



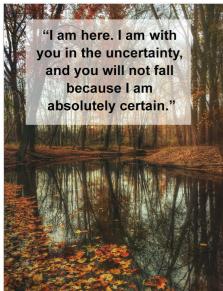
Fall 2020 Newsletter

Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow and the orphan. Isaiah 1:17

## Disappointment, deepening, and discovery

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

These are the words He has let settle on my heart over the past couple months. To say what's been said a hundred times already, it has been a very different year. Many people find themselves in places they have never been before, unsure of how to process or deal with all that is going on around us. There has been hurt - real hurt. There has been pain, broken trust,



and disappointment. There has been wrestling, chaos, and confusion. Fear has fueled so much and displacement has left many of us feeling uncomfortable.

And while His eyes don't gloss over a second of this, He has also been showing me that we don't need to stay in this place of disappointment; it does not need to be lasting.

He is reminding me again and again that He uses disappointment to bring us into new things, things we may have otherwise missed.

At one of our recent prayer team gatherings, a faithful prayer warrior spoke about this saying, "He can use these places of being uncomfortable. So many times after it's over, He shows us what He was doing in that season when we were displaced and uncomfortable." In His graciousness, He uses this to

teach us, to grow us, to help us discover that there is more ahead.

And still we know this season has touched many of our foster and adoptive families in a very unique way. We have heard from many of you that this has been a significantly hard season, with much uncertainty in knowing how to best help your children and families. We're pressing in for you. We pray that in this season, He will bring a deepening rather than discouragement. We pray that He will continue to show Himself as the One who is faithful at all times. As each of us wrestle with how to speak up for our children and how to speak to our children, we pray that He continues to speak to us as His children.

Dear friends, let us lean into the disappointments, for we know that what the enemy tries to use to bring discouragement the Father can redeem. Rather than staying in that place of discouragement, we ask our Father to deepen our trust in Him, to help us to discover more of who He is and who we are in Him.

We want to remind you that God continues to write a story over each and every one of your lives; He continues to write a story over the lives of your children. He isn't finished; He is still working. Do not let the enemy convince you that you have been written off or that He isn't there. He is with you, weaving together His plans and saying to you, "I am here. I am with you in the uncertainty, and you will not fall because I am absolutely certain."

And just as the Father is with you, we long to be with you, too. In this time of disappointment



#### Continued from page 1

and division, many have asked what you should be doing for your children and families? We want you to know that we are seeking Him in this with you. There are great resources the teams are putting out, and we pray they are helpful. However, I think the greatest thing that we can do for our children is to seek Him deeply for ourselves. When our roots go down deep, we can help them.

I say to you, if you are in a place of weariness or unsettledness, know that you are anchored to Him, the One who secures our feet and secures our path.

He lifts our eyes and lips and heads through discouragement, disappointment, deception, disapproval, and division. He continues to show us that He is greater than all of these things. That He remains the same. He will never leave us nor forsake us. May the truth of who we are in Him penetrate our hearts now more than ever, and may our children rise up and understand where their true identity comes from. We have the inheritance from our Father in Heaven, and that is greater than anything we could experience here on earth. We are not bound to the things of this world; praise Him for that! We are bound for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let us use this time to truly examine ourselves and to understand our standing before Him. Let us seek to understand that He is still working, in many ways unseen, and still writing our stories. Though there is chaos all around us, we can rest in confidence of our security in Him. We do not fall back in fear, but we go forward in faith. Praise to Him that He has shown all throughout the Bible and continues in our lives: that He is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. That He is full of mercy and grace and shows up in the most unexpected ways. That He wastes nothing and moves in everything. And that a year of disappointment can also become a year of deepening and discovery.





### **Adoption Stories**



→ Check out these testimonies from two recent grant recipients! ←



#### The Miller Family

Tim and Tiffany Miller

Children: Waiting on match

Adopting from South Korea;

recently matched with a 9 month old baby girl





We started this adoption process in the end of 2019, excited to be the family for another child from Korea. We knew that it would stretch us financially, but we also had faith that God would provide, just as he had for our first adoption.

