



START AN ADOPTION FUND AT YOUR CHURCH

The Need

- Approximately 143 million orphans world-wide are trapped in a cycle of hopelessness, without anyone to love them...protect them...care for them....
- Adoption cost of \$20-30K seems “financially impossible” to many Christian couples. That feeling results in thousands of children remaining in orphanages or being adopted by unbelievers instead of learning the gospel of Jesus Christ in a forever family.

“One of the greatest challenges to adoption for many couples is what they have heard about the cost...In many cases, this amount is more than most couples feel they have [available] to spend” - FamilyLife’s Hope for Orphans

Role of the Church

- God has commanded His people (the Church) to care for those in need.
- When God calls a couple to adopt, the financial hurdles provide places to see God’s provision in ways we never imagined. We believe God wants to use His church as a part of a couple’s “financial provision” in adoption

How does an Adoption Fund fit with the vision/mission of First Baptist Church?

Evangelize the lost: Adoption is evangelism at its core...Bringing the mission field home, where children are loved, cared for, and discipled to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Edify the saved: Adoption Fund challenges, encourages, and enables Believers to put their faith in action, by stepping out in faith to adopt (fulfilling God’s commands in scripture). The process also provides an opportunity for couples to develop relationships with other Christians as they seek prayer and financial support.

Minister to those in need: There are millions of children waiting for forever families who would like to adopt them, but just can’t because of the financial barrier. By helping to reduce that barrier we are helping to rescue those children who are trapped in the cycle of orphan life.

Be a Conscience in the community: As the Church becomes obedient to God’s commands concerning the fatherless, the community will see Jesus Christ is alive and working in the lives of His people to care for those children who can't care for themselves.

“As Christians we are often known for what we are against, but the world doesn’t know what we are for. Jesus said ‘Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven’ - FamilyLife’s Hope for Orphans (Matt 5:16)

Adoption Fund Details



Matching Grants (mobilizer/catalyst in giving)

- Help Christian couples overcome the major obstacle in international adoption - the initial cost
- Offer Matching Grants from \$1,000-\$4,000 (per child) to help bring a child into a Christian family
 - LS qualifies/screens couples:
 - Spiritual: statement of faith, pastoral referral, salvation testimony, adoption testimony.
 - Financial: statement of net worth, cash flow
 - LS provides family with a “support raising” process to help them gather prayer and financial support for this adoption
 - LS Matches the funds raised on a “dollar-for-dollar” basis up to specified amount

continued on next page...



“I want to encourage you to spend some time with our good friends at Lifesong. God is using this ministry to open the eyes of the church to God’s heart for orphans.”

— Dennis Rainey, President, Family Life



“Adoption is a ministry to effect future generations...and Lifesong’s Adoption Grant, and Church

Adoption Fund programs are fantastic resources for how God could provide for your adoption financial needs...”

— Howard Dayton, Co-Founder, Crown Financial Ministries

START AN ADOPTION FUND AT YOUR CHURCH

- Mobilize the Body of Christ to come alongside believers who have been called by God to adopt one or more orphans into their family. The benefits are:
 - Creates a 'prayer team' and natural 'support group' for each adoptive family
 - Prompts more Christians to consider God may be calling them to adopt
- Examples of how God has blessed the Lifesong Matching Grant effort...for orphan souls!
 1. Bob & Katherine Sanford - adopted 4 siblings from Russia:
 - LS committed a \$10,000 Matching Grant, resulted in over \$10,000 being raised = **\$20,000 TOTAL** mobilized for this adoption!
 2. Tim & Monica Harlow - adopted an infant girl from China
 - LS committed a \$2,500 Matching Grant; resulted in over \$7,000 being raised = **\$9,500 TOTAL** mobilized for this adoption!



Interest-Free Loans - (created sustainable funding)

- Provides interest-free loans to help Christian couples overcome the major obstacle in international adoption - the initial cost
- Couples sign a covenant agreement to repay the loan through monthly or annual payments.
- Funds can become '*self-perpetuating*' - where the loan repayments each month will meet the current needs of new adopting families

The First Baptist Church Adoption Fund - How we serve your church

- **First Baptist Church (FBC)** - allocates funding from missions budget, benevolence fund or raises funds to launch ministry for Adoption Fund (Example: FBC total allocation is \$10,000 to be used as interest-free loans and/or matching grants)



- **Administratively Easy** - Lifesong serves your church by using LS's existing grant & loan management processes to administer your Church Adoption Fund. This eliminates the need for the local church to "re-create the wheel" in establishing a Fund. Lifesong will help administer the Adoption Fund, at no cost to the Church or the Fund. LS will **provide administration** for the following:
 - Qualify (approve/deny) families for Matching Grants/Loans based on mutually agreed upon criteria (FBC/LS).
 - Administer the funds, directed by FBC/LS partnership & provide monthly financial reports (transparency)
 - Receive & disburse funds to adoption agencies, etc. on behalf of approved couples as mutually agreed upon by (FBC/LS)
 - Administer tax-deductible receipts, mailings, etc.



- **"Win-Win"** situation
 - Church is active partner in ministry with little/no administrative burden
 - The Body of Christ as a whole is engaged in this Kingdom activity (church, friends, family)
 - The major roadblock of "finances" is removed
 - A child is able to be adopted into a loving, permanent Christian home



- **Synergy:** Both ministries - FBC and LS are able to **do more together**, than each of us could **do individually**.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.