



2021 Annual Report

Daniel and Hannah



nightlight[®]

Christian Adoptions

2021: Audacious Goals



Last fall I asked our team to make goals for the number of waiting children we want to see matched, and the number of foster placements we will have for each office.

I knew these goals were bold: maybe even unrealistic. Our team planned to have 100 foster placements this year, and to match 120 waiting children (photo-listed children from other countries immediately available for adoption). When we began the year, several of us thought we should reduce the goal of matching waiting children since it was so much higher than the year before. As we approached summer, I asked the international team if we need to lower it, and they said, "Absolutely not...we are going to reach it!" Similarly, with our foster goal, it became clear we were going to far EXCEED what we had ever dreamed possible. We raised the goal to 130 from where it was before.

The majority of our international placements continue to be from Colombia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Haiti. We have several families ready to adopt from China as soon as travel is allowed (please pray for open borders!). We received approval to open new programs in the Dominican Republic, Portugal, and Ecuador.

The explosive growth of our foster program has primarily been in South Carolina and Georgia, while we kept steady success in Colorado and had our first placements in California and Oklahoma. Our



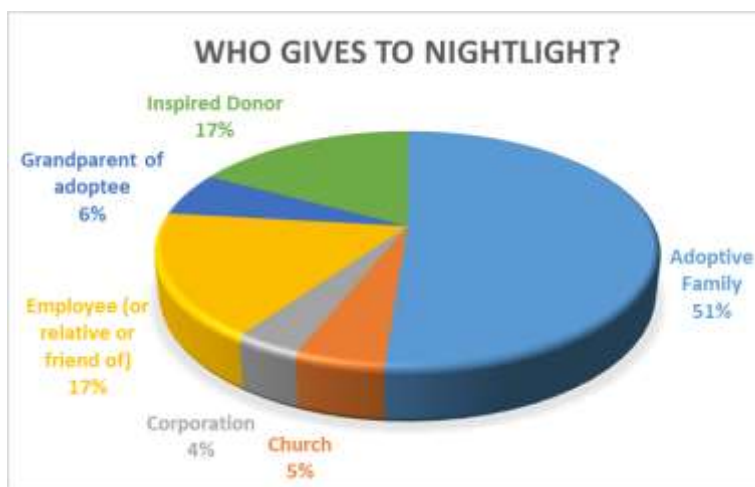
The Timm Family

Kentucky office received licensing to begin placements there, and we're hoping the same for Texas soon.

This success is the result of a what we call a culture of "Yes" at Nightlight: taking cases other agencies don't, looking for a path, and not taking "no" for an answer. We have a singular prism for decision-making: "Will it get more kids adopted?" And we have a team who are clear that if we have more adoptions this year, it will be because of specific efforts like those described above.

Our Snowflakes® program will also have an unprecedented number of babies born this year (89) and we have reached the milestone of over 857 children born from embryo adoption since we began. Whenever I speak at events or churches, it's a blessing to be able to tell people, "you can give birth to your adopted child."

Our domestic program was blessed to have the additional support and influence of a team in Amarillo, Texas, as we merged with Special Delivery Adoption Agency. Our pregnancy counselors also made (and reached) their ambitious goals of outreach visits to pregnancy resource centers.



Ironically, this record year of placements for Nightlight has resulted in a difficult year financially for us. We have had a 10% increase in revenue due to our growth, but at the same time we have had a 20% increase in expenses (due to inflation, and hiring new staff). The Federal Government also dropped our support of the Embryo Adoption Awareness Grant, which means we have an annual loss of \$255,000 to absorb.

If you would like to make a year-end donation to Nightlight, simply go to <https://nightlight.org/donate> or use this QR code

Thanks, and Merry Christmas!

Daniel Nehrbass, President



Teen Sends “Thanks” to Taiwan

Yang Cheng Wen

Sam was adopted from Taiwan when he was five years old. At the age of fifteen, he wrote the following letter to the police officer who found him. The letter was later delivered to the officer, and the story ran in Taiwan newspapers (<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4095546>)

Dear Yang Cheng Wen,

In my adoption file, I have a police report that states that you found me on my day of birth, September 24, 2005, outside of your apartment.



The Thoennes Family

I want to thank you for helping me get the attention I needed. You saved my life.

