



Photo: The Li Family

2018 Annual Report



nightlight[®]

Christian Adoptions and Foster Services

2019: Keeping the “Great Commission and Great Commandments”



In the Bible, we read that one of Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Which of the commandments is the greatest?” Jesus answered that it was to love God with your whole heart, and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

We call the love of neighbor the “Second Greatest Commandment.” At the end of the Gospels, Jesus sent his people to “make disciples of all nations.” We call this the Great Commission. At Nightlight, we are mindful that our work of adoption accomplishes the Great Commission and the Great Commandments to love God and neighbor.

This year, a friend of our family died. This caused our daughter, Aidana, (pictured to the right) to ask about what happens when people die. My wife explained to her about heaven. A few days later, we were at a restaurant, and Aidana pointed at all the people in the restaurant and said, “Mom...tell them.” My wife said, “Tell them what?” “What you told me about heaven. Tell them.” This reminded me what a great impact adoption has on the lives of children. Aidana knew there was a sense of urgency about telling people the Good News. And we know there is a sense of urgency about providing all children a permanent, loving home.

Our daughter Natasha was placed in our home when she was two years old, but it was not until she was four years old that the adoption was finalized. After it was final, we had to go to the Social Security Office to officially change her last name (though she had been using our last name for as long as she could remember). We didn’t explain what was going on to her. But we must have said something about changing her name. As we left the building, she asked us very casually...“So what’s my new name?” We laughed because, of course, there was no change from our perspective. But, we laughed even more because we realized that she had so willingly gone through a process that, for all she knew, would result in us calling her some new name that was a mystery. One of the promises made in Revelation 2:17 is, “I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” In the ancient world, white stones were used for voting. This promise reminds us that God knows each of our names, and that God has an intimate and special relationship with each of us. What’s more, God casts a “yes” vote in favor of us!

When I first started at Nightlight, one of our financial donors asked me if our agency was still committed to the Gospel. I said yes, and he replied, “Don’t go humanitarian. It’s so easy to go humanitarian. Anyone can do that, but there is so much more than being a do-gooder. Adoption is a work of the Gospel.”

We had our most successful year on record in 2018 with several accomplishments:

- We began a project in Colorado called "Homes for Hope" where foster families will provide care for up to five foster children entering foster care in emergency placement situations.
- We completed 24 adoptions from Colombia and had an in-country host program where families travelled for 10 days and hosted children there.



- We opened a new program in Malawi and had 3 adoptions from that country.
- We officially opened our Florida office and have already had several placements.
- We opened the Post Adoption Connection Center, the first of its kind in the nation, offering post adoption support to families from any agency.
- We had the highest participation in a single year in the Snowflakes program, with 300 families.

We wish you a Merry Christmas! Please consider making a year-end gift to Nightlight with the envelope provided, or online at www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities.

Key Dates for 2019

Annual Gala (SoCal), April 27

Summer Reunion (All offices), June 22

Generations Hope Gala (Waco, TX), October 26

Vivian’s Hope (SoCal), November 9

Monte Carlo Night (SoCal), November 16

“Working All Things Together for Good” (Romans 8:28)

Bryan and Gina Fairchild first began their adoption journey with their Nicaragua application in February, 2017. They were drawn to Nicaragua because they had been on mission trips there and were close friends with another Nightlight Nicaragua adoptive family. They strongly desired to adopt a sibling group, but the waiting children referrals from Nicaragua at that time were only single children. After a long wait for siblings, the Fairchilds felt led to adopt a waiting child named Louie (age 12). They submitted their dossier and waited for the approval. Nothing happened. Months went by with no news. Eventually, in March 2018, they were told that Louie’s biological mother had started making visits to the orphanage and that Nicaragua had decided to revisit reunification instead of adoption. The Fairchilds were disappointed, but of course, hopeful for Louie to be reunified with his mother.

Around the same time, there were many changes in Nicaragua. UNICEF had just given Nicaragua a large amount of money to reward them for reducing the number of children in orphanages. Nicaragua had recently begun a big push to get kids out of orphanages and into foster care. The result was that Nicaragua slowed down adoptions in preference of temporary foster care. The Fairchilds continued to wait, but there were no new waiting children provided for their consideration. Soon, the political climate in Nicaragua became volatile.

