



Fall 2022 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

Let His promises wash over you!

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

The Lord is my shepherd I have everything that I need.

Recently, we have been praying through Psalm 23, He knows the desperation and need coming before Him in our prayers and so graciously shows His power and peace as we pray and cry out to Him. There is a new awareness, new sense of His promises, realization as everything in His word is true, He is a good shepherd. We are aware of many children waiting and struggling, we see the crisis and conflict in Haiti only intensify, we are desperate for Him to move, to make a way. We continue to ask Him to show He supplies all, as literally there is so much need around us, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He continues to meet us and teach us and show us – that when we know Him, His character, and trust in His word, we can find peace that passes understanding, letting go and trusting in Him. In Philippians, Paul is encouraging believers to look beyond circumstances, find courage and strength in Jesus, to press on and have a kingdom view. This is not just a pep talk to win a game or to finish a task, but to have an understanding this is not the end, that all things will be made right through Jesus, and that Jesus is coming back! We set our minds

on these truths, not surrendering to circumstances, or taking a passive way out of doing things here, rather, with His leadership guiding us, sustaining us, restoring us, we do everything we can now to stand up and to speak up, to pour out compassion, trying to love as He loves us. Paul is saying, don't shrink back, fall into hopelessness, but stay the course, keep going, be strong and courageous in Jesus. Out of an understanding of His love to us, and Holy Spirit's filling within us, we see and share that Jesus is the only solution and when we are fully in His presence, we do have everything that we need.

Read through Psalm 23 today, let His promises

wash over you, read the words and understand more of who our Father is. Read it through for yourself putting your name before each promise, read it through declaring it over your children and family, and all the vulnerable children He loves. Would you continue to press in with us, praying faithfully. Continuing to give generously. Walking alongside others reminding them of our faithful shepherd. Isaiah 40 shares the command to comfort His people, with our eyes looking forward, at the declaration that Jesus is coming back. It matters that we know He's coming back, and it also matters what we do while we're waiting for Him to come back. There is chaos around us, pain, suffering, deep valleys, and real enemies seeking harm. Ask the Lord what is your part, even in the hard places. When



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things around us do not make sense and there is so much need, we look to the One who meets needs now and all needs forever. Put on the full armor of God as He tells us in Ephesians 6, pray boldly that He will come into situations, and He will restore. Pray boldly for protection and peace, pray boldly that He will do miraculous things and make a way. Continue to look through the promises of Psalm 23 declaring who He is and the ways He loves us so deeply, that we have all that we need, because Jesus is all we need. Be encouraged and strengthened today by His promises for you: He will provide for what is needed. He will lead you to green pastures, more secure places, quiet places with help and restoration. He will lead you on the right path, He will restore your soul. Even in the darkness, in the difficulties, the deep valleys He will be with you, you do not need to be afraid. Picture Him holding His rod and His staff, Him comforting you. He is preparing a table for you in the presence of your enemies, He has a place chosen and saved just for you. He will anoint your head with oil, to the point it's overflowing, giving you all that you need in each day. Our good, faithful, eternal shepherd, His goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life and you will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Support Update

written by Tammy Zevenbergen

Our monthly Support Meetings have begun again for the year! This past month Loren reminded us that our ultimate goal as Christian parents is to point our children to Christ. He reminded us that not all days will be filled with happiness; however, all days can be filled with joy, peace and confidence in God and His power that's made perfect in our weakness. The Bible says in Nehemiah 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is our strength! Isaiah 26:3 reminds us, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." In order to find His joy and perfect peace, Loren encouraged us to stay rooted in the Scriptures, always searching for WHO God is. As we get to know our Father, it will build our faith in a God whose power and ways are far beyond what our minds can conceive. Yet He knows each of us and loves us deeply, walking with us each step of the way. He has given us His Word to use as our sword to speak truth over our families and defeat the enemy. Memorizing Scripture and reading the Word are then very important so we can easily bring it to mind and pray it over our kids, situations and struggles we are facing. The Word of God is powerful and when we speak it out loud it releases power in our lives as well as in our families and those we pray for. Pray Psalm 91 when you are fearing the future, Ephesians 2:10 when praying for identity in Christ, and Isaiah 41:10 when you need help and strength. **"For the Word of God is alive and powerful." Heb 4:12**

