

# ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE RESOURCE GUIDE



A START ON THE JOURNEY



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THIS RESOURCE GUIDE IS A  
SUPPLEMENT TO ATTENDING THE  
SEMINAR CALLED:

# **EXPLORING ADOPTION OR FOSTER CARE FOR MY FAMILY**



WITH MY EYES WIDE OPEN

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY  
#ZEROby2020

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## **7 STEPS TO WELCOME YOUR CHILD HOME!**

### **Step 1—Attend Adoption & Foster Care Seminar**

- Learn about the process
- Meet other people like you
- Discover the help that churches can offer

### **Step 2—Evaluate Agencies**

- Attend orientation at a few agencies
- What types of adoptions or foster care cases are managed
- Do you share same values as the agency

### **Step 3—Investigate Funding Options**

- Set up a plan for fundraising
- Apply for grants if applicable
- Meet with a tax adviser

### **Step 4—Apply & Gather/Submit Paperwork**

- Start the official process with an agency
- Read books written by parents who have been through the process
- Purchase tools to keep paperwork organized

### **Step 5—Complete Your Home-study**

- Reach out to the church help get your home ready for a new child
- Build a prayer team to help match you with the right child
- Begin attending a support group to learn new parenting skills

### **Step 6—Discover Your Child**

- Connect with an adoptive/fostering community at church
- Learn about your child's unique needs
- Develop new routines and predictable schedule

### **Step 7—Welcome Your Child Home**

- Simplify your life for a season
- Discover his or her voice
- Finalize adoption in your state if applicable

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

John 14:18 (NLT)

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## **10 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AS YOU EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS**

1. Why do/would I want to adopt or foster a child?
2. What are my biggest fears regarding adoption or foster care?
3. Do/will my close family and friends support my decision? If not, why?
4. What personal experience(s) do I have regarding the topic? (positive or negative)
5. What, if anything do I need to “let go of” before I foster or adopt?
6. What supports/resources do I have or need to further develop?
7. What are some misconceptions that others have about adoption or foster care?
8. How do I anticipate that adoption or foster care will change in my life?
9. If I don’t foster or adopt, what will my family do?
10. What in my life is my biggest barrier to foster care or adoption?

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FOSTER CARE**

### **Who are the children?**

*Thousands of children in California's foster care system require temporary out-of-home care because of parental neglect, abuse, or exploitation. The largest percentages are African American and Latino children. Some stay in foster care for weeks; some for years. The children are of all ages and varying needs.*

### **What is the role of a foster parent?**

*Foster parents provide a supportive and stable family for children who cannot live with their birth parents until family problems are resolved. In most cases, foster parents work with social services staff to reunite the child with birth parents. Foster parents often provide care to many different children.*

### **How do I become a foster parent?**

*A license is required to operate a foster home. The process requires a licensing worker to visit your home and meet with you and other family members. Minimum personal, safety, and space requirements are required by law. Foster parents work with social services staff to determine the type of child best suited for their home (i.e., age, health issues, and gender).*

*These are some requirements necessary to become a resource parent:*

- *Be 18 years old or older and in good health.*
- *Own or rent your residence.*
- *May be single, married or in a domestic partnership.*
- *Have sufficient income to meet your own financial needs.*
- *Be able to provide a child their own bed and space to store their belongings.*
- *Support and maintain the child's ties to family which includes their biological parents, siblings and extended family members.*
- *Learn about and be respectful of the child's connections with his or her religion, culture and ethnicity.*
- *Work in partnership with Social Services' staff to ensure the best care for the child.*

### **Can I afford to do this?**

*Foster parents receive a monthly payment to feed, clothe, and meet the material needs of the children placed in their care. Some, if not all, out-of-pocket expenses needed to obtain license get reimbursed. Medical and dental coverage is provided through the Medi-Cal program.*

### **Can I still work?**

*For working parents, appropriate child care arrangements must be made by the foster parents.*

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## BOOK RESOURCES

***The Connection: Where Hearts Meet***, is an interactive workbook and DVD specifically developed for adoptive or foster care families. You will be encouraged and equipped with practical help based on Biblical truths and research-based interventions to help you and your child build lasting, loving connection.

