

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



Newsletter / December 2010

In This Issue

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

Prayer Requests

- We encourage you to pray fervently for the children of the world who are waiting for their families to find them.
- Pray for the adopted children and their families, particularly as they go through the sometimes-painful process of getting to know each other and becoming a family.
- Pray for The Shepherd's Crook Ministries: that God would bless us financially and allow us to continue doing this important work in His name

From the Director

In last month's column I introduced the biblical story of Ruth. At the end of my column, I asked—rhetorically—what the story of Ruth had to do with adoption, and I promised to cover that in this month's column. So, I ask again: what does the biblical account of Ruth have to do with adoption?

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, found themselves down and out. They were two women alone in a culture which prohibited women from earning a living or providing for themselves. But God had provided the means for them to survive, built into the law that governed His people.

God demonstrates repeatedly throughout both the Old and New Testaments that He is deeply and actively concerned for the needy, those who are the outcasts of society. It is consistent with God's nature, as revealed in Scripture, for Him to be thus concerned, and it is incumbent upon those who call upon the name of this God of Creation to be similarly concerned, both passionately and actively. The three broad categories of needy people repeatedly referred to in this context are the stranger, the widow, and the orphan.

Both Ruth and Naomi fit into the category of widow, and as we saw, God had built into His law provision for the care of the widow. One of the beautiful aspects of the story of Ruth is that God went beyond the merely formal bounds of His law in taking care of Ruth and Naomi. He moved the heart of His servant, Boaz, to have compassion on these women. Boaz recognized that he was being singled out as the potential kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and, by extension, Naomi. The concept of kinsman redeemer is a foreshadowing of Christ and the work He was to do on our behalf—viz., that of saving us from our lost, destitute state. Boaz extended both great kindness and active responsibility in first providing extra food for the ladies, and then in offering to marry Ruth to fulfill the scriptural requirement of the kinsman-redeemer.

Just as God built provisions into His law to provide for the widow, and just as He moved the heart of Boaz to care for Ruth specifically, so He has made provision for the orphan, and so too does He move the hearts of His people to care for them specifically. This ministry exists to serve as God's hands and voice in extending His love to orphans everywhere, and we pray diligently that God would raise up more and more of His people to pursue adoption, as the best and fullest way of providing the nurture, love, and exposure to the gospel that every child needs. As Jesus admonished His followers to pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He would send laborers into the field, so we pray that He would send families into the field of orphans, to pursue adoption and fulfill His requirement to care for the fatherless. We are confident that He will honor the prayers of His people, and that His name will be glorified therein.

Spotlight: Ministry Break

Just in case you missed it, we at The Shepherd's Crook are taking a Christmas break starting this Saturday, December 18, and lasting through Sunday, January 2. Every year we try to step away from our usual responsibilities for two weeks so that we can focus on our families and on worshiping God for the wonder of the Incarnation. If an emergency situation should arise during our vacation that requires our attention, please send an e-mail to urgent@theshepherdscrook.org and someone will respond to you.

Thank you, as always, for your support, and we wish a very Merry Christmas to all of you and your families.

Completed Adoptions

The following children have come home to their adoptive families during the last few months. 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.



Helen, in China



Helen, at home in Ohio



Joshua & Zacharia, in Uganda



Joshua & Zacharia, at home in Oregon



Mikaela, in Ukraine



Mikaela, at home in Ohio

The Shepherd's Crook Ministries | 513.889.2449

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link [Unsubscribe](#)

The Shepherds Crook Ministries
P.O. Box 773
West Chester, Ohio 45071
[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

