



## April 2012 Newsletter

### From the Word:

**"You are the helper of the fatherless. LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more."**  
**Psalms 10:14,17-18**

### Prayer Requests:

-For the Safe Families who have taken in children to be sustained by the Lord.  
 -For the pregnant teen we are counseling to make the right, prayerful decision for her baby.

### A Glimpse into Foster Care/Adoption:

Amaris Ministries had the opportunity to interview our board members Steve & Vicki Uhri. God gave the Uhri's a heart for foster care ministry and they are willing to share not only their experience with you, but are also willing to help walk you through the process with the county if this is the path God has called your family. After years of fostering, Steve and Vicki, were blessed by the opportunity to adopt siblings, Alexis and Adrian (pictured above), helping to make their family complete.

#### When did your family first get involved in Foster Care?

Steve: We have been foster parents for approximately 25 years. Over those 25 years, we have taken care of 7 different children through the foster care system, and 2 children through a family in need at church.

#### What interested you in becoming a foster parent?

Steve: We had been ministering to a family, when their grandchildren were placed in the foster care system. We fostered these children for 6 months before they were sent to live with their grandparents. It was difficult to give up our first set of foster children, but we had comfort in knowing they were going to be reunited with their family. After this, Vicki and I knew that God had called us to continue fostering.

#### What are some of the challenges foster parents face?

Vicki: The foster care system and navigating it. There was no help to walk us through the system/process.  
 Steve: Just like with your own children, dealing with problems with foster children can be challenging. I need to continually remind myself that my own kids have just as challenging of problems.

#### What are some of the rewards foster parents face?

Steve: Knowing that you are providing a safe place and providing the love that they need. The greatest thing for me is when I come home and Alexis and Adrian run up and yell, "Papa! Papa! I am so glad you are home!"

#### You have recently adopted two children through the foster/adopt system, what was your experience?

Vicki: As we were fostering Alexis and Adrian, they aged out of the system and had to be adopted. The adoption process took 9 months, during that process is when I questioned whether it was a good idea to adopt at my age.

Steve: On the day of the adoption, Alexis told me that she had a gift for me and that the gift was her and Adrian. I knew then that Alexis had chosen us, just as much as we had chosen her and Adrian. There was never any question for me, I knew we had to adopt them.

#### You have not only adopted children, but also reached out to their biological mother, what was your experience like?

Steve: Before fostering/adopting Alexis and Adrian, we did everything we could to help keep them with their biological parents. Eventually, it just wasn't possible anymore. Now, their biological mother still visits the children once a week, sometimes staying for one or two days. Vicki and I plan to continue that relationship as long as possible. Alexis and AJ know she is their biological mother, but to them Vicki is "mom". Vicki is not only mom to the children, but also a mom to the biological mother.



### Popcorn and a movie:

"October Baby" tells the story of Hannah, a young woman who learns that her life is much different than what she's known up until now. After learning she was actually adopted-after a failed abortion attempt-Hannah embarks on an incredible journey to discover her different past and find hope for her unknown future. In theaters now!



"Like Dandelion Dust" is a compelling drama about a young boy who lives an idyllic life with his adoptive parents on the coast of Florida. It's a postcard childhood until the day they receive a disturbing phone call: his birth parents want Joey back (a rare case based on fraud). One family is determined to keep the son they love, the other to begin a new life, one they've always dreamed of, and rise above the challenges of alcoholism and domestic abuse that have plagued them. Someone must make the bravest decision of their life; sometimes the greatest love is letting go. Now available on DVD.

### How you can help:

**Donate** – 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!

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