



Please pray with us about the following:

- ❖ For our "families in waiting" as they long to be united with their new children
- ❖ For all of our waiting children in need of homes
- ❖ For the Board of Trustees as we seek to focus on discerning and following God's will in this ministry

## reflections

Let me welcome you to the first edition of The Shepherd's Crook Ministries newsletter. (This newsletter will be quite a bit longer than normal because we want to introduce you to all of the children who have come home and all of the ones being adopted.) Before moving on to the topic of my first column, permit me briefly to state the reasons behind our decision to issue this publication. For quite some time, Kathy and I have periodically produced "updates," in which we tried to bring everyone up to date on our family and the ministry. In January of 2002, we formally incorporated The Shepherd's Crook Ministries. Along with that formalization/legalization have come a number of other changes in our practices and procedures. For example, all major decisions affecting the ministry are now made by our Board of Trustees, rather than just by Kathy and me. Also, the ministry has grown dramatically in the past nine months, and the demands placed upon us have grown apace. We have been thinking for several months that we should formalize our informational updates into a newsletter format, both with an eye toward streamlining the overall process for us—which we hope will happen in the not-too-distant future—and to make it easier for people who may be new to the ministry, so they won't feel like they're missing something because they haven't read all of the previous updates. (We don't plan to stop doing the e-mail updates, but we hope this newsletter will fill a niche for disseminating information that we have been neglecting.) We expect, initially at least, to put out a newsletter about every four months; that probably will change in the future. Each edition will include some sort of message from me or another Board member, as well as a

spotlight on one of our adoptive families, updates on children being adopted, and prayer requests and general information on the ministry. We're excited to be moving in this direction, and we hope you'll all feel free to share your comments with us, whether about something we're doing well or something we could be doing better.

Now, on to my thought for this edition. I was told recently that there is a person prominent in the Christian world today who teaches that Christians should not, under any circumstances, adopt. (I do not name this person for two reasons: 1) the information came to me third- or fourth-hand and may not accurately represent this person's current or past views; and 2) my intention is to take issue with the thinking underlying this teaching rather than with the person promoting it.) I was told that the basis of this teaching is the Scriptural principle that God will punish "the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me." (Ex. 20:5) Since we don't know what lies in the background of an adopted child, so the reasoning goes, we should not risk polluting our families by introducing a potentially cursed bloodline. Let me just say that I strongly reject this notion and vehemently oppose it. The simplest expression of the basis of my rejection is that the teaching flies in the face of God's clearly enunciated principle of redemption. In fact, one of the reasons I am so in favor of adoption—I'll stop just short of saying that I believe every Christian family should at least consider adopting—is that

*Continued on page 6*

# family spotlight



## The Smyths

by Patty Morwood

*"Sing, O barren, you who have not borne!  
Break forth into singing, and cry aloud...  
Enlarge the place of your tent,  
...stretch out the curtains of your habitations...  
For you shall expand to the right and to the left,  
And your descendants will inherit the nations..."*



Back row: Lemuel, 25; Dan, 23; Micah, 18  
Center row: Dan; Suzanne; Cody, 5; Danika, 20  
Front row: Gabriel, 5; Miriam, 15  
Not Pictured: Christiana, 17; Emma, 9; Katie, 6;  
Maggie, 2; and Nahum, age unknown

Eleven years ago Dan and Suzanne Smyth knelt before the Lord to ask if they might be, on this earth, His hands and feet. They are ordinary people, just like you and just like me. Ordinary, in that the Lord chose them for an especially blessed honor; and ordinary, in that God's glory is their only informing principle and their only bottom line.

### Meet the Family

Today there are seven Smyth children. Lemuel lives with his brother Dan on the family acreage in a log cabin built with their own hands; Danika, Micah, and Miriam live in the family home with their parents and much younger siblings, Cody and Gabriel. Sadly, their 17 year old sister, Christiana, is no longer in this life, as she was lost to physical complications accompanying Downs Syndrome last February.

