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Spring 2019 Newsletter

Katelyn's Fund Picnic

Please join us on August 3rd beginning at 5:30 pm location at Children's Park

Please bring a hot and cold dish to share!

** Drinks will be provided and do not forget to bring your lawn chairs along! **

All adoptive and foster families are invited

Katelyn's Fund orphan ministry, inc.

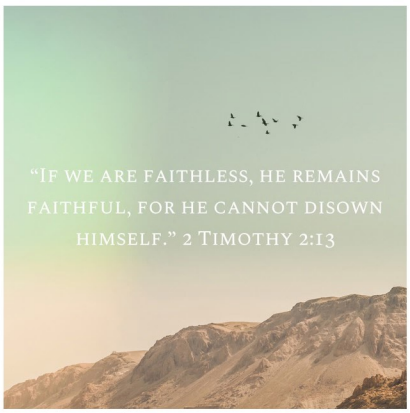
Spring 2019 Newsletter

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

Remember His Faithfulness

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

Sometimes looking ahead can be overwhelming; sometimes looking ahead can bring hope. I am thankful that in all seasons, in all circumstances, He remains the same. Last fall, the Lord gave a sweet whispered word to me, "remember to look back so you don't recant". This was so encouraging to hear, for His kindness in acknowledging the "hard" and also a Father's encouragement to press on. It felt like a tangible way to feel His presence and experience His peace. He sat me still and pierced my heart, bringing me to a quiet reflecting, looking back to all the times He was with us, all the times He helped, all of the times He was faithful. Remembering over and over again how He is true to His word, how He made a way, how He stayed with us. We can see promises of His faithfulness in 2 Timothy 2:13, that He remains with us always and never leaving or forsaking us, Isaiah 43.



As the ministry is faced with the ongoing needs of caring for the kids in the orphanage, providing financial grants to families, supporting the foster/adoptive community with resources, making connections with churches to rise up for the orphan, interceding for many spiritual battles, seeking financial partners who will help us as we fall short with the monthly budget, there is much. As we look ahead, there is always more "and" another need and it can feel like we simply we fall short. Meeting these needs in our own strength is impossible and overwhelming, but choosing to continue to see He is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine as He promises in Ephesians 3. Not Jesus and something else....just Him. He is helper, defender, provider, redeemer, and Savior. As we recently prayed with one of our staff members in Haiti, who was seeking peace and healing, we asked that very same question, have you chosen and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Not Jesus and voodoo, not Jesus and something else, but choosing Him above other things and acknowledging He is the only one.

Each month, as we interview families for a grant, we ask the question, "what is your greatest desire for your children?" The greatest desire that we have as a ministry, for the precious ones in our care, as parents, is that our children will have a personal relationship with Jesus, that they will know Him and love Him, and know the love of Him. All of the other things dim in light of this. If we know this, if we think about this, if we remember this, then all of the other "and's" that we think we need to do, will be put in perspective and all of the ways we don't see measuring up will fade away as well.

Orphan care is hard, it doesn't go away, there is always a need, day after day. Parenting is hard. Parenting kids from hard places, navigating through trauma, is exceptionally hard. Feeling like needs are beyond what we can handle or meet, could be debilitating. However, if we choose to simply put our eyes on Him and surrender our hearts fully, it will be enough, because He is enough. Let the words from His lips fall deeply into our hearts, as He speaks in sweet and yet profoundly powerful whispers, "remember to look back so you don't recant."

