

## God's Time (cont'd)

Katelyn's Fund has also experienced several of these times as we grow and reach others. We have experienced these times with families, times of great joy and celebration, and times full of tears and grief. We have witnessed walls being torn down as we work collectively with many churches and a great building up of a passion for us to work together for this cause. We hope we are planting and scattering stones and seeds for many and that many children's lives will be dramatically and eternally changed as we all gather these stones. The ministry has been so lovingly embraced and we know that is because this is His desire and His heart, we also know that He will press us forward when others turn away.

We have given our 15<sup>th</sup> grant since August 2006, representing 10 different churches. We sense it is the time to continue to press forward with the calling He has placed before us with the children waiting for homes, families seeking assistance and support, and trusting in Him to continue to financially provide for us to do so. There is a time for all things and God has graciously shown many of these times to us. We ask that you continue to pray for Him to shower us as a ministry and continue to guide us in the ways that we can, in His perfect time, reach many children and families, and bring Him the glory for all time.

Check us out  
online!

[www.katelynsfund.org](http://www.katelynsfund.org)

- Family photos
- Application forms
- Support meeting information
- Newsletters and much more!

"Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow and the orphan."  
Isaiah 1:17

### Katelyn's Fund Board Members:

Kelly and Sheila De Jong, Lori Zomermaand, Matt Schuiteman, Tammy Zevenbergen, Mark and Tricia Vermeer

## Katelyn's Fund Adoption Picnic

Are you thinking about adopting? In the process of adopting?  
Have you adopted?

We welcome your family to come and enjoy  
good food, fellowship & family fun!

Saturday, July 28

5:00pm

Central Park in Sioux Center, Iowa  
(located on Highway 75 North)

Please bring a hot and cold dish to share.  
Drinks and tableware will be provided.

RSVP by July 21 to [sheila@katelynsfund.org](mailto:sheila@katelynsfund.org).



### Special Thanks to our Honorary Donors

**Frank & Pamela Ostapoff**

*in honor of the Henn family*

Layne, Tayna, Kaylee, Isaac, Erin  
Levi and Jesse

**Barbara Top**

*in honor of the Heitritter family*

Steve, Laura, Paul, Joe, Emma, Thomas  
Shaya and Megan

**Lloyd & Lois De Jong**

*in memory of Katelyn De Jong*

daughter of  
Kelly and Sheila De Jong

*To make an honorary donation,  
please see the mailing address and information below.*

Donations to the fund can be mailed to:

**Katelyn's Fund ~ Orphan Ministry**  
1327 Third Ave SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250

*All donations are tax deductible.  
If you would like to make an honorary donation,  
please indicate the child/family in honor or in memory of.*

# Katelyn's Fund

ORPHAN MINISTRY

June 2007

## God's Time

by Sheila De Jong

It's all about time  
Understanding God's leading  
Obeying His plan  
Letting go of your own control  
It's all about time  
Work to get papers in  
Patiently redo and submit  
Hurry to send quickly  
It's all about time  
Wait to learn of "a referral"  
Hear of a child  
Decide about this miracle  
It's all about time  
Analyze court proceedings  
Anticipate updates and fear delays  
Pine over photos  
It's all about time  
Answer questions of "when"  
Pray for health, strength, and peace  
Contemplate how days stand still but yet move on  
It's all about time  
Go to "the call"  
Bond physically with your child  
Figure out how it seems she has always been with you  
Give abundant thanks to God  
It's all about time....God's Time

*Maria Grace, Mommy wrote you this poem to let you know how very much we love you. We are so grateful that God has chosen you to be in our lives. We marvel at His choosing, His timing, and His plan. We stand in awe of the perfect little person He created you to be. We are honored to have you as our daughter and we cherish you in all the days to come. (written in May 2003 by Sheila De Jong)*

As I reflect on our adoption journeys and witness so many other families, it truly is all about God's timing. God's timing in prompting families to adopt, God's timing in affirmations, scripture and people in the process, and God's perfect timing in bringing children into their forever families. The Bible speaks clearly about timing and having a time for all things. **Ecclesiastes 3:3-5 shows us that there is "a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build up, a time to cry and a time to laugh, a time to grieve and a time to dance, a time to embrace and a time to turn away."**

The adoption process encompasses so many of these times. A time to heal for families that are letting go of dreams and a great time of healing for children who have been alone and abandoned, a time to tear down racial walls and fears of loving an other's child, a time of building up children in Christian families, a time to cry when the wait is long, or the transition is difficult, a time to laugh with children being children, a time to grieve losses and a time to celebrate God's blessings. Other times along this journey include...times of scattered stones and thoughts, stones and pebbles scattering into many places for others to see, feel, and be impacted by, times to gather the stones, emotions, and finances, times to embrace God's faithfulness and times to run away fears, apathy, and indifference.