In the meantime, Nightlight was approached by a family living in Texas who had strong ties to Honduras. This family kept calling Nightlight persistently, asking us to consider opening a program in Honduras. Lisa Prather began to do the research and traveled with this family to Honduras in the summer of 2017. In March of

this year, we received the file of three waiting children: a 12 year-old girl, a 10 year-old girl, and an 8 year-old boy. Lisa knew exactly who to talk to about these children! She called the Fairchild family, and they were immediately on board with switching to the Honduras program. Of course, we could give no guarantees that they would receive the match of these children. Bryan and Gina worked super-fast to get their home study and dossier updated and submit everything to Honduras in June. And then, everyone continued to wait. Finally, in August (almost one year after Lisa’s initial trip to Honduras), we received the word that the Fairchilds had

been chosen to be matched with the three children! The Fairchilds were invited to travel to Honduras and were able to meet their children for the first time in September. The Fairchilds have four biological children, and soon, they will all be reunited as a family of nine!

As a side note, the family who persistently asked Nightlight to start a program in Honduras has put their Honduras adoption on hold as they have been approached to adopt a sibling group from Honduras who are currently in the Texas foster system. Had

they not been so persistent, perhaps we would not have even looked at Honduras. God uses all of us to impact others, and His ways are not our ways. Sometimes, the path seems unclear or even completely dark, but He always knows the outcome. He knew before the Fairchilds began their adoption journey exactly where their children were. He directed their steps and ours to this very day. God’s mysterious ways are amazing!

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. Proverbs 16:9



The Fairchild Kids

Welcome Home!

International Adoptions

Aileen & Yazuri
Alexander
Amy
Andrise
Angelina
Arlo
Artyom
Bogdan
Brayan B
Brayan F
Caleb
Camila Salome
Cana
Clara
Daniel
Dasha
Dieunica
Dieunifait
Divenson
Eliza
Ephraim & Isla
Ezra
Franki
Fritzlin
Irvenson & Medgine
Jack Daniel
Jacob
James
Jason
Jesula
Jhonson
Jhon Sebastian
Joanna
John
Jonah
Jordan
Joshua
Josue & Samuel
Karl & Clarens
Kayden
Kevin & Jordith
Lambert
Luna & Maria
Lydia

Mateo
Maria
Matthew
Mia
Michael
Michel
Michelle
Nathaniel
Nicole & Sofi
Oksana
Ouma
Rock
Romy & Juliana
Ruslana
Ruth
Samson & Jacob
Sara
Sarah
Selah
Sheneica
Shirley
Sirena
Tikondane
Timothy
Vera

Snowflake Babies

Abraham Michael
Aiden Michael
Amos Jeffrey Thinh
Anne Margaret
Benjamin
Brynlee Jo
Cameron Lee
Carson Ray
Charlotte Rose
Chelsey Nicole
Claire Elizabeth
Clive Winston
Collette Noelle
Courtney Kathryn
Danilo Gabriel
Dylan John
Elijah Max
Elizabeth Hope
Emily Eileen
Evelyn Lea
Ezekiel Joshua

Finley Jack
Finley Joelle
Hailey Grace
Henry Knox
Jaxson Lee
Jedediah Levi
John David
John Samuel
Joshua
Juliette Sara
Luke
Miles Christopher
Miranda
Noah Kettler
Phoebe Eloise
Saskia Niyah Grace
Scout Dean
Thomas Michael
Willia Elizabeth
William Henry

Expecting Soon

Adam & Nicole
Alyssa
Andy & Melanie
Brady & Amber
Bryce & Kim
Chris & Heidi
Christin
Dana & Tasha
Daniel & Mary
Dante & Sharon
Dave & Dawn
David & Rachel
Jack & Lisa
Jacob & Brittany
Jason & Shelbie
Jeremiah & Spring
Jordan & Beth
Joseph & Alicia
Ken & Sam
Luis & Sybil
Marne
Matt & Jocelyn
Matt & Tracy
Micah & Jessica
Mike & Amy
Mike & Bridget

Paul & Carrie
PJ & Julie
Sidney & Rachel
Steve & Ashleigh
Tack & Jodi
TC & Johnna
Thomas & Chelsi
Tim & Ellen
Tyler & Rachel