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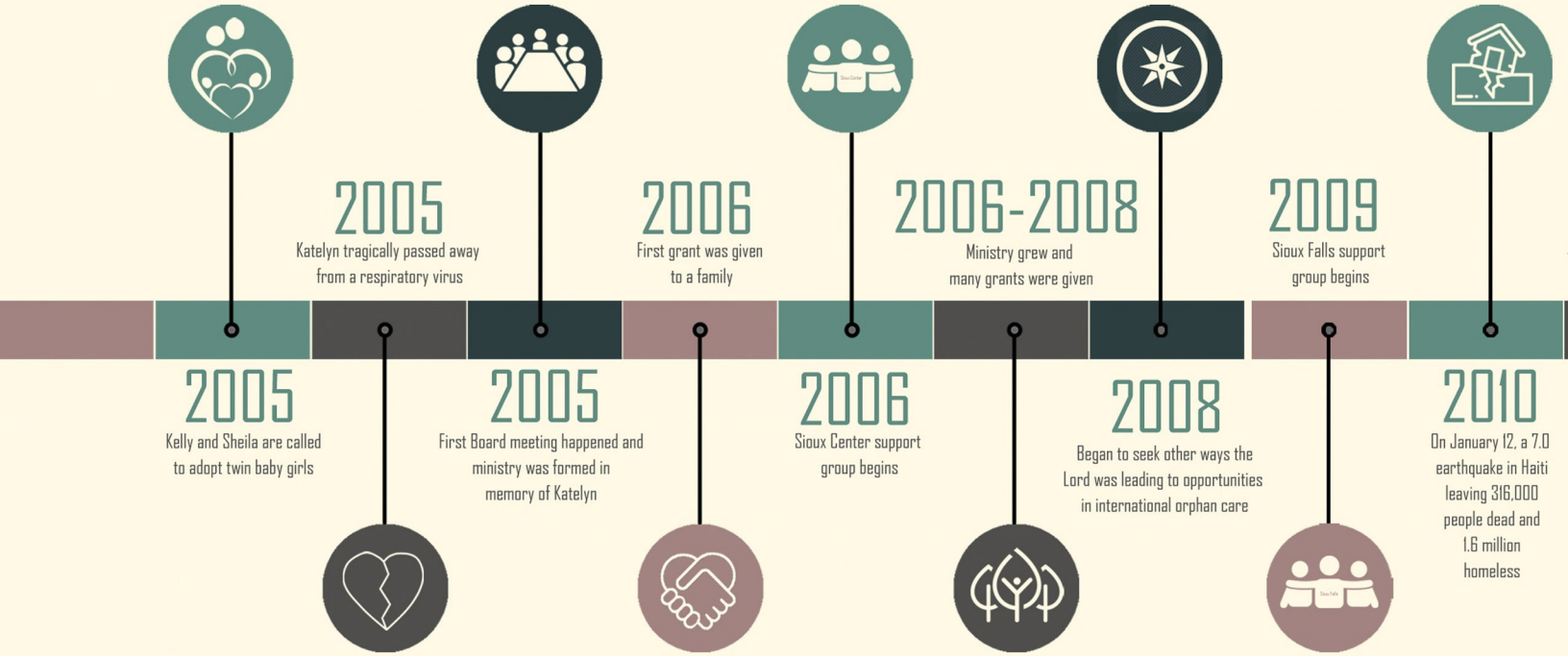
Katelyn's Fund C

A look into the faithfulness of



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I am so incredibly thankful that we have such a good Father. He cares for us in ways we do not always know we need or how to ask, just like our children. He goes ahead of us, He protects us, He helps us, He comforts us, and He stays with us. Let us be reminded in this day, that as we look ahead, we don't need to recant, we can keep going and not quit, we do not need to fear, we can remember His faithfulness over and over again. Be encouraged, that He remembers you. He longs for you to know and love Him and to know the love of Him.

In reflecting, we put together a timeline, to see visible markers of His faithfulness over the ministry. Look this over and look ahead with us, we look forward in confidence, not knowing how things will come together in our own strength, but in confidence in who He is. Let it be as in Psalm 103, that we see the character of our Father, that His unfailing love is forever, in all things, and that we will be ready to always tell of all He has done for us. Join with us in prayer, that as we continue to care for the orphan, that our eyes are fixed on Him, our feet are steady on His promises, and our lips are quick to bring testimonies of His faithfulness, and there is hope ahead.

Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the

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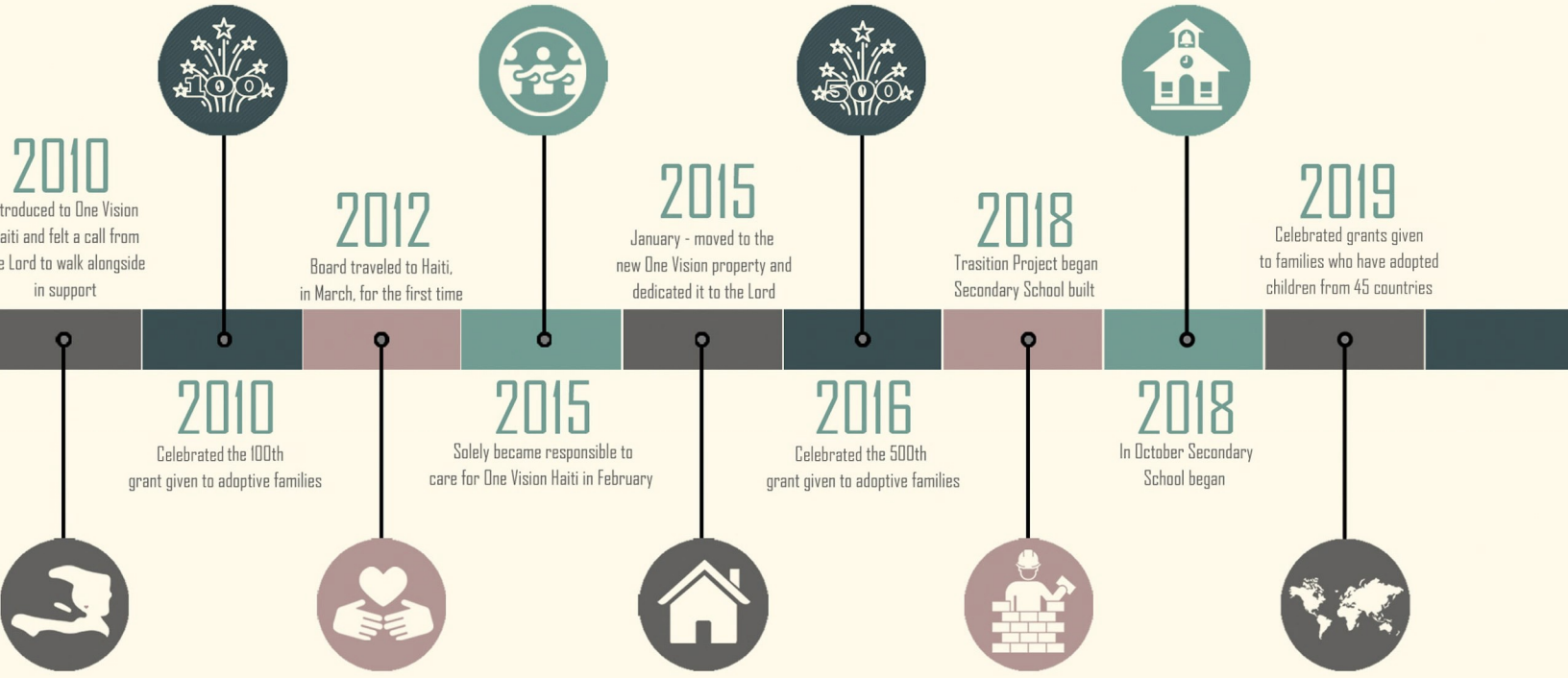
he Lord over the years



Donations given in honor of:

Herm & Donna Dell Van Holland in honor of Dutch & Shirley Born's 50th wedding anniversary

Doug and Julie Post

Prayer Requests:

