Missionary Minute: Defending the Fatherless
Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” Romans 8:15.

For those of us who have a solid family, it is difficult to wrap our minds around the loneliness and despair experienced by those children growing up without one. Abandoned and betrayed by the very people responsible for their upbringing, orphans grapple with a loss of self-worth and value. If their own parents didn’t want their children, who will? How will they ever know they have a heavenly Father who cares for them, if no one takes the time to share that blessed truth with them?

Hanging on my wall at home is a letter from a young lady we had the privilege of hosting from Ukraine one year ago. She lamented that she had nothing to repay us with but a letter. At 18 years of age, she is too old to be adopted but confessed that she is jealous of our daughters, because they are given love and care by parents while she never would. Now, out of the orphanage, she is alone in a frightening world. Earlier this month, I awoke to find this message from her: “I dreamed of you last night.”

Kolya is a young man (see picture in center) who has also aged out of his orphanage in Ukraine. Never having received a family of his own, Kolya has, through Facebook and emails, encouraged the adults he knows to donate toward the adoption of younger orphans. Standing now at the brink of adulthood, he has recently entered university, made new friends, and just discovered he has leukemia. If he had the blessing of a family, his parents would be the ones to take him to his doctor visits, ask all the important questions, hold a vigil by his bedside, and surround him with love.

As Christians it’s easy to give the pat answer that God loves the orphans of the world, and truly He does. But God asks us to be the ones to wrap our arms around a needy child’s trembling shoulders and whisper, “I love you.” God asks us to reach deep into our pockets to pay for new shoes or glasses or a warm jacket. God asks us, you and me, to show the lost lambs of His kingdom that He loves them.
Not everyone is able to adopt or foster a child, but everyone can help a child in some way. My son, who was adopted when he was twelve, is now volunteering as a “big brother” to a young child in need of mentoring. Several adoptive parents have grouped together to provide the funds Kolya needs to cover his medical bills, pray for him, and text him all the encouragement we can. It means a lot to him. “Thank you for the prayers,” he writes, “I feel them.” When our family hosted orphans from Latvia and Ukraine, local church families invited us over for meals and fun social times, helping to make the children feel like they were part of a loving group. One pastor’s wife sent $50 to take our Ukrainian girl on a shopping trip. As she tried on new outfits, she kept asking, “For me? Why?”

Why, indeed. It’s because Jesus loves her and Kolya and each precious orphan so much that He gave everything to save them and adopt them into His kingdom. Can we love them any less? November is National Adoption Awareness Month. If your heart is burdened for ways to minister in God’s most tender mission field, email me at margieseely@yahoo.com. God bless you!

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**A Story of Redemption**

**Bobbie Bell, Roanoke, VA**

This past year has been an amazing testimony to the love and faithfulness of God in my life as well as an undeniable manifestation of His hand in orchestrating this adoption process. There have been hurdles and setbacks that often seemed to have the potential to bring everything to a screeching halt, and yet God showed up every time in a mighty way.

I have been blessed to “host” Adrian a total of three times. Our time together was always very special to both of us. That is not to say there have not been challenges. This is a little boy who has been grossly damaged by the people in his life who should have loved and nurtured him, and those wounds are slow to heal.

Perhaps the biggest setback came in June when my original adoption agency was abruptly shut down, leaving me and 120 other families to scramble and find another agency. It was definitely a challenge of faith. Confusion and fear could have easily gripped my heart when I received the email that morning; but God in His mercy, before I even knew this was going to happen, had prepared me. That morning I had already had my time with the Lord and was ready to leave for work. Still, I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to go back, kneel down and spend some more time in prayer. I initially resisted, rationalizing that I had already done my “time in prayer.” Nevertheless, the impulse was so strong that I went back and prayed. I told the Lord I didn’t know why, but I asked for an extra portion of His mercy and grace for the day. Once I got to work I received the email that the agency was closing and I would have to seek out another. What a shock! How could this be true? What did it mean? It was early, but I still put in a call to my adoption coordinator to try to get an answer. When I reached her she was sobbing. The blessing in this was I was able to comfort her and witness to her during this time when typically I could have totally, and, in the eyes of many, assumed the role of the “victim” and ignored what was happening to this woman who provided the primary income for her family and was now losing her job. Yet God, in His mercy, had another role for me to play that day, and by His grace He had prepared me to do it.