***The Connected Child***, by Dr. Karyn Purvis

***Adopted for Life***, by Russell D. Moore and C.J. Mahaney

***How We Love***, by Milan and Kay Yerkovich

***20 Things Adopted Kids Wish Adoptive Parents Knew***, by Sherrie Eldridge

***Attaching in Adoption***, by Deborah D. Gray

## AGENCY OPTIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

### A. Foster Care/Foster to Adopt:

1. Orange County Social Services: [www.sss.ocgov.com](http://www.sss.ocgov.com) 1-888-871-KIDS
2. Olive Crest: [www.olivecrest.org](http://www.olivecrest.org), 1-714-543-5437 (also Kinship)
3. Kinship Center: [www.kinshipcenter.org](http://www.kinshipcenter.org), 1-714-957-1004 (also Domestic)

### B. Domestic Agency/Private (Infant):

1. Bethany Christian Services: [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org) , 1-714-994-0500  
(also Inter-country)
2. Night Light: [www.nightlight.org](http://www.nightlight.org) 1-1714-693-5437 (also Inter-country)
3. Adoption Center of Hope, [www.adoptionanswer.com](http://www.adoptionanswer.com) 1-877-222-9239

### C. Inter-country Adoption:

1. All God's Children: [www.allgodschildren.org](http://www.allgodschildren.org), 1-800-214-6719
2. AWAA: [www.awaa.org](http://www.awaa.org) 1-800-429-3369 x 159
3. Dillon International, [www.dillonadopt.com](http://www.dillonadopt.com), 1-714-734-8600
4. Gladney: [www.adoptionsbygladney.com](http://www.adoptionsbygladney.com), 1-187-922-6000
5. Holt International, [www.holtinternational.org](http://www.holtinternational.org), 1-818-889-8045

*These agencies are not endorsed by our church. These are simply references that the presenters of tonight's class have had contact with, or know of other adopting families who have had contact with them. Use this list as merely a starting point in your own research for the right agency and path to adoption for your family.*

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## WHAT TO ASK AN ADOPTION AGENCY BEFORE CHOOSING

### Placement

- *How many children did you place last year?*
- *How many children did you place from each of the programs in which I am interested?*
- *How long have you been placing children from each of the countries I'm interested in?*
- *(For single parents) How many children did you place with a single parent? What types of children were placed with single parents?*
- *Do you know someone who has used this agency?*
- *Is the provider accredited for Hague Convention adoptions?*
- *By which State is the provider licensed? Is the license in good standing?*

### Timing

- *How soon after I apply will my home study begin? How long will it take to complete? When will I know if I have been approved?*
- *If I am not approved, can I find out why? Is there an appeal process?*
- *How long will it take from home study approval to the referral of a child? What happens if I don't feel I can accept the child referred?*

### Costs

- *What will be the total cost of adopting through each program? Do you supply a breakdown of fees in writing as well as a schedule of when payments are due?*
- *Does the fee cover the home study, all post placement visits, fees to the placing agency (international or in-country), international processing, transportation and miscellaneous fees (visa, dossier preparation, notarization, medical exams, document translation, exit tax)?*
- *Do you have an annual report that demonstrates fiscal accountability? How does the agency spend leftover funds? What percentage of the funds is spent on administration?*

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## QUESTIONS CONTINUED

### Inter-country Programs

- *Do you have more than one foreign adoption program? Could I switch my application to another country if regulations change or a moratorium is declared?*
- *Are the international agencies you work with licensed in their own countries? How long have you worked with them?*
- *Do you help prepare clients for the adoption trip? Do you help make travel arrangements?*
- *Do you have bilingual representatives respected by the authorities in each country to obtain or assist with the referral of a child? Will they be there to assist me through the process when I arrive?*
- *Do you provide financial assistance to the orphanages from which you place children?*
- *Do you give clients a copy of their rights with their application form?*
- *Do you provide a contract that spells out my responsibilities toward the adoption as well as what you are responsible for?*
- *Is there a written policy of quality assurance that will address my concerns during the process?*
- *What kinds of support services do you offer before, during and after placement?*
- *What if the adoption doesn't work out?*
- *How long has the provider been involved in intercountry adoptions?*
- *Does the adoption provider have its own in-country staff or use the services of facilitators or lawyers?*
- *How do the provider's contacts (such as facilitators or lawyers) working in other countries identify children needing families?*
- *What are the fees? (Ask for a detailed list of expenses and schedule for payment.)*
- *What services are provided after your child comes home? How long are they available?*
- *Are there other parents that used this agency for the country of preference. Can you talk with them? Is there a blog or other social networking media you can view?*
- *Are there any services provided for siblings/grandparents?*