~ provision as we fall short on our monthly budget
~ continued rest and stability in Haiti and safety in rescheduled team traveling
~ for our kids at One Vision in school to finish the school year strong
~ continued commitment for teachers and staff at One Vision
~ wisdom for Katelyn's Fund board with decisions and needs of the entire ministry
~ strength and wisdom for teams as they pour out resources and love to families

cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow and the orphan. Isaiah 1:17

Adoption Stories

The Acheson Family

Derek & Reada

Children: Zoey (2) & soon to be home TaeSeong (18 mos)

Church: James River Church, Springfield, MO

It was almost a year ago that we decided to start pursuing adoption. We have always been drawn to adoption but finally, after much prayer and consideration, we felt an urging to move forward. We moved through the process and were matched with our little boy in South Korea just a couple of months ago. His name is TaeSeong Lee. He's 18 months old and absolutely precious. His biological mother is a factory worker in Seoul and is unable to care for him. She wrote that she hopes he will go to a good family and will grow up to do great things. We are so grateful for her sacrifice and hope we will be able to provide the home that she wants for him. We're so excited to bring our little boy home. Our two year old daughter, Zoey; is excited too, although it's not clear if she fully understands the impact he will have on her life and her toys. We have been incredibly blessed along the way by Katelyn's Fund through their prayerful support and generous financial assistance. We are humbled to be blessed by such a wonderful organization with wonderful, loving people.

The Burton Family

Karl & Hannah

Children: Amelia (4), Fletcher (2) & soon to be home Hazel Ellis (15 mos)

Church: Restore Church, Arlington, TX

Hi there! We are The Burton Family- Karl, Hannah, Amelia and Fletcher. We are currently in the process of adopting our sweet daughter from South Korea. She is currently 15 months old and although we haven't met her, we are so in love with her and can't wait to get to meet and hug her! God gave Hannah a desire to adopt a child from a very young age. We have discussed adoption as a married couple on and off for several years, but after the birth of our son, we really felt the Lord's pull to begin our adoption journey. A year ago we applied to our agency and were accepted into their South Korea program. We quickly hit the ground running with fund raising and completing the mountain of paperwork required. This process has

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been such a leap of faith. The overall cost of our adoption will ultimately be more than our annual household income was at the time of our application, which is insane. We share that in hopes that if a family believes they can't afford adoption, they will feel encouraged that the Lord provides! We have seen and felt the Lord's promise to move mountains for us because of our obedience to His calling. He has provided every single dime needed to complete this process and has ordained our sweet Hazel to become a Burton, all in His perfect timing. We are so moved by our adoption into Jesus' family, only because of His grace, and our hope and prayer for this season of our lives is for that truth to also move others to wade into the waters of orphan care. To say we are grateful for the partnership of Katelyn's Fund would be a huge understatement! The genuine commitment to pray for our family and to support us financially has been just the encouragement and boost that we have needed as we near the finish line. We are hopeful that we will get to meet and bring Hazel home sometime this summer, so for now, we wait! Thank you so much for reading our family's story.

The Cutler Family

William & Megan

Children: Ruby(2) & soon to be home one year old son

Church: Faith Family Church, Oak Grove, KY

Adoption has always been on our hearts as a plan for how we would grow our family. After the birth of our daughter, we knew the Lord was telling us that we were to adopt our next child. We began our adoption journey in May of last year and were just matched with our child last week! We are hoping to travel sometime in the next five or six months to pick up our baby boy! We are so excited to meet our son and to be blessed with the opportunity to parent him. The waiting period can be trying, even more so with a sweet face in mind. We are passing the time writing letters to our little one about God's faithfulness, His love for him, and how very thankful we are to have him as a part of our family. Being a military family, things are always little bit different. My husband is currently deployed, so my daughter and I shared the news of our potential newest addition over a middle of the night Skype call. It was the best news to wake him up for! In spite of all uncertainties, we are always so thankful for the Lord's provision. The Lord is taking us through our adoption in His perfect timing and has provided so many loving people to support us along the way. We can't thank Katelyn's Fund enough for supporting our family in our adoption journey!

