



The Johnsons - A Pathways Family

PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you! Thank you for your generous response to last month's letter on behalf of the more than 10 million double orphans who live in lonely places around the world. Your contributions and volunteer responses have, once again, put wind in our sails as we attempt to bring children out of orphanages and into the bright, warm love of their adoptive families.

This month I want to give thanks to my wife, Jill, for her love for children from hard places and for her gumption to do something about it. From the beginning, it was her persistent "mothers heart" that made Pathways a reality. From the day we left a Russian orphanage in 1998, she has constantly reminded me of the voiceless children who also need families. Although a busy mother of three teenagers, she frequently prays for these children, cheerfully volunteers through our Advisory and Governing Boards and encourages the Pathways' team. The 300+ children who have made their trek out of orphanages and into their new families may never personally know this "Mother Teresa" but somehow, perhaps not in this life, I am sure they will meet her and give a hearty: "Thank you!"

Our newsletter highlights Heath Pressley, a talented leader who joined our team two years ago. Heath has made a very positive impact on Pathways. I don't think I have ever met such a humble and joyful man: please read Heath's story of redemption:

it is what we hope will be the path 100's of our children will make/take, with your help.

As we mentioned last month, we believe we are being led to establish "Pathways Institute" which will serve the emotional, psychological and educational needs of children from hard places and their families. To this regard, we have asked Heath to establish an exploratory committee to build a vision on how we may best serve in this capacity. It will meet over a six month period. Will you raise your hand to join this team? If so, please call or email Heath (phone, email address). (P.S. I have asked Heath to also make some calls to those who I know are "shy" about such matters....).

Finally, read about Cecilia. She has joined the Pathways alumni. We celebrate her release from the foster care system and her "coming home" to her loving family.

May God bless you and hold you in the palm of His hands,

H. Kerr Taylor

Chairman of the Board
Pathways for Little Feet



CECILIA

Meredith & Kenneth had one biological daughter, but felt their family was not complete. They were called to enlarge their family through adoption. One month after completing the paperwork the costs associated with the adoption process were overwhelming, and they needed help to bring home their daughter. They researched different options to help with expenses and found Pathways for Little Feet. They were given a loan and were able to bring Cecilia home. Another story of finding a forever home for an orphan.

"Pathways was so generous in letting us repay our loan in monthly payments that our family could afford. We were so excited to be able to pay it in full, knowing those funds would be used to help another family wanting to adopt."

- **The Camachos**



HEATH PRESSLEY

In the spring of 1968 a young woman was pregnant and alone. Feeling overwhelmed and out of options, she chose to place her baby in the custody of the state. After a stay in foster care the baby was adopted. And once adopted he had the opportunity to grow up knowing the love of a family. It was adoption that made all the difference in the world for that child. The home that he grew up in wasn't perfect, but it was secure and full of love. That boy was given a family. He had neighborhood friends, played on sports teams and received grace and guidance when he messed up. He received an education and after college and beginning a career, he met his wife. Soon they had two children. And later they would open their hearts to become adoptive parents. Before everything was said and done they adopted three children – two from orphanages in China and one from foster care. Their home isn't perfect but it also is secure and full of love.

I love that adoption story for two reasons. First, it illustrates the redemptive power of adoption. A child who was in need was adopted and given love. A child who was alone in the world was given more than just a home – This child was given the name of his father. His past was redeemed, his present reality was altered and his future trajectory was changed. Second, I love that story because it is mine. Now, I lead Pathways for Little Feet, and through Pathways - over 300 children have experienced the redemptive power of adoption. Their pasts have been redeemed. Their present realities have been altered. And perhaps most importantly, their future trajectories have been changed.

I love the work that we do, but our work is not complete. The Christian Alliance for Orphans' "White Paper on Orphan Statistics" tells us that there are over 150 million orphans in the world today. At Pathways we are working very hard to bring the redemptive work of adoption to those millions of waiting orphaned children.

We would love for you to partner with us in this work. There are many ways that you can join us - prayers, volunteering, or raising awareness. Today, however, I want to ask you to join us through a financial gift. Your gift will enable Pathways to:

- Continue to provide interest free adoption loans to adoptive parents to help them cover the high up front costs of adoption
- Provide much needed professional counseling for families with children from hard places
- Help us continue to be a voice for the voiceless orphan and encourage adoption

Thank you for your gift, and for partnering together with Pathways to help the redemptive work of adoption happen for children all around the world.