



## It's been a long winter but Spring is coming

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

Has it felt like a long winter? Have you felt like you have been in a cold place, stuck, in the house with the weather, or struck because of circumstances around you? These seasons "in the winter" can seem like such long days, months, and even years. There is a deep yearning, a desperate hoping, and a quiet waiting. As the elements in winter can present danger, the long winters in our lives can leave us feeling vulnerable, exposed, not prepared, and needing shelter and protection.

Recently in Montana, I was thinking about how bears instinctively hibernate and rest in the winter, they come out of this time feeling refreshment, eager to take the next step. They hold great expectation of the new spring, of what is ahead. The little bear cubs, seem unconcerned going into winter and ever more blissful coming out. Their parents know the dangers, the ways they are vulnerable in winter. The bear cubs lift their eyes, look up to their parents, are tucked under their care, safely secure in their refuge. Even greater than these massive and instinctive animals, we see in them a picture of ourselves and our Father. Our Father sees our need for shelter, protection, covering, and care. Read through Psalm 9, He is a shelter over you in all seasons, see His promises for you. He knows that we do have deep concerns, hurts, struggles, and need to cast our cares on Him in times of long winters.

He also knows much is happening that we

do not yet see or understand. He is wrapping His mighty arms around us, encasing us in His care, looking ahead at what is to spring up after He helps to dust things off.

He helps cut through the frosty places, unthawing hard parts of hearts, reaching the soft places. He shows us in His word that He prepares, plants, and grows the tender green shoots. He plants them by rivers and grows them into strong oaks of righteousness. He is a Father who takes us from the desert and into the garden, speaking to us tenderly, restoring the hope of our youth. He is a Father who sees the long winter, the dryness of the desert, and tells us that He is making a way, He is going to do a new thing, that He will bring us spring. Oh, how our weary hearts need to hear our Father's voice of assurance, giving confidence we are not stuck in the frosty cold or icy path, He is tucking us under His wing, outstretching His mighty arm, which is never too short, Isaiah 59:1.

Surely the arm of the  
Lord is not too short  
to save, nor his ear  
too dull to hear.  
Isaiah 59:1





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Just like a cub looks to see to his mom to see if things are ok and where his dad is leading him, we too, look for our Father's leading. Often in long winters, we feel a protective heart but are weary, we need our Father's protective heart over us. He tells us that He will hold us close and carries us in His arms close to His heart. We need Him to guide us, to hear and remind ourselves of His promises and speak them out to our families and those around us. We rest and lean into His protective love over us. We lift our eyes to Him, the one who lifts our heads and is a shield around us, Psalm 3. From this, we gain confidence in Him, rest in His plans and promises, knowing His feet are secure and we can trust the next step.

May we be so deeply encouraged, He will not leave us in the cold, He tucks us under Himself, always. He is planting green shoots, taking the sting of the coldness away, already seeing the new sprouts. He longs to bring us refreshment, is eager for us to take the next step with Him, and to be confident there is a new spring ahead, as He is ahead.

### Memorial gift given in honor of:

Larry Goedhart  
Goldie Colenbrander  
Arlene Bidwell

Gary Vander Plaats  
Ryan Whitt



### Honorary gift given in honor of:

Jordyn Aalbers  
Hoekstra Grandkids  
John Koerselman  
Pat Estes

## 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.



### SCAN ME

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

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 recent grant recipients! ➔

### The Woelber Family

#### Adam and Aubree Adopting Domestically



We've been actively pursuing adoption since 2019, but initially tried to adopt during our first year of marriage. We were told that we needed to be married for two years to work with that specific agency, which was hard, but God used that "wait" to strengthen our marriage.

Fast forward to fall of 2021: we matched with Wilder's birth mom when we had resigned to the fact that we wouldn't complete an adoption through our current agency due to the timing of moving out of state in summer of 2022. On top of that, for the first time in years, Aubree was not offered any classes to teach in for the Spring semester. Two weeks later, we heard about + met Wilder's birth mom, when she was 32 weeks along (due December 31, 2021--okay, God!). Adam grew up hearing about Katelyn's Fund at church in Sioux Center. It was one of the first grants that he mentioned when we began to consider funding our adoption because of their pursuit of families that love Jesus who are choosing adoption. After our interview with members of the board, we walked away knowing that even if we didn't get any funding, God was glorified as we prayed + praised Him together.

God has been so faithful with TIMING. He has perfectly woven Wilder's story + our own story together at a time when we had a lot of transition--and completing an adoption felt impossible.

One of the most tangible pictures of the gospel for us has been through adoption. The sacrifices we have made to bring Wilder into our family as definitely not the same as how God adopts us, but the language we use in conversations with others about our desire to adopt, our struggles, and how we feel about Wilder is a true representation of what the gospel is. We want her to know + love Jesus desperately; to know that she is not a plan B, but our first choice to build our family; to live up to her name (untamed, wild) + be so sure of the gospel that she is untamed in how she lives in obedience to Jesus and shares the gospel with her life.