Come join other families walking the adoption journey every 2nd Thursday of the month to learn and be encouraged! We would love for you to join together with us at our monthly support meetings! To learn more check out the schedule on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter! You can find more information on our Facebook and Instagram Page or head to www.katelynsfund.org.

Katelyn's Fund 2022-23
Adoption & Foster **SUPPORT** Meetings

SEPTEMBER 8: Identity in the Promise of God
OCTOBER 13: Connections in Community
*NOVEMBER 4: Katelyn's Fund Auction
NOVEMBER 10: Help and Healing
*NOVEMBER 13: Orphan Sunday
*DECEMBER: Watch for date - Family Fun Night
JANUARY 12: Racial Stress & Trauma
FEBRUARY 9: Just Breathe
MARCH 9: An Adoption Journey
APRIL 13: Sibling Panel
MAY 4: Hope for the Journey

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. - Isaiah 117

Meetings to be held at:
Fireside Room at Cornerpoint Church
2nd Thursday of every month
starting at 7:00pm

SCAN HERE for:
SUPPORT EMAILS
WISD GROUP SIGNUP
FOLLOW UP or
FOSTER CARE
ADOPTION RESOURCES

This event will take place at a different location. We want to thank you for staying for us!

Did you know Katelyn's Fund gives 6 - 8 grants to hopeful adoptive families each month? Did you also know YOU can be a part of helping families overcome the financial barriers of being together? 100% of every generous donation goes back to serving and supporting foster and adoptive families.

➡ Check out these testimonies from two recent grant recipients! ⬅

The O'Connor Family

Kevin & Natalie

Adopting Domestically



Our adoption story was very different this time around from our first adoption. With our first son, we spent years in the process and felt very well prepared for his arrival. We set aside savings for years to afford his adoption, and after a few home studies and renewals and praying over a dozen potential situations, we were eventually matched with just the right birth mother at just the right time. It all felt so providential and well timed.

Our second adoption was unexpected, but when our first son's birth mother reached out to us and asked us to adopt his soon-to-be-born brother, we knew we had to say yes. We only found out that we would be adopting him about a month and a half before he was born and having just finalized our first adoption a little over a year earlier, we weren't nearly as financially prepared as we had been for our first adoption.

But we knew we couldn't keep these brothers apart when we still had the room in our home and hearts for another child, and so we walked forward in faith that God would work all the details out, even if it meant taking on a large amount of unexpected debt. We finished our home study in a matter of weeks and then began applying for grants. At that point we had less than a month left before our placement and many thousands of dollars to raise in that very short amount of time.

We had no idea how it would all come together so quickly, but one by one, little miracles started to happen, and by the time we brought our new son home from the hospital, we only had a few thousand dollars left that hadn't already been provided

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for us. The next day we received word from Katelyn's Fund that they were awarding us nearly all of the remaining funds we had left to cover. We were amazed and humbled, just as we have been through every step of this adoption process.

It was not planned, we were not prepared, and it was nothing like our first adoption, and yet it was still just as providentially timed and beautiful in its own unique way. Now that we have these two brothers home, it feels as though we can hardly remember what it was like before we were a family of four. And as wild of a ride as it has been, we'd do it all over again because building a family with these two beautiful boys has been better than anything we could have ever planned or imagined for ourselves.

It felt as if God told us to simply step aside and let Him work. Before our eyes and faster than our minds could process, we witnessed His provision and power and encouragement to us. There were times when we seriously considered giving up on pursuing this adoption, but each time God filled our hearts and minds with His peace and gave us the wisdom and strength we needed to continue on.