Amazingly, I was able to find another Christian adoption agency—and not only that! They ended up hiring my former coordinator, so the transition for me was absolutely seamless! Again, God’s hand at work. I did lose the $6,200 which I had already paid to the first adoption agency, and this was a major financial setback; but I know that my Father will help
us recoup that as well. As it has been all along the way, the money will be there at the moment it is needed. God is good, all the time!

Of course, the most amazing thing to witness is Adrian’s progression in his understanding of and faith in God. When he first came to me in the summer of 2013 he wanted nothing to do with God or Jesus. When I would tell him that Jesus loved him, he would shake his head and say, “No! Me? No!” This summer whenever there was something important that we were hoping for, he would be the one who would say, “Let’s pray!” A few times we were even in the car and I would let him know we would pray later, but he insisted, “No, we pray now!” Praise God! Each time his little prayer was answered. I have tried to explain that prayers are not always answered in the way we want or expect, but for right now the Father in heaven is letting this little guy grow in confidence in his heavenly Daddy too.

There are some skeptics who question why I would go through so much expense and personal sacrifice for just one child. The thought is that there are millions of orphans, and one person cannot make that big of a difference. My response is, It is making a huge difference in the life of one little boy. Besides, as trite as it may sound, doing something is always more and better than doing nothing. I also consider the fact that only God knows the impact that this boy may one day have on the world around him. Remember, “redemption” is costly. Adoption is a form of redemption. It is the redeeming of a life from a state of hopelessness to a brighter future. An “orphan” gains a father and is given a new name. Sound familiar?

When we look at what Jesus and the Father were and are willing to do for our redemption, there is no comparison. Nonetheless, we also know that Jesus would have come and paid the price of redemption even if only one person were to be saved. We are all orphans, redeemed by our Saviour from a state of hopelessness to gain eternal life. He gives us a new name and a family that will truly last “forever.”

On the other hand, so many people have commented on how wonderful it is that I am doing this and what a blessing I am for Adrian. The fact is that this whole process has been an amazing growth-building experience in my Christian walk. This boy is such a blessing in my life, and I truly believe that I have gained so much more than I have given.

Editor’s Note: Bobby is still in need of some funds to finalize the adoption process from Latvia. You can donate toward the finalization of Adrian’s adoption process by going to their website at hisbridgehome.wordpress.com. God bless you!

Good Samaritan Corner

“And all who would bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ must first fall into the ground and die. The life must be cast into the furrow of the world’s need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. But the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The seed buried in the ground produces fruit, and in turn this is planted. Thus the harvest is multiplied. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So in human life, to give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man. Those who for Christ’s sake sacrifice their life in this world, will keep it unto life eternal.”

–Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 86, 87.
Northeastern Field
Baptisms
Pastor Neptali Acevedo, Bronx, NY

By the grace of God, we have celebrated the baptisms of five new souls and one rebaptism in the Northeastern Field. Three young people were baptized on September 14, in the church of Providence, Rhode Island, and three more on September 21, in the Bronx, New York.

Those who were baptized in Providence are: Jaqueline Barrios, Maria Jose Barrios, and Otoniel Figuereo.

Those who were baptized in New York are: Larry Agustin and Warren Agustin.

Note: The person who was rebaptized does not want to be named.

“The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.”

2014 - 2015 Calendar

- November 28-29, 2014: Southeastern Field Conference in Cedartown, GA
- December 2014: Youth Outing in Austria
- October 2015: Orion Christian Academy Field Trip to Williamsburg, VA (visit ocaedu.org for updates)