

### **Domestic Adoptions**

There were ten domestic adoptions in 2008!



A wonderful patient, loving couple received a little girl through a cooperative placement with Catholic Family Services at the end of 2008. They had previously experienced a revocation during the 10 days, so it was a very long 10 days, but their new daughter is worth it all. Congratulations!!

Another three placements have occurred since then; one was a newborn baby girl from Medicine Hat and another two year old Ethiopian boy with beautiful big eyes and a cautious, mischievous smile.

The third placement seemed for a while as if it were not to happen. The birth mother had looked at

a lot of profiles and had not really chosen anyone. It seemed to staff that she would not place. She, in fact, was making plans to parent. Her parents knew that it would be difficult for their daughter to parent and continued to pray for a change of heart. They telephoned me to see if they could come to the office to go through all the photo albums. Several families without books were rushing to drop them off before the birth family arrived. As the birth grandparents walked up the stairs to the office, they passed by someone in the stairwell, a family in the parent bank. They walked into the office and said "We passed someone in the stairwell, is she on the list? I have to see her book, I sensed something." I pulled out the photo album, and as the grandparents looked through the photos, they saw a face they recognized. They knew the parents of the prospective adoptive parents! If their daughter chose this adoptive couple, they would be comfortable knowing that the grandparents were a family they could trust to watch out for their grandchild when she was born. A Meeting was held and the match was official, but staff continued to feel unsure whether the birth mother would have the courage she would need when the time came. Our adoptive parents were wonderful. They spent time with the birth mother and her family. Everyone's confidence was built up and, when the baby was born, the placement occurred. It seems very much like a match made in heaven, and the beautiful baby girl is very loved.

A birth mother of two little boys, aged almost 2 and 4, is meeting with possible adoptive parents this week. The children are in foster care; pray that the process will be smooth as these children need stability.

Pietie in Edmonton is working with a birth mother of an 8 month old infant, who wants to place. We are definitely meeting more clients this year, so we are hoping for a year full of little blessings.

**Our Domestic Training Day is March 21 in Calgary** from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. If you know anyone considering our agency, please suggest that they attend this workshop.

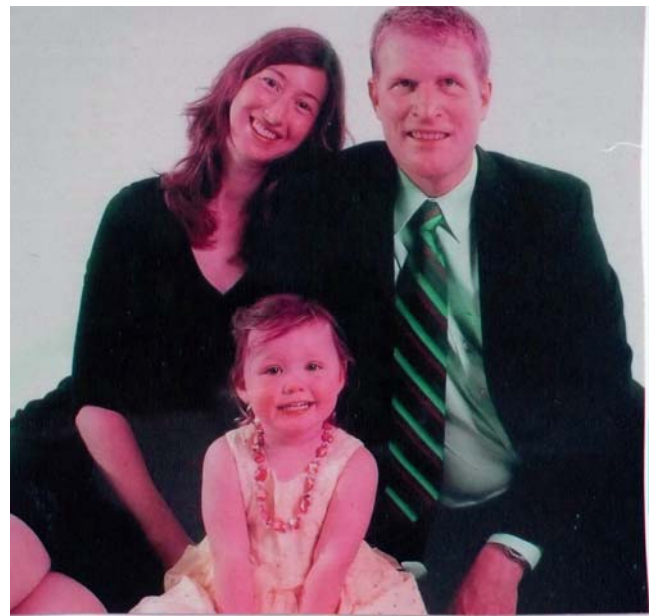
**Calgary Domestic Play Group** is the first Monday of the month. Ruth will put you on her email list [vissers@nucleus.com](mailto:vissers@nucleus.com)

Pietie and Kathy have an **Information session in Edmonton on March 24**, and we have **one in Calgary on the same day**, for families wanting a general overview of adoption in Alberta. Call the office if you would like to attend the waiting families support groups in either city.



## **International Adoptions**

We are still waiting for the official US process to be established for Alberta families. Two US agencies seem to be outgoing Hague approved: Shepherd Care in Florida and Adoption Arc in Philadelphia. Pray for those trying to set up the process; they need help.



## **Ghana - With Imagine Adoption**

Although this program looks like it might be fast, and costs are not much different than Ethiopia, it may require staying in Ghana for three months. They will accept some singles and there are many sibling groups.

## **Ethiopia**

This is still a reliable program but new rules have required more court hearings, and birth fathers are now being searched out and involved in the process. This makes a better process, but a longer one. In a country that is struggling financially, these additional steps require money for the extra staff hours and time. As adoptive families do not pay these costs, Ethiopian Courts are not likely to assign more staff to handle the higher workload. The children from CAFAC and IMAGINE continue to be healthy and well cared for. They are definitely worth the extra time it is now taking to complete the adoption.

## **China**

There are more matches than the website suggests for China. I expected the number of placements have improved since the Olympics, but the program is still slow. Some families have now waited 3 years.

## **Vietnam**

Adoptions from Vietnam are disappointing. Adoption Helper reported that some irregularities have been uncovered so it is not likely to be accepting Alberta families until investigations are completed.

**Edmonton International Adoption Support Group** meets the last Friday of the month at Bethel Community Church. Call Pietie at 780-722-7856.

Thank you all for your support



Wendy Robinson

