

# Amaris Ministries

585 W. Orange Ave., El Centro, CA 92273 760.337.9444  
info@AmarisMinistries.com www.AmarisMinistries.com

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families. Psalm 68:5-6a*



## National Foster Care Month 2016 "Honoring, Uniting, and Celebrating Families"

[www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth)



In spite of rain and wind the ETC conference April 8 and 9 was a success! Parents who attended shared comments with us about how they were impacted by this 2-day training.

"The one that struck us the most was "The Attachment Dance" session by Amanda Howard. Why does attachment matter? It's an eye opener for us



to learn that our own childhood is what formed our personal attachment patterns. So now we see how our experience with our parents/family has a bearing on how we react, handle and pattern our relationship with each other. Now that we understand "our attachment pattern" we can better respond and adjust all the more to each other's reaction/responses to situations in our daily lives. God willing, in the near future, we now have the ideas and tools to assist us to raise a child with wisdom."

*Philip & Violet, Foster parents-to-be*



"I learned so much about how trauma and difficult backgrounds affect children. This has given me hope! I can change our home life; we can have peace... and stop the arguing and fighting with my pre-teen daughter."

*Mom who found Hope*

"This is the second TBRI conference that my husband and I have attended. Without

fail, we continue to learn how to better parent each time we attend. TBRI principles and practices provide great tools for parents that have children that come from difficult childhoods. These trainings are an excellent resource for adoptive and foster parents, social workers, teachers, and anyone that cares for and are passionate about children."

*Marc and Lupe McManaway, Foster/Adopt Parents*



### PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER

- ◆ Upcoming July 7 & 8 conference, 2nd Annual "Kids From Hard Places", and the guest instructors, Jayne and David Schooler; also for many parents, teachers, and agency staff to sign up and attend the conference.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the Foster and Adoptive Families who have children in the court process — wisdom for judges, attorneys, and social workers.

### INVEST IN CHILDREN & PARENTS

**SPONSOR** our July conference with scholarships for foster parents, childcare or sponsor monthly to continue outreach year round.

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# Facts About YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION



## 20%

OF CHILDREN IN US FOSTER CARE WAIT **5 YEARS** OR MORE FOR ADOPTION

## 2 YEARS OLD

AGE AT WHICH MAJORITY OF KIDS IN FOSTER CARE ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES



# 114,000

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WAITING TO BE ADOPTED IN THE US

# 30,000

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO WILL "AGE OUT" OF THE US FOSTER CARE WITHOUT BEING ADOPTED

**AGING OUT:** PROCESS WHEN FOSTER YOUTH IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR FOSTER CARE SERVICES WHEN TURNING 21. YOUTH WHO "AGE OUT" MUST SUDDENLY LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN HOUSING, SCHOOL AND FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.



**1 IN 3** AMERICANS TALK ABOUT ADOPTING



**ONLY 2%** ACTUALLY ADOPT

# 5-7 MILLION

NUMBER OF ADOPTED PERSONS LIVING IN THE US



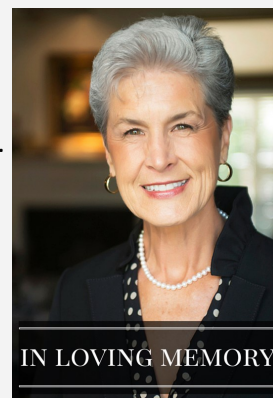
IF **1** FAMILY FROM **1** OUT OF **EVERY 3** CHURCHES ADOPTED, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE ORPHANS IN THE US.



# MAYBE THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HOME

for a little more love?

## Dr. Karyn Purvis, founder of Trust Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI)



It is with a great sense of loss that we add this tribute to Dr. Karyn Purvis to our newsletter. Dr. Karyn's body succumbed to a long battle with cancer on April 12, 2016. For those of you who are not familiar with her, Dr. Karyn Purvis is probably the single most influential person to Amaris Ministries and the way we train and support foster and adoptive families. She was the director of the TCU Institute of Child Development and co-author of the best-selling adoption book, *The Connected Child*. Several of us have trained directly under her.

Countless parents across the globe mourn the loss of this woman who was akin to a loving grandmother who taught, nurtured, guided and encouraged us with our "children from hard places." To "Miss Karyn," every child was precious and no child was beyond hope if their caretaker could only learn to see the needs beneath their behavior and connect with them in a way that would build a trusting relationship. It is this trusting connection that would then bring about behavioral changes to a child whose very brain chemistry and wiring has been altered due to various forms of trauma and neglect.

Karyn has nurtured literally tens of thousands of children toward healing and health with her melodic voice, soft touch and through her always gentle, gracious, and hopeful ways. She modeled the character of Jesus, described so well in 1 Corinthians 13, "Love is patient, love is kind...It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Jedd Medifind, President of CAFO, lovingly expresses, "Karyn will not teach at the CAFO Summit this year as she did so many times before. But a father will kneel so he can speak face-to-face with his son. A mother will take her daughter's small face in her hands, expressing words of affirmation. Mentors and foster parents and teachers and social workers will listen patiently, explain gently, correct with equal parts firmness and tenderness, and seek connection above all, reflecting the One who created us to connect. That inheritance, passed from one generation to the next, will certainly not stop there. It will echo again, as those children become parents and mentors and teachers themselves someday. And so on, long after the name of Karyn Purvis has been forgotten. Could anyone hope for a legacy greater than that?"



And here at Amaris Ministries, the legacy of Dr. Purvis will live on as we continue to use her materials, methods, and those who have been taught by her to teach others who long to learn how to connect with the children that they parent or work with. +