



GO, GIVE, GATHER

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

As I was asking the Lord what was on His heart earlier in the year, these were the words spoken through His Spirit. I was led to the book of Acts starting at chapter 2 thinking where the disciples were meeting. They were really overwhelmed with the Holy Spirit, people around them wondered what was going on and made some pretty bold accusations citing their crazy behavior. The disciples stood strong and they spoke in confidence of who He was and what He was doing. Because of their courageous speaking many people came to salvation and knowing the Lord that day, in the 3000's.

This is a time shortly after the resurrection of Jesus and those who are leading did not understand and certainly did not want these kinds of conversations taking place. They opposed what John and Peter were sharing. The people around them were hungry to hear the truth and gathering close to hear what they were saying. As this happened the leaders again took a stand against them, they not only didn't support them or encourage the words they were saying, they flat out attacked them. They put them in jail and they wondered what to do, asking one another what they could charge them with. It says finally they took John and Peter before them and told them not to speak of Jesus's name again. John and Peter boldly asked, "who are we to listen to, you or to God?" The leaders knew that these men were set apart not because they were something special. They were declared very ordinary man, but the power of the Holy Spirit set them apart giving them courage and letting them understand truth. The leaders let them go but they said but do not speak of the power in the name of Jesus. After they were released John and Peter gathered back together with the other disciples and they praised Him for all that He had done through miracles and those coming to salvation. They came together for prayer for strength and for continued courage.

These chapters in Acts, bring so much clarity, so much hope, so much strength in seeing those

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that have gone before us and seeing His power within them. I think that God has a special calling for the church and for those being called forth in adoption. There will be many who do not understand, who even attack or oppose this very thing, and yet we have the same power within us as the disciples did as we speak in Jesus name. So let it be an encouragement to us in this day, week, year, God is calling and asking for us to go to the orphan. What might seem crazy behavior to man, is perfectly aligned with His heart and His word. He is asking, literally asking, are we willing to go? What is it that we are willing to give? Because we know when He claimed us in our adoption, He gave everything to adopt us, even His very own son. We also know that He understands how hard this is. He understands just as the disciple's encountered difficulties, so do we. Just as they understood the need to come together for strength, that's how He calls us to be as a body of believers, to come together, gathering in the safe and holy place under His name.

So whether you're starting the journey or asking yourself honestly if you're a part of this journey, my challenge and encouragement to you is, dust off your feet, shake off your pride, dig in deep to who He is and who He says you are, lean into Him and what He says in His word... Then be willing to go, give all that you have, and then gather together in true community celebrating His faithfulness and the power of His name.

**"As for us, we
cannot help
speaking about
what we have
seen and heard."**

Acts 4:20

Donations given in memory of:

**Jim Harskamp family
in memory of Linda Harskamp**



**Jeff and Katen Whitt
in memory of Vera Krampe**

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for many to feel welcome and attend the annual auction, Nov. 2, that He will provide a night of fellowship and fun, bring great provision, and more awareness for the needs of adoption.
- Pray for Orphan Sunday, Nov. 18. That it will bring a challenge to the church, a deep sense of community, and encouragement to families, and that He will be glorified in worship time together.
- Pray for ministry teams, for His wisdom, strength, and clear discernment.
- Pray for families, for healing, hope, and freedom to abound.
- Pray for His prompting on hearts with needed provision, as we fall short in funds, He never falls short and will be faithful in caring for these precious ones.

Haiti Orphanage Update

Project update!

Many of you have been asking and wondering about the Transition Project in Haiti at the One Vision Orphanage. Well, we are pleased to inform you that the project has begun! The Board spent many hours discussing the best way to transition our older kids into the Haitian culture, with skills that would make them effective in taking care of themselves as well as the possibility of their own future families. The Board also spent many hours discussing with the director of the orphanage, Dr. Francisco Noel, gaining his perspective on what would be the most effective way to accomplishing this transition. Together, we decided to scale into this project in multiple phases. Phase one has been started! This includes a few different buildings. A school building for secondary (high school) education, making sure that the older kids complete the education that was started when they were younger. This school will start with normal subjects like reading, writing, arithmetic's, and language skills. Even more, it is anticipated that the school will grow into technical classes teaching skills like sewing, carpentry, nursing, and computer science. Further, phase one includes a building with living quarters for the older kids to learn how to live on their own, yet under supervision, with the responsibilities of cooking, cleaning, and other household chores falling on themselves also to take care of. A more in depth explanation of the reach and scope of the Transition Project will be coming in a future newsletter. But we wanted to say thank you to all that helped get this Transition Project started by attending the fund raisers the last two springs! With your help, and as I write this, the first building is being completed and will begin to be used no later than the last door is hung and screw in place. Thank you for being an important part of this transition for the kids. ~ Mark Vermeer



The Bandimere Family

David & Sarah

Children: Adam (20), Andrew (20), Lily (18),
Jadon (17), Kaikai (14), Grace (13),
Ruby Xiaohong (7). Not pictured: Yana (21).