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## The Bock Family

### Alan and Lynsey Adopted Domestically



When we committed to adoption as a means through which we would grow our family, we didn't know how it would happen. We felt strongly that the Lord had guided our family to work overseas and knew, after the adoption of our youngest daughter, that living internationally would only make the process more complicated. We clung to a promise spoken during a time of prayer: "Child, why do you think that my calling to live overseas & adoption are incompatible?" Living overseas, we saw again & again how the Lord provided for every step: finding favor with paperwork at the busiest police precinct in France, rolling fingerprints on our own and sending them back to the states with the only American visitors we'd had only days before international borders closed, & getting documents renewed electronically that were typically "in-person only."

Our family became active & we started showing our profile. The Lord continued to speak truth & peace over us, despite the many moments of doubt, the fatigue of the adoption journey, & the many uncertainties of covid.

Our family began worshipping together with Maverick City Music, during which many prayers were offered up for a son who would grow to worship like the men of Maverick City, full of passion & zeal for the Lord. We returned to the US, only to find ourselves unexpectedly displaced from our home back overseas, borders tightly shut behind us. Prayers continued –meek & tired whispers sitting at the feet of Jesus. Then the borders finally reopened. We could go home! Then, during our lunch break that same day we received a phone call. "You're matched...baby boy due...his mom is calling him Maverick..."

Our son was born. A few weeks later we heard from Katelyn's Fund. Their generous grant was a blessing, offsetting financial burden, but equally encouraging to us was the time we spent in fellowship and prayer with their board during our interview. We ended our call deeply touched at the Spirit-filled time of communion and prayer we shared with them.

## The Doughan Family

### Ryan and Katie Adopting Domestically



For the last couple of years we had started to pray about the possibility of adoption, and in the last year discussed and prayed about this in earnest. We had some hesitation because we had already been blessed with four healthy, biological children. God has moved in our hearts, though, showing us that we have been given much and that we were living very comfortable lives. But God doesn't just call us to be comfortable.

God's word tells us to love one another as He loves us (John 13) and that encompasses everyone including the orphans. We are called to take care of the orphans and the widows. We believe in the sanctity of life where every

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life is created in God's image, and every life is a sacred gift. Every life should be protected. A lot of our adoption testimony has to do with our desire to be a blessing to a birth mom who might be deciding between an adoption plan for her baby or an abortion. We decided that if our family and profile book were the missing pieces that kept just one baby alive, then we wanted to step into the uncomfortable to not just keep one precious life alive, but to help that child thrive and grow into who God has called them to be. We wanted to share the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with another child, as well as birth moms along our journey.

We wanted to follow and obey God's calling on our lives, and we felt God had called us to step out with open and willing hearts and minds to see what he would do on our adoption journey. Our main goal was and is to be a blessing in the life of a new little one and the brave birth mama who is also stepping out on faith.

Trusting that this was God's calling, we began working with Christian Adoption Consultants and started applying with agencies. From there we began reviewing situations, praying into some messy pieces of life, and having our profile presented to birth moms. We also began some fundraising efforts as adoption can be a crazy expensive endeavor. In this, again, God has been faithful, blessing us with grants from organizations like Katelyn's Fund and gifts from family, friends, and our church body. It is not lost on us that we have been provided funds in the amounts we needed to proceed to the next step of this journey in time to take that next step on faith. God is so good!

Fast forward about eight months and we received a call from our consultant. After reviewing our family profile, a birth mom had chosen our family for her baby! Pure Joy!

We are thrilled beyond measure to be matched with this new little one and eagerly await their birth. We pray for God's protection over this new life, that even now he would knit our child together with precision and care. We pray also for this birth mom who has stepped out in courage to make the incredibly difficult decision in love. We pray that God would bless and encourage her.

We have learned and continue to learn that there is much in life that we cannot control. It is too big for us, too complex, and beyond our ability. We have also been reassured that we serve a big God: a God capable of all things. God is good, and we trust that he will continue to guide this journey.

## The Page Family

### Dakota and Rebekah Adopting Domestically



This is the fourth time God has led us through the adoption process. We began our journey in 2014. We were thrilled to be pregnant with twins, but sadly, we lost the babies. The Lord healed our hearts and worked in an amazing way to lead us to adopt - exactly one year to the day after we lost the babies we brought home our daughter! Having God answer our prayers to be parents by that specific date was a huge faith building moment! The Lord continued to lead us to adopt two more times and we added our amazing sons into our family! There have been many moments during the journey of growing our family that we have witnessed miracles from God. Each of our children have stories full of God's love and we have seen first hand how He is a part of every detail in their lives. Our desire is to have a large family. We started the adoption process in 2021 to bring home a fourth child. Katelyn's Fund has been such a blessing to our family! We are so thankful for their adoption support, but most thankful for their adoption support, but most thankful for the prayers and encouragement they have provided to our family in this process!

