

The Loving Shepherd

Summer 2005

Volume 3, Issue 2

LSI Brief

Focus on the Family gives approval to LSI

Focus on the Family, the nationwide organization that celebrates Christian families, has approved Loving Shepherd as an adoption resource organization for families interested in adoption.

Ed Schwartz, Loving Shepherd's president, said he is pleased that Loving Shepherd's reputation has earned Focus on the Family's trust.

LSI Membership

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability - ECFA requires donor accountability and well-kept financial records.

Joint Council on International Children's Services - The JCICS monitors adoption news and events worldwide.

National Association of Christian Child and Family Agencies - NACCFA links Christian agencies with one another.

North American Association of Christians in Social Work - This organization helps LSI stay connected to the social workers so critical in the adoption process.

National Foster Parent Association - This is the only national organization exclusively for foster parents.

Family brings new daughter home



Robin Anderson of Adams County in Indiana reads with Lily Fei (which means "Fragrant Lily"). Robin and her husband, Harry, adopted Lily in May after Loving Shepherd guided them to China. "They really helped us narrow it down," Robin said.

Lily Fei Anderson's first birthday was approaching, and she still didn't have a birthday cake; she still didn't have any presents.

She still didn't have a mommy or daddy.

But when her birthday finally came, Lily had presents to open and cake to eat, and she did it all as her smiling parents looked on.

"She was such a gift from God," said Robin Anderson, Lily's mother. "I still get chills. We know God is totally in control."

Robin and her husband,

Harry, have only been Lily's parents since May 23. Her biological parents abandoned her at an orphanage in China almost a year earlier.

Because of China's one-child policy and tradition that puts more value on boys, the orphanages are teeming with girls. In fact, Lily's orphanage didn't keep any boys when Harry visited.

On Monday, May 23, Harry and Robin had Lily in their arms and joy in their hearts.

Lily, however, was frightened at first because

she didn't understand what was happening and because she missed her caregivers at the orphanage. Even though four caregivers had to tend to 20 girls at a time, the caregivers still loved each one, Robin said.

For several days, Lily resisted, then "...All of a sudden, she was smiling and laughing," Robin said. "She has attached really well."

"She is already a part of our family. She just fit in perfectly."

Though it took just
See "Family" on pg. 2

Who We Are

Loving Shepherd International is a Christian, not-for-profit adoption organization that provides no-cost help to families. While we do not place children, we help families in the pre-adoption, adoption and post-adoption phases of international, domestic and foster care adoptions.

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The Anderson family poses on the front porch of their country home. Pictured are (l to r): Robin, Lily, 1 year old; Tristan, 5 years old; Alex, 3 years old; and Harry.

Family: Loving Shepherd provided all the research

days for Lily to attach, the Andersons took about 10 years before they were ready to adopt.

Harry first mentioned adopting after their first year of marriage.

Robin had actually considered adopting since high school because her best friend at the time was born in Taiwan and had been adopted internationally.

But the Andersons waited until their biological children were older to finally commit.

But once they committed, they needed to know where to go.

“(Our) first thought was to go to LSI,” Robin said. “We had heard such good things about them.”

When the Andersons approached Loving Shepherd in January of 2004, they were contemplating international adoption, but they didn’t know which of the more-than-50 countries to adopt from.

When adopting, one cannot simply choose a country at random. Many countries have parental age limits; some countries have income requirements. Many couples have taken years to just find the right country, let

alone an adoption agency, which might have their own policies.

But Loving Shepherd had that information, and it had also researched the reputations and qualifications of many of the more-than-300 adoption agencies.

“Once we knew what Loving Shepherd had to offer, we didn’t see a point to further research, though I love to research,” Robin said.

Because the Andersons first went to Loving Shepherd, they possibly spared themselves years of research.

“It was a privilege for LSI to be a part of this along with the home study provider, Gateway Woods, and the adoption agency, Children’s Hope International,” said Doug Isch, Loving Shepherd’s business manager.

With Loving Shepherd’s help, years transformed into hours for the Andersons, and on Wednesday, June 15, Lily Fei celebrated her first birthday with a family.

“It was just incredible how ... smoothly everything went,” Robin said. “We could feel the prayers. It felt like we were blanketed with prayers the entire time. I’ve never felt anything so powerful before.”

