

The LYDIA Fund



...to look after orphans... ~ James 1:27

Let Youths be Delivered from Institutions by Adoption

Volume 2 Number 2

Fall 2001

With Thankfulness for His Grace and to His Glory

by Kyle Hastings, Director

1 Corinthians 1:31: "Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the LORD.'"

Jeremiah 9:24: "[L]et him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD."

2 Corinthians 12:5, 9-10: ". . . On my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses . . . [The LORD] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me . . . When I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 4:15: "All things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God."

NOTE: In order to follow the train of thought in the next sentence, it is necessary to carefully read the above references.

My aim in writing this article is to show you how much the LORD has delighted in exercising lovingkindness (by saving kids out of institutions and into Christian homes) so that you will see how His grace is spreading all over the world and give lots of thanks to Him so that He will be glorified.

As many of you know, The LYDIA Fund got started with a flurry of adoptions from Ukraine and Russia. It would be a mistake, however, to infer from this that the full scope of what God is doing through LYDIA is limited to Ukrainian and Russian adoptions. Here is just a taste of what He's accomplished so far:

LYDIA Fund's Mission

to encourage and enable Christian couples in greater Minnesota to adopt children from orphanages and similar institutions overseas by providing financial assistance for their overseas fees and expenses.

LYDIA Fund Adoptions as of September 1, 2001:

DATE	NAME	Number of Kids	Country
March, 2000	Olsons	2	Ukraine
April, 2000	Bartletts	1	Ukraine
June, 2000	Conners	5	Russia
July, 2000	Hansens	2	Ukraine
December, 2000	Allens	1	China
August, 2001	Roberts	1	Ukraine
August, 2001	Hansens	2 (again!)	Ukraine

Adoptions Pending:

September, 2001?	_____	1	India
September, 2001?	_____	1	India
September, 2001?	_____	1	China
September, 2001?	_____	1	Cambodia
October, 2001?	_____	2	Bulgaria
October, 2001?	_____	2	Ukraine
October, 2001?	_____	1	Russia
October, 2001?	_____	1	China
Spring, 2002?	_____	1	Ukraine
???	_____	1	China
???	_____	1	Russia

Inquiries have also come in from Christian couples adopting from Guatemala, Viet Nam, and Romania. We rejoice every time the LORD, through this ministry, extends His grace to children in another part of the world! We hope, and we are praying, that you will do two things after learning what the LORD has done and is doing: 1) Rejoice with us! Give thanks for the abundance of His grace to the magnification of His glory! 2) Read Rick Gamache's article, "Doing Kingdom Arithmetic," and pray how to respond to the great upcoming (and fairly immediate) need. Thanks. **If**

Doing Kingdom Arithmetic on Behalf of Orphans

by Rick Gamache, Editor

Let me say outright what Kyle gently alluded to in his article: The LYDIA Fund needs money! The well is almost dry. And we really want to help defray the overseas expenses of all the couples Kyle mentioned in his article. But the fact is, we can't help them unless you help the LYDIA Fund. So I'm simply writing to ask you to pray and see if the Lord would have you send the Fund a tax-deductible donation in the envelope that's been provided. Here are several principles of Kingdom Arithmetic that may help you make a decision. They are based on 2 Corinthians 9:6-12.

1. In Kingdom Arithmetic, You Increase by Subtraction

Verse 6: "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Remember, Paul's talking about money here. So this just isn't logical, is it? Human logic says that the less money we give the more we'll have. But Paul isn't interested in human logic; he's interested in God logic! And God logic says that if you sow more seed (money) from your bag (checkbook) you'll have more than if you scatter less seed from your bag.

2. Kingdom Subtraction Is Happy Subtraction

Verse 7, "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." God doesn't want us to give "sparingly" (v. 6) or "grudgingly or under compulsion" (v. 7). In other words, he doesn't want us to be like Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) - remember what happened to them? - and give with the secret desire to hold money back.

Our subtraction should be "bountiful" (v. 6) and "cheerful" (v. 7). That is, it should come from a heart that wants to give. It should come from a happy heart. "God loves a cheerful giver." God is happy when we are happy givers.

3. In Kingdom Arithmetic, There Is Enough for You and Abundance for Others

Verse 8, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed." In other words, God gives us more than what we need so that we can build bigger barns to store the excess, right? Wrong! God gives us more than we need so that we can give the excess away on

behalf of the lost and downcast - missions and mercy.

Now, some of you are thinking, If only you could see my checkbook, you'd know that there's no excess. I'm not getting a tax-surplus check. In fact, I owe money! I understand, but let me remind you of Luke 21:1-4:

And [Jesus] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. 3 And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; 4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

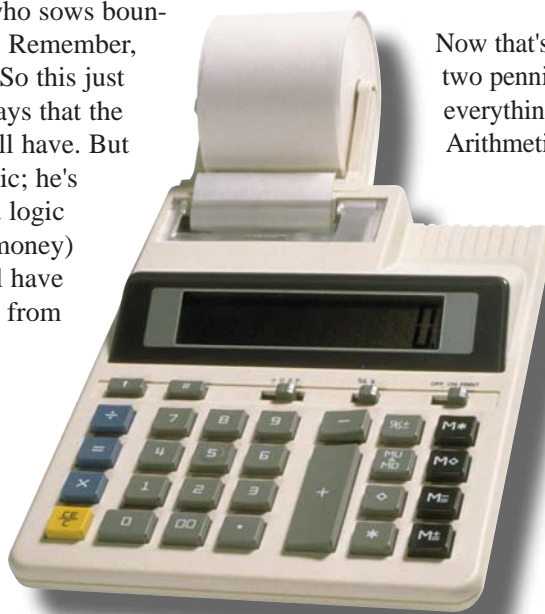
Now that's Kingdom Arithmetic! The widow put in two pennies and Jesus says that it was more than everything that the rich gave. This Kingdom Arithmetic principle holds true no matter your income level: enough for you and abundance for others.

