

Love Basket Receives Accreditation in Kazakhstan!

By Frank Block, Love Basket Executive Director

Love Basket is now approved to complete the adoption of children from Kazakhstan to families in the United States! While the program is anticipated to open soon, it is not yet accepting dossiers from prospective families.

We invite you to visit our website (lovebasket.org) to keep abreast of when this program does reopen, or email your questions to Cheryl at: cheryl.jackson@lovebasket.org.

Located in Central Asia between Russia and China, Kazakhstan is the world's ninth largest country. Easily the most economically advanced of the 'stans', post-Soviet Kazakhstan is reinventing itself as a uniquely prosperous and modern Eurasian nation.

About the Children of Kazakhstan:

- Children may be as young as 6 months old at the time of referral, with travel for placement anticipated to be just 2-3 months after the referral.
- While both boys and girls are available for adoption, there are typically more boys than girls to be adopted.
- Children may be of a mixed descent including Caucasian, Eurasian, or Asian heritage.
- The orphanage system is very established and has a reputation for providing orphans with quality care.

From your arrival in the country until your return to the U.S., you will be accompanied by our capable team on the ground there.

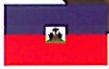
These professionals speak English, know adoption well, and will meet you at the airport, care for and accompany you during your stay and return you to the airport at your departure.



Details on the Adoption Process:

- You can specify the age range and gender of the child you wish to adopt, as well as whether or not you would accept a sibling group or a child with special needs.
- You will receive and review/accept the referral of a child before you travel to the country to complete the adoption process.
- With your child referral, you will receive a photo, a health summary, lab test results, and any social/medical history that is available for the child.
- At least 2 trips to Kazakhstan are required to complete the adoption, with the first trip lasting 5-6 weeks, and the second trip lasting approximately 10-12 days, at which time you will return to the U.S. with your adoption completed!

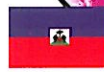
Welcome Home New Arrivals!



Rosa, Haiti



Lily Marie, USA



Norah Adeline Rene, Haiti



Madison Rose, USA



Isabelle, USA



Charlotte Grace, USA



Maggie Jo, USA

INDIA Reopens its Adoption Program!



Love Basket has been placing children from India since 1982. Last year, India placed a freeze on the submission of new adoption applications in an effort to finalize all existing cases. We are excited to announce that India has recently reopened its adoption program and is now accepting applications for intercountry adoptions.

Prospective adoptive parents who are interested in adopting a child with special needs, children five years and older or sibling groups can begin the process today. Of course, you will have ample time to review the child referral that you receive to ensure the child is a good fit for your family.

If you are interested in pursuing an adoption from India, we encourage you to consult our website for more information:
<http://www.lovebasket.org/>

OR CONTACT CHERYL
by email: Cheryl.jackson@lovebasket.org
or phone: 636-797-4100, Ext. 18.

During the Wait

Waiting is hard. There's no question about it. As one adoptive mother put it, "During our wait to adopt, it felt as if we were in a different time warp. The days felt like weeks and the months felt like years."

Once you've gone through the process of completing paperwork, finishing home study visits, and creating your profile book, you are officially in the "waiting" phase of your adoption! And then, the feeling of helplessness can begin to set in. At least while you're busy with the formalities of the adoption process, you feel like you're 'doing' something. But once the wait starts, it can feel like there's nothing to do but wait.

Some may go into planning mode, decorating the nursery and shopping for baby items, but for others, this may feel uncomfortable. Regardless, there's a number of things you can do during this period that may help to ease your anxiety and help you prepare for the big day.

Six Ideas for your hopeful wait

Pray

It may sound simple, and is often times what we last resort to, but praying is honestly the best and first thing we should do. "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all of your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Connect with other waiting families

This may feel risky, but families who have adopted or who are in the process of adopting know exactly what you are going through and can relate to the emotions and challenges you may be experiencing. If you don't know of a local family, contact our office for a list of support groups in your area.

Journal/Start a Blog

For some, writing down their feelings can be a very healthy outlet. Should you choose to blog about your adoption journey, it can still be a private experience. Many blogging sites allow you to share only with those people whom you choose. One nice feature of a blog is that it can be printed to various printing companies such as blurb.com. This allows you to keep your thoughts and memories in a way you can save or share with your child should you choose.

Take a vacation

A change in scenery can be good for you and your spouse. If you're saving your vacation time for the baby's arrival, make it a weekend trip. Spend time doing things you enjoy; activities that you might not be able to do for a while once a baby joins your family!

Start a Life Book for your child

A Life Book is a story of your child's birth, foster care experience, joining your family and all the steps along the way that make them who they are. It typically consists of pictures, stories, quotes, etc. that help a child understand their life story. Kids love to see themselves in pictures and be the center of the story. A Life Book is all about them. Once you have a baby, life can get pretty hectic so create a book now that you can fill in as the story unfolds.

Create a prayer journal to give as a gift to your birth mother

It's natural to think about the baby that we long to hold, but we can forget that as we wait for the joyful meeting of our new baby, someone else is facing a very challenging decision. Praying for your birth family can be a very powerful and healing process. Recording these prayers in a journal is a wonderful gift that you can present to your birth family at the time of placement.

Whatever it is you choose to do during your waiting period, trust that God is in control and has a plan for your family.

Haitian Adoptions

Our program in Haiti is in full operation. Children, both healthy and with special needs, are available. To learn more please visit our website:

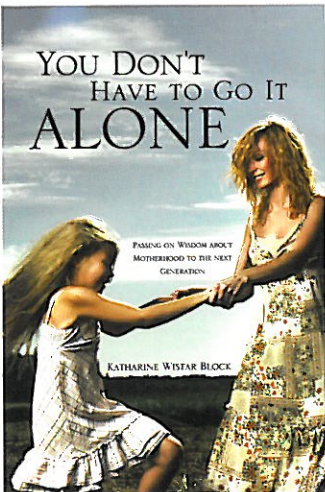
<http://www.lovebasket.org/Interested-in-Adopting/International-Adoptions/Haiti-Placement-Program.aspx>



Book Corner

You Don't Have to Go It Alone: Passing on Wisdom About Motherhood to the Next Generation

By Katharine W. Block



Born out of our years of raising six children together, my wife Katharine (Kitty) Block has written an encouraging book on parenting entitled *You Don't Have to Go It Alone*.

It is written from a Christian perspective with warmth and wisdom. As Kitty says, it is what she would share with you if you were sitting together over a cup of tea or coffee.

The book tells the story of young woman, lost, alone and pregnant, who comes to live with a family, and who begins to thrive in this new setting. This is the story of her transformation and growth! I would highly recommend the book for first time parents, parents of young children, parents of teens, and parents of blended families. It's also a great resource for women coming out of difficult circumstances who are trying to live a life from a Christian perspective and just want a bit of encouragement along the way.

To read an excerpt of the book, visit Amazon.com. The book is available from Amazon as a print or eBook title. Take a look. It's a fascinating read!



Join Love Basket's new Facebook Page!
(facebook.com/lovebasketadoptions)

Here you will find updates about Love Basket's programs find resources for adoptive parents and birth families and so much more. We're excited to have this new outlet for connecting with families passionate about adoption!

Review by Frank Block, Executive Director