



February 2012 Newsletter

An Adoption Story:

Betty Predmore is a board member at WOVEN, a local women's Christian support center, and a friend and supporter of Amaris Ministries. While Amaris Ministries was not directly involved in this adoption, we wanted to share with you this joyous occasion and encourage all other families considering foster adoption:

"About 2 ½ years ago I received a phone message from a local foster agency asking if I would consider fostering a child. Being a licensed child care provider, they got my name from the provider list. I didn't return the call immediately, but prayed about it and talked to my family at length. We decided as a family that it might be nice to foster a child. After finishing the licensing process, we received a call asking us to foster 3 siblings that were living in separate homes. The county was trying to unite these siblings in one home. I was shocked, because I certainly didn't expect 3 children. The agency worker pleaded her case, and my husband and I decided to give it a try. That was almost 2 years ago, and we had no idea what the Lord had in store for us.

I have been blessed with four children of my own: Cody 25, Nick 21, Casie 19, and Emily 13. My husband Jim has three: Ashley 29, Amanda 18, and Kyle 13. Never in a million years would we imagine that at the ages of 55 (my husband) and 45 (myself) we would be taking on permanent responsibility for a 7 year-old, a 4-year-old, and a 2 year-old. But we all know that our plans are not always His plans. These children came into our family from the very first day with smiles on their faces, and every one of us fell in love with them. Adoption and permanence was the obvious choice.

The adoption process is tedious. It causes a little bit of stress. But the reward for us has been two beautiful sons and an adorable daughter. Adoption Day was so special! Our family and friends shared our special day!

I thank God that He has given us these three children to love. We have the privilege of raising them in a Christian home. We have the joy of taking them to church and teaching them about Christ's love. And we have the awesome opportunity and responsibility to teach them about loving and serving others. Most of all I thank God for revealing His plans to us, and for giving us the wisdom to follow His lead. We are so richly blessed."

~Betty Predmore



INTERESTED IN FOSTER CARE OR ADOPTION?

If you feel called to take children into your home as a SAFE family, foster family, or adoptive family, please let us know.

We have applications ready and would be happy to start this journey with you.

FROM THE WORD:

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14

What is CASA?



Amaris Ministries Board Member, Alex Cardenas, is the Executive Director of the local CASA chapter for Imperial County. Along with Alex, Amaris Ministries, would like to help spread the word on what they do.

"The goal of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Imperial County (CASA) Program is to prevent abused and neglected children from becoming lost in the Juvenile Dependency system. The objective of matching a CASA volunteer (a trained advocate from the community) with a child, is to ensure that the child's best interest is represented. The CASA Volunteer's essential role is to be the child's voice in court by representing their best interest. The CASA Volunteer is assigned one-case consisting of a child or sibling group ages Zero through 18. The CASA Volunteer devotes a minimum of eighteen hours per month to their assigned case for the entirety of the child's stay within the system, thus greatly augmenting the services provided by the Social Worker. The removal of children from their parents can be a very traumatic event for a child regardless of the circumstances. Therefore, a Judge is in desperate need of information regarding the best interest of the children under such a situation. CASA Volunteers provide an independent and unbiased report regarding the emotional well being of an abused and neglected child. Judges, attorneys, social workers, and other key stakeholders welcome CASAs. CASA of Imperial County is in need of your support. If you want to make a difference in the lives of foster children please contact me."

Sincerely, Alex Cardenas

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

-That the biological parents of the children in SAFE family homes, would continue to grow in their walk with the Lord.

-That the Lord would direct our steps as Amaris Ministries continues to set up programs and procedures.

-For Birth Choice & The Real Hope Center as they counsel women to choose adoption over abortion.

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

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