

FALL 2010

# Reflections

Reflecting God's heart in the lifelong journey of adoption and orphan care



## 20 Years of *Bringing Hope* to the **World's Children**

# Reflections

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## OUR MISSION

Reflecting God's heart in the lifelong journey  
of adoption and orphan care.

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**COVER:** A child in Mathare Valley slum, photo by Kenya Short Term Mission Team member Moses Orsillo. Partners just like you are bringing hope to children desperately in need all over the world.

# from the Director

## Ministry Update



*T*wenty years! From an electric typewriter atop a second-hand desk in my family room to where we are today...quite an adventure! I've grown from a young, idealistic mother into a card carrying AARP member who remains passionate about the kids...all of them!

So, what have we accomplished?

I first travelled to Nepal in 1992, shortly after she opened her borders and embraced the Western world. Ray volunteered to remain home, playing Mr. Mom to five young children. We began the Nepal adoption program in 1993; three years later we opened our first House of Hope children's home, the model for current orphan care ministries in Nepal, Kenya and Vietnam.

Domestic adoptions flourished, international adoptions expanded and we launched our orphan care division in 2002. To date, we have

- completed 832 adoptions
- served approximately 1,466 women with unintended pregnancies
- united children from 26 countries with their forever families
- begun orphan care ministries in Nepal, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Kenya and Vietnam
- grown thriving orphan ministries in three countries serving 142 children and providing employment for 33 nationals
- developed short term mission programs
- provided internships for high school, college and graduate level students...and dumped the typewriter!

*I've grown from a young, idealistic mother into a card carrying AARP member who remains passionate about the kids...all of them!*

I'm walking the adoption journey as both mom and social worker. Adoption related challenges frequent my family and many of yours. Some families thrive, others do not. Children aren't always grateful; moms can't fix all of life's wounds; and fear for our children's futures provides an uncomfortable backdrop to many lives. As adoptive parents we learn to navigate the grief and loss of our stories with the hope we hold for these precious lives entrusted to us.

I'm writing during the wee morning hours (jet lag) in a modest hotel room in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Our kids are nearly grown; Mr. Mom came too. We embarked on this sacred journey with our Cambodian daughter seeking answers to haunting questions...hers and mine. The outcome? Nothing short of miraculous! Watching God orchestrate events that met the needs of my child's heart fills me with renewed hope for all children and families as we plunge into the next twenty years!

We inhabit a broken world. Adoption is not perfect. It does, however, provide an incredible opportunity to reflect God's heart and cooperate with him in redeeming lives...and it begins with hope.

**God Bless,  
Paula Freeman, MSW  
Executive Director**

# Healing Hope:

## When Love is not Enough

By Paula Freeman



the healing and wholeness I believe God longs to bring, I prayed:

“Father, you draw near to the brokenhearted...and that would be us right now. Thank you. You are the only one who truly knows her story because you’ve been there with her. You created her. You breathed life into her premature body and watched her mother die. You protected her and orchestrated events to bring our daughter home. We trust you to walk with us on this healing journey and we invite you here this afternoon to show us what to do next.”

...and then we talked, carefully unpacking her adoption story, familiar yet somehow new. She listened differently, engaging, this time fully identifying herself as the baby in this tale. I shared a per-

spective I’ve grown to embrace, centered on the God of the universe and His complete love and concern for her. I’m certain He grieved her mother’s death; sustained her frail body when doctors pronounced her too small to survive; burdened our hearts with an unquenchable desire to adopt; allowed her to experience the pain she can no longer ignore; and awaits her surrender to His healing. And together we returned, if only in our imaginations, to the orphanage.

Anticipation nearly suffocated me as I reached to open the flimsy screen door, the final obstacle in the year-long journey separating me from my daughter. The endless mounds of paperwork and months of anxious waiting culminated here, at a squeaky, paint-chipped, screen door in southern India. Still holding my breath I inched the door open, somehow fearful

my presence would jinx the moment...and there she was! Small and unconcerned with her surroundings, she lay contentedly on her pint-sized pallet. Business consumed the dreary government orphanage, refusing to stop and notice her. Seemingly invisible, she played with her fingers, until my arms, with a mind of their own, reached to embrace her. I loved her from the moment my eyes devoured her scrawny features in that first, postage stamp sized picture we received. God was fulfilling my life’s dream to adopt! Now, I could finally delight in my daughter, whom I had travelled half way around the world to claim as my own!