We are currently waiting to be matched with a child and have spent the past months applying for grants and fundraising. We are amazed at how God has brought together all the funds we need, and in such a short amount of time! Obviously we are so grateful for a grant from Katelyn's Fund; but we were also so encouraged by the interview process! They took time to hear our hearts, to learn the names of our family, to encourage us, and spent time in prayer for us, our children, and the child that will join our family. It was such a blessing to know that they are not just concerned with the finances, but also with the individuals and families they are impacting!

We believe that parenting is a sanctifying experience; it teaches you daily to die to yourself and serve others, even when they don't show gratitude. I think bringing home our 3rd son (our first adoption) gave us even deeper insight into this. The amount of pursuing him to build a relationship and help him trust again, gave us a glimpse into how God pursues us over and over again.

... More stories on page 4

#### The Prior Family

#### **Bradley and Jillian Prior**

Children: Ansel (adopted in 2018) and Hudson (Will hopefully be home soon!)

#### **Adopting from Thailand**





Come hear more from Bradley and Jillian and their heart for adoption this year on Orphan Sunday!

"It's just like God, isn't it? To put adoption on our hearts at a very young age before either us had any way of knowing it would one day be a part of our story. Kreig had a best friend growing up who was adopted, and I remember being 5 years old and watching commercials on TV for orphans around the world; I responded by giving my small allowance to my mom and asking her to send it to them. I proceeded to tell her that when I grew up, I would adopt them. It was a stirring that has stuck with me forever.

When my husband and I first found out that we couldn't conceive and have children of our own, I wasn't ready to adopt. I needed time to greet that loss. I always thought we would be a family of both birth and adopted children. While I was grieving and working through that loss, we decided to start taking international high school students into our home. God used this and mighty ways to open our eyes to his heart for other cultures And how deeply I can love a child that was not born to me. God spoke to my heart and said, "You love these kids so deeply, imagine the love you can have for an adopted child." We adopted our first son, Ansel, from Thailand in 2018.

When we adopted Ansel two years ago, we weren't exactly sure how we were going to be able to fund our adoption. The costs seemed outrageous, and we figured we would accumulate a great deal of debt as a result. And still, we moved forward, following the voice of the Lord.

It was during that first adoption process that God brought us to Katelyn's Fund. They stepped in when things were tight and bills were due. But that was only the beginning. The Board prayed over us and gave us renewed hope. Our interview with them was a turning point in our waiting, giving us a deeper focus to complete the adoption process as they showed us the power of the Holy Spirit. We are now waiting again, longing for the day we can bring home our second son, Hudson, also from Thailand.

In this second time around, we have faced similar issues with finances and burnout. But because of all that happened last time, we know everything will be as God intends it to be. Katelyn's Fund once again renewed our faith in adoption and in God's perfect timing. They not only supplied us with the funds to move forward a second time, but they also supported us once again with the same strong love and prayer. We're grateful, and we cannot wait to continue watching this story unfold. We're all a part of something bigger - a larger adoption story, that is His story. We have been grafted into His plan and a part of a larger goal."

"We're all a part of something bigger - a larger adoption story, that is His story. We have been grafted into His plan and a part of a larger goal."

More family testimonies are shared every week! Join us on Facebook and Instagram to read these stories of God's faithfulness and pray for these families in their waiting.













## **Support Information**

We are so excited to kick off another incredible year of support, and we hope you will consider joining us as we recall our roots, grow in awareness, and work to become the healthy families God created us to be - together! If you are impacted by foster care or adoption in any way, we'd love for you to be a part of our community.

Check out the Support Schedule for details on each meeting that will take place this year. Also notice a special opportunity in December where we will be inviting you to come and SHOP our "Celebrate Diversity" Christmas store and find the perfect gift to slip under the tree! We will have a wide assortment of diverse books, babies, barbie dolls, Legos, puzzles, games, and the like on hand for you to take home and wrap up. Representation matters, and we cannot wait to help you celebrate the melanin-rich beauty of the kids in your life.