Church: Providence Community Church in
Lenexa, KS.



Our journey to our newest daughter started with the adoption of our son, Kaikai, in 2012. Kaikai has Spina Bifida, and when we adopted him, we were definitely on a steep learning curve as it pertains to this special need. But with the help of Kaikai's sweet spirit and God's clear direction, we discovered all that we needed to know to care for our son. Within that process of learning, we realized that we didn't want all of this knowledge to go to waste, and we believed that sometime in the future, God would lead us to another child with this special need.

In 2017, the time seemed right to move forward with another adoption from China. We thought that we'd adopt another little boy, but when a friend showed us the file of a precious 5 year old girl who had Spina Bifida, we knew that she was the one. The road to accepting her file was a bit circuitous, and because of unusual circumstances in our lives, there were a number of times along the journey in which we wondered if we would be able to continue with her adoption. But God kept confirming that yes! He was still calling us to adopt this special little girl.

In June of this year, we were given the go-ahead to travel to China! We were excited and nervous, but also confident that God had gone before us. Our son, Kaikai, came with us and his presence ended up being invaluable as we began the process of attachment with our beautiful new daughter, Ruby Xiaohong. We had an amazing trip and were absolutely smitten with our precious gem.

When we arrived home, our other children welcomed Ruby Xiaohong with open arms. Being that they are all significantly older than her, Ruby Xiaohong has the privilege of being the doted on little sister, and she is eating it up. We are so grateful that God has blessed us with this perfect new addition to our family. Having adopted other children, we understand that the transition isn't always this simple, but we also know that if God is leading, it will always be good.

Our special thanks to Katelyn's Fund for their prayers and support for this journey. We know that would not have been able to adopt without the help and encouragement of the body of Christ. God has called all of us to do our part for orphans, and we're incredibly grateful that Katelyn's Fund has answered that call and is such a wonderful support to so many people.

The Duncan Family

Steven & Daphne

Children: 0 (just a cat we call Miss Eloise)

Church: Summit Church in Fort Myers, FL



Adoption has always been part of our “Plan A”. During our engagement, we would dream about making our family and we both expressed the desire for biological and adopted children. We were married in March of 2014 and immediately felt led to grow our love through growing our family. After a couple years of trying, we found out that the other part of our “Plan A” was no longer an option. However, God gave us hearts for the orphans before we knew this. He is good and gave us these desires for He knew His plan for us all along was to be adoptive parents of, not one, but two (we have also been called to and approved for a sibling pair adoption)! Yes, there were lots of challenges to face including the financial burden of adopting. We considered less expensive ways to adopt, but God closed many doors until we walked through the open one leading to India. We get a lot of friends and family asking “Why India?”, but really only God knows. We yearned to be obedient to the Lord and His calling but did not know how the funding would work out. Our adoption agency suggested applying for a grant through Katelyn’s Fund. We applied and went through the interview process where they prayed for us and encouraged us in our faithfulness to God’s calling to adopt. We remember feeling so blessed by the prayers and the love of the Body of Christ extended, that the grant would have just been a bonus at that point. But the answer to our prayers for provision were a “yes” and “amen” through Katelyn’s Fund (Philippians 4:17-20). Not only did we receive this gift as a blessing of provision, but it was further affirmation from the Lord that His calling was for us to adopt (Isaiah 1:17).

Not only did the Lord divinely orchestrate our journey thus far, but He carefully knitted our hearts together to be more for Him in the waiting. God has revealed more about His character to us in the waiting and has challenged us to cast our gaze on Him and the cross rather than on the hope for children in our home. Our hope lies in Jesus and whenever God blesses us with our littles, we hope to raise them up to be disciples who go out and make disciples. We are still waiting and in the unknown stages of our adoption, but we remain hopeful... not in having children but in the One who calls us out upon raging seas and holds us up despite our doubts (Matthew 14:22-32). May God bless all who are called to adopt and the orphan ministry of Katelyn’s Fund!

The Stannard Family

Luke & Michelle

Children: Elijah (3 years)

Stateside home church :Evangel Church PCA, Birmingham, Alabama Evangel Church PCA. Currently residing in Budapest, Hungary.