One chapter earlier, in 2 Corinthians 8:1-3, Paul says this: Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord.

Do you see what was at work here? It was the "grace of God" that enabled them to give joyfully from their "deep poverty," "beyond their ability" even. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed": Enough for you, abundance for others.

4. God Multiplies Our Seed for Subtraction and Adds the Harvest of Righteousness

Verse 10, "Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." God is the great Giver! He supplies the seed for sowing, and he will give your righteous, cheerful, generous seed sowing a bountiful harvest! And what is the harvest of your right



KINGDOM ARITHMETIC continued on back page

From the Other Side of Raising Adopted Children

by Denny and Bonnie Williams

By way of introduction, we are Denny and Bonnie Williams of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We've been asked by the LYDIA Fund to write about what it has been like to raise adopted children through their teen years and on into adulthood.

Our family consists of Eric, 24 years old (adopted at the age of 4 months), and Melissa, 21 years old (adopted at the age of 3 months). They are both Korean by birth but American by environment! That God, in His sovereignty, chose these two beautiful children to be a part of our family continues to amaze us. When they were little it was fairly common to hear from other people how "lucky" Eric and Melissa were to have come here. But we knew all along that we were the "lucky" ones! We could not have imagined life without children, and God has truly blessed us with the addition of them to not only our lives, but as an integral part of our extended family.

When we were considering foreign adoption, Denny's mother was concerned regarding the racial issue. This was upsetting to hear from a relative, but Denny assured me that as soon as she saw our children there would not be a problem because of his mom's love of children. God was good to give him just the right words to share with me, and they were exactly as he said. From meeting our children at the airport to this day it would be hard to find grandparents who love their grandchildren more!

Our children were accepted by friends and family alike to the extent that at times they would make comments as if they were our biological children (regarding things such as hereditary health issues, etc.). Eric and Melissa have not been identified as our Korean children but as our children - period!

In response to the recent terrorist attacks here are excerpts from
PSALM 37

*1 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;
2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.
5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:
6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.
11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.
19 In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.
20 But the wicked will perish: The LORD's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish — vanish like smoke.*

We have found that home environment has played a larger part in who they have become than their biological genes. Eric is so much like Denny.

And Melissa is like me in personality and temperament.



Both of our children attended public schools from K-12 and, with the diversity in enrollment, they were not perceived as being much different than many of their classmates. As parents, however, we had to make sure they were not put into programs too advanced for them just so the school could meet their minority quotas in their enrichment programs.

Even though we presented the opportunity for Eric and Melissa to explore their birth culture through various Korean camps and events, they have not had any interest in pursuing this further. We have not pressed the issue.

Eric has just completed his master's degree in education at the University of Minnesota and his first year of teaching Spanish in a junior high school in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Melissa graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois this past May and is looking forward to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire this fall. She will be working for a school psychology degree.

As we labored over what to write to those of you who have younger adopted children or are considering foreign adoption, our entire family agrees that God has been especially good and there have not been any big issues that have arisen from our foreign adoptions. We have a lot of fun together and have mixed feelings about Eric entering the next stage of life as he looks for an apartment to pursue his independence!

As parents, we have no guarantee that raising adopted children will be a smooth ride. There are going to be bumps along the road, but those bumps are not necessarily adoption-related, but just come with the territory of family life. In spite of our shortcomings as parents, God has been gracious and He answers the prayers of His people. We have found prayer to be one of the most significant aspects of our parenting.

We have both had parents who prayed and continue to pray for us daily. What a heritage we have been blessed with! Our prayer for our children is that they will feel God's presence in their lives and that God would cause them to grow in their faith and their dependence on Him.



Bethlehem Baptist Church
720 13th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. ----

KINGDOM ARITHMETIC continued on page 3

ousness? Let me mention two things that are multiplied in the bountiful harvest that comes when we sow bountifully.

1. God Multiplies Our Generosity

Verse 11, "You will be enriched in everything for all liberality." In other words, in the harvest you will be given an even greater ability to be generous. The more you give, the more you'll be able to give!

2. God Multiplies His Glory

Verse 11 continues, "You will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God." The end of verse 12 says the same thing, "[it] is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God." God gets glory and praise when we do Kingdom Arithmetic with our checkbooks! Why? Because he's the Giver! God put whatever you have in your checkbook there so that there'd be enough for you and abundance for the lost and downcast!

LYDIA Fund's Committee Members

Terry and Deb Bartlett

Len and Jody Olson

Rick and Delaine Gamache

Jeff and Sarah Owens

Kyle and Sharon Hastings

Do you see what happens when you give? You get the joy of being a conduit of God's grace, and God gets the glory for being the great fountain of grace! So for the sake of God's great glory and your eternal joy, do Kingdom Arithmetic with your checkbook on behalf of the lost and downcast - like orphans! *If*

Participate, by all means, in delivering youths from institutions by adoption!

- Get quasi-quarterly issues of our newsletter.
- Pray for the LYDIA Fund.
- Adopt!
- Contribute via the enclosed envelope.

Contact Us:

by phone at 612.338.7653 ext. 345 or by e-mail at LYDIAFund@juno.com