

Session 1 Breakouts

Foster Care 101

This Breakout session will provide those interested in foster care basic knowledge on the foster care system and the issues our children ‘in the system’ face.



Breakout Leader: Ryan Krueger

Adoption Essentials: Preparing for the Adventure

In this session we will be exploring the absolute essentials in preparing for adoption. We'll discuss personal preparation, environmental preparation, and understanding roles and responsibilities in the adoption process. This session is aimed at the prospective adoptive parent and the experienced adoptive parent who may want to go back and fill in the mission pieces.



Breakout Leaders: Lynn & Jennie Owens

How To Pick an Adoption Agency

Growing your family through adoption is one of the most important decisions your family will ever make. With hundreds of adoption agencies to choose from how do you decide which one is best for you? In this session families will be equipped with valuable guidelines to narrow the search and find an agency that is well suited to their family's particular needs. Guidelines include specifics things that families should ask of their agency (some in writing).



Breakout Leader: Dave Wood

Finances – Where does the \$\$\$ come from?

As a father of two girls adopted from China, one of my first thoughts when we were lead to adopt was, “how are we possibly going to pay for this?” No doubt that same thought has crossed everyone’s mind when contemplating adoption, foster care, or sponsoring a child. However, God makes specific and reassuring promises about His provision in Scripture. This session will focus on the spiritual, emotional and practical realities of financing an adoption (with application to foster care and child sponsorship). We will examine what Scripture says, walk through some practical examples, hear some amazing stories, and review some available resources. The purpose of the session is to equip those interested in financially supporting an orphan with faith-building information in order to overcome one of the biggest barriers to adoption.



Breakout Leader: Lance Vickerman

Bethany Christian Services - Agency

Bethany offers a number of adoption plans. Bethany social workers will explain the options to birthparents and adoptive parents and help them decide which option is best for the child and for themselves.



Breakout Leader: Colleen Howell

China & Ethiopia Orphan Care – Harmony Outreach

The result of answering that call is that I became the founder and Executive Director of Harmony Outreach, a ministry to poor and vulnerable people in China. Harmony has six different outreaches in China. The cornerstone of our work is a home for orphaned and special needs children near Beijing called Harmony House. It is here that children who were born with special needs and abandoned by their parents go through our *Three Steps to Hope* (foster care, surgery, adoption) program. Harmony orphans have been adopted all over the United States and the world. Our inland projects include the Kaifeng Deaf School, the Dingbian orphanage for teens, the Catholic orphanage of DaMing, and an underground seminary which is part of the Back to Jerusalem (B2J) movement. Harmony also provides a great deal of surgeries for poor people and minority groups in Western China’s remote Qinghai province. Harmony Outreach will soon be opening an all-new work in Ethiopia. <http://www.harmonyoutreach.org/>



Breakout Leader: John Bentley

Olive Crest

There are 123,000 children waiting to be adopted in the U.S. Foster care system. These children are our society's orphans that we as Christ follower's are called to care for. Will you open your home and heart to these "waiting" children?



Breakout Leader: Susan Kellie

All God's Children - Agency

This is an in-depth discussion of international and foster care adoption including the need in country, adoption process, timeframes, costs, education and support. I will also discuss the importance of birth family preservation and inter-country adoption as well as the opportunities for orphan care and mission work. Lastly, the available options through adoption and orphan as well as sponsorship, relief work, missions, etc



Breakout Leader: Megan Palmer

If You Were Mine – DVD Series

Session 1: The Christian and the Orphan



Breakout Leader: Trevor Macduff