We could never thank you enough for the amazing help with our adoption! You all truly were a blessing from God! Without your love, care, prayers, support, encouragement, and financial support there is no way this would have happened! We are currently in China walking through the final stages of our adoption. Elijah has been with us for almost a week and he is a blessing from God. Thank you for helping us bring him home and for being the means that God used to allow this to take place! We are so tremendously grateful to you, your supporters, and the entire team! Thank you so much!!

The Kimrey Family

Laurie and Travis

Children: Katie(25), Travis(22), Jesse(18), Bonnie(15), Olivia(10), Nathaniel(8), Haylee & Baylee(5), Joy and Jessa(4) & soon to come home; Adelaide & Addison(2)

Church: Seaford Baptist Church in Seaford, VA



We are an adopted family of five kiddos soon to be seven. We had our five children by birth then felt called to become foster parents. Well through that God grew our family with twins x2 . Full bio sisters 11 months apart. We then saw a little boy in Bulgaria that had been extremely neglected . God again spoke to our hearts and we brought him home shortly after the second set of twins adoption became final. Thinking we were done in late December God again brought across our paths two tiny Bulgarian babies that need a Momma and Daddy.

So we were the blessed recipients of a grant from Katelyn's Fund. Just at the perfect time too, we received the grant and travel dates for one metcha trip came back to back so the flights and hotels were covered by your foundation.

Upon meeting the baby girl whom we will name Adelaide so many things became clear, God's word truly became flesh when I held her tiny frail body for the first time. And then our son whom we will name Addison also neglected and in need of a brain surgery pretty soon upon arrival in the USA. So Katelyn's Fund partnered with us in the process but more importantly I want to talk about the process leading up to your decision to grant us the funds. The Skype interview was absolutely the most powerful experience Travis and I have ever been a part of. The board prayed the sweetest most sincere prayer over our family, these babies and our journey. Travis and I ended the call feeling as if we had been to a revival! We were so in need of God's words to be spoken to us and over us. So much more than we even knew.

We are forever grateful that we were chosen but more importantly we feel as if we have a new family.

The Howie Family

Kenton and Stina

Children: Kezlyn (9 months) & Kendrix (1 month)

Church: Trinity Reformed Church, Orange City, IA



Early in our marriage we talked about babies and adoption. We planned to pursue adoption down the road after we'd had a few kids, but God had other plans. We were married in 2014, miscarried in 2015, and, after not getting pregnant again, we began the adoption process in 2016. God had put adoption on both of our hearts prior to marriage and we were excited to see how He would bless our family through it. We started paperwork with New Horizons in December of 2016, were an active family with them in June, started paperwork with An Open Door in July, and were an active family with them in September. In October we were matched with a mom due any day, but 10 days later we were told that the mom had changed her mind. It all happened so quickly that it almost felt like a miscarriage. We were heartbroken but continued to trust that God had good plans for us and our family. On December 13th, we got the call that we were matched again with a baby girl due in January and we accepted the match on the 15th. On the 22nd we found out we were pregnant and on the 29th our baby girl was born. It was a crazy, chaotic, and wonderful couple of weeks! We packed our bags and

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started the 17-hour drive to Georgia. Her birthday is exactly 1 year and a day after we first started our adoption journey. Minutes before picking up our baby girl I received an email that we would be given a grant from Katelyn's Fund. God had answered another prayer! It has been amazing to watch Him work through this whole journey. We met with the Katelyn's Fund board for our grant interview a few weeks before Kezlyn was born. We were so blessed by the support, conversations, and prayer we received that night. Just knowing that they were covering us with prayer and trusting in God's plan to grow our family with us was a huge blessing. Kezlyn and Kendrix are an answer to prayer and we are so thankful for our sweet babies. Kendrix was born in August, 8 months and a day after Kezlyn was born. They are a daily reminder of God's grace, mercy, love, and faithfulness to us. "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

The Champ Family

Joel & Heidi

Children: Isabelle(9), Isaiah(7), Evelyn(5) & Thomas(1)

Church: Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri



Thomas is home. And we are in awe of the great works the Lord has done. We are amazed when we reflect and think of all the things God has orchestrated to bring us to this point. Thinking back two years ago I was sitting at an adoption retreat for adoptive and foster mommas. I was in the group titled something like "finding your direction" and I heard a momma say "If God calls you to it, He'll see you through it." We clung to this truth, knowing that the Lord was definitely faithful to provide what was needed, but we had never experienced Him in this way personally. And particularly in the realm of money. We knew that we couldn't come up with the money to approach adoption. Through this journey the Lord allowed us to break. He allowed us to see that this was HIS plan, not our own. Fast forward to the match with our sweet little Thomas. We know that God placed him in our family, on purpose, and that he is to be ours, and we are to be his.

