



Love Basket Newsletter

December, 2015

Greetings and wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our waiting families! As I shared in last month's newsletter, this is a season of change at Love Basket. Effective January 1, 2016, Love Basket will be merging with Nightlight Christian Adoptions and thereafter be known as Love Basket, a division of Nightlight Christian Adoptions.

Times of change are always challenging and we ask for your grace as we navigate our way as a division of a larger agency. We believe this change will benefit our waiting families as we have the benefit of the advertising for expectant parents that can be accomplished by a larger agency and of having your profile shown to expectant parents in 8 states - California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Things will work a bit differently beginning next month in that I will no longer be sending a detailed update on our individual clients each month. Rather, Night Light which works with expectant parents across 8 states will send a more general update each month with the number of expectant parents they are working with. Rather than posting special situations, each family will complete a form indicating what type of adoption they are open to. I will be sending you that form shortly. Each waiting family will have their file entered into SAM - the computer system which Nightlight uses so that your file can be viewed by any Nightlight employee.

As an expectant mom is ready to look at profiles in any state, that caseworker and Domestic Adoption Supervisor will check the waiting families to see which ones best fit the desires and situation of this particular expectant parent. If there are a large number of families that fit the expectant's mom's criteria and situation, the longest waiting families from amongst this pool will be shown in the first round.

If an expectant parent does not find the match that she feels is right for her, she can request to see additional profiles. Once matched, the adoptive family will be working alongside the caseworker and Domestic Adoption Supervisor in that state.

All families will be shown in all 8 states unless they inform us of any limitations they would like to place on their profile.

We realize this is a significant change from the way most of us are used to, and to be honest, it is challenging for the staff also to change from the familiar to the new. But, we truly believe that this will end in a benefit and blessing to our waiting families. Our fees will not change overall, although there may be some adjustments in when fees are due.

Effective January 1, the Love Basket staff will be using their Nightlight email addresses (see mine below), although any communications sent to my old email address will be forwarded to my Nightlight address. Any payments made after January 1, 2016, should be made out to Nightlight Christian adoptions.

I am happy to review and discuss the above with you and answer your questions.

This December, I am thankful for our Savior Jesus. Our church's children's Christmas program this year was based on the theme that God made "a way in the manger" for our salvation. Without the manger, there is no death on the cross and no resurrection. Thus, no salvation. Let us embrace that "way in the manger" this Christmas season. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas!

Shirley Moore

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Client Summaries

Below is an update of current and new clients. I will post changes in red and if someone is not mentioned, that means that they are no longer a client. Please respect the privacy of our clients and do not share the information below with others.

2015-45MO A (age 16) in the St. Louis area is carrying a Caucasian baby girl due December 2, 2015. She is naming J as the father of her baby, but reports she has no contact information for him. She reports that one of the baby's kidneys may be lower than the other. She denies alcohol use during pregnancy and reports that she smoked marijuana once during the pregnancy. She states that she stopped smoking cigarettes at 6 months of pregnancy. She began pre-natal care in August, 2015. A reports that she is making an adoption plan as she is too young to be a parent, there is not room in the home for a child, and she is not financially able to support a child. A is completing her paperwork. We have received A's paperwork and I will post her situation soon. **A's situation was posted, she selected a family, and this baby girl is now home with her adoptive family.**

2015-39MO C (age 26) in the St. Louis area is carrying a Caucasian baby due December 23, 2015. She is naming D (age 32) as the father of her baby. Both are in agreement that adoption is the best decision because they cannot care for another child emotionally or financially. C has two children who live with her cousin and she and D are parenting a son (age 1). C has not had pre-natal care and we are attempting to assist her in applying for Medicaid. She smokes 1-2 packs a day of cigarettes and used meth a couple times, marijuana a few times, pain pills, Xanax, and antihistamines, before she realized she was pregnant. C has been diagnosed with PTSD, Bipolar Disorder, and Paranoid Schizophrenia. She is not on medications for any of these conditions at the present time. C's situation will likely be posted once we can confirm her due date. She is requesting either a closed or semi-open adoption. C has stopped communicating with Sharon, so we are uncertain if this situation will lead to an adoption or not. **C remains out of contact, but we suspect we may hear from a hospital social worker when C delivers her baby.**

