Katelyn's Fund orphan ministry

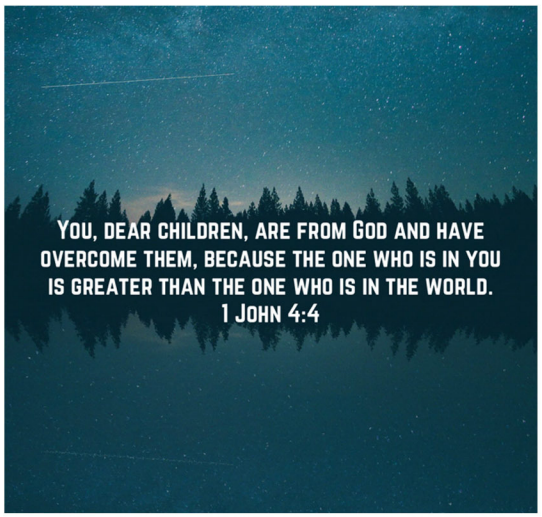
Spring 2021 Newsletter

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

Seeing the need and understanding OUR need for Him

written by: Sheila De Jong ~ President

Recently, as I laid in bed with covid, isolated in our room, I felt the Lord teaching me. He was gracious in showing me that while I had genuine concern for others fighting through covid and while I prayed earnestly for those who were affected, I didn't fully understand until I went through it myself. It wasn't until I was "in their shoes" that I could relate more fully. So it is with much of our lives. It seems there is a palpable heaviness in so many places and in so many ways right now, weighing us down and creating dysfunction, division, and distrust. And while I take it all in, I cannot help but say: we were not created to live this way, and yet, here He is in our brokenness.



I find my confidence in this: He remains the same, and He is able to redeem and restore all things. Doesn't it feel like His redemption is needed in so many ways? Are you longing for restoration like I am? If this past year has shown us anything, it's that we are not in control; and still, I think we're being called to take this realization one step further. As the needs of those who are unable to speak for themselves have been magnified and intensified all around us.

While it's imperative that we keep moving, keep loving, keep leaning in and learning, we also need to know that we can't meet every need; only He can do that. He graciously assures us that He will help us as we surrender all things over to Him. We need to be on our knees, asking Him for wisdom and to direct our paths, asking Him to help us keep our eyes on Him and trust that He will steady our feet.

We need to lean in and have confidence in the Holy Spirit, knowing that He is with us and greater than all things pushing against us. We need to learn to listen, I mean really listen, especially in the places we do not understand. We need patience and compassion. We need to ask for discernment and understanding. We need to hear His voice, louder than all the voices around us. In the confusion and the chaos, the uncertainty and the unsteadiness, we go to His Word and wait on His voice for clarity.

We need to look for ways to stand on the foundation of His Truth, acknowledging that we cannot fully understand what someone is going through if we've never shared in their experience - whether that be abuse, neglect, discrimination, trauma, or any other kind of pain. Yet even in this, we can trust beyond what we see; we can cling to the promise that He is true to His word, that He is close to the brokenhearted, that He lifts up our heads. He can find ways to unite us, to strengthen us and help us strengthen others - even if our experiences are different. This takes intentionality, it takes time, and it takes trust, but if we let Him lead us, He can do it.

If we are to follow Him in these broken places, we are going to need a foundation that goes beyond ourselves, we are going to need an identity that is rooted in Him and a heart that is

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connected to His heart. Our identities in Christ give us security; they allow us to wrestle through things we simply cannot understand. My prayer is that this would give us grace with one another, with ourselves, and with the process. Even in our hurt, we fall back into the security of being His.

Maybe you, too, are feeling the weight of heaviness, maybe you are brokenhearted, wrestling, or discouraged, maybe you are feeling disconnected. I pray you might be encouraged by this today: **He sees you, and He is with you. He has not forgotten you or looked away. He is steady. He always listens and remains faithful. He understands all things and can work in all things.**

Even if you are waiting, if you have been waiting for a long time, I promise He is working for your good; it's what He does, even when we can't see it. He redeems, and He restores.