Slowly we are learning the value in surrendering to what the Lord has for us. The finances are so hard though! Dollars are finite! And the process is expensive! Through the times when we would be overwhelmed by this fact, the Lord would remind me that He was the one who owned the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). And that He is our Provider. And we still cannot get over how He uses His beautiful Church to minister to the needs of each other. Through grants like Katelyn's Fund and friends and family and fundraisers and complete strangers and anonymous donors God provided what was needed every time a payment came due. For each part of the process We want to say thank you to each of you who have supported us financially. Thank you for being obedient when God nudged you. Know that you are doing the big things, the most important things in life. Helping to bring home a child who is orphaned, into a family who is SO excited to be his forever family. Allowing him to be a part of a Church that loves the Lord and loves caring for others and sharing their hope in Christ. So that ultimately Thomas has a chance at knowing his worth, that he is loved by his Creator and that he doesn't have to journey this road of life alone.

We feel so utterly grateful to be able to journey this life with Thomas. We know that we aren't perfect, we mess up plenty. But our prayer is that we could point him along with Isabelle, Isaiah and Evelyn) to the One who IS perfect, the One who will never fail us.

We want to connect with you!



NEW! We are adding digital newsletters along with our hard copy newsletters and we would love to keep everyone updated with what God is doing through Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry! We need your help in gathering the most current information so we can keep in touch and continue providing opportunities to engage. Can you please send your current email, address and phone number to fonda@katelynsfund.org. Also don't forget to find us on Facebook!

The Mannchens Family

Uli & Liz



Adoption is beautiful! We are an international family, Uli, German and Liz, American. We posture our lives and work around looking after the orphans and widows. Loving them. Accepting them. Fighting for them to know that they have been named by God as "chosen" and "wanted." We are long term missionaries located in Germany and working around the world with Arts and Extreme Poverty. After years of praying and preparing, we are beyond excited to finally welcome home our first child! Currently we are waiting to be matched with our child from Madagascar! We can't wait to not only meet our little one but bring home the first Baby Mannchen! Thank you for standing with us in prayer!



You're Invited!

KATELYN'S FUND AUCTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

Location

New Life Reformed Church
~ Auction begins at 6:30 pm

Meal

Served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm
~ Doors open at 5:30 pm

Childcare

Childcare and activities
are provided!

Contact

Wade or Alissa Kroeze at
712.722.3140 to make donations
or have questions

Money Raised:

The funds raised at the auction will be used to fund grants to help bring children in loving, christian homes. Money raised will also assist with our partnering One Vision orphanage in Haiti. Your donations (and your attendance to this event) can make a real difference in their lives!

To donate online check out our online donation form at: katelynsfund.org/online-donation-form

No gift is too large or small! Food, merchandise and services of all kinds are welcomed!

gather

GO

GIVE

Orphan Sunday

November 18, 2018 at 9:30 am

Come spend the day with us gathered together in worship, seeking His heart and celebrating His faithfulness. Together we will listen and hear testimonies of His call to **GO** to the orphan, to **GIVE** of ourselves, and to **GATHER** in true community.



First Reformed Church • 160 1th St. NE • Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

Acts 4:20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Adoption Support Sioux Falls

Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry wants to invite you to our support events and community. This is a huge part of the ministry, we know it is very important to gather with those walking the same journey. We want to live in community and support one another, this is for all who are, have been, or thinking about the foster care/adoption process. We would also love to encourage those of you who are connected to someone who is in the process or has adopted/fostered. Our hope is that even if you have not received a grant through Katelyn's Fund that you will join and learn with us how to best care for the children in our lives. All are welcomed and encouraged to join us.



Adoption Support Meetings

2018-2019

Central Church • 6:00 - 8:15 pm • Free Meal & Childcare Provided
3102 W Ralph Rogers Rd. Sioux Falls, SD 57108

August 21: Kickoff Family Picnic

KICKOFF Family Picnic at Life Church starting at 6:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to invite new families to join us! Katelyn's Fund will supply grilled meat, paper goods and water. Please bring a dish to share. Life Church is located at: 501 N. Elmwood Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104

September 18: Mary Weber, MS, LPC, LMFT from Lighting A New Way

Mary Weber is a master's level therapist specializing in areas including trauma, grief & loss, and attachment. This evening she will guide us in identifying our triggers as parents as well as addressing the idea of unmet expectations within adoptive and foster relationships.

October 16: Adult Sibling Panel

Siblings of adoptive and foster children have much we can learn from. Join us this evening as we have an adult sibling panel share with us their experiences and answer questions as we work toward fostering healthy and hope-filled relationships with the children in our families.