I want to tell you little bit about myself. I just turned fifteen years old. I love playing basketball and lifting weights. I love good food. I am a good high school student and work hard. I lived with a foster mother in Taiwan for five years and then was adopted



to the United States. We are a happy family and I love them. I have other siblings from Taiwan and a dog named Boba. I love God and trust that He has my life in his hands. In the Bible, it says: “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

I would love to visit Hualien someday. Would you be interested to meet me if my family and I travel there? If you receive this, I would be grateful to hear a response from you. I am very grateful for your role in my life.

With gratitude for you,

Sam

The Extraordinary People We Serve

You may have heard about baby “Tommy” who was born with special needs in 2019. We posted his profile online, because we knew finding an adoptive family would require a nationwide search. But we were flooded with over 200,000 shares on FaceBook, and received over 30,000 emails inquiring about him, followed by dozens of applications to adopt him. The lucky parents wrote this recent update on him:

“He is doing great! We are actually on our way to OU Children's for an appointment. He will have surgery tomorrow to get a g tube placed. He is only on oxygen to sleep now. He is growing so fast. He is up to 31 pounds now. He can say a few words- mama, dada and book. I will send you a video of him saying book. He is happy, smiling and “talking” all the time. He still has therapy every week. He is sitting and standing really well with minimal support. He is such a wonderful blessing and joy in our lives! We are so very blessed to have him! We will always be grateful to you all for this precious gift.”



Baby “Tommy”

Welcome Home!

Nov 2020 to Oct 2021

Foster Adoptions

Joshua
William
Christopher
Arabella
Danielle
Noah
Jaydin
Matthew

International Adoptions

Abraham
Adaleen
Addison
Akshar
Alejandro
Armie
Alexandros
Alison
Andres
Arabella
Athanassios
Baraka
Baran
Bernarson
Brahian
Blanca
Chikodi
Callie
Christine
Danna
Daria
Divine
Edward
Emanuela
Emmanuella
Escaille
Estefani
Eternity
Eustace
Finley
Georgiana
Hana
Haven
Hlib
Isaac
Isabella
Ivan
Jhohan
Jayce
Jose
Jose
Johan
Jonathan
Jovee
Juan
Judy
Karen
Kalena
Kassandra

Levi
Locke
Luci
Luisa
Maiia
Mala
Maria
Maria
Maria
Marie
Marieva
Maureen
Manuela
Maximiliano
Maynor
Moses
Nataliya
Nadia
Negaar
Nickan
Oleksandra
Olena
Pavan
Pavlo
Princess
Queenie
Salim
Santiago
Sergey
Serenity
Shubhra
Selah
Simon
Simon
Sofia
Stanislav
Senamakafui
Stephen
Stivenson
Suraj
Sunyaar
Tassere
Theodore
Thomas
Valentina
VinhSon
William
Yoana
Zinep
Zoey
Zuri

Domestic Adoptions

Alexander
Alyssa
Anders
Andrew
Ava
Avielle
Baby

Caleb
Camila
Daniel
Elijah
Elizabeth
Ella
Ginevra
Girl
Goldie
Greta
Grace
Grayson
Hannah
Hiakeem
Isaac
Isaiah
Jack
Jack
James
Jay
Jayce
Lucas
Leo
Lincoln
Logan
Meggan
Mikaela
Natalie
Noah
Noelle
Ridge
Rose
Rowan
Rowan
Sophia
Stella
Sullivan
Talulah
Theodore
Tori
Travis
Wyatt
Yeferson

Snowflakes® Babies

Adelaide
Adelyn
Amelia
Aria
Ariana
Asher
Atlas
Aubrey
Benjamin
Caleb
Carson
Charlotte
Daelyn
David
Easton
Edgar

Eli
Elijah
Emilia
Emryn
Evelyn
Ezekiel
Ezekiel
Francis
Gideon
Hadley
Hailey
Hanaley
Henderson
Howard
Hudson
Isaac
Isabel
Jakob
James
James
Jayden
Jesse
Joel
John
Judah
Josephine
Katherine
Kolby
Kristoff
Liliana
Lincoln
Logan
Luke
Lydia
Mary
Maya
Micah
Micah
Miles
Miles
Natalie
Naomi
Noah
Peyton
Randolph
Rudy
Rylie
Samuel
Steven
Sutton
Thomas
Timothy
Tyler
Wesley
Wesley
Zachary
Zoey
Zofi