As a ministry, we are collectively praying that the Father will work in restoring trust, will meet families in the midst of loss and grief, and will make a path through confusion and corruption. We are praying that He will redeem what trauma has tried to steal away and bring new connections, attachment, and healing. **Family, we believe He is greater than trauma, He is greater than doubt, He is greater than discrimination, He is greater than all weapons formed against us, and He is the One who fights for you.** Speak it over yourself as often as you need to: Greater is He who is in me, than in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Memorial gift given in honor of:

Terry Connor

Honorary gift given in honor of:

Caleb & Micah Haverdink

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.

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Katelyn's Fund
Orphan Ministry

Adoption Stories

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 Pugh Family

Nathan and Jessica

Adopting Internationally (China)

Our biological son was born with multiple congenital anomolies in 2011 and our worlds were rocked. At the time, we perceived disability as a complete injustice and couldn't imagine what good would come from this arduous path. As Lachlan grew, we began to realize that we are each disabled in a sense, whether our brokenness is visible to others or hidden, and we each need to surrender our pursuits of perfection and control to a Savior who redeems. Thus, through God's grace, we learned to embrace disability, and our son's life opened doors we never could have imagined. In fact, our experiences with him gave us both joy and the inspiration to pursue special needs adoption. We adopted a son in 2016 from China and Katelyn's Fund came alongside us, praying sincerely for our journey and providing funding to offset adoption fees. Since then, we've birthed another biological son and still our hearts remain with orphans who are disabled. Again, Katelyn's Fund generously provided financial assistance to help us in our pursuit of our daughter in China. She continues to wait for her forever family and we're comforted that she's loved by a Heavenly Father and special people like Katelyn's Fund and its supporters who see her worth.

A profound gift that God has given us in our family's journey is that we no longer idealize the simple, straight-forward path the world craves to building a family. Rather, we firmly believe God has designed us to live counter to the comfort the world seeks, to live purposefully in contrast to the customary expectations of how to establish a family. It's a gift to live in a manner where there's an obvious lack of any semblance of control; we more readily understand that we rely on God for everything.

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The Mejia Family

Leo and Ammara

Children: Lane, Archer, and Hogan - came home January 2021

Adopted Domestically

Our family has had the desire to adopt for more than 10 years. Our three little ones talk about it all the time, including drawings of Lane for the past 2 years in anticipation of God directing us to him. In all honesty we had somewhat shut the door on the possibility, started giving away baby items we had been saving up and took a vacation. That was the week we received a call that someone wanted us to adopt their baby! Our family was ready, except we only had a month and a half to prepare. This was the baby that we had prayed 10 years for, and we were amazed that the answer to our prayer was incredibly specific: a newborn boy, saved from an abortion. While our family was emotionally ready, the financial burden of an adoption was not something we were prepared for, but we knew it was necessary to move forward on this adoption. We researched funding possibilities but most posed some obstacle that made it difficult to apply or qualify for. We desired to stay debt free in this endeavor and Katelyn's fund is what God used to make this happen. This gift is allowing us to have the final expenses paid for which we otherwise would have to be put on a credit card. We knew God would provide, and He did, He sent Katelyn's fund. Now, baby Lane is home with our family.

We have seen God uniquely through God answering the most specific answers to prayer. 3 things: Newborn, boy and saved from an abortion. And, even though he was born to someone who had used drugs the entirety of the pregnancy, Lane tested as having no drugs in his system.

We desire for all our children, Lane included to walk with God. To accept Him at a young age and genuinely walk close to Him through their lives. There would be nothing that would give us greater joy than to know our kids walk uprightly.

The Morris Family

Taylor and Rylee

Adopted Domestically - Huxley born November 2020

We decided to adopt our first child 4 years ago and we were feel very blessed that we were able to receive a grant from Katelyn's Fund. It helped us start this next adoption earlier because it helped with the financial burden. This adoption, we knew we had the support from Katelyn's Fund already through prayer and support. We also were very blessed to receive another grant through Katelyn's Fund to help with the financial burden again. We received so much more than that though. We had prayer warriors through the hard and difficult parts of adoption. When we were int he NICU we knew we had people praying for our daughter to be healthy and come home and praying that we were able to stay strong for her while spending time with her in the NICU. We had people to celebrate with when we brought our baby home. We feel like we are part of a community with the support we get and thankful that we get to be a part of that.