But this is not all, for very soon Vietnamese sisters, and Shepherd's Crook children, Emma, 9, and Katie, 6, will leave their birth country, cross two continents, and join their new family on their eighty-acre farm on the upper peninsula of Michigan. By the turn of the year, little 2 year old Maggie, also a Shepherd's Crook child and now in an orphanage in China, will be brought home, and perhaps 2003 will also mark the homecoming of a Vietnamese boy

they have already named Nahum. (All of these Vietnamese and Chinese children are being adopted through International Assistance and Adoption Project—IAAP.)

### Realization of a Family Calling

When Suzanne married Dan, a widower, ten years ago, she became a new mother by adopting his six children; the family bonded almost immediately. As they wanted to spread their love by serving others, they were soon inquiring about becoming a foster family, but the Lord instead directed them towards adopting special needs children. And after all, they had the farm, the family support structure, and the love ... it seemed that getting started was their only obstacle.

Meanwhile, on the Internet Suzanne found NATHHAN, a fantastic support and resource organization run by Tom and Sherry Bushnell for the benefit of home schooled special needs children.

Initially they corresponded concerning Christiana's home school needs. Then one day, acting on information from the Rosenows in Cincinnati, Sherry Bushnell told Suzanne of an abandoned burn victim, a 3 year old Native American boy who needed a home. He had been so badly burned that his hands, feet, ears, and most of his facial features were

gone—he literally needed a family to be his "hands and feet." They prayed; and God answered when Dan asked, "When can we get him?"

With an already completed home study in hand, Dan and Suzanne traveled to Ohio. As soon as they met Cody, they knew he was meant to be theirs.

And after a few days, they headed home with a new brother for the eager Smyth children -- all the while praying that their car would last the journey.

### Affirmation from the Lord

Though they made it back, the car died. But the Lord had this in His perfect plan, for a generous benefactor group wanted to help little Cody and this new family, so they did the most obvious: raise funds for a van ... a fifteen-passenger van. It seemed the Lord was preparing them for an even larger family to come! A year ago Dan and Suzanne received an email from Dick Graham at IAAP, via The Shepherd's Crook, about a young Vietnamese boy who had lost both of his hands to fire, and they knew immediately that they wanted him. Within six months, Dan and Suzanne went to Vietnam to get Gabriel and received an unbelievable introduction to a truly blessed personality... he was all

*Continued on page 6*

# what was lost...

*"I will seek **what was lost** and bring back what was driven away...."*

*Ezekiel 34:16*

*The following children have been adopted as a result of the work God is doing through  
The Shepherd's Crook.*

*Meghan*

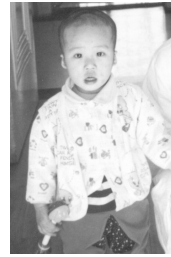


*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*

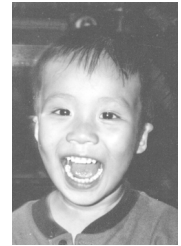


*After, in her  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Gabriel*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*

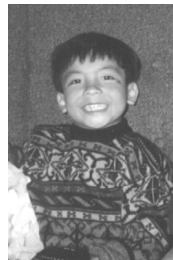


*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Gabriel*



*Before, in a  
Vietnamese orphanage*



*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Colin*



*Before, in a  
Bolivian orphanage*

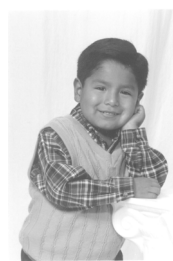


*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Nathaniel*

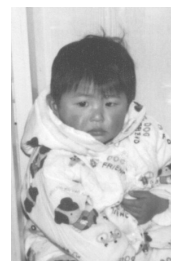


*Before, in a  
Bolivian orphanage*



*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Robyn*



*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in her  
Cincinnati, OH home*

*Stephen*

*Before, in a  
Chinese orphanage*



*After, in his  
Cincinnati, OH home*



# out from the nations...

*"I will bring them out from the nations and...into their own land."  
Ezekiel 34: 13*