Domestic Placements

Adeline
Alexis
Aliya
Aliyah
Amaya
Amy
Anthony
Arianna
Ashton
Ava
Ayden
Beatrice
Benedict
Bennett
Boone
Bria
Cole
Colin
Dawson
Easton
Elizabeth
Ellis
Faith
Gabriel
Gabiella
George
Gracie
Harper
Harrison
Hayes
Henry
Henry
Jack
Jackson
Jaynie
John
Joshua
Justin

Kaelan
Leo
Levi
Lucy
Lucy
Maddox
Madison
Maxwell
Myles
Noelle
Nora
Oakley
Parker
Peter
Ruby
Seriah
Theodore
Thomas

Foster Adoptions

Ariyana
Cyrus
David
Ethan
Gavan
Jackson
Jaylin
Melissa

Treasean
Violet
Yeremiah
Zayla

Foster Placements

Alexis
Bryce
Christopher
Ciana
Corey
Haydin
Isaiah
Jayde
Jaydin
Jeremy
Karma
Leeland
Max
Michael
Natalia
Opal
Robert
Tawny
Tayler
Terry
Tyhaunnie
Whitney



The Staniger Kids

Choosing and Completing an Embryo Adoption

After four years of dating, Tim and Ellen were joyfully married in January of 2013. They always talked about having children. Tim frequently joked that he wanted 2.5 kids (the national average). Ellen's younger brother was adopted from Russia at the age of two, so adoption was a part of the couple's discussion for building a family. What they didn't realize was how soon adoption was going to play a role in their lives. Married two years, they began having discussions on starting a family. They started by adopting their four-legged kid. One who is white with black spots and has the cutest ears—their puppy, Gus! He was the practice round for “real kids.”

Tim and Ellen began attempting to conceive a biological child, but having had no success, Ellen made an appointment with the doctor. She was told everything looked in order, and the doctor added that she “expected to see her back in her office pregnant in no time at all!” Unfortunately, that was not the outcome.

While Tim and Ellen were on vacation in July of 2016, they were listening to a podcast, and an ad came on for a Bible Club ministry in Eastern Europe. Ellen thought, “*I want to adopt from an Eastern European country, and I want to do it now.*” Immediately, she began researching international adoptions. But Tim and Ellen concluded that at ages 26 and 27, and one of whom was still in graduate school, international adoption needed to go on hold since international adoption is costly.

In October, Ellen confided about their struggles to conceive and the desire to adopt to a co-worker. She then told Ellen about a couple she knew who had *adopted embryos and given birth to their adopted child.* Immediately, Ellen was intrigued. She went straight home after work and, you guessed it, started researching!

Tim and Ellen were blown away! They thought, “What an amazing thing to be able to adopt children as embryos

and to carry them in pregnancy!” They spent several months thinking and praying about how to proceed. Ellen communicated with women who had gone through embryo adoption. She listened to video blogs, researched agencies, talked with agencies, and read the book *Souls on Ice*.

Through Tim and Ellen's subsequent testing with their fertility clinic, they decided embryo adoption was the right choice for them, and applied to the Snowflakes® Embryo Adoption Program. They felt comfortable with the people they interacted with and were able to get most of their questions answered up front. Tim and Ellen's confidence in the program grew after each interaction.

In April of 2017, Tim and Ellen submitted their application to Snowflakes. Their home study was completed in about three months. Then, it was time to enter the matching phase of the program. Incredibly, Tim and Ellen were matched with a placing family in 10 days. They needed some time to pause, think, and pray. Two days later, they gratefully accepted the placing family's invitation to match. Next came the adoption and communication agreements. Once the contracts were returned and signed, it was time to ship the embryos to their clinic. Ellen wrote

at the time, “Our ‘embabies’ arrived at our clinic in December of 2017. We expect to have our first frozen embryo transfer in January 2018. It's amazing to think that less than one year from submitting our initial application we could be pregnant with our adopted child! We eagerly await the day of our transfer. We are eagerly waiting the day we can feel them kick as my belly grows. We are eagerly waiting the day we can hold them in our arms. We are eagerly waiting the day we can tell them how much God loves them.”

Ellen and Tim had their first embryo transfer in early 2018 but did not get pregnant. After taking a doctor-recommended break and spending some time healing from the sadness, they had another transfer in 2018 and are now expecting their first child in early 2019!