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We have seen God uniquely working through this process by God guiding us to really rely on Him. He made everything work when we needed it to. It seemed like every time I worried about something, we received an answer. We didn't know if Taylor would be able to stay the whole time in Florida. The day before he would have had to go back, we found out he could stay in Florida on FMLA. When we missed our son, we had family step up and bring him to Florida to stay with us.

Adoption has taught us that we can't rely on ourselves. We have to be able to trust in God's plan. Something we always knew, but really had to rely on. None of our plans worked and it was hard to not know what the next day brought, but we didn't get a choice. We knew that God knew what the next day held and had to trust that He was working the good.

Our deepest desire for our children is to know Jesus Christ. We want them to be followers of God and to be used by Him in whatever He calls them to do. We want to be in Heaven with them.

The Litchfield Family

Donald and Karin

Adopted Internationally (China)

The Lord is certainly been the One who has laid adoption on our hearts! Ten years ago, we adopted our daughter through the foster care system and three years ago we adopted our first daughter from China. We are excited to have the privilege of adopting another girl from China this year, the Lord willing!

God has brought our older children closer in as a great support in this adoption. As in the last international adoption, we love to see the unique ways God provides when we choose to advocate for orphans!

God has taught us that He will go 'out of His way" to help you with adoption. This has increased our faith. We have found great joy in caring for former orphans and have learned the privilege is ours!

Our deepest desire for our children is that they would serve God, and those with handicaps would know His love through a family.

...more adiption stories continued on page 6

The Huggins Family

Ryan and Ashley

Adopting Internationally (Eastern Europe)

Our story of adoption begins about a decade ago as a newly married couple talking about the prospect of adopting "one day". Through bouts with infertility, the Lord has softened our hearts to make that "one day" concept a reality. Although we fought Him most of the way, He's proven Himself faithful yet again and brought us to the place of being surrendered to His plan AND moved us to be excited about what is to come. We are so thankful the Lord connected us with Katelyn's Fund. Hearing the prayers and encouragement from their board blessed us even before they gave to us financially. We are thankful for the way the Lord is providing for our adoption and so thankful for the fellow believers at Katelyn's Fund and the way they are caring for orphans and families.

We have seen God working throughout this adoption! How? In our own hearts. The Lord has softened our hearts so much toward the orphan and reminded us of our own previous orphan status and how he pursued us before we knew or loved Him. Much like the paperwork we're doing now. Our child has no idea what is happening across the ocean to bring him or her home. It's a beautiful picture. Also, financially. We have been humbled by the generosity of our family and friends to rally around us and help us fund this adoption. Totally the Lord preparing hearts. Lastly, in our children. Explaining this process to our young children has been a blessing. Our oldest child was praying for a new baby in mommy's tummy, but we got to share with him that the Lord was answering our prayers in another way (as he often does!) Our son's excitement about a new sibling is a joy to see.

The Idjao Family

Morgan and Allen

Adopted Domestically - McKennan born April 2020

We have both always wanted to grow our family through adoption and biological children. We have struggled with getting pregnant and decided in April 2019 to begin the adoption process earlier than we anticipated. God led us to FAC through Lindsay and we were quickly matched after starting to present in November 2019. After a 5 month match we had a heartbreaking disruption. But to our surprise we quickly matched again, and three days later Mack was born. Katelyn's Fund and Lindsay have walked with us through this whole process from start to "finish".

We were heartbroken when our 5 month match fell through. We felt like we had "wasted" 5 months of our family's life. But now we can see that God was using that time to get us to Mack. We are forever grateful for that.

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Support Information

Hello dear Katelyn's Fund families!

I know that 2020 and into 2021 were years we won't forget. And yet, going from a time when we couldn't meet to being able to gather again made it feel that much sweeter to be together and share our joys, struggles and encouragement face to face. We were also able to make Support via Zoom available to families that weren't able to come, and we are excited to see how this might grow and extend to families across the country in the future. Throughout the year, we welcomed incredible speakers who shared their insights and experiences and added tools to our ever-growing tool belt. We learned how to navigate stress, trauma, and technology, how each of these things impacts our bodies, and how to not only support our children in their healing journey but also take steps forward for ourselves. Mary Webber, our speaking April, left us with a few gold nuggets that really encompassed so much.

