

*“Defend the cause of the
weak and fatherless...”*

PSALM 82:3

ORPHAN CARE UPDATE · SUMMER 2012

DEFEND THE FATHERLESS

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful to God for your commitment to the orphan and widow.

Over the past year, AGCI's ministry has grown to reach more orphans with new programs in Ghana, Haiti, and Uganda. We have also focused our work through three initiatives—Loving Care, Loving Families, Loving Communities—to provide additional life-changing services where needed most.

In order to share the impact of this work more effectively, we have redesigned our quarterly updates to emphasize one orphan care initiative each season. This edition focuses on *Loving Families* and the work your support makes possible.

Thank you for your heart for the orphan and widow. It is truly a blessing to partner with you in this ministry.

*God Bless,
Frank Betzer, Director of Orphan Care and Development*



“Religion that God our Father considers as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...”

JAMES 1:27 NIV

AGCI answers God's command through three initiatives:

- *Loving Care* that provides for the needs of the whole child—spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional—through our Hannah's Hope Homes, Foster Homes and Partner Homes.
- *Loving Families* that provide the love every orphan deserves by restoring, sustaining and equipping vulnerable families. When children are orphaned, we provide permanency through domestic, international, and in-country adoption.
- *Loving Communities* that empower churches, organizations and governments to strengthen families through education, nutritional care, vocational training and creative play.

Loving Families

RESTORE, SUSTAIN & EQUIP FAMILIES

AGCI helps restore, sustain and equip vulnerable families through our micro-business program and monthly sponsorship. The micro-business program provides financial training and funding that equips widows to develop a self-sustaining business and provide for their at-risk children. The support of donors like you has enabled AGCI's Ethiopia team to help launch 359 new businesses in Tigray and Addis Ababa this year.



Alemnesh Bekele, Abraham & Addisu

Meet two of our micro-business partners:

Abrhat Redae is a single young woman, age 26, in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. She is caregiver for five orphans, ages 8 to 19. Through a micro-business grant, Abrhat has expanded the small café she operates out of her home to be a full restaurant. Grant funds enabled her to purchase the tables, chairs, dishes, cookware and supplies to grow her business and provide for her family of five. "There is no respect without working," says Abrhat.

The new restaurant is successful and Abrhat is excited about the future for her family. She asks for prayer as she negotiates with the owners of her house because they want to increase the rent.



Alemnesh Bekele baking enjera

Alemnesh Bekele is a widow in Addis Ababa, age 42. Alemnesh is the mother of Elias, age 20, and foster mother to two orphans, Abraham, age 12, and Addisu, age 10. Both children were found begging at the gate of the local church. Abraham's father is deceased and his mother cannot care for him. Both of Addisu's parents are deceased.

Micro-business funds enabled Alemnesh to start a business out of her home, baking and selling enjera in her neighborhood. She was able to purchase an enjera oven, storage equipment, fuel and a supply of tef flour.

Alemnesh is thankful the micro-business grant program is enabling her to have a home business, provide food and shelter for her family and send the children to school. Elias is in a vocational training program. Abraham is in grade 7 and Addisu in grade 3 at the local public school.

The Lord willing, AGCI hopes to fund an additional 180 micro-business grants for families like these during the next 18 months. Each grant is \$420.

Where severe poverty or disease makes it impossible for a family to become self-sufficient, AGCI provides monthly sponsorship support. There are 361 families receiving sponsorship support in Addis Ababa and Tigray. Sponsorship is just \$35 per month/\$420 per year to provide a family with food, shelter, clothing and access to education.

PROTECT UNBORN CHILDREN

Abortion is not the only option in Taiwan. A Hannah's Hope Taiwan volunteer pleads for babies' lives.

Hannah's Hope Taiwan volunteer Elizabeth Triplett expressed, "Elise completed our lives!" as she spoke from her heart about her daughter at the "To Plead for Babies' Lives" press conference in Taitung on Monday, August 20. While visiting jails, hospitals and clinics at Hualien, Taitung and Pingtung counties, Elizabeth spread the word that "Abortion is not the only option!" Katherine Lu, director of the Hannah's Hope Home and Promise of Life program in Taiwan, pointed out that due to Elizabeth's advocacy, two babies have been born rather than aborted and now have totally different fates.



Elizabeth shares a message of life and hope at the "To Plead for Babies' Lives" press conference.

attended by special mothers. An AGCI mission team led by Elizabeth in February helped open a new Promise of Life home in Taitung. The team painted the home, provided bedding, artwork and decorations, and delivered 16 boxes of donated items along with much love for the orphans from the mission volunteers and supporters.

Elizabeth's advocacy for unborn babies has resulted in OB clinic doctors reaching out to Hannah's Hope and Promise of Life for assistance when pregnant women came to the clinics for abortions. Because of Hannah's Hope's activism and support, attitudes are changing, mothers are giving birth rather than choosing abortion and babies' lives are being saved.

