



December, 2011 Newsletter

GREETINGS:

from Amaris Ministries! We are FINALLY getting out our very first monthly newsletter – we have been waiting to have exciting news to report, and while things have been in the works for quite some time, we are finally making progress.

Praise the Lord!

Changes in Direction:

Kacie Cox, our 1 part-time employee, has been working for many months now on the arduous task of completing the state's application to become a licensed adoption agency. She brought to our Board's attention the non-discrimination clause requirements and we had it reviewed legally. The Board voted unanimously to discontinue pursuing becoming an agency at this time, because we don't want to be put in the position of compromising our Christian values. As a full-blown adoption agency we would have been able to conduct the entire adoption in-house, including home studies and the legal process, which are the most expensive aspects of private adoption. Performing adoptions in-house would have kept costs to a minimum. Right now, as an adoption ministry we are able to match birth parents with adoptive parents and walk them through the process of adoption, but the home study and legal work will have to be done outside of Amaris Ministries. We are looking for ways to reduce costs for these and also looking for ways to be able to help families that this would create a financial hardship for. We understand the pros and cons of this decision, but the board believes that God will bless us for our actions and we hope you all understand.

SAFE Families:

While we hadn't gotten a chance to do an official orientation to recruit SAFE Families, emergency situations arose and we couldn't turn our backs on children in need, so we got busy. We have placed 5 children in 3 different homes. Their parents are going through a time of crisis and are allowing God to help them, teach them and get them on the right path in life, but they needed a SAFE place for their children to be cared for. The SAFE families have completed appropriate applications, home evaluations and background checks. They are wonderful, loving, Christian families who are nurturing these children during their own time of crisis of being separated from their parents. The SAFE Families have made huge sacrifices to take in these children with short notice for 6 months. They have been able to minister to the kids; showing God's love for them, teaching them Godly values and preparing them for when it will be time to reunite with their parents. It was great to be able to step in and help prevent what could have turned into a CPS removal situation. It has been a beautiful thing to watch and the children are thriving!



Merry Christmas from Amaris Ministries!

We are especially thankful for the people who made donations of emergency supplies, such as clothing and car seats, for the SAFE families who needed these items immediately as they took these children in.

OFFICE:

Our office is located at 585 W. Orange Ave. in El Centro, in the old CC School building. Office hours are Mon – Fri, generally from 10 am to 2 pm. Since we don't have much traffic in here for AM yet, we have decided to share our office space with a couple of other ministries – IV HOPE for Haiti and IV Missions for Youth. Please come in and see us some day!

THANK YOU:

Thank you to Pastor Norman and Turning Point for donating chairs, Brenda Scaroni for donating a conference table, CC Church staff for helping with fixing the place up and many more of you who have contributed time and resources to making our office a welcoming and professional place.

How you can help:

Donate – With the end of the year approaching, please consider a special year-end gift to Amaris Ministries to support the kids we currently have in our SAFE families program. If you feel led to support what we are doing to fulfill God's promises for families- you may send a check in the enclosed envelope.

Participate – If you feel called to take children into your home as a SAFE family, foster family or adoptive family, please let us know so that as soon as we are ready, we can help you begin the process. Or, if you are not in a position to do that but would be willing to help support one of these families by providing services (child care, house-keeping, bike repairs, just to name a few ideas) or sponsoring them, please let us know that as well.

Pray – Please keep this ministry in your prayers. Also, pray for ministries such as Birth Choice and The Real Hope Center who help women to choose adoption instead of abortion.



Board Directors: Nicole Rothfleisch, Walter Colace, Joy Tucker, Alex Cardenas, Tom Storey, Annette Rea, Vicki Uhri, Steve Uhri