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### Inside this Issue

- Our grant recipients
- Katelyn's Fund adoption picnic
- Honorary donors

## THE HENNS

"We cannot say enough about the blessing God has bestowed on us through our adoption process. Our family is growing and so is our faith, by God's grace. Lord willing, we will be traveling sometime during the summer of 2007 to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to bring home our boys, Levi and Jesse.

We were introduced to our new sons, Levi and Jesse through a phone call and an email on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. It was a typical morning where Tanya was schooling Kaylee and Isaac and Erin was busy, busy, busy as usual. The phone doesn't get answered much during school time, and the same held true that day, but when Tanya checked the voice mail and the email, the excitement spun to a new level. After some phone tag, we found out information about these two wonderful boys and their story. Our hearts were swelling and our minds were racing. We prayed together and with our three little ones for the next few hours and then decided we needed to see some pictures. Not long after that, we knew that God had planned these children to be in our forever family.

We didn't begin down this road of adoption knowing how we were going to fund the complete process. However, we knew that God was calling us to adopt and we needed to trust and follow Him. Looking back at how God has continually provided in so many different ways is just so amazing.

Our agency had mailed us another notice about our outstanding bill; purple highlighter outlined the amount owed. That was a Friday. Early the next week, Sheila De Jong called to say that we had been chosen to receive a grant from Katelyn's Fund, it was the exact amount of the purple highlighted invoice from the Friday before. God showed us in a tangible way how he was working to bring our new boys home. We are so thankful for the support and work of the people that make up this adoption ministry. It is evident that they have such a heart to support families who are adopting for the sake of Christ's name."



**Levi 4  
& Jesse 1**



**Layne, Tayna,  
Kaylee 8, Isaac 5, Erin 2**  
Morningside Baptist Church  
Sioux City, IA

## THE VAN ES'



**Jett  
7 months**

"As parents of three children ages 8, 5, and nearing 2, we are persistently pummeled with questions. Usually patient in our responses, at times we feel exhausted by their interrogations and frequently find ourselves simply saying, "Because I said so!"

I wonder if our Heavenly Father desires a similar response with us on occasion... if so, it is probably his daily mantra as he watches the Van Es family in the throes of our adoption journey.

For us, the question of adoption has never really been "if" but "when". My younger sisters were adopted as infants from Peru in 1988, and the Lord prepared both of our hearts for adoption long before we were married. We weren't faced with, "Should we adopt?" but, rather, "When should we adopt?" We were blessed with God's very clear calling to begin the process a year ago.

Still, questions arose, the greatest of which pertaining to our financial obligations. Panic set in and we asked God, "Why didn't you wait until we were more established? Why can't we put this off until our savings has blossomed? Why are we doing this *now*? Why? Why?!"

Why? *Because He said so.*

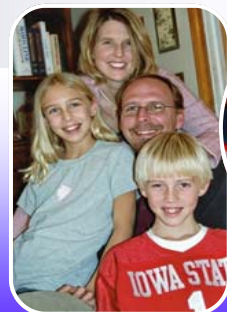
And, thankfully, when He says so, He also prepares a way for us to do so. The Katelyn's Fund ministry has blessed us with both the spiritual support and the financial boost we needed to complete our commitments. We have partners in prayer as we wait for the homecoming of our son, Jett Joseph, who was born in Guatemala on October 24, 2006. We have received encouragement, and we are positioned to encourage others. Collectively with the generous donors to the Katelyn's Fund grant, we are obeying God's mandate to minister to the earth's orphans.

We follow this command with great joy because as believers, we are *all* "adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will ~ to the praise of his glorious grace!" (Ephesians 1:6)

## THE REMPES

The Rempes are anxiously awaiting a call to bring their little boy, Christian Alexander, home. Christian was born on September 13, 2006 in Guatemala and is now 9 months old.