#### Three other things to keep in mind:

- 1. As of right now, support events will be held in person as well broadcasted via Zoom. To maintain confidentiality, the speaker portion will be shared, but all in person discussion /questions/ etc. will be kept private.
- 2. Each meeting has been approved for DHS renewal hours, however, you must be present in person to obtain credit.
- 3. Not local? We're now sharing our support meetings via Zoom! Watch the Katelyn's Fund Facebook page on the day of the event for a link.

# Memorial gift given in honor of: Norman Horstman

#### **Prayer Requests:**

#### Please Pray with and for us that:

- ~ That He continues to show His faithfulness over families and children.
- He prompts and presses on the church to rise up to speak up for the orphan and take action, to not draw back.
- ~ Encouragement for the weariness of the season over families, leaders, ministries.
- ~ That Father continues to bring needed provision in this uncertain season, showing He has and owns all things.
- Safety, protection, and healing over families, children,
   One Vision Orphanage.
- ~ He uses this time to bring many to know and call upon Him, new salvation testimonies in Jesus name.
- ~ We walk in identity in Him, not of the world, and being rooted in Him, gives security and peace.

full schedule on pages 6& 7

## Support Schedule





## telyn's Adoption & Foster und ministry

Meetings

#### September 12: Kick Off Picnic, 5:30 PM

We were created for connection. Now more than ever, it's important for us to be in community with each other. We're looking forward to connecting with you and kicking off a new year! Join us for the Kickoff Picnic at the Shelter House at Children's Park in Sioux Center. Hot dogs and chips will be provided. Extra precautions will be taken to meet current health standards.

2020-2021

Bring your own lawn chair!

#### October 8: Navigating Stress and Trauma

Pandemic. Racism. Stress. Unknowns. Past trauma. So much is wreaking havoc on our children's brains and bodies lately. Let's talk about how these things are impacting our children and why they are struggling because of it - and let's be honest, why we are struggling, too. Darcie Van Voorst is eager to be with you and share what she has been learning about how stress and trauma impact the body AND simple ways we can release it so it doesn't create additional chaos in our lives. Bring your questions for Q&A.

#### November 12: Strategies for School

The transition back to school this year may have presented new challenges for all kids, particularly kids from hard places, following the long COVID-19 "break." Megan Kooima, president of Excel Achievement and principal of Ireton Christian School, will be sharing ways to foster successful transitions as our kids navigate re-entering the world of friends, teachers, grades, and the anxiety that can exist in this space. She will share specific strategies to lessen academic gaps, as well as provide ways to connect with special services available in our area.

#### December 5: No Meeting - "Celebrate Diversity" Christmas Store

Each of our children are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God, and they should see themselves around our homes! Babies and barbies, books and board games, rainy day crafts and posters for the wall - there are so many unique gifts that can be wrapped up and tucked under the tree that celebrate the diverse skin colors and cultures of your child. We want to make it easy for you! Come shop our "Celebrate Diversity" Christmas store on the morning of December 5th to pick out and purchase the perfect Christmas gift for your child. Watch for more details coming soon!

#### January 14: Introduction to Adoption, Foster Care & Safe Families

Do you feel called to adoption, foster care or Safe Families? Tonight's your night! Have you walked these roads before? Please come and share your journey with families as they begin to listen and follow what has been placed on their hearts. Join us as we hear from experts actively working in the fields of adoption, foster care and Safe Families.

\*Resource Share this night

#### February 11: Tech Talk

Please join us! Fireside Room First Reformed Church

7:00 pm • www.katelynsfund.org

160 10th Street SE Sioux Center, Iowa 51250 Aaron Baart, Dean of Chapel at Dordt University, will help families navigate connections, impacts, and boundaries related to technology. He will not only be focusing on physical safety, but also emotional boundaries. Topics will include providing guidance of safeguards, appropriate

Descriptions continued on the back....



## Adoption & Foster Ind orphan Glesire to Weetings

relationships, and acknowledging the desire to connect in different ways. Aaron will give us tools on how to walk wisely with our children through natural curiosities and desires. Bring your questions for Q&A.

2020-2021

#### March 11: Lean in and Learn from an Adult Adoptee Panel

Join us for a night of sharing and a time of reflection from our panel of adult adoptees: Fonda Hulstein, Bethany Bosma, and Gary McEldowney. There will be opportunities to ask questions and learn ways to walk with our families and support our children as they navigate their adoption story.