New families continue to contact LSI for help

For three years, Loving Shepherd has worked with families pursuing adoption. Their comments show how varied their situations, and how appreciative their responses, are.

Colorado — My problem is that the attorneys I had working on my case in Mexico have taken my money and never completed anything for me. Is it possible that you could help me?

New York — We have recently been rejected as prospective adoptive parents by a “Christian” adoption agency in our area because of our Biblical philosophy on discipline. Your organization was recommended to us as one where we might find a suitable social worker to help us through the adoption process.

New Mexico — I was born with a cleft lip and palate. Our second son has a cleft lip. We are looking for a girl with a cleft and who is under four years old.

Indiana — You have an awesome ministry. The info you provided was amazing. Thank you.

Indiana — We can’t tell you how much we have appreciated the help and assistance that LSI has given us over the past couple of months. What took us 18 months to do with our first adopted child has been whittled down to about six weeks.

Texas — We received the packet of information on adoption from LSI yesterday. Thank you for all of your work. I think we’ve only looked through it about 100 times now.

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Florida — We have experienced 10 miscarriages and are so longing for a bundle of joy to make our lives complete. We are hoping that with God’s help and yours, our dreams will finally come true.

California — We are serious about working toward adopting one or two children from Liberia. We are unsure of how to begin the process. We are hoping you can give us some information and opinions to help us.

Georgia — We need information for a private adoption of a relative in India who is not an orphan. Is this possible?



Sharing the love

Congressman Mike Pence surrounds himself with children after Loving Shepherd's dedication ceremony for its new office building on March 31. During the ceremony, Pence commended Loving Shepherd and its supporters for "extending Christ's love through families literally around the world." Pence said the new office building represents an "important milestone in a ministry that I know is going to have an eternal weight of glory, not only in this community, but in the kingdom of Heaven." About 10 families from Wells and Adams counties brought their adopted children to the celebration.

Hundreds help LSI at auction

Several hundred people attended the 2005 Loving Shepherd International Benefit Auction, buying more than 300 items and helping to raise nearly \$60,000 in donations.

As Loving Shepherd's primary fund raiser, the auction offers people a chance to bid on great items and give to charity at the same time.

Doug Isch, Loving Shepherd's business manager, and Ed Schwartz, Loving Shepherd's president, said they wanted to thank all those who came to the auction and those who worked before, during and after the

auction to ensure its success.

"We at LSI are humbled to know there are so many people who have a heart for non-parented children from all over the world," Schwartz said. "We saw God's love in the donated items, the generous bidders and all the volunteers who helped make the auction possible."

Items for sale this year included a 14-foot Splendor-Cat boat and trailer, quilts, vacations and an hour of entertainment from the Psalm 100 Quartet.

Next year's auction will take place in April.



Loving Shepherd President Ed Schwartz holds 11-month-old Kiahna Grace Agler during the third-annual Loving Shepherd International Benefit Auction, held on Friday, April 8.

From the Word

- By Ed Schwartz

Who are the hurting, weak and vulnerable around us? Consider the 526,000 children in foster care. Consider the 45,000 children who will enter foster care per year. Consider the 126,000 children in foster care ready for adoption.

Isaiah 40:30 says, "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall."

What is their hope? Isaiah 40:31 has the answer: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

The Father has given the Christian community His Spirit to share with the hurting, the weak and the vulnerable. Romans 10:15 reads "...how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Foster parenting and foster to adopt are wonderful opportunities for some families to make a difference in the lives of the hurting, weak and vulnerable.

Loving Shepherd Board

- **Sue Gratton** – A licensed counselor with a master's degree in social work.
- **Tony Crowell** – A practicing attorney.
- **Mark Gerber** – A pastor and CPA.
- **Ryan Fiechter** – He and his wife, Darla, are adoptive parents of two boys.
- **Joyce Fischer** – A pediatrician, she and her husband, Steve, are adoptive and foster parents.

*The official newsletter of Loving
Shepherd International*

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Mission Statement

The mission of *Loving Shepherd International* is to bring honor to God by providing objective, no-cost advocacy, resources and direction to the entire spectrum of the international and domestic adoption field for the direct benefit of families and children.

This is accomplished by following the example of Jesus Christ as the loving shepherd in Isaiah 40:11: *“He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”*



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