moments. You have experienced them, too. When the conversation is intense and your response is exactly what it should be in that moment, to bring the one in dialogue with you to a strong resolve. As the conversation continues, you think, "Where did THAT come from?" You and I both know! I will forever be humbled by all of this!

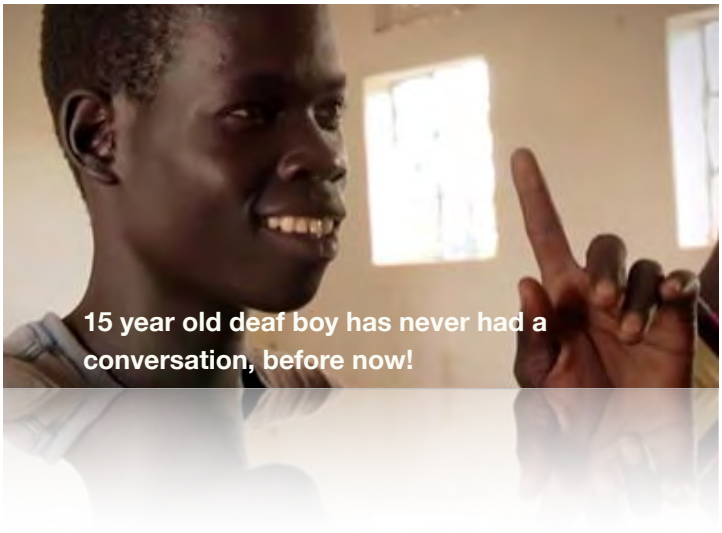
BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2014

From my heart to yours…

One of the most amazing videos I have seen came out this past week. Yes, I know it is a reenactment, but the impact is the same. Get your tissues ready! Click here to watch the video. The subtitles are accurate. It tells the story of a 15 year old deaf boy who had never learned a language, until someone showed up to teach he and room full of others, Ugandan Sign Language. I want you to know, I have seen with my own eyes this kind of HOPE that is born within the hearts of deaf children just like him, in Liberia and who come home to families fluent in ASL. Rejoice with me as God uses this new found HOPE, language, to usher deaf children's hearts into understanding the HOPE of eternal life as they begin to learn of Jesus' great love and plans for them.



I do love you, but He loves you so much more!

Becky

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."
Jeremiah 3:3b

Stay connected with Signs for Hope…

www.signsforhope.org
www.signs4hope.blogspot.com
beckyblloyd@gmail.com

Check out some recent SFH blog posts!