2015-38MO H (age 21) in the St. Louis area is carrying a Caucasian baby boy due January 24, 2016. She is naming A as the father of her child and reports that he is not in agreement with an adoption plan. She was successfully treated for chlamydia early in her pregnancy. She smokes 2-3 cigarettes a day and drank wine coolers, jello shots, and wine on her 21st birthday in May before realizing she was pregnant. She also admits to using marijuana before learning she was pregnant. She has been diagnosed with depression and bi-polar disorder and takes celexa. H began pre-natal care in June, 2015. She is making an adoption plan as she already has a 2 year old son, does not have the resources to raise another child, and does not have a good relationship with the father of the child. She is requesting an open adoption. H's situation will

likely be posted in the near future. H's situation was posted and she selected a family. They are planning to have a matching meeting soon. **H and the adoptive family have had their matching meeting and all are awaiting the birth of the baby.**

2015-44MO M (age 15) in the Southwest Missouri area is carrying a Caucasian baby due April 5, 2016. She reports that the birth father is unknown. M denies any alcohol or drug abuse during her pregnancy. She reports that she is making an adoption plan as she does not yet feel ready to parent due to her youth and believes that adoption is best for herself and her baby. She is completing her paperwork now. We are still awaiting M's paperwork. **M has completed her paperwork and will be matched with a family once she enters her last trimester.**

2015-47MO J (age 27) in Illinois is carrying a Caucasian baby due May 5, 2016. She is naming C (age 28) as the father of her child. She reports that she and C are still a couple and he is not in agreement with her adoption plan. J has placed two other children for adoption. She is being treated for genital herpes and began pre-natal care in August, 2015. She reports that she is a non-smoker and has drunk 1-2 glasses of wine on occasion during her pregnancy. J reports that she is making an adoption plan as she is not emotionally or financially stable enough to parent a child. She is requesting an open adoption. **J and C are planning to meet with Sharon after the first of the year to determine C's agreement with an adoption plan.**

New Clients

2015-48MO N (age 31) in the St. Louis area delivered a baby boy on December 6, 2015. She came to us in the last few weeks of her pregnancy, but had placed two children through Love Basket previously. N has osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease) and the situation was posted. As N did not desire to select the family that will parent her baby, Love Basket selected the longest-waiting couple who agreed to have their profile shown to N. This baby boy is now home with his adoptive family.

2015-51MO A (age 24) in the St. Louis area is carrying an African-American baby due May 7, 2016. She is naming J (age 28) or A (age 30ish) as the father of her child. She says she has no contact information for either man and she does not know A's last name. A is currently homeless, although she does have a job in a grocery store. She has three children, one in foster care and two who have been adopted. A denies any alcohol use during the pregnancy, and says that she used marijuana before she realized she was pregnant. She says that she also stopped smoking cigarettes when she learned she was pregnant. A reports that she began pre-natal care in September, 2015. A is making an adoption plan as she is currently homeless and seeking to regain custody of her son who is in foster care.

2015-52MO C (age 18) in the St. Louis area is carrying a biracial (Caucasian/African-American) baby boy due May 23, 2016. She is naming D (age 16) as the father of her baby. D met with me and C during one of our meetings, expressing his support for an adoption plan. However, he did not show up at our last appointment. Courtney has

been found to have an enlarged heart and is undergoing evaluations by a cardiologist. She says there is a history of heart issues on the paternal side of her family. C denies any alcohol or drug use during pregnancy and says that she smokes 4-5 cigarettes a day. She reports that she began pre-natal care in November, 2015. She is making an adoption plan as she believes it will be a healthier situation for the baby as her family is not supportive of her parenting a mixed race child. She is already parenting a 10 month old baby.

Statistics

Placements Since Last Update: 2

Placements Thus Far This Fiscal Year: 2
(November 1, 2015 - October 31, 2016)

Matches in Progress: 1

Waiting Families: 18