Foster Placements

Aayden
Abel
Aiden
Aiden
Akeema
Aleais
Aleana
Alexander
Allizon
Aly'assia
Amanda
Andray
Angel
Arabella
Ariel
Aubrey
Aunna
Aurelia
Ava
Ayden
Ayden
Bailey
Betta
Betty
Braden
Brayden
Brennen
Bricen
Bryson
Casey
Cayden
Chance
Coly
Cristian
Danielle
Danielle
Dannica
Destin
Devon
Donnie
Dustin
Elijah
Ella
Ella
Emery
Emma
Emma
Emma
Esperanza
Ethan
Glenis
Gloria
Gracen
Happy
Harlam
Haylee
Heaven
Hope
Hudson
Hunter

Irene
James
Jamie
Jayce
Jaydin
Jayon
Jayara
Hayvier
Jerimia
Jazmin
Jazmine
Johnathan
Jonathan
Jordan
Joseph
Joshua
Kadencie
Kaecen
Kailah
Kailynn
Karter
Kason
Kratas
Kharlie
Khaos
Kayden
Kaylani
Kelsey
Khaleesi
Khia
Khilynn
Kourtnie
Leonidas
Lorenzo
Mace
Makayla
Mariyah
Marshall
Mason
Matthew
McKenzie
Melissa
Messiah
Nathaliah
Nevah
Noah
Olivia
Olliver
Rosnor
Russel
Rylye
Samantha
Sapphire
Selina
Shane
Shanell
Shelby
Sophia
Timothy
Vonda
Wylie

A Snowflake Frozen 24 years

We were given less than 1% chance of conceiving on our own. My husband, Steven, and I had been trying for a baby for five years. This is a place we never thought we would go, and yet here we were. Due to our low chances, we decided to pursue IUI, and eventually, IVF. However, as these methods failed, it quickly became clear God was leading us in a different direction.

One night, on a whim, we decided to attend a meeting about adoption and foster care at our church. This is where we learned about the Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program. We waited another six months or so and processed the loss of having our own child the “natural” way before God worked on our hearts to pursue embryo adoption.

The process from application to home study took us six months, and then we anxiously awaited a match. Thankfully, we were matched about a month later! It was a family in California who had created these embryos 18 years prior using an egg donor (so very little was known about the mother). They had two successful babies from the process who were now teenagers. There were 7 embryos left that had remained frozen since 1997, and we would be responsible for all of them.

My husband and I were on vacation when we received the match. As we hiked along the beautiful trails, we prayed about it. Then, we turned to each other and asked what the other thought. We both came to the conclusion that there was no reason to *not* adopt these embryos! Our desire more than anything was to pour into a child the love of Christ, and biology really did not matter to us. We wanted to share our hearts and our love with a child.

After completing the necessary legal process, we were the proud parents of 7 little embryos. We checked with every fertility clinic in Colorado (where we live) to see if they would accept the shipped embryos and help us with transfers—they all said no. So instead, we traveled from Colorado

to California for the transfers. This actually ended up being a really sweet time where we were able to relax on the beach and enjoy time as a couple during each transfer time.

The doctor who performed the transfer was the same doctor who had frozen these embryos 18 years prior. From the group of 7 embryos, only two survived the thaw and growth. Our first single embryo transfer went smoothly, and then we anxiously waited. When we got that positive test result, we were thrilled! Nine months later, we welcomed our precious and long-awaited son, Tyler, in August 2017. He was perfect and felt just as much like ours as if we had conceived him ourselves.



The Lisano Kids

We still had one embryo frozen at this point, and we very much desired for Tyler to have a sibling. However, we knew this was up to God. We felt like we had already won the jackpot by getting Tyler as our son, so we knew that it was really in God’s hands if we would have another. This is when God put two things on my heart.

The first was the story of Hannah in the Bible, and how Elkanah loved her so much despite her infertility that he always gave her a double portion of any gifts. How much more does God love each of us?!

The second revelation was that no matter how our family’s story unfolded, God deserved to receive all the glory. So I prayed that no matter what, God would be in the spotlight- this is when I finally handed the whole journey over to God.

About a year after Tyler was born, we started planning our next embryo transfer. And then the unexpected happened.... we were pregnant on our own, without any assistance! The pregnancy went smoothly, and we were blessed with our precious and long-promised daughter, Hannah, in July 2019.

As the days and months passed, we still had this one embryo waiting. Steven and I both knew that this little embryo deserved a chance at life just as much as any other. We prayed for this baby every day, along with our two beautiful children that we had already been blessed with. We scheduled the next embryo transfer, about a year after Hannah’s birth. Thankfully, this transfer went smoothly, and by God’s grace, we were blessed with another baby! Our son, Jayden, joined our family in June 2021. He is a full genetic sibling to Tyler, and he is perfect in every way. **It is hard to believe he was frozen for nearly 24 years!**

We are blessed to have a beautiful “extended family” with Tyler and Jayden’s donor family and their 23-year-old siblings: Brianna and John. We have had the opportunity to get together in person with Brianna a few times, and we cherish this special relationship that our families share. It is such a special story, and we are so grateful that this family chose to keep these embryos around and allow us to be their parents.