That was my perspective, my version of her adoption story. It was not shared! She never chose to lose a mother, become orphaned, leave the comfort of her caretaker’s arms with strangers or abandon her birth country and its rich heritage.

After describing how we found her on the small pallet, amazingly similar in size to the hotel’s coffee table our feet now rested on, I asked, “What do you think that baby was feeling?” With tears streaming down her face, gazing at the empty table, she whispered, “That little baby feels all alone and not worth very much.”

There it lay, raw, naked, gaping and exposed...the lie whose cancerous tentacles spread to infect every area of her life. Left buried, through years of growing up in a loving, Christian family, attending church and Christian school, memorizing Bible verses and praying, this falsehood grew to define her core beliefs about herself, that she was all alone and not worth very much. It still haunts her. I expect it will until she chooses healing through the One who hung on the cross to prove she was worth it all.

Pain, longing, uncertainty and apprehension blended like gooey cake batter awaiting the oven, its ingredients indistinguishable one from another yet oozing with the promise of a delicious outcome...but first the heat and required transformation.

We slipped away for a girl’s weekend, just the two of us. A new tactic to attack an old challenge...how to help my teen-aged daughter navigate her journey through the unrelenting pain of her trans-racial, international adoption. Perhaps this time alone, to revisit her adoption story, blended with activities she enjoyed, would woo her to confront the grief she artfully avoided for years.

The quietness pounded in my ears as we sat side by side in our non-descript hotel room, as if awaiting a final guest. Desperate to help my daughter experience

I know the delicious promise, the hope of healing remains. I can't walk this journey for her, but I can travel with her. Our destination is the cross. For it's there that Jesus carried and bore her grief, and mine for her. I know He's waiting there to take it back.



## *Welcome Home*

- Joelle Daughter of Eric and Rebecca
- Ivan Son of Rich and Elida
- Isaac Son of Rich and Elida
- Elliote Daughter of Andy and Anita
- Yared Martial Son of Kyle and Kathleen
- Peyton Daughter of Bobby and Robbin
- James Son of Harper and Julie
- Joshua Son of Michael and Tracy
- Reshma Daughter of Derek and Beth
- Mamata Daughter of Keith and Kelly
- Nathaniel Son of Ron and Barbara
- Kayla Daughter of Doug and Danielle
- Isaiah Son of Doug and Danielle
- Sawyer Son of Jonathon and Cody
- Logan Son of Thom and Jill

# Adoption Legacies

## Upcoming Events & Program Updates

Please visit [www.hopespromise.com](http://www.hopespromise.com) for the calendar and for information about specific adoption programs including domestic adoption, inter-country local services, and international adoption.

### Family Album



© Cheryl Goldwire

*Ellie Goldwire, born November 14, 2009, domestic adoption.*

*Kayla and Isaiah Banker, adopted from Ethiopia in 2010.*



© Danielle Banker

# Transforming Hope:

## A Short Term Mission to Kenya, March 2010

By Colleen Briggs

A curious symphony beckons team members from mosquito nets into our first Kenyan morning: birds extolling, roosters crowing, cows lowing, brakes squealing, children singing. Rising with sobriety, we know that after this day we will never again claim the luxury of ignorance.

Stepping off the bus in Mathare Valley, many, for the first time, grasp the grubby hands and gaze into the desperately human eyes of the world's poorest of the poor. David Schwartz later reflects, "I saw real poverty. Now there's a face, a smell, and a sound to the poverty I read about in the Bible."

From Mathare Worship Centre's rooftop, six scathing square miles sprawl at our feet: tightly packed shanties, the stench of open sewage and rotting trash, hazy smoke from cooking coals, listlessly loitering adults and children. Alcoholism, abuse, and hunger snare inhabitants in greedy tentacles of generational hopelessness. Some team members quietly weep.

Shattering numb disbelief, Pastor Karau, Hope's Promise (HP) Kenya's Country Coordinator along with his wife Edith Karau, playfully calls out, "Follow me... as I follow Jesus." With a wave of his hand, he motions for us to follow down rickety stairs out into the sodden labyrinth below. Chris Cote later reflects, "Walking into Mathare the first time laid bare all the facades we place over our brokenness in the West. The complete sensory assault yanked me out of my comfort zone, but right into God's hands."

Later, only twenty minutes' drive away, the charming stone, flowering trees, and verdant gardens of Sanctuary of Hope (SoH) vault the team into an altogether different reality. Four years ago, HP Kenya commenced radical surgery. Pastor and Mama Karau began transposing desperate orphans, one by one, from the festering wound of Mathare Valley to SoH. The transformation in the



© Melissa Lemke

children's lives is as shocking to team members as their origins.