We want to connect with you!

Find us on facebook
KATELYNSFUND.ORG

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 Dykstsra Family

Andrew & Hyejin

Children: Joanna (5), Simon (3), and Matthias (15 months)

Church: First Reformed Church, Friesland WI

Eighteen years ago, in Seoul, South Korea, I chose to walk through the doors of an orphan baby shelter to see if they could use a volunteer. I expected to be asked to feed or bath babies, or change diapers. As it turned out, they simply wanted me to hold crying babies; and I remember how babies were pacified simply by being held. Love was their greatest need. That experience has made my life forever different, and, though I've aged, adoption remained in my plans. More than ten years ago, my husband Andrew also was gaining a heart for adoption – as the result of pro-life concerns and volunteering for Compassion International. Later Andrew served as an SIM missionary in Nigeria, where he worked with orphans and street children, and consequently future hopes to adopt only intensified in significance to him.

These are our life experiences, but at heart we have been forever changed by the way God in grace accepts us, through His Son Jesus Christ, as a real act of "adoption". We have wanted to do likewise, by accepting a child as our own through adoption.

After having two biological children (Joanna & Simon), we were reaching the right age and stage to adopt. Nevertheless, it was difficult for us to take the first step. We worried about financial burdens and uncertainties about the child. However, the Holy Spirit led us to walk by faith, facing our fear for love of the child – and we have surely experienced God walking with us, providing for our needs, and preparing our hearts. Since January 2019, we've been matched with a precious little boy! He is 16 months old now and we're giving him the name Matthias Joosung. His Korean name means "Victory of the Lord." Hyejin came from South Korea at 29 years old, so Korean language and culture is very much a part of our family. We hope this will help Matthias with transition and in future identity struggles.

In March, in the midst of waiting for our son, we had an interview with Katelyn's Fund board members. The interview and focus on prayer felt to us like adoption and spiritual counselling! It was such an encouragement to us, and one of the best experiences in our adoption process! Katelyn's fund has since provided a grant for our adoption, which has just been further testimony of their own love – and of God's faithfulness to provide for adoption. Thank you so much for your hearts, and efforts in adoption! We now joyfully and anxiously anticipate the day when we will bring our son home!

The Foreman Family

Dan & Brittany

Children: James(11), Carson(9), Adaley(6) & Malia(almost 1)

Church: Living Water Church, Orange City, Iowa

Our adoption journey began when the Lord planted seeds in our hearts several years ago. The years those seeds were sprouting and growing changed us and grew our hearts for another child in our family. We officially began the process last September (2017) with New Horizons Adoption Agency, trusting in God's leading and His provision for the financial aspect of our adoption, we saw God do amazing things! We prayed every day for a birth mom who we hoped to meet someday

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Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the

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and began dreaming about what our future child would be like. The months flew by as we attended classes, read books, finished our home study, got a baby room ready, and waited for "the call." In May (2018) we did receive "the call" from our agency that there was a birth mom who wanted to meet us. We dropped everything and drove several hours to meet her. There are no words to describe that meeting as God was obviously at work in our hearts and in the conversations during that meeting. That week we received the call, we also received an email that the Katelyn's fund board wanted to do an interview with us. We don't see this as chance-- God knew what He was doing! Our interview happened just days after receiving word that birth mom (Molly) wanted to move forward with our family. Our time spent with the Katelyn's fund board members will always be remembered. We felt so much love, support, and encouragement, and the prayer time was just what we needed to calm our anxious hearts and anchor us in Jesus and His plan for our family--regardless of outcomes! On May 26, 2018, Malia Grace was born. There are so many amazing "God details" that we can't share them all, but we know without a doubt that God had His hand on Malia, Molly, and our family and that it was in His perfect plan to bring her to our family forever-- as our daughter! We have been blessed with a wonderful relationship with Malia's birth mom (Molly) and she even attended Malia's baptism last month. Many people asked us if that felt "weird" to have her be part of the baptism, but we saw it as a natural outflow of our love and appreciation for Molly and the sacrifice she made out of love for Malia. Adoption is a beautiful picture of our adoption as God's children and how He gave up everything to bring us into His family!We are so grateful to be Malia's forever-family and thank God every day for providing everything we needed during the adoption journey- emotionally, physically, and financially. Katelyn's Fund was a part of that journey and provided financial support right when we needed it. More importantly, the board members provided emotional and spiritual support, guided by the Holy Spirit, leaving an impact on our family.