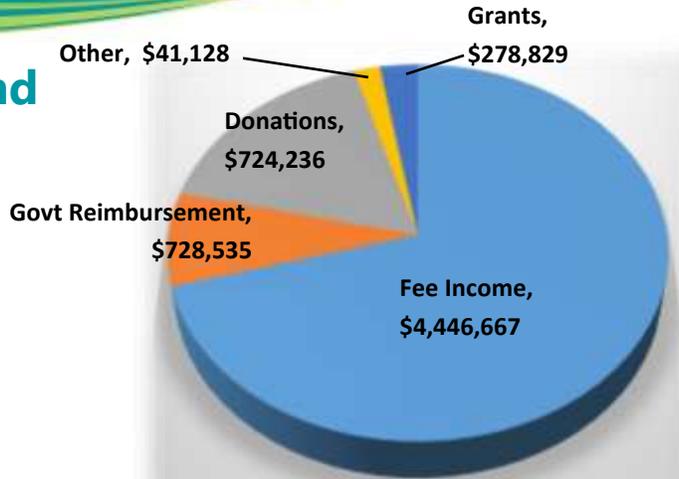


Tim and Ellen

Financial Information

How we fund our mission

(2019 Budget)

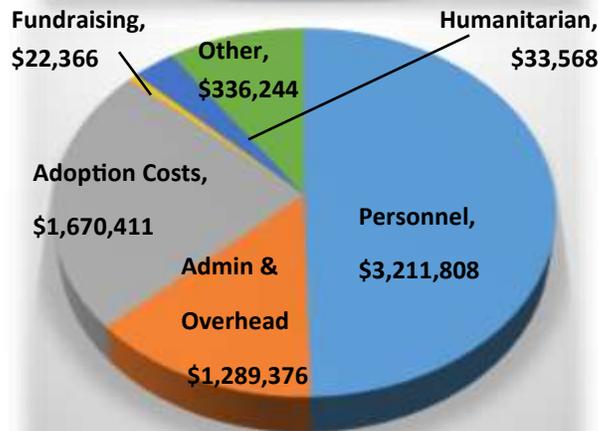


Please consider making a year-end gift to Nightlight with the envelope provided, or online at www.nightlight.org/donation-opportunities. Your gift will help with several urgent needs:

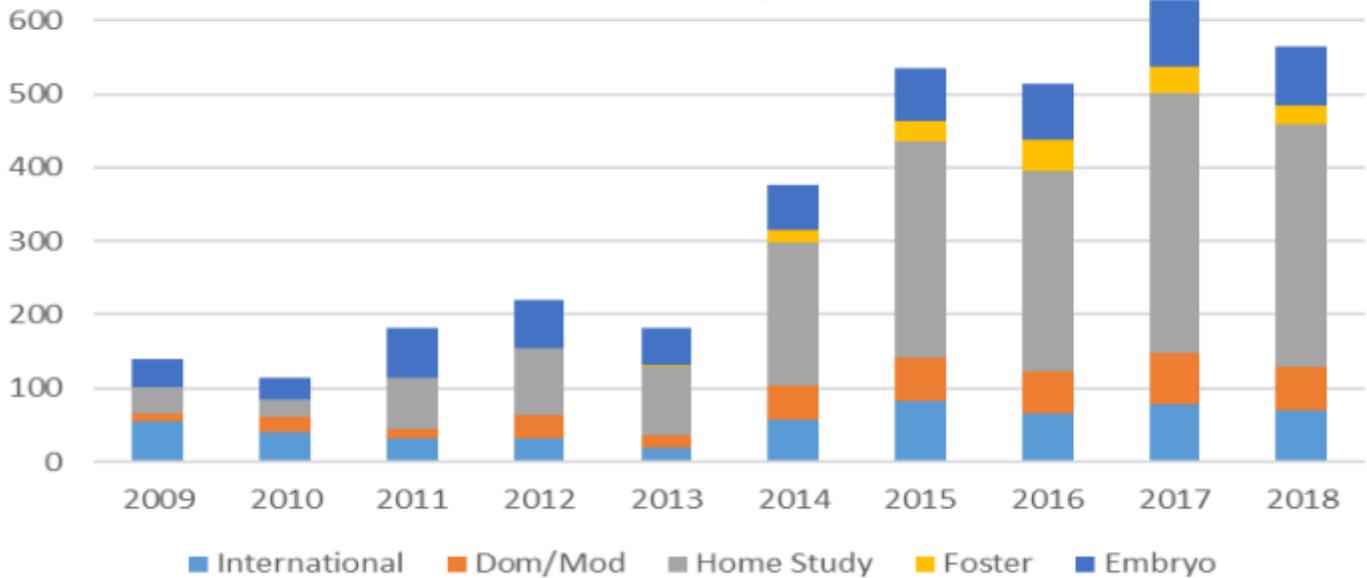
- Post-Adoption counseling at our new “Post Adoption Connection Center”
- Humanitarian aid to orphanages in China, Colombia, Haiti and Uganda
- Adoption scholarships with the Nightlight foundation
- Help us eliminate the mortgage on our new building
- Birthmother outreach and advertising
- Our 2019 orphan host program from Colombia

