

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES FAMILY TIMES



VOLUME XLII ISSUE II

JULY 31, 2020

Our Daily Bread

Jerry Callens

Ever been in a situation where everything looked dark, bleak and hopeless, where nothing was going right and things seemed to be getting worse instead of better? Ever made the



statement, "Well at least it can't get any worse?" Does that about sum up the current view of our times?

In spite of everything that our nation, our society, and we as individuals and families are struggling to deal with, are we able to still see God working? Well I'm thankful to say that the answer to that for CFS, is a resounding "YES!"

In spite of Jasmine (caseworker), being out most of the first 7 months recovering from chemo and two surgeries, in spite of Donna (my Ministry Asst), testing positive for the virus and having to be quarantined, in spite of churches not being able to participate in fundraising efforts like the annual Baby Bottle Boomerang program for CFS, God continues to demonstrate that this ministry is His and that it is important to Him.

Jasmine is back "full-speed" and raring to go. Donna is back and prodding us (me) to do more. And, because of the prayers and support of many like yourself, it made it possible for us to continue to counsel, encourage and be a support during this time for:

61

Moms chose life for their babies

From that, God answered the prayers of

9

Moms who chose to put their baby's best interest first (ahead of their pain) and chose to make an adoption plan

2

babies God blessed with loving, Christian families

And God blessed these families with a very special gift and responsibility.

Through your prayers, encouragement and support, I have been reminded again how important it still is to be content and only pray for our "daily bread."

Though we have not received the financial support that we would have expected normally, God continues to see



that our needs are met as they come up, in extraordinary ways.



One such example was two young sisters from the Englewood Christian Church in Jacksonville. Addison (9) and Bailey (6) decided on their own that they wanted to raise support for the CFS babies. They began making jewelry and hoped to raise \$100. They raised that the first day and by the end of one month, they had raised \$985!

Tell me that God doesn't still find ways to humble us and show that He can work through children.

May we all be reminded to "be like little children" and be content with **our daily bread** that **He** provides.

Look for ➡
throughout the newsletter!



SUMMER 2020

CELEBRATING OUR EARLIER PLACEMENTS!

Heather & Shawn look forward to introducing family and friends to son Landon Thomas, placed May 3rd, 2020.



Kyle & Mindy are pleased to welcome son Preston Dean into their lives, placed July 16th, 2020.



God's Blessings



YOU make a difference in the lives of children placed for adoption through CFS!

YOUR support gives babies the blessing of being raised in a Christian Family.

YOUR support gives those babies opportunities as they grow "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

YOUR support gives CFS adoptees the opportunity to serve others and share the Gospel of Christ!

CFS "Babies" grow up

CFS recently received an update on Canaan, who was placed with his family in 2009. His mother wrote:

Jerry! How are you? Can you believe Canaan is about to be 11 in a couple of weeks? Canaan knows who you are because we talk about how amazing you are and he'd love to meet you one day.

Canaan asked me out of the blue this



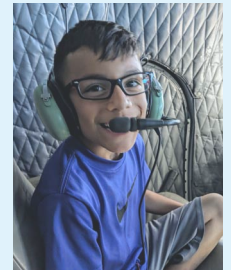
morning if I had told you that last spring I took him and his sister Judah to the mission I work for in Haiti. So here I am writing you.

I took the kids with me to Haiti last March via Missionary Flights International from Ft. Pierce, FL to Pignon, Haiti. Our mission has the 4th largest hospital in Haiti, 9 Christian primary schools (aka H.E.L.P.) with 1400-2400 total students

on any given year, we've dug over 2500 clean water wells in the region, a Pastoral Training program, evangelism program, sustainable farm, etc. While Canaan was there, he was able to visit many of our



schools, play with local children, ride in the back of a pickup truck which he thought was amazing, take small toys to children all over the countryside,



help take food and clothes to people at their homes in the countryside, worship with people, etc. I've attached some photos.

Hope you are well!

*~Kimberly,
A CFS Mom*

Partner with Christian Family Services as we reach out to birth mothers dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. Christian Family Services, Inc., is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. 100% of the contributions received by Christian Family Services, Inc., are retained by the agency. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION 9CH4221) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Update on Jasmine



Last fall, CFS Caseworker Jasmine Pierce was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. Following her chemo treatments, Jasmine successfully completed her surgery and reconstruction surgery. And as of about August, she has been able to be back with us full-time.