#### **April 8: Created for Connection**

Tonight, Mary Weber from Catholic Family Services will be joining us. Mary's therapeutic work specializes in trauma, grief, loss and attachment. Mary helps children and adults find their voice, gain the strength to share their stories, and realize that hurts do not need to define who they are. She will guide us in considering the state of our own emotional health and offer practical ways for us to journey forward so we can love the children in our lives as well as possible.

#### May 6: Healing from Trauma

Our speaker for the night, Tara Boer, is a professor of social work at Dordt University. She is a licensed independent social worker, having spent a majority of her career serving children and families as a mental health therapist. She has special training in child sexual abuse treatment, parent-child interaction therapy, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and trauma informed care. Topics will include a variety of mental health issues common to children from hard places. She will help caregivers identify warning signs of anxiety, depression, abuse, suicide and other mental health needs. She will explore ways caregivers can support children in their healing journey. Tara's special interest is in understanding neurobiology, chronic stress, and supporting caregivers that are raising children that have had disruptions in attachment. As always, bring your questions for Q&A.

#### **Kids Program Schedule**

The kids program is for ages 4-12 and meets during the same time as support. It is led by Dordt University social work professor, **Tara Boer** and her social work students. **PLEASE RSVP** your kids for each meeting.

October 8-Managing Worry and Anxiety
November 12-Concentration and Responsibility
January 14-Enjoying God's Diverse Family
February 11-Safety with Technology
March 12-Being a Good Friend/Social Skills
April 8-Anger and Coping Skills
May 6-Trusting God with Hard Things

#### **SCAN HERE for:**

SUPPORT SPECIFIC EMAILS •

SUPPORT MEETING REMINDERS •

KIDS GROUP RSVP • FOLLOW UP •

EVENT INVITES • FOSTER CARE + ADOPTION RESOURCES







KATELYN'S FUND **Orphan Ministry** 

**OCTOBER 30, 2020** 



Meal served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**Auction begins** at 6:30 pm

#### CONTACT

Wade or Alissa Kroeze at 712.722.3140 to make donations or if you have any questions

Due to current situation with COVID 19, there are a few changes: , there will be **NO** childcare or activities available & e a little different as well to meet serving standard

Following the live auction, we will have a

OCT. 31 - NOV. 8, 2020

To donate online, fill out our donation form at: https://katelynsfund.org/our-events/auction 100% of the donations received go directly to the care of the orphan!

### **Auction 2020 Update**

Despite a thousand different challenges, the annual Katelyn's Fund Auction is on, and with some exciting changes. If you are local, mark your calendars for October 30th and plan to join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and caring for families together.

And if you're not local, don't worry! Because we have something for you, too. For the first time ever, we will be holding an online auction alongside our in-person one. Your generous donations and participation make all the difference in the life of the ministry.

More details will be coming soon! Watch the Katelyn's Fund Facebook page, the ministry Instagram, and your email for all the ways to participate. It's going to be a blast, and we cannot wait for you to be a part of it.

## Staying Connected



Are you looking for more?

WE'RE CONSTANTLY CREATING WITH YOU IN MIND!

We long for our Instagram feed and our Facebook page to be LIFE GIVING.
We're constantly praying into the content and pouring ourselves out in these spaces.
And we do it for you!

Check out some of the material that you can find on our Instagram page.
Follow us @katelynsfund

#### KATELYN'S FUND LINKS



Check out our website

Learn about our adoption grants

Find us in Facebook

Join our Facebook support group

Send a request for prayer

Do you shop on amazon? Did you know that you can donate to Katelyn's Fund while you do it? How to set Katelyn's Fund as your preferred charity:

- Sign in to smile-amazon-com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- 2. From your desktop, go to Your Account and **select the** option to Change **your Charity....**
- 3. **Select a** new **charitable** organization [Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry] to support.
- 4. **Bookmark** smile.amazon.com so you remember to use this instead of the basic amazon.com website

That's it! Now shop away like you normally would and know that you're giving in the process!







## One Vision Haiti Sponsor Reflections



We asked a few sponsors to give a short reflection on what being a sponsor means to them.....