The cost of our mission

(2019 Budget)



Number of Adoptions



Two Domestic Adoption Stories

Sisters Lisa and Heidi have always been close. Despite their personality differences, Heidi (the older and more outgoing) and Lisa (the younger and initially more reserved) have always had more in common than different. Both are artistic, lovers of all animals and enjoy crafting, baking, and reading in their spare time. They both grew to be women of strong Christian faith. They share a passion for children and education, and both became teachers. They both teach 5th grade. They both married with dreams of starting a family. They both struggled with infertility. Heidi and her husband first came to Nightlight in 2011. They welcomed home their daughter, Caroline, in December of 2013, and in November of 2017, welcomed home their second daughter, Madeline. Both times, they used NCA's domestic adoption services.

Lisa and her husband first inquired about NCA's domestic adoption services in 2017, but still processing the grief of unsuccessful fertility treatments, they waited several months before starting the adoption home study process. They finally became match ready in April 2017. In mid-October of this year, our California office received a call from an expectant mother. She wanted to make an adoption plan for her unborn child, whom she thought was due in November, but she was already in labor and driving to the hospital. By the time Michelle (our domestic program manager) arrived at the hospital, she was undergoing an emergency C-section.

During the birthmother counseling, the mother's decision to make a plan for adoption never wavered, and she received unbelievable support from her mother and best friend. They looked through waiting parent profiles together. The decision was unanimous: Lisa and Matthew would be the parents.

Lisa and Matthew received the call late on a weekday night, when most teachers would be already in bed. They had been chosen by a birthmother and their child was waiting from them in Riverside, CA. Lisa called her principal and arranged for a substitute teacher. They drove from central California, spending the evening at Heidi and her husband's home in Los Angeles County. Like many times in the past, Heidi was able to provide her younger sister with support and guidance, preparing Lisa for what to expect at the hospital. On October 18, 2018, Lisa and Matthew met their daughter, Jaynie Mae.

And now, the sisters share one more thing. They both have families created through adoption. Three girl cousins, ages 4, 2, and 2 weeks, will also grow up together sharing a very unique and special bond.



Ben and his family

In January of this year, we received an email from a birthmother in Florida. She was currently parenting her 8-month-old son, Ben, and was interested in placing him for adoption. She was very interested in an open adoption and had been searching online for an agency to work with for four months. This birth mom had looked at our website and found several families that she was interested in; however, each family declined to be presented to this mom for one reason or another. This mom finally allowed Megan (our Florida Executive Director) to send her profiles of several families which met her criteria and were willing to enter into a very open relationship. The mom had sent a list of very thought out and detailed questions that she wanted each potential family to answer. After reading through the various answers, the birthmother chose Lauren and Rennie. Lauren and Rennie are both preachers and live in North Carolina. Our staff had a conference call with the birth mom at the office, and in February, the family traveled to Florida to visit with her, her parents, and Ben. The two families spent three weeks together in Florida. This was a special time for the two families to build a beautiful, life-long relationship. Lauren and Rennie returned home in mid-March and continue to email, text, and FaceTime with Ben's birth mom on a regular basis. She even plans to come to North Carolina to visit with them for a week next year. Ben turned one on May 19th, and on May 20th, he was baptized into the church. It was a wonderful afternoon, and the Nightlight team was so glad to be a part of this wonderful adoption journey!

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!

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