November 27: Tammy Lias, MA, LMFT and QMHP from Journey Therapy

How will I know if my child needs resources beyond what we are currently doing? What is available and how can they help? Tonight our meeting will focus on the popular therapies of EMDR, NEUROFEEDBACK / BRAIN PAINT, and PLAY THERAPY. Tammy Lias, MA, LMFT and QMHP from Journey Therapy at the Barn, will be presenting and answering our questions.

** NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we are meeting the 4th Tuesday of November.

----- No Meeting in December -----

January 15: Parenting a Variety of Children

Caring for children from hard places involves both hope and brokenness which affects the whole family unit. Parenting a variety of children necessitates a variety of parenting styles. What does this look like when it is all under one roof? DAVE SINKGRAVEN, pastor and adoptive father, will guide our thoughts and hearts through this conversation.

February 19: Father's Night

Our 2nd annual FATHER'S NIGHT is back! Tony Boer will be meeting with just the fathers, encouraging them to use their time and calling wisely. Tony is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in many areas including family and play therapy, attachment issues, and PTSD. MAMAS WILL GATHER FOR INFORMAL FELLOWSHIP during the instructional time - a practice worth its weight in gold!

March 19: Set up for Success Part 1

Come join Darcie Van Voorst as she teaches us how to empower our children's brains and bodies to set them up for daily life success. She will help us look at behaviors through the lens of regulation and dysregulation, exploring how trauma has impacted the brain and how to develop brain based regulation strategies. Learning about regulation and dysregulation is one of the first steps in long term behavioral change.

April 16: Set up for Success Part 2

Darcie Van Voorst will join us again this month! (See description from March) No need to have attended part 1 to learn from part 2!

May 21: Year End Family Picnic

Year End Family Picnic at Life Church. Katelyn's Fund will provide delicious grilled meat, paper goods and water. Please bring a dish to share. Life Church is located at: 501 N. Elmwood Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Adoption Support Sioux Center



Adoption Support Meetings

2018-2019

Sioux Center • 1st Reformed Church • Fireside Room

www.katelynsfund.org

September 13: Tools For School

We will learn from a professional guidance counselor ways to advocate for the needs of our children and ways to support the school system as well.

October 11: Understanding is Everything

Not only will you be going home with new information on how to help your children, you will also be taking home a "yes jar" which will help you combat the many negative effects of complex developmental trauma.

November 8: Shifts In Thinking

Invite anyone and everyone involved in your child's life to tonight's training. We will start the night off developing an understanding of how traditional approaches will not work for children from hard places and what approaches will help our children succeed.

December 6: Marriage Matters

God's design for marriage is to reflect Christ and His church. Reflecting the glory and beauty of Christ in marriage is a significant challenge then sprinkle in adoption and foster care and now marriage often faces an all out assault. It is God's desire that our marriages be Christ-centered, rather than child-centered. Is this even possible with the needs of our children. Loren De Jong will help us find the answer from personal and professional experience.

January 10: Just Breathe

Tonight will be so fun! You are invited to take your children with you to this training! We will explore practical ways to stay regulated AND easy ways to calm down when they become dysregulated. Following a short time of learning, parents and their children will have the opportunity to make various items to take home to aid in regulation.

February 7: Set Up For Success

Come learn as we focus on what we can do to empower our children's brains and bodies in order to help them be successful in day to day life. Not only will you be equipped with new regulation strategies, you will also go home with a cup full of ideas!

March 14: Tammy Lias and Chelle Bisenius

We will learn from Tammy Lias from Journey Therapy at the Barn about popular therapies of EMDR, Neurofeedback/ Brain Paint, and Play Therapy. We will also learn from Chelle Bisen who has been involved in the foster care and adoptive system for over 20 years.

April 11: Fundamentals of Behavioral Change

Come as we explore how increasing connection and building secure attachment is key in long term behavioral change. We will explore how nurture groups can be effective in building family bonds.

May 2: Foster and Adoptive Parent Panel

Seasoned foster and adoptive parents will share tangible strategies that they have used with their families. This will provide a glimpse into the foster and adoptive journey.



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Contact teresa@katelynsfund.org
to request your newsletter be sent to
your inbox.

Fall 2018 Newsletter

The background of the lower half of the page is a photograph showing a group of diverse hands of various skin tones reaching up and holding a small globe of the Earth. The hands are stacked on top of each other, symbolizing unity and global care. The globe is positioned at the bottom center, with the hands fanning out around it.

ORPHAN SUNDAY

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 at 9:30 am

Please join us for woship at

First Reformed Church * 160 10th St. NE * Sioux Center, IA 51250