**Todd, Angela,  
Anna 10, Isaac 9**  
Wellsburg Reformed Church  
Wellsburg, IA



**Christian  
5 months**

## THE SCHUTS

"We started out this journey with a lot of prayer, and had no idea God would lead us to adoption. We have two biological children. Carly who is 7, and Cole who is going to be 4 in July. We didn't have peace about having another biological child, but also didn't have peace that this family was complete. It became very clear to us through many small whispers of God that we were to adopt a little girl. Cora Jael was born on March 9, 2007 in Guatemala. When we received news of her, we were so excited and yet had so many mixed feelings as well. This is where the support of the Katelyn's Fund family came in so helpful! To have a group of people to support you, love you, and pray for you is such a blessing. We have loved meeting so many families with which we share many of these same feelings during this very new and amazing experience called adoption! This whole process has been a faith building, wonderful journey, and I would suggest it to anyone! We hope to bring Cora home soon, but don't know when that will be. Thanks for your support and prayers!"

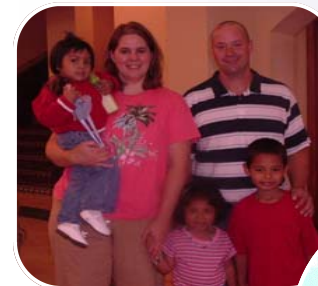


**Cora  
2 months**



**Lyle, Jill,  
Carly 7, Cole 3**  
New Life Reformed Church  
Sioux Center, IA

## THE ZOMERMAANDS



**Rod, Dawn,  
Emilee, Ronaldo, Julia**  
Bethel Christian Reformed Church  
Sioux Center, IA

"Hello! We are Rod and Dawn Zomermaand from rural Sioux Center. We are parents to 4 wonderful daughters who are 15, 13, 11, and 3.5. Our adoption journey has been a long and twisting road, but through it all we have seen God leading and have felt His blessing.

Our journey began in 2005 with our intention to adopt a baby girl from Guatemala. God however, had other and far better plans for us. In May of that year, our agency asked us to consider a sibling set who were 7 and 5. After much prayer we accepted Ronaldo and Julia into our hearts. Their adoption proceeded smoothly, but hit a major roadblock at the very end of the process. We waited an agonizing 5 months to see what would happen in their adoption. In March of 2006, our world was shattered when we had to give up their referral.

In the midst of our sorrow, God had another and yet still wonderful plan for us. That same week, He led us to accept Emilee from Guatemala and Jack from Haiti into our hearts. It was a path we had not chosen, but one on which we are learning daily to completely trust our Father and His will.



**Jack 2½**

Emilee came home from Guatemala in November of 2006 and has blessed our lives more than we can say. She will be 4 next month and brought so much joy where so much sorrow had been.

14 months later, we continue to wait for Jack. He is now 2.5 and we have watched him grow and change while being cared for at a wonderful Christian orphanage in Haiti. It is our fervent prayer that he will be home this fall. However, we have learned that our plans are often not God's plans and we are seeking to trust Him with Jack.

God blessed us tremendously when He led us to apply for a Katelyn's Fund grant. First and foremost, the grant will cover the last expenses we have in Jack's adoption. We praise and thank God for that. As a special blessing, our agency is also planning to set aside any extra to cover part of our expenses in the event that we can begin Ronaldo and Julia's adoption again. Our agency has been and still is working to obtain an abandonment decree for them, and they still have every hope that someday Ronaldo and Julia (who are now 9 and 7) will come home."

## THE SCHIEBOUTS

"The idea of adopting a child came into our minds slowly over several years time. We loved adoption, but never knew if it was something our family would be able to do. But in the past year we felt a strong leading that we were being called to adopt. We had several questions and concerns about it, but of most concern to us was "how will we pay for it?" Knowing God's hand was in it, we decided to take the leap of faith and He has blessed us through grants like Katelyn's Fund.

Our baby, Olivia, was born on February 18 in Guatemala City. As we look at her beautiful face, we are so thankful we decided to follow the Lord's leading and we look forward to bringing her home."



**Olivia  
3 months**



**Jamey, Monique,  
Trey 8, Carter 6, Gabe 2**  
First Reformed Church  
Maurice, IA