Andrea's Veflection

We are so excited that we have joined with Katelyn's Fund in sponsoring Alnase and Mikeldo. It has been such a joy to get to know them on our trips down there and to be able to send them pictures and letters from lowa so they know that we are praying for them and loving them from afar. Being able to learn about them and their daily routines has been great for our family. It's so important to love others as God has loved us, and that includes looking out for the orphan. We are blessed to be able to share His love with both of them and keep them in our daily thoughts and prayers.

## Larla's Veflection



December will mark the two year anniversary of my first trip to Haiti. At the time, some members of my church had some pretty strong ties to Katelyn's Fund Ministries, but my husband and I had chosen to support the organization on the fringes. When the invitation for a trip to the One Vision Orphanage came out to our congregation, I knew I needed to go. I felt a strong tug at my heart to join Katelyn's Fund Ministries on this trip. Prior to this trip, my husband and I never really felt the call to sponsor a child in any organization. This trip changed all that. I was hooked.

I'm not totally sure what hooked me. It most certainly was the children at the orphanage. Smiles and hugs were abundant even though a common language was not shared. The definition of family is different at One Vision. It is difficult to put into words how a week spent at the orphanage created such a love and connection to all the children and staff. One particular child captured my heart. His name is Wadley. My refrigerator proudly displays every sponsorship picture we have received.

Stepping foot on Haitian soil is nothing like stepping anywhere in our United States. Maybe it was the country itself that hooked me? Haiti has a long troubled history, yet you can see God at work. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. If that is the case, stepping into that picture must be worth a million.

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My eyes saw first hand a country ravaged by unrest, poverty, and natural disaster. My eyes also witnessed the resilience and persistence of a country and people living in this environment.

The worship times at the orphanage or at the beginning and end of the days certainly hooked me. These worship times were impactful. Our eyes were led to focus on the One who doesn't see color but sees the heart and the child. The call to defend the orphan and the fatherless is clear throughout scripture. I witnessed firsthand how Katelyn's Fund Ministries and the One Vision Orphanage is living out that calling beautifully.

My first trip to Haiti is nearly two years in the history books and, yes, I am hooked. It is my hope and prayer that I will be able to take many more trips to Haiti. I hope many of my friends and family will be able to join me in experiencing life on the One Vision Orphanage and the country of Haiti first hand. After all, it's important to stay in touch with family.



Janua's Reflection

We know that God works in amazing ways and from the first time we heard about our sponsor son/brother, we knew that God had planned for our family to sponsor Wilnick. We had an immediate, strong connection with him that only God could have orchestrated in His perfect timing. Even though we have not yet had the opportunity to meet him, Wilnick has become an important part of our family and we are excited about the day when we will finally get to see him face-to-face.

Jeresa's Vellection
Haiti Sponsorship Coordinator





My perspective on our sponsorship program is one of true gratitude. My family also is a sponsor of a little girl at One Vision. Our experience has been a blessing and it runs a gamut of feelings. My husband and I have been to One Vision several times and have held and loved on these kiddos multiple times. Each time I go and come back home, the leaving on both ends of the trip is hard. I leave our kids at home to go and love on the kids at One Vision. I have often debated on what the purpose is of our going and current view is....just to love on our brothers and sisters in Haiti. To give encouragement to the caregivers and staff and remind them of the importance of their job and to love on the kiddos. We can only share the love that Christ has given for us and because his love is limitless, there is always more for us to share. My family has had to say good-bye to one of our sponsor kids because he and his family chose for him to leave One Vision. I can't fully put into words my feelings. But I can safely say that it hurts to let go and yet the hurt is worth the time and love shared. My prayer is for him and for all the kids that leave One Vision is that Christ was planted in their hearts and that maybe they will now have the opportunity to share Christ's light to others.





1327 Third Avenue SE Sioux Center, IA 51250 katelynsfund.org

Prefer to receive newsletter via e-mail? Contact teresa@katelynsfund.org to request your newsletter be sent to your inbox.

#### Fall 2020 Newsletter

THE PEACE I
GIVE IS A GIFT
THE WORLD
CANNOT GIVE.

JOHN 14:27