Adoption has changed our lives, not simply in that we have two precious little boys because of it, but because we are no longer the same people we were before we started the journey. It has pushed us to our limit only to find God calling us to go further. Adoption is complex and difficult, but it is extremely important because it is a reflection of our own redemption through Jesus' atoning death and resurrection.

The Woller Family

Matthew and Amber

Adopting Internationally



We are still in disbelief that we are being awarded a grant to help bring our future son or daughter home from Burkina Faso. We are in awe of Katelyn's Fund and definitely feel blessed to be apart of this family that loves, supports, encourages us but most importantly prays for us. Katelyn's Fund genuinely cares for us and shows it in many ways and we are forever grateful for such a gift to our growing family. We are adopting off of the special needs wait list from Burkina Faso and this grant allows us more time home together after we bring our child home. We will get to spend quality time as a family to bond and attach without having to worry about a financial burden. We are eager to focus on raising our child to know God at a young age.

God worked in our adoption process by providing a home study and post services agency that has the same faith statement as our family. At first this local agency was denied by our adoption agency and we were discouraged because we felt like a faith based home study agency was the best choice for our international adoption. It became crunch time while we needed to establish a home study agency to continue to make our adoption proceed in a timely fashion. We thought we closed the door and were seeking other agencies on the "approved" list but many said it would be longer than average wait because of staffing issues and other disappointing news kept arising. One morning the social worker from Evangelical Child and Family Agency called and said "it's a God thing, we can now work with you... let's schedule your first home study appointment!" We had God fighting for us and our agency became approved with many behind the scenes things that I will never understand. God provided an amazing agency for us to showcase our life accurately through the home study process.

...more adoption stories continued on page 5

Kenton & Stina

Adopting Domestically



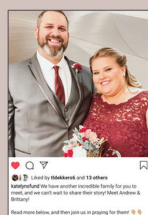
God has called us to grow our family through adoption twice and He has provided for us every step of the way. With our first adoption in 2017, God provided almost all of the finances we needed through grants, donations, and fundraisers and we are trusting He will do the same this time around too. Going through the interview process with Katelyn's Fund has been such a gift! Both times we left feeling seen, heard, and so encouraged by the conversations and prayer that night and later by the grant money we received. We have been so blessed to have this community of adoptive parents surround us as we've navigated the joy, trauma, and loss that come with adoption. We have found safe spaces to process our fears and celebrate our successes. Katelyn's Fund is so much more than just a grant to help us defray our adoption costs; they have become a community that we are grateful to be on this journey with.

Anytime it has felt too hard or like the process is taking longer than it should, God has confirmed that we are that we are exactly where we are supposed to be. Through phone calls or emails about grants we have been awarded or a timely conversation with a friend, He has provided the encouragement we have needed to keep pressing on. When we started to feel discouraged about the money needed to proceed, God blessed us with grants that were much larger than we were expecting and at just the right time. He has provided the time to get logistics taken care of and has provided every dollar we have needed so far. God has called us to adopt in this season of life and we are trusting that He will continue to provide what we need every step of the way.

We have learned so much about trauma and anxiety, the importance of having racial and cultural mirrors, and the pros and cons of each level of openness with a child's birth family. Our parenting journey has been filled with challenges and we now have more grace and compassion for other adoptive families and their kids' behaviors and struggles. It has also taught us that things are not as black and white as we originally thought before we adopted our oldest. There is space for grief and joy, sorrow and celebration, heartache and healing.

Our deepest desire is for our children to know and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They already understand that God is always with them, that they can talk to Him whenever they are sad or worried or scared, and that He has good plans for their lives even when things seem really hard or sad. We love to hear them sing worship songs and see their excitement about reading and retelling Bible stories. We have been praying for this baby for over a year and are excited to finally have him in our arms. Our oldest is thrilled to have a sibling who looks like her and we are so excited to see how all of our children welcome and love on this baby.

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.



