

The LYDIA Fund



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

Let Youths be Delivered from Institutions by Adoption

Volume 5 Number 1

www.LYDIAFund.org

September 2004

*A Letter
from the President...*

God Causes Growth!

A Whirlwind Tour of His Recent Blessings of The LYDIA Fund

by Kyle Hastings

*Neither the one who plants
nor the one who waters is
anything, but only God who
causes the growth. I Cor. 3:7*

The LYDIA Fund is experiencing fast-paced growth, driven by the LORD who is sovereign over all, along with the accompanying growing pains. We can even see some upcoming potentially necessary changes. It's like being on an E ticket ride--on our knees! Twists and turns are approaching at break-neck speed, and we are not the ones at the controls. But we take heart in knowing that the One who is at the controls loves what we're all about, so we trust He will see us through.

Our hearts' desire is to rescue orphans. Likewise, helping the helpless (*especially* orphans) is very close to God's heart. James 1:27 tells us "This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." Psalm 68:5 worships the LORD as "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows." The Law of the LORD instructs reapers not to go back for a forgotten sheaf of grain. Why? "It shall be for the alien, the orphan, the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." (Deut. 24:19) On Judgment Day the King will welcome the righteous "sheep" (not the wicked "goats") into His Kingdom because they showed mercy and compassion to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger. In Matthew 25 Jesus quotes the King as saying, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me."



God loves the humble, the needy, the orphan. He loves to provide for them. That's what makes The LYDIA Fund such a thrill to be part of; God just seems to bless, and bless, and bless some more! We on the committee get the privilege of just watching it happen and praising Him for it!

We have a lot to tell you about, and to praise God for. We've seen a big surge in interest in the LYDIA Fund recently. For example, whereas we helped six couples in the entire year 2000, we're scheduled to interview six couples in six days this week! (See table LYDIA Fund, Year-by-Year on page 4.) And we praise God for a special Fathers' Day worship service at Bethlehem Baptist Church, which was focused on God's heart for adoption. Not only was adoption exalted, but a special offering greatly blessed The LYDIA Fund and our beloved big brother in ministry, The MICAH Fund. And praise God that Shaohannah's Hope, a ministry founded by Christian singer and 3-time adoptive father, Steven Curtis Chapman, heard about the Fathers' Day service and contributed \$5,000 more in the form of a matching grant! Isn't it amazing how God provides more resources just when

"Pray with us that God would enable us to manage the growth so that we could continue working to get orphans out of institutions and into Christian families and homes."

there's an exponential increase in need! Pray with us that He will continue pouring out these much needed blessings, because the level of need on the road ahead will probably keep going up.

Praise for Growth & Pray for Managing It continued on page 4

CONGRATULATIONS
to recent
LYDIA Fund Families!
God's grace be with you.



David and Sonia Baxter, Minnesota
adopted Azalia (1) from Guatemala,
April 2004



Thomas and Susan Ibs, Minnesota
adopted Jacob (5) from China,
February 2004



Larry and Wendy Bergeron, Connecticut
adopted Nadya Hope (8) from Russia,
December 2003



Lonnie and Jamie Shover, Pennsylvania
adopted Faith (8 mo.) from Guatemala,
July 2004.

Our daughter, Faith, is adjusting beautifully. She has been such a wonderful addition to our family. We pray that God will bless your ministry so that you may continue to be a blessing to so many people.



Jeff and Melisa Reimer, Minnesota
adopted Anna (21 mo.) from Ukraine,
February 2004



John and Jennifer Hafner, Minnesota, adopted Katya (3), Anders (6), and Gabriel (2) from Russia, February 2004.

We appreciate you and your ministry. We are very grateful for the LYDIA Fund's generosity. The financial contribution is a real blessing as we finalize our adoption..."

Not Pictured:

Doug and Becky Foreman, Minnesota adopted Tanya (15), Vlad (13), and Klava (12) from Russia, April 2004

Todd and Kimberly Potter, Minnesota adopted Katie (16 mo.) from China, June 2004

Dave and Jodi Thill, Minnesota adopted Katya (7) from Russia, April 2004



Scott and Carolee Bolitho, Colorado adopted Jonah (2) from Korea, May 2004

FAMILYLIFE™

presents

"If You Were Mine" adoption workshop

October 2

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Minneapolis, Minnesota

8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

"If You Were Mine" adoption workshop is an intimate one-day event that includes the following sessions:

- God's heart for Adoption
- The Need for Adoption
- An Overview of the International, Domestic, and Foster Care Adoption Processes
- Social Worker Panel Discussion
- Lunch (provided)
- The Impact of Adoption on Your Family Life
- Frequently Asked Questions and Concerns about Adoption
- Special Interest Breakout Sessions

Is this workshop for you?

The "If You Were Mine" adoption workshop is for couples who...

- ...are just starting to look into adoption.
- ...feel led by God to consider adoption but have not yet started the formal process.
- ...are currently pursuing adoption.
- ...are looking for practical, biblical information about adoption.
- ...may be interested in starting a church orphan's ministry.

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

www.familylife.com

1-800-FL-TODAY



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



Praise for Growth & Pray for Managing It continued from page 1

Another big blessing to praise God for is that MICAHA, LYDIA and Bethlehem will be hosting FamilyLife's adoption seminar, If You Were Mine, on October 2nd. (See table on page 3.) This conference will attract many people (350 or more?) who want to adopt. So it will probably greatly increase the need for funding. But we trust that the LORD will again greatly increase the funds available somehow. Surely there will be some divine appointments at the conference.

On a personal note, I can't wait! In fact, I can't wait to see what the LORD does with The LYDIA Fund next year--and in the years to come! Pray with us that God would enable us to manage the growth so that we could continue working to get orphans out of institutions and into Christian families and homes. Pray that The LYDIA Fund would be blessed in order to be a blessing (Gen.12:1-3). "May the grace that is spreading to more and more people cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God!" II Cor. 4:15 *If*

The LYDIA Fund, Year-by-Year		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Families Helped</u>	<u>Children Adopted</u>
2000	5	10
2001	9	13
2002	10	11
2003	7	9
2004 (projected)	22	32

LYDIA Fund's Committee Members

<i>Terry and Deb Bartlett</i>	<i>Bonnie Porter</i>
<i>Jill Gapinski</i>	<i>Steve and Liz Stein</i>
<i>Kyle and Sharon Hastings</i>	

Contact Us

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- Receive future quarterly issues of this newsletter
- Pray for the LYDIA Fund
- Adopt!
- Donate!

