

***God led us to adoption almost 14 years ago. We loved children and already had two of our own. But we want to show God's love by giving a child a home that had no parents. All children want the same thing: to be loved and to belong to a family.***

***When we started we knew we couldn't afford overseas adoption. We decided at that time to do foster care and adoption through the state of MO. We started by getting twin infants. We got them adopted and then I found out I was pregnant. We still trusted God and knew he had a plan for us. After we had our daughter, we were at 5 kids. The state called and asked us to take two more. We agreed and we were blessed a little girl and another boy. After two years we got them adopted. God has a different plan than ours and sometimes you can't see it. I got pregnant again. We were going to have 8 kids, well like I said God had other plans. The two we had just finally gotten adopted, their mother had another one. The state asked us to take him to keep siblings together. We gladly took him in and we were at 9 kids. We got him adopted a year later. We felt wonderful. We had been blessed beyond what we could have ever thought.***

***Our kids are growing and the youngest ones were 7 years old. I stated hearing this small voice tell me that we needed to adopt a child international. I told this voice (God) that we could never do it. We didn't have the \$20,000-\$24,000 that it takes to adopt. We prayed about it, and kept hearing that voice. So we stepped out on faith to adopt a little girl from Ukraine. We knew that it was going to be all God doing it. I can tell you now, it was a huge step to take, but God was with us every step of the way.***

***We started on Feb 8, 2009, working on our homestudy and all the mountains of paper work that has to be done. I saw a part of our kids that was amazing. They walked the***

*blocks selling pizza cards, Sonic cards, candy bars and just collected donations. God provided. Never underestimate the power of God.*

*We were getting close and we were over \$8000 short. We prayed and prayed. God gave me the idea to see if the local paper would run a article about us and what we were trying to do. So I went the Bossier Tribure and talked to them. When I got there and started telling them about what we were doing. The guy said “well I can run a small piece in this section of the paper”. I told him thank you, that whatever he could do would be great. After he was done, he told me he had changed his mind. He would run a full article on the front page. That was all God!!!*

*A week later, the article came out. We prayed that someone would help us. A few days later we got a phone call from Texas. The Fory Charitable had seen our article and wanted to help. We were praising God. We filled out the paper work and prayed.*

*A week had passed, and we got a phone call. Fory Charitable Trust was going to give us a \$5000 grant. I couldn't believe it. God was providing. We received the grant and continued to work on raising the rest of the money. We were a day from leaving to go the Ukraine to pick up our daughter. And we were \$2400 short. God worked a miracle. We had people come together to raise the rest of the funds. Two hours before we were to board the plane, a friend donated \$1300, that she had gotten church members to donate. God provided in 24 hours, the \$2400 we were short. I boarded the plane in tears, praising God for this journey He had taken us down.*

*We are home now with our beautiful AnnaKae Hope. She just had her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday (but the first party she ever had). She is delayed developmentally by 3.5 years. She is very small for her age wearing 24month clothes. She needs to have all her teeth pulled, thank God they are baby teeth. But they are all rotten. She has a lot of growing to do. The*

***orphanage said she had CP and was moderately retarded. Our doctor says none of that is true. She was denied the basic needs of life for 4 years.***

***AnnaKae would have been transfer after her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to a mental institution. We saved her with the help of hundreds of people, Show Hope, and Fory Charitable Trust, that God used to provide for her.***

***This journey hasn't been easy, and it was a roller coaster ride. In the end it was all worth it. If you ever hear a small voice telling you to do something. Don't be afraid of how you will do it, just take that step and know God is walking with you.***

<http://fullquiverarrows.blogspot.com/>

**Shonette**

Daughter of the King

Helpmate to Darrel

Mother to 10 - Donny 20, Grace 18,

Samuel 13, Stephen 13, Addie 13,

A.J. 11, Marissa 11, Asher 8, Judah 7, and AnnaKae 5

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, children are a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one youth. Happy is the man who has filled his quiver with them.

Psalm 127:2-5