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Adoption has taught us that family is more than blood. We don't have to look like each other to be a family. We learned that our kids can't have too many people who love them. Open adoption has taught us that there is plenty of room for our kids to be loved by all of their families! Also, adoption has taught us to be patient - sometimes the process can take a long time or just look different than we originally plan. The best thing we can do is wait on the Lord. His ways are so much better than our own!

It is our deepest desire that our kids know and love Jesus with all their heart. We also pray for our kids to be filled with the Holy Spirit and follow His leading in their lives.

## The Abuhl Family

### Jared and Amanda Adopted Internationally



We love children! God has given us 5 biological children and each is a precious gift. When our 5th child was a newborn she began to have seizures and we soon learned that our little girl has rare and catastrophic form of epilepsy that is not responsive to medications. As a family, we have learned how to care for our medically fragile girl and her quiet presence is a testimony to God's faithfulness and sovereignty.

About a year ago, we learned that a child in Bulgaria was diagnosed with the same genetic syndrome as our daughter and her birth mother had surrendered her rights. We began praying about adopting this little girl. We realized that we have been uniquely equipped to care for medical special needs. We have the medical specialists in place and most importantly our children were delighted by the opportunity to love another child.

One thing led to the next and we contacted an adoption agency and began work on our homestudy. We applied to Katelyn's Fund as soon as our home study was approved. Our dossier has been submitted to the Bulgarian government and we are eagerly awaiting the referral of our daughter. We cannot wait to bring this special little girl to our home so she can be surrounded by family.

Receiving funds from Katelyn's Fund is very affirming in our adoption journey. More than that, we were so blessed by the time in prayer with the committee members who conducted our interview. We feel as if you have come alongside us and interjected courage and hope to keep going!

We have seen God uniquely at work by the way He has gone before us and continues to fling the doors wide open. The entire process has been smooth--the steps have not been burdensome. We have seen Him provide financially and we feel so affirmed in our decision to adopt by the support we have received from grant funding sources like Katelyn's Fund.

We have received affirmation and support from our extended family and friends. Additionally, we reached out to ask if private duty nursing from our bio daughter's company would be an option if our new daughter requires this level of care. We received an enthusiastic "yes!" We see God working in our circles preparing the way for our daughter.

We long for our children to know Christ and to walk with Him. We realize our family dynamics are not typical and we pray that they would look to Christ and long for eternity. We want them to know that the brokenness that they experience with siblings who are not typically developing will be made whole by a faithful and loving Father.

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# The LeMay Family

## Christopher and Natalie Adopting Internationally



Our family has been trying to adopt for about 3 years now. We have tried to adopt from 3 different countries and after laboring through paperwork and fundraising, dreams and many prayers we lost our first two children to other families. In the moment it was hard to see what God was doing and why he would lead us down one road for awhile and then change the direction. He was teaching us, he was leading us, he was preparing us and he was loving us. Our hearts still fragile and intimidated to try again after two losses. But the Lord stood with us and gave us strength to keep saying yes when it would have been easier to give up. About 9 months ago, we said yes for the third time to a new country and new children. Not just one precious child but TWO! Our hearts were overjoyed when we learned of a sibling set in Liberia. We have been matched to our son and daughter for just a couple months now and we are finally close to travel. Katelyn's Fund has come alongside us right at the end of our process just in time to pay our final bill. Again this is all the Lord's provision as he sees all and knows all the details of how and what it will take to bring Fatu and Dickson home to our family. Thank you Katelyn's Fund for your beautiful ministry.

This process is all about Jesus and his leading us to our children. A friend told me in the very beginning that when you step into the adoption process you gain a front row seat to seeing the Lord do miracles. And that is what we have witnessed. Everything about this journey has been too big, too costly, too much paperwork and too emotional... BUT GOD! He provided every penny when we needed it, he provided more than we needed in fact! He gave us people that faithfully pray and have come alongside us since day one and continue to support us three years later. He provided peace when our hearts ached with loss. He provided resources to teach us new parenting skills and about a new culture. He provided the perseverance when we wanted to give up and ultimately he created two beautiful souls in need of a family in a country far away. These ways are not necessarily unique because we have seen Him do these things for other adoptive families as well. God loves adoption! This is our God! We are so thankful for our Father who lavishes such love on us...his children. Whether they are curled up on my couch today or waiting in an orphanage 6,000 miles away, he is working to bring us together! Thank you Katelyn's Fund for being apart of yet another adoption miracle!

