

# Speak up

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## Saving Snowflakes

**RYAN AND APRIL** Cannon had one child and wanted more. Their second baby girl was born with a rare genetic disorder and died shortly after birth. They did not want to pass along the disorder, so what could they do? They could adopt, but then they'd miss out on the joy of pregnancy and childbirth.

That's when they learned about Snowflakes Embryo Adoption, a special program of Nightlight Christian Adoptions Agency.

Another couple had earlier donated their embryos through Snowflakes, hoping that a caring Christian couple would adopt their unborn children (embryos). Amanda Fletcher, a mother who had embryos leftover from unsuccessful fertility treatments, explained, "We wanted a family that was active and involved in their church and had

a close family.” Both couples found everything they were looking for when they were matched through Snowflakes.

When most people think about adoption, they picture a young couple joyfully bringing home a baby or older child and bonding together as a new family. And for about 120,000 children each year, this describes the blessing of adoption. But it’s now possible to adopt even younger children—those in early stages of life currently being stored in clinics and laboratories across the United States.

As the popularity of fertility treatments has grown, so has the number of people turning to in vitro fertilization. While using such a procedure is controversial within many circles, Christians should not overlook the estimated 700,000 embryos now in frozen storage. These embryos are image bearers of their Creator. Yet their future is in limbo, as they wait for a chance to continue life rather than to remain frozen or be destroyed.

Christians must prayerfully provide biblical answers to the tough questions surrounding these issues. But adopting embryos is consistent with the Bible’s command to love and save lives.

Rescuing lives from the freezer is one reason Nightlight Christian Adoptions Agency began its embryo adoption program. The ministry chose the term *snowflake* to describe the program because “just like embryos in storage, snowflakes are frozen, unique gifts from God,” says program director Kimberly Tyson. “We believe that life begins at fertilization, and my ministry is to help families give these embryos a chance at life.”

So far the Snowflakes Adoption Program has worked with over 2,000 families to save lives. As of the beginning of this year, 470 babies had been born into new, loving homes. ■

Email [info@snowflakes.org](mailto:info@snowflakes.org), or go to [snowflakes.org](http://snowflakes.org) for more information.

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