



Himes Herald

"A father to the fatherless... God sets the lonely in families"
- Psalm 68:5-6

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Christmas 2006

Issue #7

Christmas 2006 Edition

Merry Christmas! In October we celebrated our two year marriage anniversary and along with that came the two year anniversary of the Himes Herald. Two years isn't all that long but as we think about our family, friends, work, church and personal lives a lot has happened. God has a way of weaving lives, people, plans and dreams together. God continues to transform and challenges us to be who He created us to be. Most of this issue is focusing on our most recent adventure, our journey to start our family through adoption.

Adventure of Adoption

We spent much of this year learning and exploring international adoption. In September we officially started the process with an organization called American World Adoption. Adoption raises a lot of questions so we wanted to share with you our hearts and answer some of the common questions people are asking us:

1. Why are you adopting?

Adoption is something we discussed and both had a common desire for even before we were married. We have both traveled around the world, have a heart for the nations and a desire to build our family through adoption. We do still want to have our own children and believe that God is going to build our family both through biological and adopted children.

3. Where are you adopting from?

We are planning to adopt a baby boy from Ethiopia and he will most likely be under one year of age.

4. Why Ethiopia, why not another country?

We selected Ethiopia for a variety of reasons. The main reason is we've both traveled to East Africa and love the people of that region of the world. We have seen first hand children and babies in orphanages with no hope for a future or a family to love them.

4. How does the process work ?

We expect the process to take about 10-14 months. We are now in the paper work phases which can last 4-5 months. We must complete a home study, criminal background check, references and verify our financial, insurance, personal and employment histories. We also

Adoption con't

must get permission from the US Government to adopt. Once that is complete we will enter a waiting stage which will last 4-6 months while our documents are translated and sent to Ethiopia.



Northern Africa—Ethiopia in green

Then we receive a referral where we see a picture and obtain some history of the baby they matched us with. Once we accept the referral we will spend a few months making travel arrangements and then travel to Ethiopia for a week to pick up our baby!

5. I've heard adoption is expensive?

International adoption costs \$15,000—\$35,000 depending on the country. Ethiopia will cost about \$20,000. There are some limited sources of financial aid, a federal tax credit and grants we are applying for. We currently do not have the funds needed to complete this adoption ourselves, however, we believe this is something God wants us to do and that He will make the funds available.

6. Is adoption Biblical?

We encourage you to take a look at the following passages to see God's heart on adoption: John 14:18, James 1:27, Romans 8:15 & 23, Psalm 68:5-6, Genesis 17:9-13 (pay attention to who God considers is in Abraham's family.)

7. Can I help out in any way?

Yes, pray for us! Several of you have already been a great support as we've asked for help with the paperwork. If God has put a desire in your heart to help us financially please let us know as we are in the process of being setup so donations you give would be tax deductible. Finally, email Scott at himesa@gmail.com if you would like to keep updated on our progress. We will send out regular emails and also setup a website where you can follow the developments as they happen.

Let us know if you have any questions or a desire to partner with us on this journey. We are excited about what God is doing and want others to be a part of this experience with us!



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Our Life Group

When we were in Dallas, TX we connected with a group of young people that were at a similar place in life and became our extended family. It's been almost three years since we both left Dallas and we haven't found a group like that until just recently. In September our church started 40 Days of Purpose and we led a Life Group with other young married couples. It has been amazing as we've built relationships that are centered around Christ, but also add value and purpose to our life throughout the week. God reminded us the importance of living life with other people who share many of the same struggles, challenges and opportunities as we do. God also reminded us how easy (and often comfortable) it is to withdraw from those around us and

'cocoon' ourselves from others. While this may be the easiest thing to do in the near term, it leads to isolation, loneliness and lack of purpose and relationships over time. Our desire is to live in spiritual family like we see demonstrated in Acts 2:42-47. What would happen if the community we see in Acts 2 really happened in the relationships we have in our life and your life?



Our Life Group at Dinner