Joseph and Katie

Adopting Internationally



Our adoption story began in 2015 when God called us to faithfully trust him and enter into the adoption process for the first time. We had been waiting on the Lord for his guidance for a year and half after we discovered we couldn't conceive naturally. The Lord faithfully spoke to us confirming His calling on our lives and marriage, confirming that this was His plan and revealed His sovereignty to us in new ways. 8 months later we found ourselves staring at the picture of our first daughter, Arabella Grace. We welcomed her home in August 2017 and our lives were forever changed by the experience. We met her at 2 years and 9 months old in the Philippines. She ran to us when she saw us through her glass playroom door. She flew into our arms and never looked back. The love God poured out on our little family brought us to our knees that day, we could barely stand under the weight of His goodness. Our fears, uncertainties, and questions melted away when we met her. Five years later, today we find ourselves with hearts that have expanded not only for Arabella Grace, but now for Liana Jane, who came home in April 2022. Liana came to us at 4 years old, which brought a new set of fears, not only about adopting an older child while having another child already, but also because she was profoundly deaf. But God confirmed over and over again through her adoption process that she was to be ours, and that He alone would equip us for this journey. Liana also attached very quickly and was so excited to be in her new family. Both of our adoptions have not only expanded our trust in Gods provision and timing but also simply our belief in His goodness. We have tasted this on such a deep level during these adoptions. Looking back, the things we were most concerned about and most stressed about have been the places God has been most merciful for us. These girls and their adoptions have profoundly shaped our parenting, our family, our present and our future. They have been the biggest blessings in our lives, the greatest gifts we have ever been given, and we cannot be more in love with our two little Filipino princesses.

In our most recent adoption, we found it very unique that God chose timing to be a huge way He confirmed His will to us. In the process of bring Liana home we had to move cities, which was very difficult practically and emotionally. The day and exact hour Joseph was in his first interview for a new job, was the time God allowed us to hear about Liana for the first time through our agency. The same week we heard the Philippines approved our application for her, we also found our new house and our offer was accepted. The week we heard her Visa was approved suddenly 2.5 months earlier than expected, we also received a 10k grant covering all our travel costs, and Joseph was accepted in a new job opportunity we had been praying for for months. These scenarios of incredible timing built up our faith and made us confident that we were nearing bringing her home, that we were in God's will, and He was faithfully going before us and preparing the way. Lastly, at the end of 2021 we had some paperwork mishaps which were very frustrating and caused us to move our projected travel date from April to June of 2022. We pressed on and recovered and trusted God, so when we did hear suddenly and unexpectedly that she was ready for travel with an approved Visa in April, our jaws hit the floor, as well as our feet for that matter! God redeemed the time that we thought was lost, and on April 29th, she landed on USA soil with us.

Support Schedule



Adoption & Foster **SUPPORT** Meetings

2022-23

August 11 - Kick-off Picnic, 5:30 PM

We're created for connection and community. As we enter into a new year of walking alongside one another in community, we look forward to connecting with you at our annual kick-off picnic. Join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship at the Children's Park Shelter House in Sioux Center. Hot dogs and chips will be provided. Feel free to bring a side, if you wish, but it is certainly not required!

September 8 - Identity in the Promises of God

Loren DeJong, high school counselor, certified biblical counselor, coach, & adoptive father

Today's world is nothing short of chaotic, volatile, and filled with seemingly endless conflict. Foster and adoption, although an incredible privilege, are also full of chaos, volatility, and seemingly endless conflict. In light of this, we as Christians can find incredible comfort, hope and identity in the promises of God. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10. As adoptive parents, my wife, Patt and I have experienced heartbreak, pain, anger, anxiety, sadness, confusion, and despair. We, like Jesus, felt hard pressed, persecuted, struck down, and perplexed. We certainly at many moments were not healthy in nearly every aspect of life. As we progressed in our journey, God taught us and continues to teach us how to have life to the fullest!

