



# Fall Newsletter

November 2014

## Welcome Home

**Freya—Domestic**

**Smith —Domestic**

**Amelia—Domestic**

**Payton—Domestic**

**Everly—Domestic**

**Sadie—US**

**Zelalem—Ethiopia**

**Baby Smith :)**



We would love to feature a photo of your child in our newsletter. Please be sure to send us submissions to include at [jenn@kcr.ca](mailto:jenn@kcr.ca).

## November is Adoption Awareness Month!

...which means there are many activities going on around the Province to promote and celebrate adoption. A great place to check for events in your community is on the Adoptive Families of BC website [www.bcadoption.com](http://www.bcadoption.com). They have events broken down by date and area. Check it out and see if there is an event close to you!

## INFORMATION SESSION

**Our next information session is on November 20 at 7:00 pm in Kelowna.**

**Please contact our office to register and receive the details on the location.**

## Adoption News

### ON-LINE PROFILES!

Many of you have contacted us asking about having your profiles on-line and linked to our website. We have come up with a way to do this and are excited to offer this as an option for families who are comfortable in having their information out there in a much more public format. This will be optional for families as we are very aware that for some of you this might be a little too public. You have to remember that anyone will be able to click on the link and see your one page submission.

Please send us three to five photo attachments (JPEG) as well as a brief overview of who you are! Everything you send will need to fit into a one page template that our computer department will manage. They will input your information and then link the one page document to our website. If birth parents are looking at our site and want to see some of our approved adoptive parents, they will be able to click on the appropriate link and your information will be there! If birth parents are interested in learning more about you, they will contact us and we will take it from there!

If you want to go ahead, we ask that you send Deanna ([dnotte@kcr.ca](mailto:dnotte@kcr.ca)) an email requesting the waiver form, sample profile and instructions!

## Remember

We work with US, Ethiopia, South Africa, Haiti, China and Bulgaria.

Be sure to call us to learn about any of these inter-country programs.

FYI.....

We were curious about Ebola and if it was having an impact on adoptions from South Africa so we asked! Apparently the Ebola outbreak to date has not impacted the regions of Southern Africa or South Africa in specific and it is not expected to do so. As a matter of fact, registrations for the South Africa program have increased this past month according to MOT staff.!

## Remember

where we are:  
255 Lawrence Ave., Kelowna BC  
Monday- Friday; 8:30-4:30  
(closed for lunch 12-1)

## Adopting from South Africa

I had the honor to meet with Gordon Lewis (ED of Mission of Tears) and Robyn Shepstone, the South African social worker who is working with Mission of Tears in South Africa in Edmonton recently on October 5, 2014 to learn more about this exciting new adoption program available to BC'ers through the Adoption Centre of BC. Rev. Lewis and Ms. Shepstone clearly outlined the process to adopt from South Africa leaving me with the impression that this is a very exciting program for a number of different reasons: 1) the children available are relatively young and; 2) wait times at this point are very short in the realm of intercountry adoptions and; 3) Criteria for adopting are not overly prohibitive for BCer's!

Despite some bad press from years ago the prospects of adopting from South Africa appear to be better than ever! Here are some of the details:

### Children Available:

The majority of children are from 8 months of age and older. The majority of the children are male. All children are of black African heritage.

### South African Criteria for adoption:

- Couples must be married a minimum of 2 years;
- Have a minimum of high school education;
- Have a sound financial portfolio;
- At least one is a Canadian Citizen;
- Not divorced more than once per spouse.

There must be a minimum of 18 months between the youngest child and the adopted child and the newly adopted child cannot be older than the previous child in the home. If you are curious about this country and the adoption process, please contact our agency and we can provide additional details and next steps! - JENNIFER WALL



Above is the South Africa Adoption team! From left to right: Robyn Shepstone (Social Worker, SA facilitator), Diane and Gordon Lewis from Mission of Tears.

## Bits and Pieces

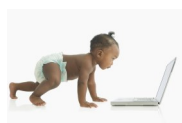
### Reminder:

- Stay connected with ACBC by making sure that you "LIKE" us on **FACE-BOOK!** This is where we post information on countries to adopt from, educational opportunities as well as support group opportunities! Join now!!



### Remember

Keep in touch and let us know if you will be going away on vacation so we can reach



### Up-date on Adoption By Shepherds Care

Adoption By Shepherds Care (ASC), based in Florida USA has continued to be a very popular choice for families wishing to adopt a newborn. ASC is able to maintain a certain number of families on their caseload and when they get to their maximum they stop accepting new families for a period of time. At the moment they are closed to new applicants, but there is a good chance they will be opening again in January so if you are interested in this program, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure you are ready to go when they are!

### Privacy Guidelines

As an agency we have been made aware of new guidelines around privacy of information. The biggest issue we see is that we are no longer allowed to email our families with information, unless **you consent** to receiving emails specific to the services you are requesting. If you have not already done so, and would like to be able to continue to communicate with us via email, please send Vickie an email at [adoptioninfo@kcr.ca](mailto:adoptioninfo@kcr.ca) and ask to have our consent form sent to you. You can also click on the link at the bottom of our signatures in past emails to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time :). Don't miss any important information!



### Remember Who's Who.....

Just so that you don't forget who's here to assist you....

**Jennifer Wall**—Agency Administrator

**Marni King**—Part time social worker

**Deanna Notte**—Part time social worker

**Vickie Harvey**—Part time Program Assistant



A bit of Halloween fun!

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