The Newbrander Family

Dan & Laura

Children: Sam(4), Tom(2), & soon to be home Oliver

Church: New Live Community Church, Elgin, IL

Laura and I (Dan) have been married for 7, going on 8 years. We have two boys, Sam who is 4 years old and Tom who is 2 years old. Laura had a passion for adoption ever since being a young girl and my love for adoption has grown in the last few years. We were both in agreement about our hopes to adopt when we got married. That desire was satisfied by God when he gave us Sam through adoption from Bulgaria in 2016. We started working on a second adoption as soon as our home study agency allowed us and we have been matched with our third boy, Oliver, who will hopefully be coming home very soon from Bulgaria as well. We are so thankful that God has given us our children and that we get to participate in his beautiful work of adoption. We love how closely connected the Gospel is with adoption. And we feel honored that God has placed our kids with us and that we can share Jesus with them.

Katelyn's Fund has been overwhelmingly encouraging with their constant prayers for us as we have shared our story with them. The grant we have received through Katelyn's Fund has also been crucial to help with meeting the costs of travel and our agency fees in order to bring Oliver home.

The Peterson Family

I'van & Keri

Children: Izaiah (5), and Kegan (4).

Church: Living Stones Community Church, Blue Springs, MO

We were married in 2008. After several years of marriage and infertility, God led us to start our family through adoption. Over those first 5 years, it is neat to see who he placed our life. In August of 2013, we received our phone call welcoming Izaiah into our family. Approximately 16 months later, we received the next phone call about Kegan joining our family. Our lives have forever changed and we love our boys dearly. During the spring of 2018, we started praying and discussing adding another kid to our family. We knew that the only way a third adoption would be possible was if God provided the financial means necessary. We had to fully trust that He would handle the finances. I'm so thankful that Katelyn's Fund has come along beside us and provided us with one of the grants for our adoption. It was even more special to have a time of prayer during our Skype interview. Our family is making some career changes to create more family time and it was so neat to see Gods timing of the interview and this prayer time coinciding with those changes. Thank you for loving, caring, and praying for our family. It is amazing to see God's plan unfold. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

The Reed Family

Matthew and Terri

Jesse (18), Levi (16), Rachael (15), Elijah (13), Ruth Mariatu (13), Joy Hannah (13) and Katherine Florence (11)

Church: Spring Creek Bible Church, Bellingham, WA

We feel blessed and excited that God set in our hearts even before having children the desire to adopt. Early in our marriage we began discussing adoption or working with troubled boy ministries. When we were blessed with four biological children, three boys and one girl, we were still open and willing to adopt. Our daughter, Rachael, began praying for sisters when she was three years old. Around 2007 we really began considering adoption, but the Lord had other plans and moved us from our home of 12 years. Once resettled in northwestern WA, our desire to adopt was refreshed.Seeing a need of domestic foster/adopt, Matt and I decided to attend an informational class. Following the class, we felt domestic adoption was not where we were being called. We left our hands and hearts open for God's direction and timing. During the next few years we would hear of potential adoption needs. As we looked into each case and prayed, the doors would clearly close.....until now! In 2014, Ebola tragically struck Sierra Leone, Africa, leaving many children orphaned. Through God's clear direction, three of these precious children will now become part of our family. An answered prayer and a desire

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to show God's ultimate mercy in adopting us into His family, we are excited to have Katelyn's Fund join us in bringing Ruth Mariatu, Joy Hannah and Katherine Florence home.