Child sponsor Pam Jenness remembers that first visit to SoH, "To see where George came from and to see him thriving now... SoH is a haven for these kids, who are loved in a family and enveloped in the hope only Jesus can give. Seeing that with my own eyes – well, I have no words."

After eight days of serving at SoH, in a Mother Teresa Home for Abandoned Children, and in Mathare Valley, Christa Countryman observes, "(Orphan's) lives are fraught with difficulties... I had not thought of the vastness of obstacles that orphans must face: disease, death, rape, abuse, neglect, and in some of the cruelest forms. But there is hope for some – and maybe, for many."

Chris Cote concludes, "The only thing I know at this point is that I cannot forget, be silent, or stay the same."

For more information about upcoming Hope's Promise Short Term Missions, please contact [lorie@hopespromise.com](mailto:lorie@hopespromise.com).



© Moses Orsillo

# Around the World



## New Home in Nepal

Hope's Promise is thrilled to announce the opening of House of Living Stone in Nepal, HP Nepal's second orphan home. The house-father, once a Maoist Commander, became a Christian after his wife experienced miraculous healing through prayer. In his current pastoral ministry, he shares the Gospel in remote villages, a refugee camp, and a jail. He is eager to share Jesus' love with five new daughters, including Aastha. The girl's Hindu father disappeared five years ago and is suspected to be dead, and her Hindu mother left no contact information when she re-married. Aastha's aunt reflects, "I am very happy as my (niece) Aastha has got this opportunity of good care. We are very poor and we are living a hard life. We are refugee... and struggling in our life... We are very thankful for helping these orphan children. We will never forget your help."



## Connection in Vietnam

A group of engineering students from Colorado School of Mines converged in June with Thanh (HP Vietnam Country Coordinator), the staff and children of Home of Hope (HoH), and thirty children and their families from the HP LEADS program at a church in Tuc Trunh. Vietnamese and Americans became friends as they built 72 pigeon cages for HoH's venture of raising pigeons for food and to sell in the marketplace. Having satisfied their initial goal, fun ensued as the children and team played and sang together; and the morning concluded with an authentic Vietnamese lunch graciously prepared by women in the church. A brief afternoon stop at HoH, where the team presented backpacks to each of the boys, was a meaningful sojourn. Before the School of Mines team returned to the night lights of Ho Chi Minh City, prayer lifted from hearts genuinely connected through mutual service crowned the day. God carries out His plans through partners like you, and unites all of our hearts from different and distant worlds.

## New Recurring Donation Option

We are excited to announce a new giving option. Hope's Promise can now receive recurring monthly donations through our website. Hope's Promise does not incur any fee from your Mastercard or Visa donation. We receive 100% of your gift.

To participate in this option, please visit [www.hopespromise.com](http://www.hopespromise.com), click on the "Donate" button and then click on the "GiveDirect" button. If you have any questions, please contact [kaye@hopespromise.com](mailto:kaye@hopespromise.com).

## Update Us on Your Communication Preferences!

If you are interested in receiving email updates about orphan care ministries in Kenya, Vietnam, and/or Nepal, please email [lorie@hopespromise.com](mailto:lorie@hopespromise.com).

To be removed from Hope's Promise's mailing or email distribution lists, please email [kaye@hopespromise.com](mailto:kaye@hopespromise.com) or call (303)660-0277.



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# You are invited!

## Harambee!

*"Harambee" is a common Swahili proverb meaning "Let's pull together!"*

**October 23, 2010, 6-8:45 pm**

**Cost: free**

**Flying W Ranch, Colorado Springs, CO**

The Harambee fundraising dinner will highlight Hope's Promise's orphan care ministries in Kenya, Vietnam, and Nepal and present opportunities for greater involvement.

### How to support the Harambee:

- Sponsor a table with your tax-deductible donation of \$250, which provides dinner for 10 guests.
- Host a table by inviting 8-9 friends and family members to join you for dinner (at no cost to you as the host or to your guests) and learn more about how God is working in the lives of Hope's Promise children.
- Attend this special event for free.

Please call 303-660-0277 or email [lorie@hopespromise.com](mailto:lorie@hopespromise.com) for information or email [tammy@hopespromise.com](mailto:tammy@hopespromise.com) to make your free reservation. RSVP's are required to attend.

**Let's pull together for orphans around the world!**



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