During the process of adopting their daughter Elise, Elizabeth's family was able to apply what they had learned in adoption parenting courses in order to develop a relationship with Elise's birth mother. For example, they gave Elise's birth mother a photo album filled with snapshots of Elise when visiting her in August as well as gathering Elise and the birth mother's handprints on a card as an everlasting memory.

This update is translated from an article that appeared in The Kernel of Wheat Foundation's newsletter in Taiwan. The Kernel of Wheat Foundation is AGCI's Taiwan partner.

In the summer of 2010, Elizabeth and her husband, Steve, adopted a Paiwan girl, Elise. As Elise has brought immeasurable joy and warmth to her family, Elizabeth is thankful to Elise's birth mother for choosing to give her life. "My husband and I have gained new life experiences because of her and it has been a great joy to watch the interactions of Elise and her two brothers," Elizabeth states. This was Elizabeth's fourth trip to Taiwan. Volunteering together with her whole family, Elizabeth teamed up with the Hannah's Hope staff to serve the mission of Respecting Lives, Helping Mothers and Saving Children.

AGCI teamed up with A Kernel of Wheat Foundation, founded by Taitung Christian Hospital, to establish Hannah's Hope as the only legal orphan placement organization in both Taitung and Hualien counties to place abandoned babies and care for orphans from newborn to two years old. Other services provided through the Promise of Life program include sex education, crisis pregnancy support and serving underprivileged families. Hannah's Hope Taiwan is equipped with 15 cribs, and is currently serving ten infant orphans



AGCI-Taiwan director Katherine Lu responds to reporters' questions. The "To Plead for Babies' Lives" press conference was carried throughout Taiwan, appearing in major TV and print media news reports.

As Elizabeth strives to learn the Mandarin Chinese and Paiwan languages she reminds Elise, “Your roots are in Taiwan! You are a girl from the Paiwan tribe!” Because of Elizabeth’s efforts, Elise knows that she has two moms—one is her birth mom who brought her into this world and another is her adoptive mom who is lucky to be able to raise her.

What should we do with “Crisis Pregnancies”? Hannah’s Hope invites you to “Honor Life, Help Moms and Save the Children.”



A young birthmother* (second from right) shares her story and hopes with Elizabeth, Katherine and Promise of Life social worker Wei-Li.

*Out of respect for the privacy of this POL birthmother, her image has been obscured.

Taiwan University Pediatrics Department estimates the total number for yearly abortions is as high as 300,000 to 500,000.

Around the world, AGCI is providing hope for unborn children and their mothers. Our goal is simple: to prevent abortions by offering viable alternatives through our Promise of Life abstinence education programs, outreach efforts, birth mother homes, and counseling services.



Elizabeth and Katherine celebrate after sharing the message of “Honor Life, Help Moms and Save the Children.”

美哉 伊莉莎白

文 / 哈拿希望之家台灣地區處長 吳方芳

四十歲的棕髮美女伊莉莎白和夫婿史帝夫，兩年前自台東領養了一名單親母親無力撫養的排灣族女嬰。懷著感恩之情，一心要回報上帝恩典的伊莉莎白自從做了排灣女孩的母親之後，在丈夫和子女的鼎力支持下，三番兩次前來台東擔任志工，甚至一年之中四度來台。

大可在美國過著貴婦生活，住在有游泳池、網球場、室內籃球場豪宅的伊莉莎

白，擔任起志工一點也不含糊，除了刷油漆、扛抬重物、到監所向受刑人宣導性教育，還隨著哈拿希望之家的社工、伙伴造訪各個醫院、婦產科診所，為著鼓勵醫護為胚胎把關做胎兒的守護天使。

頂著艷陽、捱著難熬的溼熱氣候，伊莉莎白不畏勞苦，奔波於台東、花蓮、屏東。殷切著急的她，不論山

機會，必定翻開記錄著愛女成長的相簿，苦口婆心的告訴醫護和民眾，墮胎不是唯一選擇。伊莉莎白含著淚水為無辜生命請命的身影令我感動落淚、永難忘懷。

乍暖還寒的早春，哈拿希望之家接獲求助電話，一名未婚懷孕的年輕媽媽，在婦產科醫師勸說下，幾經思考，決定放棄墮胎保全Baby。就這樣，一個接一個差點小命不保的小寶貝們逃過了



佈置好的婦女庇護所散發出溫馨的氣息，牆面上還有漂亮的彩繪。攝影 / 陳仲平

伊莉莎白的用心了醫護、醫護的影響了天人交戰裏的抉擇挽救了命，而哈拿希望Baby的養育與

八月間，伊莉莎白、史帝夫和二子一女又將來台，除了旅遊，帶么女省親，美麗的她念念不忘的仍是為無辜胎兒請命、護命。曾隨著母親來台擔任志工的次子安卓驕傲的表示：「媽媽是全世界最漂亮的女人！」的確，除了姣好的容顏和高貴氣質，伊莉莎白良善、熱情和



The original article that was published in The Kernal of Wheat Foundation's newsletter in Taiwan.

