

summer blessings

Crisis Pregnancy Outreach • Summer 2011

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Crisis Pregnancy Outreach is a full-service agency meeting the needs of young women facing unplanned pregnancies, and couples hoping to adopt.

info? 918.296.3377 or www.crisispregnancyoutreach.org

Hey Cheryl

Hope you are doing well. We're doing great and Noah is growing so fast! I've attached a recent pic of the 3 of us. He is such a joy. He'll be 6 months old on Monday.



Jeremiah and I really feel called to share our story more and thought we would let you know that we would be happy to speak at a Waiting Families workshop if you ever need us. I know we didn't adopt through CPO, but we feel CPO had a very strong influence in our decision. When we came to the workshop last June, we had a lot of reservations about open adoption and we definitely didn't want a child of another race. After 3 days of listening to stories and God opening our hearts, we left feeling different. And we believe we wouldn't be where we are today if we hadn't attended that workshop. Just a few months later we heard about Noah and he was exactly who was to complete our family—our hearts were open to love and accept whoever God had for us. And we have a VERY open adoption with our birthmom. I can't imagine not having her in my life. I call her our little sister and we see her regularly.

Anyways, I just wanted to thank you for being the director of such a Godly organization and I am proud to tell people we were apart of it for a time. Let us know if we can ever help.

Jeremiah and Susan Brewer

Christian Chapel
not a destination, but a journey



Join us Sunday Mornings
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10:00 a.m. - Worship

Christian Chapel is located
3 blocks West of Memorial on
76th Street at:
7807 East 76th Street, Tulsa,
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THOUGHTS *to live by*

"...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

God never gives us grace in advance. It always comes "just" when we need it. That's why people often say, "I could never bear something like that." Yet when it comes they not only bear it but they do so with remarkable grace. Truly God's grace is sufficient but it does not make things easy, just possible.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor. 12:9).

Lord Jesus, help us to live one day at a time, trusting in your grace minute by minute. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.
By Richard Exley

All of us like to remember our achievements. Yet, for many of us, even those bright and shining moments are tainted with the shame of past sins or the pain caused by some unspeakable tragedy. Many people cannot accept their achievements because they are haunted with the thought that if others knew the whole truth about them they would know what a phony they are. It's that's how you feel it's time to receive God's forgiveness and make peace with your past.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:8-9).

Lord Jesus, help us to forgive ourselves because You have forgiven us. Help us celebrate our achievements without shame. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.
By Richard Exley

CHERYL

said

I really thought I knew a lot about adoption. After all, my sister was adopted through a domestic adoption through the State of Colorado, in the 1930's, when there were really still orphanages in the United States. Pat had been badly abused and was separated from her 9 siblings, when she was placed with my parents, long before I was born. They were never told anything about her birth family and the word "adoption" was spoken of in whispers in our home, although my sister always knew she was adopted when she was about 5, by my parents.

When I began CPO, in 1983, and it eventually became a fully-licensed Adoption Agency, I knew what adoption should NOT be. I knew that whatever we did had to be done "in the light." What a new idea that was for the 1980's! I was among the "pioneers" of Open Adoption. When my daughter, Natalie, and her husband, Brian, adopted then-3-year-old Ziona, in 2009, we knew and loved her Birth Mom, Shawna, and honored her for her selfless love of the beautiful little girl she knew she could not take care of.



Grammy and Jayden Luke



Serenah and Jayden

In February of this year, as Natalie was in Idaho helping our oldest daughter, Stephanie, in her battle with cancer, the phone rang and it was Serenah, the young girl who had come to live with them as a CPO Host Family, while she went to Jenks High School and waited for her baby to be born. She was calling to tell them that she wanted "only them" to adopt the baby she was expecting in May! They did not have a "Life Book" in and were not planning to add to their family of three children (6, 10 and 16). They had laughingly said that they would only adopt if "God dropped a baby in our laps." Well, that morning, he did.