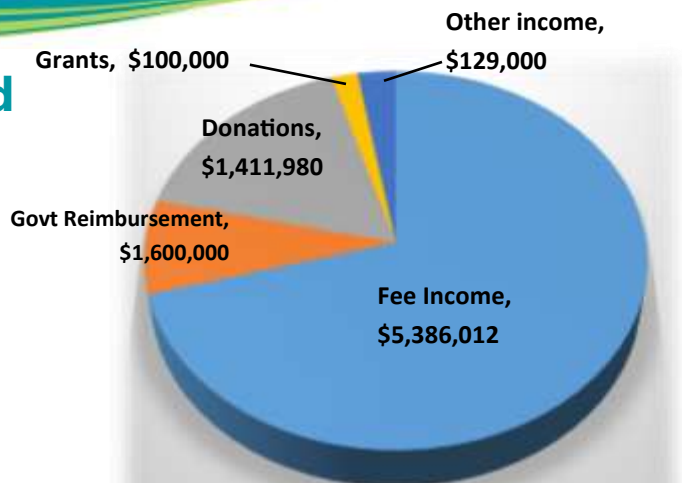
God truly did make rivers in the desert and a way in the wilderness for our family. There were days that I wasn’t sure we would share our lives with one child, and here we are with three little children under the age of four! God knows how to paint a beautiful picture, and I know that our family’s picture is still being painted.

Financial Information

How we fund our mission

(2022 Budget)

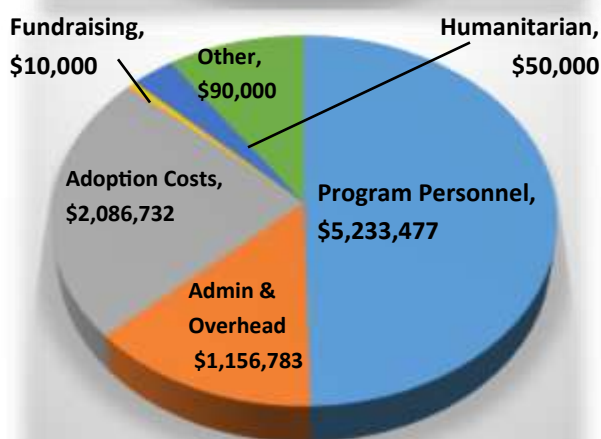
\$8,626,992



The cost of our mission

(2022 Budget)

\$8,626,992

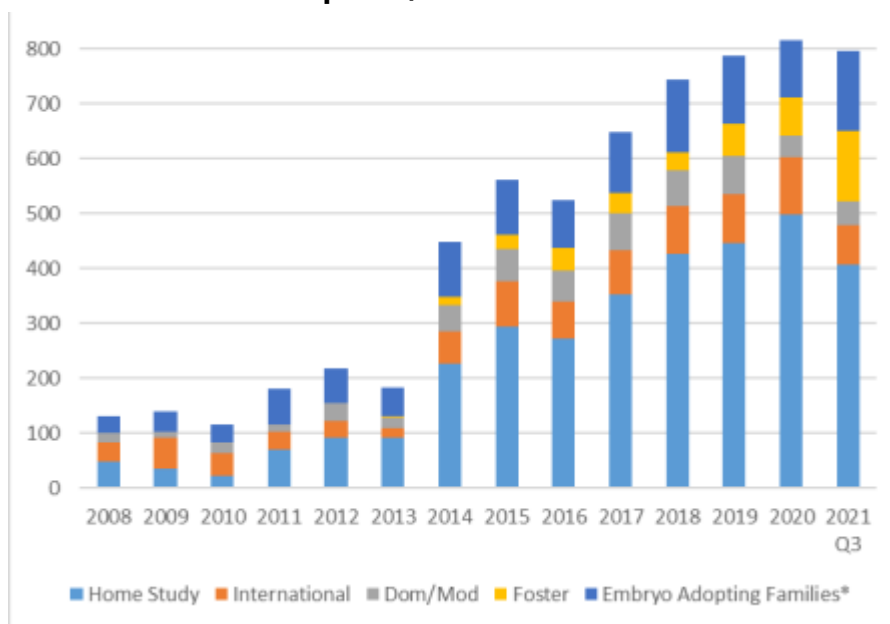


How do we spend donations?