哈拿希望之家

服務電話：(089) 343494
服務時間：週一至週五上午8:00-12:00，下午1:30-5:30
廿四小時求助專線：0800-000-734 (鈴鈴鈴-請三思)

提供嬰兒之家 (0-2歲養孤兒照護) 性教育、危機懷孕照護、弱勢家庭關懷等服務。

誠徵寶貴天使，與哈拿一起「幫助母親，拯救孩子」。
定期捐贈1000元，可供應一位新生寶貝一星期所需用的奶粉和尿布。
哈拿希望之家 (專業孤兒照護、危機懷孕照護等)

ADVOCATE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ORPHANS

Millions of orphans are waiting, longing for a forever family. Many families who have a heart to bring home a waiting child with special needs, an older child or a sibling group may not have the resources to adopt without financial assistance.

Through the contributions of donors like you, AGCI's Moriah Adoption Fund provides financial support for the adoptions of children with special needs from all around the world. It is our hope that no waiting child should remain alone because their forever family lacks the financial resources to complete an adoption.

A Loving Family for Naomi



The Crenshaw family

“We always had the idea of adoption in the back of our head but we were waiting on God’s timing,” remarked Erin Crenshaw.

Following the birth of their third child, Erin and her husband, Brian, knew that the time had come. They began their research process and like so many families found All God’s Children International on the internet. Erin added, “We soon fell in love with AGCI’s ministry and the staff.”

As they began researching adoption programs and expenses they knew that the cost of an international adoption would be a challenge for their family. Ultimately, the Crenshaws felt led to adopt Naomi, a child with medical special needs from Ethiopia.

Erin explained, “We told ourselves, ‘if God wants us to do this we know He will provide a way.’” The Crenshaw’s explored every avenue to help finance their adoption. They learned about grants to assist with the adoption of children with special needs available through Brittany’s Hope and AGCI’s Moriah Adoption Fund.

About the same time, Brian, a youth pastor started exploring an interest in painting. Friends and family were so intrigued with his work and the family’s adoption journey that they held a silent auction of some of Brian’s paintings. In one event, the Crenshaws were able to raise the funds to needed to complete their adoption. Erin reported, “With the matching grants from Brittany’s Hope and AGCI we doubled every dollar people contributed. We are so thankful to everyone who make these grants possible. It was such a blessing.”



Naomi at the beach

More than half of the adoption placements made by AGCI last year were for children with special needs. In order to provide adoption assistance for more waiting children, we are seeking to grow the Moriah Adoption Fund to \$150,000.

THE GLOBAL ORPHAN CRISIS

EVERY DAY, more than
5,700
 children become ORPHANS¹

EVERY **3** SECONDS
1 child dies from preventable causes³

There are an estimated
153
 MILLION
 orphans in the world*

THAT'S nearly
HALF
 the U.S. population²
 *Child who has lost at least one parent

¹www.childinfo.org · ²www.theorphanfoundation.org · ³www.christianalliancefororphans.org · ⁴www.ethicanet.org

⁴ **18.3 MILLION**
 children have lost
 BOTH PARENTS

17.5 MILLION
 children are orphans
 DUE TO AIDS

2 MILLION
 children are in
 INSTITUTIONAL
 CARE

14.5 MILLION
 orphans grow into
 adulthood EACH YEAR

95%
 are over the
 age of **5**

Orphans Worldwide

50%
 won't live to
 see their **20th**
 birthday

Orphans in Eastern Europe

25%
 become
 homeless

U.S. Children Aging Out
 of the Foster Care System

35%
 Under 6 years
27%
 6-12 years
38%
 13-21 years

Foster Care Affects
 Children of All Ages

*"Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.
 Defend the cause of the fatherless..."*

ISAIAH 1:17

Number of caring individuals it takes
**TO TRANSFORM THE LIFE
 OF AN ORPHAN**





ORPHANS ARE WAITING...

10 Things You Can Do

1. PRAY

Choose a waiting child to pray for. Tape their picture to your mirror or refrigerator. Continually ask God to provide them a family.

2. GIVE

Help a family adopt a waiting child with a financial gift to the Moriah Adoption Fund.

3. GO

Join a short-term mission trip to reach out in-person, in love, to help provide children without families a better life.

4. ADOPT

Give a child a loving family through domestic, international or foster care adoption.

5. SPEAK OUT

Spread the word about a Waiting Child. Tell their story to friends and neighbors to help them find their forever family.

6. SIGN UP

Sign a petition to save the Adoption Tax Credit that helps make adoption affordable for many families. Sign online at: www.facebook.com/AdoptionTaxCredit

7. MOBILIZE

Be the catalyst in your church to mobilize God's people to answer His call to help the widows and orphans in need. Start an orphan ministry.

8. ENCOURAGE

Adopt an adoptive family. Find one close to you and offer to help with childcare, house cleaning, or financial, spiritual and emotional support.

9. SPONSOR

Commit to a monthly sponsorship amount to help further essential orphan care and family preservation projects of All God's Children International.

10. JOIN US — BECOME AN ORPHAN ADVOCATE

Use your gifts, skills and creativity to transform an orphan's life. Join us at allgodschildren.org/help-orphan or access the QR code below with your smartphone.

*"We wait in hope for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield."
PSALM 33:20*