The timing for Jasmine's return was just in time for a larger influx of expectant moms due soon.

She continues to work with moms in Gainesville and Ocala. Several trips to Jacksonville were made by Jasmine to expectant moms, and San Jose Church of Christ has graciously provided a place to meet!

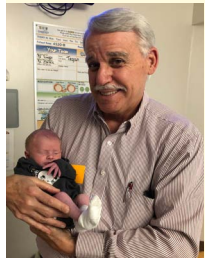


Jasmine recently joined an adoptive family, adopted child, birth mother, birth grandmother and sister for an outing at the zoo!

Unique & Changing Times

→ Hospital limitations

Each hospital has visitation rules, which have become stricter this year. **Landon**, placed in May, was allowed only one visitor his entire stay. Dad did not get to meet him until he left the hospital! **Preston**, placed in July, was allowed mom or dad, but not at the same time.



CFS Caseworkers were not allowed to be with the Birth Mother during her hospital stay. Strict limitation on visitation was enforced except during signing of paperwork for the adoptive placement.

→ 6 feet and masked



In our office, when we are at our desk, we are more than 6 feet apart. As Jasmine and Jerry work in a variety of locations with new people, caution is best to keep everyone healthy.

→ Virtual Court

Attorney Mitch Albaugh easily adapted to virtual "Zoom" hearings, which began in April.



SUMMER 2020

January - July, 2020
In Memory of

Sandra (Sandi) Bass
Tom & Jo Brown
Carl & Melissa Vinson

James Birkhold
Linda Case

Finis Cavender
Don & Joyce Price

Jan Davis Cole
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Thomas O. DeHerrera
Linda Case

Amanda Marie Dennard
Timberlane Church of Christ

Evelyn Florence
George & Nancy Coin

Bill Fidler
Linda Case

JoAnn Forehand
Roger & Marsha Bailey

Delbert Foster
Linda Case

Rutha Mae Harris
James & Zimmie L. Harris

Martha Hendricks
Gary & Pat Wyder

Carl & Annie Ruth Jacobsen
Linda Jacobsen

Ed Jennings
Don & Joyce Price

Bonnie Klems
Linda Case

Michael Leach
Linda Case

Lois Ann Lyon
Joan Spainhower

Kathryn McKenzie
Tom & Jo Brown
Joan Spainhower
Carl & Melissa Vinson

Francis Murphy
Linda Case

Dean Oliver
Linda Case

James Prince
Linda Jacobsen

Edward Rassey
Linda Case

Carolyn Roberts
Linda Case

Dee Simmons
Don & Joyce Price

Robert Stranger
Linda Case

Michael Ray Sutherland
Linda Case

Henry Swain
Ivan & Michele Swain

Charlotte Vaughn
Heather Traub

Jack Waters
Carl & Melissa Vinson

EARLIER FINALIZATIONS



Faith was very alert during her finalization hearing, and brought **Judge Ferrero** (at right) to tears! First time parents **Omoniyi & Gloria** are all smiles.



Cole peeks up from his mother's arms. After an early morning court hearing, **Steven & Kimberly** & older son, **Corbin**, were happy the new addition was official!



Graham tries to help dad proclaim "It's o-fish-al!" New parents **Ethan & Lauren** are pleased to share their lives, and last name, with their son.

Two Safe Haven Placements!

- **Thankful** that their mothers chose life for them.
- **Thankful** that the Lord answered their mothers' prayers and blessed these babies with strong, stable Christian families.
- **Thankful** that the Lord blessed families with the privilege of loving, nurturing and training these babies to become the men and women that He would have them to be.



→ Choose your way to make a difference through the ministry of Christian Family Services using work place donation platforms!



Choose to donate a vehicle to CFS through



CHRISTIANFAMILYSERVICES.COM

Earring Fundraiser!

Two precious young ladies, **Addison** (9) and **Bailey** (6), devised and conducted a "fundraiser" for CFS on their own.

They made earrings during the month of July.