Your donations enable us to

- Provide support to orphanages
- Fund adoption grants
- Offset the cost of adoption (families currently pay only 70% of the cost of their adoption)
- Start new programs that have no revenue stream (new countries, new foster care locations)

Number of Adoptions, Placements and Families Served



Assurance During the Wait

It had been a week of long discussions in our household....“Maybe God doesn’t want us to adopt again....Maybe we’re meant to do something else....We’ve been waiting and it just hasn’t happened.....Could this be a sign?” We had been in the adoption process for our second child for over two years. Not only that, but we’d already been matched with a birthmother and that adoption had fallen through. We were doubting everything at this moment.....my husband much more than myself, but I was still wondering what God wanted us to do. Little did I know, God was working in someone else’s life at the same time.

Not too many miles away, a birthmother sat in her room wondering what she was going to do. She had worked with a pregnancy counseling center which had referred her to an adoption agency, but she was still scared. She had kept this child a secret from everyone but deep down she knew she was making the right decision.

I continued to sit on the back porch and pray each night....“God, I am here to do your will. Although my heart wants to adopt another child, if we are meant to do something else, lead us. However, if we’re meant to adopt, I need you to make this obvious to my husband who is in tremendous doubt at this moment.” As we were seeking God, He was leading someone else to us.

The days were starting to become long and uncomfortable as a birthmother’s belly began to grow. The sweatshirts were barely disguising her secret. She knew the time was nearing but was still very uncertain of when this child would make its entry into the world. And then....

I had started a tutoring session with a kindergartener at my friend’s house. When my cellphone rang, I saw it was the adoption agency but I didn’t want to be rude to my miniature client. Although, in the back of my mind, I was wondering....“They’re probably just wanting to show our profile book to an expectant mother and wanting to explain the scenario to us before doing so.....But....maybe it’s something else.” So I told my friend that the adoption agency had called and that I was going to step outside and call them back.

In a hospital bed she sat with her mother looking at

adoption profiles. “I don’t know who to choose. Hopefully, I’ll just have a feeling.” And as she picked up the next profile book, she thought, “that face looks familiar.” So, I stepped outside and made a phone call.

“Laura, do you have time to talk?”

“Sure. I was in the middle of a tutoring session but I’ve stepped outside. What’s up?”

“Well, I’ve got some news for you.”

“Oh really?”

“Yes, we have a baby. He’s already been born. And the birthmother has chosen you all. She said she knew your husband, Brandon.”

You see, Brandon met this birthmother over 12 years ago while doing volunteer work with a local organization. She was a teenager at that time. He had built relationships with his birthmother, birthmother’s siblings and her mother. It was this volunteer work that brought us together many years later. We believe that Brandon was put in this birthmother’s life for this time, this child and his life. Remember me praying to God to send Brandon a sign if we were meant to adopt?

Although this is where God initially planted the seed of life, He continued to guide us to it. Brandon and I were both involved with the local pregnancy counseling center, Clarity, in our hometown. We had financially supported Clarity at their yearly fundraising banquet.

I had also participated in several of Clarity’s walk for life fundraisers and had even gone through a training put on by our home church through Clarity to help clients be welcomed into church. We both saw what a wonderful program Clarity was and wanted to do what we could to support them.

Finally, all of the pieces made a full circle. Our little boy was born in March. Clarity assisted this birthmother by helping her contact Nightlight to discuss an adoption plan. In the hospital, this birthmother chose us because she recognized Brandon from his volunteer work many years ago. We never imagined what a little volunteer work would evolve into 12 years later. But we are so thankful that it did.

We firmly believe we are exactly where God wants us to be. We have two little boys; a four year old and a six month old both adopted through Nightlight. We are so, so blessed and we thank Nightlight along with Clarity for guiding this birthmother to life and to us. (Although, we all know this was part of a much greater plan.)



Laura, Ashley & babies

Major Donors

Many thanks to our major donors whose names have not been included on this list either because they have not consented to being listed or would like to remain anonymous. Please contact Daniel if you consent to having your name listed and we would be happy to add you!

Individual Donors over \$1000

Betsy Tanner	Johnnie & Anneke De Jong
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Key Dates for 2022

Annual Gala (SoCal), March 20
 Summer Reunion (All offices), June 18