October 13 - Connections in Community

Mindy Louscher, Social Worker/Case Manager IA DHS & Kelli Hooyer, Family Crisis Centers

Mindy Louscher has spent the majority of her life serving others. Mindy has been in the Social Work field for over 33 years, serving in various roles including Child Welfare and mental health. Mindy is passionate about keeping children safe and educating parents. She also has a special passion for keeping fathers involved in their children's lives. Mindy takes this calling seriously and considers it an honor to pray for each of the kids in her caseload. Mindy was adopted as a newborn and can speak into adoption and relationships with bio and adoptive families. We are excited to hold this month's meeting at Shari's Family Visitation & Exchange Center. Shari's, which is operated by Family Crisis Centers, is a safe place where supervised visitations can take place, as well as child custody exchanges.

November 10 - Help and Healing

Marty Wallace, LMHC Attachment and Trauma Therapist

Marty Wallace is a licensed mental health counselor, registered play therapist supervisor, an attachment and trauma specialist, and a CCTP (Certified Clinical Trauma Professional). He uses Brain-spotting, Lifespan Integrative, Dyadic Developmental, and PCIT strategies. Marty also specializes in working with foster, pre-adoption, adopted clients, their families, and their schools. He has been a trainer for IFAPA (Iowa Foster and Adoptive Association) for six years and traveled all over the state of Iowa training and speaking on attachment, trauma, and the effects they could have on children, adolescents, young adults, and adults. Come and hear about strategies and therapies available to your family.

December - Family Fun

In place of our regular support meeting we will be hosting a fun family event. Stay tuned for more information.

Please join us - we were not created to walk this journey alone!



7:00 pm • Fireside Room • www.katelynsfund.org
Centerpoint Church • 160 10th Street SE • Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
(formerly First Reformed Church)



Katelyn's Fund
ORPHAN MINISTRY

2022-23

Adoption & Foster **SUPPORT** Meetings

January 12 - Racial Stress & Trauma

Martha Draayer, NWC Director of Intercultural Development & Dr. Valerie Stokes, LISW

What is racial trauma? What is the impact of racial trauma? What are the types of racial trauma? What strategies can we implement to cope with racial trauma? Dr. Valerie Stokes and Martha Draayer will answer these questions and discuss how to cope with traumatic racial events.

February 9 - Just Breathe

Darcie Van Voorst, LMSW Mental Health Therapist

Two simple words, not so simple to do, especially if we have a dysregulated nervous system. In addition to learning about the impact of ongoing stress on our nervous system, we will be learning simple interventions that have profound impact on regulating our nervous system. Incorporating these interventions in my life has literally been life changing...years of parenting children from hard places took a toll on my body, but I'm now settled in ways I never thought was possible. Not only have I seen the profound impact these interventions have had on my life, I have had the honor of watching them transform lives in my work as a therapist. Come join as we learn to "just breathe" and so much more...

March 9 - An Adoption Journey

Danny & Kansas Fergen, Adoptive Parents

Adoption is a beautiful journey that significantly impacts the entire family. Danny & Kansas Fergen have seen firsthand the impact adoption has had on their four adoptive and four biological children. They have witnessed God's faithfulness as their biological children played an essential role in the attachment and bonding throughout each adoption. It has dramatically shaped their character and who they are today. They have seen God's hand at work, shaping each of their hearts, as the family grew.

April 13 - Sibling Panel

A panel of young adults, who have adoptive siblings in their families, will share thoughts, experiences, and insights of how adoption has impacted their lives. Come, listen, learn, and ask any questions you have about sibling dynamics and how it impacts the family.

May 4 - Hope for the Journey

The Hope for the Journey Conference encourages families and caregivers while providing practical resources they may need to meet the needs of children impacted by adoption and/or foster care. Please join us as we enjoy an excerpt from this year's conference.

KIDS GROUP

Bring your school aged kids along for some therapeutic play and activities. Children ages 4 - 13 years are welcome and the activities will be lead by Professor Tara Boer and her social work students.