*The following children will soon be coming home to their forever families.*



## Ciandra

*Hearing impaired; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



## Jonathan

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be home with his Cincinnati, OH family.*



## Christina and Theresa

*Siblings + cerebral palsy and visual impairment; waiting in a Bolivian orphanage.  
Will soon be with their Australian family.*



## Micah

*Possible Goldenhaar Syndrome; waiting in a Russian orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Chatham, MI family.*

## Naomi, Abigail, and Madeline

*Siblings; waiting in a Vietnamese orphanage.  
Will soon be with their Seattle, WA family.*



## Natasha

*Deformities in both hands; waiting in a Russian orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*

## Emma and Katie

*Siblings; waiting in a Vietnamese orphanage.  
Will soon be with their Skandia, MI family.*



## Ruthie

*Heart defect; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



## Maria

*Hearing impaired; waiting in a Romanian orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Lafayette, LA family.*



## Rachel and Rebecca

*Siblings; waiting in a Vietnamese orphanage.  
Will soon be with their Lakeland, FL family.*





### **Danielle**

*Retinitis pigmentosa; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Wilmington, OH family.*



### **Maggie**

*Albinism; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Skandia, MI family.*



### **Jaydon**

*Developmentally delayed and has Strabismus; waiting in Korea.  
Will soon be with his Wooster, OH family.*



### **Ivan and Irina**

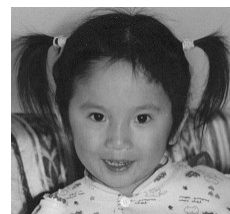
*Siblings; waiting in a Russian orphanage.  
Will soon be with their Ocala, FL family.*



### **Christian**

*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with his Cincinnati, OH family.*

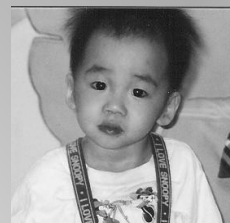
**Naomi**  
*Lacks growth hormone; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Yuma, AZ family.*



**Dang Fang**  
*Cleft lip/palate; waiting in a Chinese orphanage.  
Will soon be with her Cincinnati, OH family.*



**Parker**  
*Hepatitis; waiting in Korea.  
Will soon be with his Brighton, MI family.*



**Kaden**  
*Di George Syndrome; waiting in Korea.  
Will soon be with his Washougal, WA family.*



**Carlin and Madlin**  
*Spina bifida and possible attachment disorder; waiting in Romania and Haiti.  
Will soon be with their Cincinnati, OH family.*



### **Note:**

*In the subsequent issues, the departments **What Was Lost** and **Out From the Nations** will show only the children who have come home or whose adoptions have been initiated since the previous issue. For a complete list of all Shepherd's Crook children—waiting, home, or being adopted—visit our website, at:  
**[www.theshepherdsbrook.org](http://www.theshepherdsbrook.org)***

## Reflections *(Continued from page 1)*

it so clearly and palpably illustrates God's work of redemption. He even uses the metaphor of adoption in explaining our own salvation, in which we are redeemed from the consequences of our own sin and established in right relationship with Him. Space doesn't permit me to develop this as fully as I would like, but I at least want to say that, so far from admonishing us not to adopt, the warning in Ex. 20:5 is given both to illustrate for us the consequences of our own offence before God and, by contrast, as indicated in the immediately succeeding verse, to highlight the comparatively vast (immeasurable!) scope of God's love for His redeemed: "...but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:6) If God is not able to redeem us—or our children—from the consequences of our sin, then we are indeed without hope.

Praise God for adoption, for His adoption of us as His sons and daughters, and for the many courageous families out there who are willing to glorify His name by redeeming children—in this earthly life—from the consequences of sin and by exposing those same children to the light of His truth. I say we should see far more adoptions by Christian families, not the opposite.

Thank You, Father,  
Amen.



*For more information about our  
ministry, visit our website, at*

***[www.theshepherdcrook.org](http://www.theshepherdcrook.org)***

## Family Spotlight *(Continued from page 2)*

smiles and full of excitement, which is most atypical when adoptees first meet their new families. Now they know that it is the family which has been immeasurably helped, rather than the other way around.