Our adoption journey with our three girls began in February 2018 when we first heard about the orphanage and our girls. We began our required six month guardianship phase in June 2018 by flying out to Sierra Leone for a week to meet the girls and file proper paperwork. A two week second trip in January 2019, made our adoption complete in Africa. Our final trip to bring them home will hopefully occur sometime this summer once we receive their US visas.

The high cost associated with adoption is daunting but God is faithful to provide. We see God providing abundantly and one of His ways is through Katelyn's Fund grant which has helped tremendously. The continued prayer support Katelyn's Fund provides is richly blessing our family as we prepare to grow in number and jump the many hurdles associated with international adoption. Thank you Katelyn's Fund!

The Smith Family

Brandon & Tammy Smith

Children: Sophie(6), Joel (5), Nathanael(3), & Isaiah(2)

Church: Encounter Church, Sioux Falls, SD

We are the Smith family from South Dakota. When we got married, we both knew that we wanted to have a large family. We love children and believe that each one is a blessing from God with a destiny and a purpose. Tammy has wanted to adopt since she was about twelve years old. She felt that every child deserved to have a family and wanted to do something about it. As she got older she continued to carry this desire in her heart. Adoption was not something Brandon had really thought that much about prior to meeting Tammy. He struggled with thinking that he would not be able to love an adopted child as much as a biological child. But as he grew in his relationship with the Lord and came to know the Father's heart in a greater way, God shifted his thinking and his heart. Brandon came to realize that adoption is the heart of God. We had our daughter ten months after getting married and continued to grow our family over the next four years but even as we have grown our family biologically we have continued to carry God's desire and plan for adoption in our hearts. We believe that this is the heart of the Father. God longs for every person to come to Him and be adopted into His family. He has chosen us and loved us since the creation of the world (Eph 1:4-5). If He has done this for us, how can we not do the same?

Through prayer, God made it clear to us that it was time to start the process the end of 2017. When we began the process the amount of money that was needed was a little daunting but we knew that God was calling us to do it, so He would provide. And He has over and over again, through family, friends, fundraisers and grants like Katelyn's Fund. When we had our interview with Katelyn's Fund, we received so much more than just a grant. They encouraged us, prayed for us, and came along side of us to help us walk this journey. We have not yet been matched with a child but we continue to hope, pray, and wait. We will forever be grateful to Katelyn's Fund for helping make this dream God has for our family a reality!

Born Out Of Brokeness

written by: Lindsey Kuipers - Haiti Partnership Coordinator

How long, oh Lord?

How long will you forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle? How long will my enemy triumph over me? (Psalm 13:1-2)

How long, oh Lord? How. Long.

Do you know we have been given permission to ask this question? Permission to wrestle and to doubt? Permission to weep and to wonder? Permission to not be okay - both within ourselves and with the way things are? We have. We've been given permission to be human.

The Psalms are full of raw poetry - more raw and blunt than many of us will ever have the courage to be. But when we can find ourselves in these lines that David wrote, when we can pray them back and sing them out, we join with generations of Jesus's beloved ones who have both felt unseen and been reminded that He has not forgotten them; that what we feel isn't always real, and that God's promises are truer than our perceptions.

Still, I've been asking that question of the Lord often when I think about Haiti these days.

Maybe some of you have been, too. With the ongoing riots and brokenness, disheartening news about Haiti continues to swirl, and in our humanness we start to wonder, "How long, oh Lord, is this going to continue? How long will they fight before they find peace? How long will the argue before they rebuild? What will it take? And how did they end up so far gone?"

I know there's a tinge of first-world perspective coating each of those questions, but it doesn't stop me from wondering.

Yet, the more I learn, the more I understand. Haiti was born out of brokenness. It was built on broken ground - placed on a cracked foundation, structured with broken beams, and covered with a leaky roof.