Please keep an eye on our social media post for ALL the updates & topics for the night

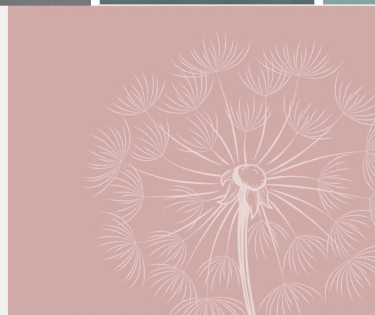


SCAN HERE to sign up for more information on Katelyn's Fund support, events & much more



SCAN HERE to RSVP your child(ren) for KIDS GROUP

Annual Auction Invite



Katelyn's Fund

ORPHAN MINISTRY

AUCTION

November 4

2022

**Meal served from
5:30-6:30 pm**

**Auction begins
at 6:30 pm**

**100% of the donations received go directly to the
care of the orphan!**



**New Life
Reformed
Church
in Sioux Center**



**Childcare
& activities
are
provided**



**Contact
Wade or Alissa
Kroeze at
712.441.0540**

To donate online, fill out our donation form at:
<https://katelynsfund.org/our-events/auction>

Haiti Update - Urgent Call To Prayer

written by Teresa Dekkers

Brothers and Sisters, I wish I could address you in joy and light heartedness but I come with a heavy heart on behalf of our family in Haiti. I am sure many of you have heard of all the hardship that is happening there. We were recently informed that the government postponed the start of the school year due to the unrest and gang violence. They were hopeful it would be in October but things have not calmed down there so we do not anticipate that. We have heard that fuel is extremely low and some places are not able to get any. Inflation is very high. Markets have very little food. And fear is so very high. The gangs continue to kidnap and people are so fearful. There is violence and so much hardship.



Kids and staff worshipping at One Vision!

This is a plea for prayer. Please join us in lifting up One Vision, the director, and Haiti. Pray that our Father in heaven, the Giver of life, the Sustainer, our Rock, our Refuge, and our Deliverer to hear our prayers on behalf of all those living in Haiti to bring about change. I think we often forget that God hears our prayers or think that our prayers don't make a difference but they do. He promises to hear our prayers and He promises to be with us. Friends, now is the time to plead with God about Haiti. Pray for rest, for softened hearts, for food and water, for safety, and for all eyes to turn to Him and seek Him. Please join us in prayer for Haiti.

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.

Memorial gift given
in honor of:

Betty Rikkers



Honorary gift given
in honor of:

Jack Woelber



SCAN ME

We would love to pray with you! Scan this QR Code and send your prayer requests confidentially to our prayer team.

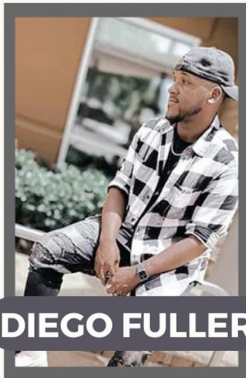
Orphan Sunday Invite



KATELYN'S FUND ORPHAN MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO:

ORPHAN SUNDAY

with Diego fuller



DIEGO FULLER

Please join us for a time of worship and community together! We are pleased to announce and excited to welcome **Diego Fuller, speaker, artist, author, pastor, and producer!** He was 'engrafted' into Bishop Aaron Blake's family as a teenager with 5 other foster boys. He will be sharing his story and empowering us to think about our part in caring for those around us. For more of his bio [head to www.iamdiego.org](http://www.iamdiego.org)

SUN | **NOVEMBER 13**
DAY | **9:30 AM**

NEW LIFE REFORMED CHURCH
232 16TH ST. SE
SIOUX CENTER, IA
WWW.KATELYNSFUND.ORG



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

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

Fall 2022 Newsletter

EVEN WHEN I WALK
THROUGH THE DARKEST VALLEY,
I WILL NOT BE AFRAID,
for you are close beside me.

Psalm 23:4