

SOS Conference - 2014

Adoption 101: Adoption Process Explained Simply





About Us – Our Journey

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Adoption 101

- General Understanding
- Gods Plan for Adoption
- The Need
- Domestic Adoption
- International Adoption
- What's Next?



General Understanding

- Agreement with Spouse
- Biological vs Adoption
 - Adoption is Intentional
 - Adoption Requires Classes, Licenses and Certification
 - Both Require Support system
 - With Adoption, Something is Broken
 - Spiritual Warfare



God's Plan

- We are all adopted into God's family and receive an inheritance as a son or daughter of the Lord.
Romans 8:14-15
- The essence of the Bible can be summed up in one word "adoption".
- Eph.1 4-6 He chose us to be adopted as his sons and daughters through Jesus Christ.



God's Will in Adoption

- God is passionate about taking care of widows and orphans –**James 1:27**
- Ministry opportunity for us to touch the lives of the many people involved in the adoption process. Families, birth parents, children, social workers, therapists, church congregation, friends, etc.
- Pray!





Some Definitions

- Foster Child
- Legally Free
- CASA/GAL
- ICPC
- Home Study
- Voluntary / Involuntary Relinquishment
- Open Adoption Agreement
- Dossier
- Hague
- UAA
- USICS
- Re-adoption



Adoption Language

Negative Adoption Language	Positive Adoption Language
My own child	Birth child, biological child
Real mom/real dad	Biological mom/biological dad or birth-mom/birth-dad
Child is adopted	Child was adopted
Unwanted child/abandoned child/given up	Child placed for adoption
Give up child/give away/surrender	Make an adoption plan/relinquish parental rights
To keep child	Choose to parent child
Child taken away	Child placed with the state
American adoption	Domestic adoption
Foreign adoption	International adoption
Foreign child	Child from abroad
Failed adoption	Adoption disruption



The Need

- On September 30, 2012, there were an estimated 397,122 children in foster care in the US, 101,719 of those are legally free and **waiting**.
- In Washington for the FY2012 9,606 children are in foster care and 2,865 of these children are waiting for adoptive families
- In Idaho for the FY2012 There are 1,234 children in foster care; 278 of these children are waiting for adoptive families.



The Need Continued

- In 2012 23,396 teens turned 18 and left the foster care system.
- Nationally, an estimated 1 in 6 young adults who age out of foster care is likely to be homeless.
- Fifteen percent of children in foster care in 2012 were in foster care for three or more years before they were emancipated.
- Average length in foster care is 2 years
- Average age of the children in foster care is over 9 years.



The Need Internationally

- 153 million orphans worldwide in 2009
- 17.8 Million of these orphans have lost both parents
- 5 most popular countries for FY 2012: China, Ethiopia, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine

This is OUR problem, our future generation.

God tells us to do something about it.



Some Good News

- In FY2012 52,039 children were adopted from the US foster care system.
- In FY2012 there were 1,227 children adopted in Washington from foster care.
- In FY2012 273 children were adopted in Idaho from foster care.
- 8,668 children were adopted internationally in FY2012
- 320 children adopted into Washington families in FY2012
- 39 children adopted into Idaho families in FY2012



Time Frames

Country	Average Wait from Dossier to Referral
China	5+ years
Ethiopia	19-24 Months
Russia	7-12 Months
S. Korea	4-12 Months
Ukraine	0-6 Months

Type of US adoption	Length of time
Foster to adopt	1-2 years
Legally free	11 months (time from termination to adoption)
Private	0-2 years from application to finalization



Local / Domestic Adoption

- Three Types Of Adoptions:
 - Birth Parent Adoption (Private)
 - Legally Free Child Adoption (DSHS)
 - Foster Adoption (DSHS)



Private Adoption

- Private Adoptions include:
 - Step-parents, Grandparents
 - Birth parents placing with selected family
- Are usually voluntary relinquishment or death of parents
- Can be processed with:
 - Agency
 - Directly with Attorney (and a home study)



Example: Antioch Process - Private

- *Introduction to Antioch Adoptions Class*
- Application
- Prescreening Interviews
- Home study Homework
- *Recommended:* PRIDE training through State
- CPR/FA/BBP certifications
- Home Study
- Family Portfolio given to birth parents to choose
- Placement
- Finalization



Consider Foster-Adopt

- Orphanages were replaced by the foster care system in an attempt to provide a placement for a child which is more like a home setting.
- Foster care is temporary substitute care, never intended to be a place for a child to grow up.
- Adoption is permanent.
- Usually when child is ward of the State.
 - Can be Legally Free or Foster child
- The State's primary goal is reunification with birth family.