She shared:

- You cannot lead a child to a place you do not know the way.
- Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as hard as spending our lives running from it.
- You need to go into the darkness to experience freedom.
- Work through your life one decade at a time and name the good and bad.
- Embrace your story even if it is different than you thought it would be.

Looking back on the year, I've been thinking of the song "Champion" by Bethel Music. In it, they sing, "You take the broken things and raise them for Your glory. You my are my Champion. Giants fall when you stand. Undefeated, every battle you've won. And I am who You say I am. You crown me with confidence, and I AM seated...undefeated." If you're feeling weary today, set it on repeat and let the truths wash over you. Friends, we are praying for you and your children to encounter that champion - the one who is undefeated and will leave you undefeated, too.

We look forward to coming back together in the fall of 2021 and continuing to grow, lean in, and learn more about how to walk together through the difficulties we face both within and outside of our families. If you are a local family, please notice the Save The Date for next year's picnic, and put in our calendar! And even if you are not local, keep an eye out in the fall for our support schedule, knowing each meeting will be made available to you via Zoom!

In the meantime, we acknowledge that while summer brings a slower pace with more family time, it can also cause added stress on kids who thrive on a routine. If you are needing prayer or support at any time, please feel free to contact me at tammy@katelynsfund.org

I pray the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus - today and everyday!

Stay Connected →

One Vision Haiti Update

To say that it has been an unprecedented, unusual, and unexpected year would be expected after the last year that we have all experienced. And the same goes for our family at One Vision Orphanage Haiti. They weren't impacted by Covid-19 probably as hard as we have but they still had some scares and concerns about it. And it seems that the cases are now beginning to rise there. However, the kids were able to have school. Thank you, Jesus! They have been healthy and well for the most part. To say there aren't hard things for them to work through with 72 kids living together would be dishonest but we continue to lay the concerns down back at the Lord's feet and trust that He will guide us all.

Dr. Francisco Noel, the director of Haiti just updated us on the status of the school year. He said that though it was a difficult year in Haiti, the kids have continued to do well in school. The kids did well on the national exam, which is a great accomplishment and shines a light on the good education that kids are receiving at One Vision School. The school year will end in the second week of June.

A note from Francisco:

Thank you for your prayers.
Thank you for your financial help.
Thank you for having believed in us.
Your trust gave us the strength to continue.

You have shared your love to our children,
You have helped us,
You have prayed for us,
We can't thank you enough for everything.

Katelyn's Fund is also so grateful for all of you for walking with us!

Teresa Dekkers - Katelyn's Fund Orphan Ministry Sponsorship Coordinator

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

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New Logo Introduction

KATELYN'S FUND LOGO DESCRIPTION

CUSTOM WORDMARK

The custom, hand-crafted wordmark represents our uniqueness in the body of Christ. Different parts, one body. We each have unique gifts and resources given to us by the Lord to use for His glory and create impact all around us.

DANDELION + SEEDS

The desire of Katelyn's Fund is to seek the Father's heart and care for the orphan in whatever ways He asks. He is our center, our anchor. Like dandelion seeds blowing away in the wind, we go where He leads. We make an impact where God chooses to plant us. One small seed, one step, helping one family at a time.

CHARACTERISTICS

Christ-centered

Relational; Creating a feeling of belonging

Encouraging and supportive

Genuine

TONE

Soft and approachable

Clean and timeless

Hopeful and visionary

COLOR

- Warmth, courage
- Growth, giving
- Wisdom
- Peace, trust

TYPEFACE

The custom, hand-crafted wordmark provides a warm and approachable look that points to the ministry being family-focused. The soft, clean lines complement the detail found in the dandelion logo mark.

By coupling these elements together, the overall brand has a friendly, yet established look and feel.

About the Logo...

As we wrap up another "calendar year" for the ministry and look to the year ahead, we are so excited to introduce to you our new ministry logo! While the changes are not extreme, we do think you'll notice a few subtle changes. Walking alongside a dear friend and designer, Tessa De Jong, was an incredible honor for us as we recalled the story that spurred on the ministry, remembered our founding principles, and reflected on various words the Father has spoken throughout the life of Katelyn's Fund. Through this infographic, we invite you to take notice of some of the intentional decisions that went into making our new logo what it is and continue to join us in prayer for the ministry.

Katelyn's Fund
ORPHAN MINISTRY

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to request your newsletter be sent to
your inbox.

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