

February 2008 Families for Children Newsletter



Adoption Advocates International Families for Children

February 2008

Merrily in China



For more information about our China program,
please contact Ky@adoptionadvocates.org
For more information about adoption of HIV+
children, please contact
Erin@adoptionadvocates.org

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Dear Friends,

I am home this morning as we had about six inches of snow last night and I am waiting for the snow plow before driving down to town. There is snow on the trees and the mountains are white, everything is transformed, I love it.

It has been a busy time for adoption. Early this month Ky and I traveled to [China](#) to meet with our representative there and to visit the central adoption office. There we talked about the possibility of placing HIV+ Chinese children for adoption. This was a new idea for them and by their questions I knew that they do not have current information about the care and treatment of these children and their ability, with medication, to live nearly normal lives. The government officials asked us to submit a proposal which we will do and I believe they will give permission for us to process adoptions of some HIV+ children. We have now placed about 35 HIV+ children from Ethiopia, kids who, a

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Temesgen is a friendly, active and confident 12-year-old boy. He is cooperative and obedient. He enjoys math class and loves playing soccer. He likes to knit and watch movies.

Temesgen would make a great addition to a flexible & patient family.



If you have not yet seen it, Please check out the lovely coffee table type book, "[FACES of LAYLA](#)" by photographer Emma Dodge Hansen. This book visually expresses the heart and soul of Layla House and is a treasure each adoptive family will want to have. It is available for sale at our on-line store, [BenefitOrphans.org](#) or you can

few years ago, we thought would have an early death. For more information on adopting HIV+ children, please contact Erin@adoptionadvocates.org

The first children from [Ghana](#) joined their adoptive families this month, a total of seven of them.



We are very pleased with the way this program is going as there is such a need. We are finding many malnourished children. We are very grateful to those of you who made donations to get this program started. Recently a group raised money for outdoor play equipment and Anita, who coordinates the Ghana program, will travel there in February to help with the purchasing of the equipment for our Eban House. She will also visit orphanages who have asked us to place some of their orphan children for adoption. You can contact her at Anita@adoptionadvocates.org

Work in [Ethiopia](#) continues and I'll travel there in February. The children had a wonderful holiday celebration thanks to the many donations you sent and the work of many volunteers. Gail tells me we have more babies in the nursery than ever and

contact Kathy at AAI to order by phone or send a check to the office. The cost is \$56 including postage and all proceeds go to AAI's [GRACE Fund](#).

Here are some photos from Faces of Layla to whet your interest!



our waiting list for new adoptive families is actually a little shorter than it was a few months ago.

We are delighted to have had such a good response to the school building project, Dessie's Dream. We were asked to fund construction of more classrooms and furnish them in a very poor area of Ethiopia. There is local support through a school committee and our volunteer Barbara Patton has been coordinating and traveling there. We have now received donations for nearly half of the \$120,000 needed for the project and the first \$25,000 has been transferred for them to start the work. We will be monitoring to be sure funds are being used as projected before sending more. If you know of a group that might be interested in this project, Barbara is available to travel (using her personal frequent flyer miles) to speak to groups.



Our son Nate, who works for AAI in Ethiopia has been home for a break and returns to Ethiopia tomorrow. He escorted a one year old girl to her new family. She was known for her dislike of strangers so I encouraged Nate to visit her



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every day and spend time with her. He described how she gradually learned to come to him and he would take her for walks around the compound and talk to her. The trip home was an extra long one as there was a misconnection and they came on a later flight. I was at SeaTac with Ted when he walked down the ramp, looking exhausted, but with a relaxed baby who went willingly to her new mom while her new big sister and other family members looked on. It was a thrill for us to see our baby present the family with this new baby. I think I have about the best job there is!!

Thank you all for your good wishes, thoughts, prayers, and donations of supplies and the ever needed money. So many good things are happening and we are grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Merrily and Ted
Adoption Advocates International