Example: DSHS Proc – Foster/Adopt

- Orientation Class
- Application
- PRIDE class
- CPR/FA/BBP certifications
- Home study
- Foster Licensing
- Placement / DSHS referrals or NWAE/WARE
- Finalization



Example: Antioch Proc – Foster/Adopt

- *Introduction to Antioch Adoptions Class*
- Application
- Prescreening Interviews
- Home study Homework
- PRIDE class
- CPR/FA/BBP certifications
- Home Study
- Foster Licensing certification
- Placement / DSHS referrals or NWAE
- Finalization



International Process

- Choose your agency (Adoption.state.gov)
- Home study
- Dossier
- Approval
- Child matching/referral
- Travel
- Adoption in country of origin
- Re-adoption in the US



Risk

- ❑ Private – May take a long time to be picked by birth family, may be expensive
- ❑ Foster Adopt (Legally Free) – Child may have long term needs, or require professional support ongoing
- ❑ Foster Adopt – Child may be reunified with birth family or place with relative, time frames can drag on
- ❑ International – Country could “close”, Time in Country, Rules could change, money, unsure of child’s history



Financial Comparison

Country	Cost
China	~ \$37K
Ethiopia	~ \$45K
Russia	~ \$72K
S. Korea	~ \$43K
Ukraine	~ \$40K

Domestic Adoption	Cost
Foster	~\$2,600 (reimbursable)
Private (Agency)	~\$40K
Private (Independent)	~ \$34K



Finances

- Domestically
 - WA DSHS does not charge for services.
 - Antioch does not charge for services, but we ask for your commitment to support the ministry. (Spokane office cost is about \$5000 / placement.)
 - Other Private agencies can charge \$10,000-\$40,000 per adoption for the same services.
 - Home studies typically run \$1K-\$2K per adoption.
 - Attorney fees will be charged separately, approx \$1600, but can be reimbursed if foster to adopt.



Finances

- Internationally
 - Agencies charge between \$15,000 to \$35,000 for adoption.
 - Travel costs can be between \$2,500 and \$10,000 depending on how many travel dates and length of stay.
 - Re-adoption in the US can be \$1,000 to 1,500 for lawyer.
- Check out the Adoption Tax Credit breakout session.



Are You Ready to Adopt?

- Ready to engage in ministry?
- Ready to transform your life for a child rather than ask them to conform?
- Ready to think outside the box and be open to God's plan for your family?
- Ready for your life to be used by God to advocate for the orphan?
- Ready to walk out the scriptures, to experience true and undefiled religion?



What's Next?

- *Pray!*
- *Embrace* Adoption, and the ministry of adoption.
- Remain focused on others. Don't give in to your fleshly fears. TRUST God.
- Honor those in authority over your child in different stages. Birth parents, social workers, state, attorneys, commissioners.
- Understand that you ARE the child's parent for as long as God decides.



What's Next?

- *Contact an Agency or DSHS*
- *While you are waiting or if Adoption is not right for you, Become a Mobilizer / An Advocate for the Orphan*
 - *Partner with Adoption Ministry*
 - *Start an Adoption Ministry in your church*
 - *Be a mentor*
 - *Encourage others*
 - *Fund an Adoption Ministry*
 - *Provide Respite care for other Foster Homes*



Final thought

- If God has touched both of your hearts for adoption – then He has **ALREADY** chosen the child(ren) for you.
- Instead of praying to ask God to bless your adoption journey, pray that God would open your heart to the child(ren) He has already chosen for you.
- Pray!

Questions or Comments