The adoption process has really deepened our understanding of the Father's love for his children. It's a picture I just didn't fully understand until we stepped into this journey. As we are seeking to do the very thing that God did for me, for each of us.

Our greatest desire is simple. We just want our children to know Jesus, to develop a personal relationship with their Savior and then to walk it out all their days.

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

SHOW HOPE

# HOPE

*for the Journey*

CONFERENCE

(Formerly the Empowered to Connect Conference)

Show Hope's Hope for the Journey Conference brings together proven, practical teaching and insight as well as everyday, hopeful wisdom—designed for parents and caregivers meeting the needs of children impacted by adoption and/or foster care. And for the churches and organizations seeking to serve these children and families, you will gain a better understanding of their complex needs along with resources to equip you in your walk with them.

*Featuring Special Hosts ...*

Show Hope Founders  
Mary Beth & Steven Curtis Chapman

+

*Teaching and Insight From ...*

Show Hope Executive Director  
Emily Chapman Richards

Daren Jones & Amanda Purvis  
From the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU  
And More!

**Where:** Centerpoint Church in Sioux Center, IA (formerly First Reformed Church)

**Date:** Saturday, April 9th, 2022

**Time:** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

\*\* There will be a half hour lunch break. You can take your own lunch or order lunch in.

RSVP to [tammy@katelynsfund.org](mailto:tammy@katelynsfund.org)

SHOW HOPE

## You're Invited

Katelyn's Fund is hosting the Hope for the Journey Conference! We would love to have you join us for this great day of community, learning, growing, and gaining valuable tools and information to take home! This conference is for parents, grandparents, foster parents, teachers and more!

We will be at Centerpoint Church in Sioux Center, IA on Saturday, April 9th from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to [tammy@katelynsfund.org](mailto:tammy@katelynsfund.org). We would love to see you there!

## Upcoming Katelyn's Fund Support Events:

April 7:

Support Meeting - "It Begins with Us..."

April 9:

Hope for the Journey Conference

May 5:

Support Meeting - "Walking into the Call"

August 13:

Katelyn's Fund Annual Picnic

## Katelyn's Fund Picnic

Please join us on **August 13th** beginning at **5:30 pm** location at **Children's Park**

Drinks, hot dogs, and chips will be provided. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share!

\*\* Do not forget to bring your lawn chairs along! \*\*

All adoptive and foster families are invited.



# One Vision Haiti Update

written by: Teresa Dekkers, Haiti Sponsorship Coordinator

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! As we enter into spring, let's praise the Lord for taking us through winter, through the long hours of darkness and cold. Praise Him for longer days with sunshine and warmth and new beginnings. We do not have a lot of newness to report on behalf of our Haitian family. We praise God that they have been able to continue to have school this whole year and have been able to remain safe and fed despite the on-going gang violence, riots, and broken equipment around One Vision. They recently had the generator break down and the well dried up so a new well will need to be dug.

But we ask that you continue to pray with us on behalf of our One Vision Family:

- Pray that the well will provide water abundantly for One Vision and the community
- Pray that with the water will come eternal life springing up in their lives and a new unquenchable thirst to grow in relationship with the Lord
- Pray that the gang violence will come to an abrupt end and that then we will be able to travel to visit our One Vision Family
- Pray that Francisco and the staff will grow in their faith and that will overflow into watering the spiritual lives of the children at One Vision

We were able to have our annual Sponsor Night March and were blessed again to fellowship with the Sponsors that pour into Katelyn's Fund Ministry and into the lives of the kids at One Vision. We are continually humbled by their partnership. It was a wonderful night of worship. We were saddened that the live stream did not work but blessed that Francisco worked so hard to get us new pictures and videos of the kids that we could share that night. It was a blessed reminder of God's goodness to us and the importance of continuing to build deep relationships together and with our Haiti family.



## School Sponsorship



As the One Vision school is finishing this year, we are reflecting and rejoicing in the hard work and dedication of our staff and students! We are also looking forward to next school year and asking for you to come alongside a young boy or girl, lifting them up in prayer, encouraging them in their studies, and financially assisting in providing for their education.

Your support each month will provide a unique opportunity for the kids, living at One Vision, to receive a quality Christian education in Haiti. Quality Christian education is such an important component to the future of the kids living at One Vision. We hope that you will consider partnering with us to build future leaders and world changers in Haiti.

To learn more about how to become a school sponsor please email: [teresa@katelynsfund.org](mailto:teresa@katelynsfund.org)





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Prefer to receive newsletter via e-mail?  
Contact [tonia@katelynsfund.org](mailto:tonia@katelynsfund.org)  
to request your newsletter be sent to  
your inbox.

## Spring 2022 Newsletter

I WILL PRAISE YOU, LORD,  
WITH ALL MY HEART;  
I WILL TELL OF ALL THE MARVELOUS  
*things you have done.*

Psalm 9:1