Haiti is a nation familiar with adversity - adversity with it roots in history before it was nation at all. Haiti was founded by black people - ripped from their country and sold into oppression - who won freedom from slavery by force of arms, then was ostracized by world powers that resented its very existence. As the only Western nation to ever emergefrom a successful slave rebellion, Haiti's history and survival is actually quite remarkable.

Before any of this ever took place, the island of Hispaniola, shared by modern day Haiti and the Dominican Republic, was once the richest colony of the New World. At the height of its prosperity, colonial power France brought in some 800,000 enslaved Africans from what is now Senegal, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Slaves provided the muscle for the economy and saw nothing in return.

After many years of forced labor, a former slave, Toussaint Louverture, become a leader in the Haitian Revolution, which began with a slave rebellion in 1791 and ended with the nation's independence in 1804. The revolution influenced events across the Americas, and Western policies have been punishing Haiti for winning its independence ever since.

After its independence, Haiti was a fledgling country trying to find its place in a hemisphere dominated by slavery. This is the part the really blows my mind. In 1825, Haiti started to pay France reparations — the equivalent today of $21 billion — to compensate the French slaveholders it had fought to overthrow. You didn't miss that, did you?

Haiti had to pay France because they were no longer going to work for as dehumanized slaves for free. Before retreating, the French violated the land, stripping the nation of anything of value - starting with a mass deforestation that has left much of the country eroded away and unusable for crop.

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Adoption & Foster Care Support

written by: Kir Cosgrove

Katelyn's Fund adoption and foster support group is a lifeline to so many, especially me.

The first time I attended the Katelyn's Fund adoption and foster support group a few years ago, we were in the process of bringing home our daughter. When we went around the circle for introductions, my introduction included me saying, " ...and our six-year-old daughter comes home to live with us tomorrow!" I can't really remember what was running through my mind at that moment, though I remember the group was excited with some audible "oohs and aahs." Mainly I remember a few ladies catching me after the session and offering to pray with me. That was a good initiation into the group.

We live across the midwest from the rest of our family, and though they are very supportive, they can't exactly stop over for babysitting or to drop off a meal. And most people we know in town can't fathom what goes on in our home as we've welcomed our daughter into our family. Our daughter has been through a lot of early childhood trauma and came to us from an institutional setting. Needless to say, we have had an intense transition these last few years. There have been many days that I've thought that we were alone and no one would believe what kind of struggles our family was having all day, most days. Life as a foster and adoptive parent can be isolating. I needed a lifeline.

Thankfully I found the other adoptive and foster parents who are in the same boat, who understand, and who can lend support just by knowing the realities of adopting and fostering. I also have found great training on effective trust-based relational parenting. Each monthly meeting, I feel renewed and encouraged to keep trusting God and press on. Katelyn's Fund adoption and foster support group is a unique group that is not typical in most locations. When I needed to find some local family-like support, I found it at Katelyn's Fund adoption and foster support group. And it is a lifeline for me.

Born Out Of Brokeness

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The United States was not innocent in the aftermath. Fearing slaves in the South would get ideas about staging their own revolution, the US refused to trade with Haiti and didn't recognize its independence until 1862. U.S. troops invaded Haiti in 1915 and didn't leave until 1934.

Despite government corruption and acute poverty, Haitians are among the world's most resilient people, and I think all of this is important to keep in mind, not only as we watch the news but also as we pray for our family at OneVision.

There is so much more history than we've cared to see, so much more oppression than we've begun to understand; yet there is also so much more strength that has yet to be uncovered and so many more dreams of the Lord yet to released.

Jesus has not forgotten Haiti. His eyes were not closed when they were ripped from their homes, whipped to obedience, nor chained even in freedom. His justice will roll like a mighty river, His righteousness like a never-failing stream (Amos 5:24). He will turn His face and answer them (Psalm 13:3).

But until then, I believe He says, "Join your voice with theirs. Cry out as if you cry with a very best friend..."

How long, oh Lord. How long?