Jayden Luke was born in April 28, 2011, weighing 6 lbs, 6 oz. As the old John Denver song says, He "fills up my senses!" He is what they call a "yummy baby" these days and I really could eat his sweet cheeks with a spoon. Serenah came home from the hospital and lived with my husband and me, for a few weeks. It was a sweet time and I experienced the pain and emptiness of a young Birth Mom, as she spent time with Jayden and prepared to go back home to Dallas. We miss her and have seen her several times.

God has blessed our family with the addition of this precious little gift from God. He is our 17th grandchild and we already have one great-grandchild! Just when I think that I may really understand all of the people in the Adoption Triad, He shows me something new. I stand amazed and grateful beyond description.

In His Service,

Cheryl J. Sauman

TRAVELERS 
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God Danced

The Day You Were Born

Juliana Mae

March 12, 2011

5 lbs., 7 oz. • 18 inches long

Birth Mom: Amanda

Adoptive Parents: Jessica & Michael

John Adrian

March 23, 2011

9 lbs., 4.5 oz. • 21 inches

Birth Mom: Adrienne

Adoptive Parents: Jennifer & John

River Judah

April 4, 2011

8 lbs., 10 oz. • 22 inches

Birth Mom: Jessica

Adoptive Parents: Joseph & Miranda

Jackson Jacob

April 16, 2011

8 lbs., 2 oz. • 22 inches

Birth Mom: Kay

Adoptive Parents: Sheryl & Jeff

Cohen Anderson

April 19, 2011

7 lbs., 8 oz.

Birth Mom: Cassie

Adoptive Parents: Jackie & Chad

Jayden Luke

April 28, 2011

6 lbs., 6 oz. • 19 inches

Birth Mom: Serenah

Adoptive Parents: Natalie & Brian

Sophia Elizabeth

May 3, 2011

6 lbs., 12 oz. • 20 inches

Birth Mom: Chamise

Adoptive Parents: Brenda & Kevin

Lily Mae

May 10, 2011

7 lbs., 12 oz. • 20 inches

Birth Mom: Gina

Adoptive Parents: Kris & Chad

Elizabeth Nicole

May 28, 2011

6 lbs., 1 oz. • 18 inches

Birth Mom: Tara

Adoptive Parents: Amy & Rich

Samuel Duane

May 31, 2011

7 lbs. • 19 inches

Birth Mom: Angela

Adoptive Parents: Christina & Damon

Eliza Jane Marie

June 1, 2011

6 lbs., 14 oz. • 20 inches

Birth Mom: Natalie

Adoptive Parents: Misty & Steven

Willa Elizabeth

June 2, 2011

8 lbs., 5 oz. • 19 inches

Birth Mom: Belinda

Adoptive Parents: Lindsey & Matt

Tyler & Angela

Tyler: October 10, 2007 (4 years old)

Angela: January 12, 2010 (18 mos. old)

Birth Mom: Jessica

Adoptive Parents: Amy and Frank
Became a Forever Family on June 3, 2011

Sophia Crystal

August 21, 2007 (4 years old)

Birth Mom: Jennifer

Adoptive Parents: Erica and Troy
Became a Forever Family on July 30, 2011

IT all DEPENDS

by Mark Schwartz

SOME SEE a failed adoption

... **OTHERS** see a successful family vacation

SOME SEE God breaking His promises

... **OTHERS** see a ministry opportunity

SOME SEE God abdicating His throne

... **OTHERS** see Him on the edge of His seat

SOME SEE a baby getting smaller in the rear view mirror

... **OTHERS** treasure those nine days when she was the biggest thing in our life

SOME SEE a troubled relationship with a birth family

... **OTHERS** rejoice over the deepening relationship with the King of all birth families

SOME SEE a waste of time and money

... **OTHERS** see an investment in eternity

SOME SEE God letting bad things happen to us

... **OTHERS** are flattered He chose us

SOME SEE time away from friends and family

... **OTHERS** see new friends and family enriching our lives

SOME SEE utter defeat

... **OTHERS** see a great victory



A Beautiful Gift

By: April Mitchell

I was in denial for the longest time,
And I soon realized there was no turning back all I could do is take a deep breath,

Leaning against the wall, wondering how in the world will I tell my mom,
Will she be mad? Will she be sad?

