

## The Invitation to Personify God's Grace

Imagine a country half the size of the United States. Imagine the people it would contain. Can you picture them? All shapes, all colors, all sizes, numbering over 140 million...but, all of them children. Children without mothers and fathers...they are orphans. There really is no need to imagine. This is the reality of our global crisis.

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) indicate that within the United States alone, more than 500,000 children are in the U.S. foster care system on any given day. And according to the organizers of National Foster Care Month, approximately 20,000 foster care children "age out" of the U.S. foster care system each year without an adoptive family.

"The wonder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is this - not one of us is worthy of adoption. In our sinfulness, not one of us has any claim on the Father's love, much less a right to adoption. But, the infinitely rich mercy of God is shown us in Christ, in whom believers are adopted by the Father. And this adoption, thanks be to God, is eternal and irreversible.

We have been given adoption as a gift and as a sign of the Gospel. The adoption of any child is a portrait of God's grace." ( Christian Post R. Albert Mohler, Jr.)

Listen to the calling of the Holy Spirit as he directs you in caring for those in foster care or children awaiting adoption. Being his hands and feet requires that we are active and intentional. What is He nudging you to do? Many times, the simplest acts of obedience are the most pleasing to our Heavenly Father, so don't be afraid to act.

November is designated as National Adoption Awareness Month. Read some literature about it. Research a few websites. Crunch some numbers. Pray. Is God calling you to help?

The Seeds of Hope ministry of Quaker Gap Baptist Church invites you to join them as they seek God's will in raising awareness of the need while helping to recruit loving Christian mentors and homes for children in foster care or those awaiting adoption. Please contact our church office if you would like more information or would like to join the Seeds of Hope ministry as a prayer warrior or a support to the foster and adoptive families in our community caring for their "children-by-grace".

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