### **A Family Lifestyle**

The Smyth family works and studies together. Not only do they home school the children but run several family businesses. They make maple syrup, run a sensitive land management horse logging business, provide seasonal sleigh and hay rack rides, and build log furniture, staircases, and fireplaces. They also remodel homes and build log cabins. The family expects that within a decade, Cody and Gabriel will be the brains behind it all!

Dan and Suzanne have learned that if it is indeed God's will for the family to grow through adoption of special needs children, then He Himself will surmount the seemingly enormous obstacles. They have experienced His grace in many ways, through their own thriving family businesses, the local community, and even the extended "community" out there involved in helping special needs children find their homes.

People may marvel at how happy these ordinary people are. It is true that finding the rest of their sons and daughters, going through the often laborious paper process, waiting and praying, and leaving home in order to bring a child home is always difficult. But each of them would testify that their calling is a privilege, a blessing, and great fun!

Years ago the Smyths had asked to be the Lord's hands and feet on earth; since then they have taken to heart the Lord's injunction to care for the orphans and widows. And when He one day asks, "Did you feed Me?", the merited answer will be a practical one, "Yes, we fed and loved and taught those you sent."

***"... All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
And great shall be the peace of your children.  
In righteousness you shall be established ...  
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,  
And their righteousness is from Me."  
Isaiah 54***



If you would like to help our ministry, here are a few of our needs.

- George Müller's autobiography has had a profound impact on how we view dependence on God, and we've found it to be very helpful for many of our families as they wrestle with issues of faith and trusting in God to provide for their expensive adoption and increasing family size. We would like to purchase a quantity of these books to be able to give to our families. If you would like to donate some of these or contribute toward their purchase, please contact us.
- We need to raise approximately \$5000 to help send a gifted and generous American surgeon to China. This doctor has offered to operate on at least one Shepherd's Crook child and possibly others. The Chinese hospital, as well as various medical expenses, will not be donated, and The Shepherd's Crook must help cover these costs. These children suffer from spina bifida, and the surgery can prevent paralysis and other complications of the birth defect, and in some cases can save the child's life. To contribute to this ministry opportunity, please contact us for more information.
- We have begun a ministry of providing specially designed cleft-palate bottles and nipples to a number of orphanages in China. The orphanages have no way to acquire these themselves, and the bottles can quite literally mean the difference between life and death for cleft palate babies. Each shipment costs approximately \$130, and we are currently sending two shipments every six months. If you feel led to sponsor this outreach directly, please contact us.

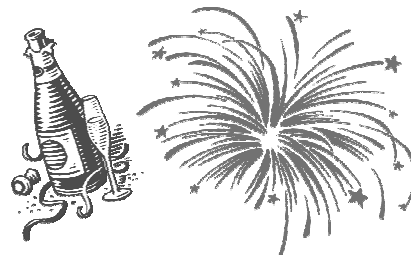


## upcoming events

- ☑ On **October 26** there will be a small tea at the home of Jon and Sally Alspaugh. Please pray that hearts will be touched by the story of God's work in this ministry.



- ☑ **January 2** marks the one year anniversary of The Shepherd's Crook Ministries. Join with us in thanking God for how he has provided for and sustained us.



- ☑ Our next newsletter will be published in **January, 2003**.

### *The Shepherd's Crook's Board of Trustees:*

Scott & Kathy Rosenow  
 Marc & Jill Champagne  
 Bill & Paula Horton  
 Jay & Kirsten Huck  
 Patty Morwood  
 Bryce & Ann Wilson

[www.theshepherdsCrook.org](http://www.theshepherdsCrook.org)  
 513.844.8873

### *Newsletter Publishing Staff:*

Editors: Scott & Kathy Rosenow  
 Artwork and Design: Allan Rosenow  
 Contributing Writer: Patty Morwood

*The Shepherd's Crook  
 Journal*

*The Shepherd's*  
*Hook*  
MINISTRIES  
P.O. Box 773  
West Chester, OH 45071