I only wish she will be glad for me and support me like a mother should,
I told her and she sighed,

She said there is only one option
There is only one way I didn't have a choice I didn't have a say,

My family all agreed it was for the best
That I have to be selfless, because life is a big test,

I didn't want to do it, at the time, It didn't feel good, it didn't feel right,
But God had a plan; he had our lives in sight,

I was only sixteen; I was a child, a kid
Working and going to school, there is no way that I could,

So I did what I did as the Lord had planned
It was the hardest decision, but the lord took me buy the hand,

I could have erased the problem, I could have lied,
but that would have been wrong, to end an innocent life,

So now he is almost 6 years old, so handsome and smart,
He has always owned a big piece of my heart,

He loves his birth mom, I know it's true, because he tells her so,
and with his smiles, kisses and hugs, His love for me really shows,

Now I know he was never met for me
But for the family that helped me see,

That Adoption is a beautiful gift; the Lord only needed me
so I could give that gift to them.

give back



baby & personal showers

Baby & Personal Showers
Tracie Roesslein @ 918-991-9140, needs help with planning & refreshments



transportation

Transportation
Jill Langham @ 405-317-5939



mentor coordinators

Mentor Coordinators
Melinda Hunley @ 918-527-7907



host families

Host Families
Are you able to open your heart & home to a girl during her pregnancy? Call Natalie Webb @ 918-497-9600



furniture & clothes

Furniture & Clothes
Furniture and household items are needed for the girls to set-up their own homes. If you have a donation, we will gladly arrange to pick it up. Also, if you can donate maternity or baby clothes, call Jennifer Bauman @ 918-284-9544



financial support

Financial Support
Your financial support helps to provide such things as prescriptions, clothing, childbirth classes and counseling for our girls. Mail your tax deductible donation to CPO, P.O. Box 1113, Jenks, OK 74037 or, go online to: www.crisispregnancyoutreach.org, under donations



Loving *Lizzie's* Birth Mom

By Angela Kersh

Standing in 30 degree weather with drizzling rain and thick fog holding a ten month old behind a line of 100+ people in front of Mabel Bassett Correctional Center for 3 hours is something I never dreamed I'd be doing. Yet, somehow it is my joy to do so. That is the amazing thing about God's grace, it makes the unbearable, bearable, the unworthy, worthy and the miserable, joyful. Yes, it is our joy to visit and pursue a relationship with our precious birth mother despite her present circumstances.

She has been incarcerated during our entire relationship. We first became aware of Brandi on January 11, 2010 when we received a call from Liliana Ross informing us that a birth mother had chosen us. A few sketchy details were given concerning her current pregnancy and her background, and then the pause followed by the statement...she's in jail. Our response was, "Uh...okay...not something we ever thought about...but, okay."

The very next day we went to the county jail to meet with our birth mother. It was the first time either Paul or I had talked with someone from behind Plexiglas using a telephone to communicate. The guard brought Brandi out, wearing bright orange scrubs, shackled at the hands and feet. But, when we saw her and met her, we were in love. She was everything we'd hoped and prayed for in a birth mother; concerned, caring, thoughtful, cautious, personable, and beautiful. It was very obvious by her questions that she wanted the very best for

"our" child. This was the last time we saw her until the day she gave birth to Lizzie in the hospital three months later.

During the next three months we began to grow our relationship, planning for Lizzie's arrival. We worked through many, many feelings the old fashioned way, letter writing. Over time I was blessed to become Brandi's counselor, sound board and friend. It was a slow process. I'd write a letter and mail it, then 1-2 weeks later, I'd receive one from Brandi. Then mail one, and then receive one. It was always very exciting when a letter arrived. Our children would gather round and we'd read it together. I value those letters; one day they will be a blessing to Lizzie.

It was difficult not being able to clarify things immediately and at times having to wait to hear a reply. But, the most frustrating part of having a birth mother in the county jail was the lack of prenatal care and concern for her and Lizzie's health. Many times Brandi would miss doctor's appointments because the jail couldn't send a guard out with her. The jail failed to follow doctor's orders concerning her diet, exercise and medication. This ultimately led to her hospitalization prior to delivery. Hospitalizing Brandi was the doctor's attempt to assure that she received adequate care.

