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Newsletter | July 2013

In This Issue:

- [From the Director](#)
- [Spotlight](#): Daniel
- [Completed Adoptions](#)

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for all of the children in China who have been pulled from their foster homes. (Read the Spotlight Article in this issue for more information.)
- Pray for the Bartlinski family as they are grieving the loss of their dear Teresa, following her body's rejection of the transplanted heart. ([Read more here](#).)
- Praise God for delivering us from our most recent financial crisis, and continue to pray that He would raise up additional monthly supporters to allow us to continue doing this important work.

From the Director

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, for the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." ~Ephesians 5:15, 16 (ESV)

We do indeed live in times that may be characterized as evil. Some of the tragedies that have taken place in recent months have served to remind us of this fact. And the twentieth century beheld what may have been among the most heinous acts of man against man in the history of this planet. As I discussed in a recent column, the nadir of man's brutality against his own kind is abortion. More than fifty-five million pre-born babies have been intentionally killed in the forty years since Roe v. Wade legalized the practice of abortion on demand here in the United States. Many countries around the world are even more aggressive in their war on human life, even to the point of legalized euthanasia.

The Bible consistently distinguishes between wisdom and foolishness, but in ways that are a bit foreign to modern ways of thinking. One of the clearest—and I think, best—ways to understand wisdom is to think of it as the application of knowledge and experience, the outworking—in words and actions, in decisions and choices—of what you know and understand. Wisdom and knowledge are not synonymous terms. Wisdom presupposes a certain level of knowledge, though wisdom can be displayed even with only rudimentary knowledge; however, the possession of knowledge, even great knowledge, does not ensure that wisdom will ensue.

When the Bible contrasts wisdom with foolishness, it is highlighting the differences between those who live and act in accordance with the Scriptures, on the one hand, with those who live and act in accordance with the world and its teachings, on the other. As the verse at the beginning of this column makes clear, wisdom—the polar opposite of foolishness—is defined, at its foundation, by an understanding of "what the will of the Lord is."

But why all of this talk about wisdom? What's the point? The point is found in the verse from Ephesians: "Look carefully how you walk . . . making the best use of the time." As much as any time in history, the times we live in are evil, as Paul says. We must all strive, with the energy God gives us and according to the means He provides, to make the best use of the time. As I suggested in my opening paragraph, abortion and the devaluing of human life represent perhaps the greatest evil manifested in our world today, partly because of what it says and does to those created in God's image, and partly because of its insidiousness. The world teaches that killing unwanted babies can be a good thing, and that the bringing of an unwanted life into the world is a bad thing, especially when contrasted with the innocent act of ending the development of a not-yet-quite-human fetus. Pernicious lies! And now we are seeing a movement to extend this "right" to kill a baby from before birth to some time shortly after birth, though how long after birth would be considered acceptable is not specified. This utilitarian concept is merely an extension of the pro-abortion argument, in its assertion that the newly born child, like the pre-born child, is not yet fully human. [1] According to the Scripture passage quoted above, this entire concept is the height of foolishness, and it is evil.

In this particular context, we must work hard in every way we can to promote the cause of the pre-born (and the newborn), the orphan, the disabled, and the sanctity of all human life in this broken world.

Soli Deo gloria!

Notes:

1. Giubilini, Alberto and Francesca Minerva "After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?" Journal of Medical Ethics 39 No. 5 (2012), 261–263, <http://jme.bmj.com/content/39/5/261.full?sid=8e6adb9f-fc4e-48cd-bc8e-f6a874fe5cfb>

Spotlight: Daniel

Those of you who have been following us for a while have almost certainly heard about Daniel, the young man in China whom we have been supporting for almost a decade now. If you haven't read about him before, I encourage you to take a few minutes to [read through his story](#). It's an amazing testimony to God's care for the needy children of the world, and of this boy in particular. Daniel has made amazing progress over the years, and it has been a wonder to watch, even from afar. He has vastly exceeded everything anybody expected of him when he was very little. But an incident at another foster home in China earlier this year has put Daniel's future prospects in jeopardy.

Shortly after the new year, [one of the group foster homes caught fire](#) while the director was taking some of the children to school. Sadly, seven children died in the fire, but the consequences have reached far beyond the walls of that foster home. In the months following this tragedy, thousands upon thousands of orphans living in foster homes throughout China—including many foster homes that had no connection to the one where the fire occurred—have been forced to return to their home provinces. Many of these children have significant special needs and were receiving care in their foster homes, care that they are almost certain not to get any more in their home provinces. Our contact in China wrote the following:

"We've moved most of our kids to . . . hospital . . . and have about fifteen more to move in the coming week or so. Some are in critical condition and even ICU. Please pray that they will get the care that they need. The system is choked with red tape and fear so kids urgently needing procedures or life saving intervention must wait indefinitely. There is a . . . reluctance of some to provide expensive care to children that are not likely to be adopted and even for adoptable children [whose] conditions are too expensive to make adoption profitable. There is an additional reluctance to allow charities to pick up the tab . . . for the drain they may have on society should they grow to maturity."

This is terrible news for many, many children, and Daniel is one of them. He was removed from his foster home and returned to his orphanage, where he will not get the same level of care he has been getting for years. Our hearts have been burdened for him for a long time, and we are saddened and frustrated on his behalf. He has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, and it's unthinkable that that could be thrown away so easily because of something that happened in another foster home in another part of the country. What occurred there would have been tragic enough without the effects spreading to other orphans throughout China.

It's still unclear just how we're going to be able to help him, if at all. God has used us to help provide his monthly support since 2005, and we don't want to see him doomed to life without care in an orphanage. Won't you join us in praying for his future, and for the future of the thousands of other displaced orphans in China? Many of these children, like Daniel, cannot be adopted, and so life in a foster home where they can receive at least some of the therapy and medical treatment they need is the best that can be hoped for. And now, many are being denied the help they've been getting—help that people still want to give. So, please pray for all of them, and we will pass on updates on Daniel's situation as we get them.

In Christ,
Greg
Administrative Assistant

Completed Adoptions

The following children have come home to their adoptive families since TSC began in 2000. We include them as representatives of all of the children who have come home. Their faces provide just a glimpse into how significantly these lives are changed, as the children transition from the hopelessness and aloneness they once knew, to the comfort and security that come from belonging to a family. Thank you for helping us make these dreams realities, both for the adopted children and for their families.



Anna, in China



Anna, at home in Illinois



Kennet, in Guatemala



Kennet, at home in Arkansas



Mia, in China



Mia, at home in Illinois

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