All the time Brandi was in the hospital, we were clueless until we received word that a C-section had been scheduled for Monday morning, April 12, 2010, three weeks prior to her due date. At that time there were still many questions concerning what the jail

guards would let us do. A prisoner remains locked down and under guard even while in the hospital. According to state policy no one except hospital staff could go in and out of a prisoner's room. But, we were unable to find any information concerning the county's policy for hospitalized prisoners. We prayed often for God's favor.

God caused all things to work together for good for us, Brandi and Lizzie. I was allowed into the pre-op area to see Brandi and pray for her. We had complete access to Lizzie as soon as she was born. In fact, not only that, but my little brother was able to be Lizzie's doctor at the hospital and received her immediately at birth in the operating room. It was he who brought her out to us when she was 8 minutes old! We were able to sit for hours at Brandi's side and go in and out of her room at leisure. We were able to provide her with take out food and flowers. It was such a wonderful time of conversation. We encouraged her in her walk with the Lord, her relationship with her family and prayed for her. But, mostly we just listened and got to know this wonderful person who was changing our lives forever. We are so thankful for that face to face time in the hospital.

For the next seven months we continued writing again, this time constant updates about Lizzie's progress and growth filled our letters. With each letter our trust in each other continued to grow. Besides letters, we have been able to send pictures, new books purchased and sent from the original store and cashier's checks for her to use at the commissary.

In November all of our paper work was approved for visitation. We were unsure of what to expect. This time we would be visiting a state women's prison. Very little information was available on the State Department of Correction's web site. We called and asked questions but things were still different than the little we were told. When we arrived for visitation beginning at 8:30 there was already a double line of people waiting in front of the gate. We lined up with the rest of the visitors with Lizzie in our arms. As we waited we'd hear someone further up in the line say, "They are being picky about ___ today." So, we made multiple trips back and forth to the car taking off jewelry, extra layers of clothing and depositing Lizzie's diaper bag items in order to make it in. Only 15 people were allowed through the gate each time it was opened every 20-30 minutes. We waited for 1 hour before we were through the gate inside to

the check in table. There we showed our identification and were checked off Brandi's approved list. They also required a "pat" down of each visitor and a pass through the metal detector. Even Lizzie had to participate. Once we were through, they sent for Brandi and let us into the visitation center.

Wow! What a place! It was a large "cafeteria" like room with round stationary tables with chairs attached. It had vending machines lining one wall. There was a children's play area with colorful paintings on the wall, toys and books. A table was set up filled with puzzles, games and cards to check out. The room was filled with laughter and talking. It was warm and friendly. Families sat around tables, children all the way up to grandparents, talking and playing games, drinking cokes and sharing candy bars. We waited just a moment until Brandi came through the door.

Brandi wore gray scrubs with INMATE stenciled in white paint across the back and a photo ID badge on her left shirt pocket. Her hair was straight and full, she was wearing make-up. Seeing her made me happy, sad, excited and tearful all at the same time. My love for her had grown and grown as we shared in the excitement and pride of Lizzie's growth. We had such a wonderful visit that day talking, laughing, and focusing on the precious gift that Lizzie is. We shared intimate details about Lizzie's personality and recent milestones. Lizzie let Brandi hold and feed her. Brandi shared with us how she was afraid that she would feel jealous seeing Lizzie with us, but instead felt peace and reassurance. In fact, she said when she sees Lizzie with us it is as if she was always meant to be a part of our family. Our visit ended after 1- hours. It went by so fast, too fast! Just that little amount of time with her left us anxious for more.

We continued to write every 1-2 weeks and occasionally Brandi is able to call. We visited again in February, during the yucky weather. It was our last opportunity due to state budget cuts and the cancellation of visitation. Brandi is expecting to make parole in April and be home with her family by August. She asked me recently if I ever think of writing, sending pictures and visiting her as inconvenient. I can say wholeheartedly, "NO!" She is a blessing, a special part of our family, she is our hero. We delight in her and the precious gift she has given us. We anxiously look forward to the day she is home and pray diligently for her new life.