Their mother conducted a great interview with them on Facebook so that they could explain what they were doing and why.



There was a second interview when they completed their mission.

Their initial goal was to raise \$100 for CFS. They raised more than that the first day! Ultimately, they raised \$985.00!

Their mom, Brittany shared:

"God is good, much better than we deserve and it was such fun to partner with Him and allow them to use these gifts to help others."

See the video at <https://youtu.be/4Kmn29oTSXY>



Making a Difference

Response for additional Caseworker

When we shared CFS Caseworker Jasmine Pierce's diagnosis and need for an additional Caseworker, you responded generously! YOUR gifts provided 60% of the funds needed to hire more staff. While contacts thus far have not led to filling this position, the funds were set aside to be used for this specific need.

While the drive to hire another caseworker has been stymied due to the pandemic, the need is still present. Continue to pray for the Lord to open the door to the right candidate.

If you know someone with a Social Work background who would like to work with women with unexpected pregnancies, their babies, and adoptive families, please have them contact CFS!



Effects of COVID-19



CFS has remained open throughout the pandemic. Though travel has been more limited and required social distancing & masks, we have been blessed with the opportunity to meet and work with many moms.

For most of the month of July, Jerry was the only one available for the office, or to meet with moms. Jasmine was still out and Donna tested positive for Covid-19. Once again the Lord was watching over us and saw us through. Donna is well and back, along with Jasmine, full-time.



Fundraising Handcrafted & VIRTUAL

When CFS donors were notified about the stress of the Pandemic on expectant mothers, there was an outpouring of love and funds! Housing and transportation has been a blessing to expectant women as they consider adoption for their unborn child.

- Churches who usually held Baby Bottle Boomerang campaigns for CFS were unable to do so this year. However, one congregation held a virtual campaign!
- Two sisters designed earrings from colorful bands and sold them online for CFS! (see photo at right and in the Newsletter insert)
- CFS Volunteer Bookkeeper created a friends of CFS art contest to benefit CFS. The theme for the art was Adoption. Four pieces of artwork were chosen from the entrants. The art will be printed on cards and sold as a fundraiser (see below and Newsletter insert).



Through faithful friends, CFS has been able to continue working with most moms. This has been true even though the financial assistance needed has greatly increased. We continue to only look for God's "daily" blessings. He always knows what we need and when.

Stationary with Meaning

Given the task to create art with the theme of *Adoption*, an adult adoptee and three children artists offered their own interpretation (at right). **Becky Barclift**, CFS Bookkeeper, gathered the art and created stationary for CFS to sell.

See the Newsletter insert to order stationary or one of a kind earrings (see photo above and story on page 4!



Networking for CFS

It takes teamwork to “get the word out” about Christian Family Services. If you are reading this, you are part of the CFS Team. We ask you to share the mission of the ministry with others, either by word of mouth or via social media. Tell others in need of pregnancy counseling (in Florida) that we are here for them! Share the worth of the ministry with people who are like minded so they can pray, donate or volunteer.

CFS staff attend events throughout the year to share the ministry, and the needs of the ministry, with others.

Do you know of an event we can attend to share CFS with others? Contact CFS so we can add the event to our calendar!



This was the first time we attended Santa Fe College Graphic Design's networking event, Gainesville. Two students Interned with CFS following the event.(Left)



Donna met students at the University of Florida, Gainesville, during the FYCS Networking Fair.(Left)



Johnson University, Kissimmee, invited CFS to their Career Fair.



Jerry met ministry minded members of Englewood Christian Church in Jacksonville during their Missions Ministry Conference (Left). At this event, Jerry & Debbie were able to reconnect to a past CFS family. At right are Heather & Pete, with daughter Rebekah (placed with them in 2006) and son Joel.



January -July, 2020
In Honor of

Jerry Callens

Joan Spainhower
Robert Kimberly

Charles Kimble

Mary Ellen Callens

Genie White

Judy Thomas



YOU are a blessing to CFS!

YOUR prayers have been answered as Jerry and Jasmine are working with more expectant moms, at least one who was planning to abort!

YOUR donations have allowed CFS Caseworkers to be available to women in Florida, and to more adoptive families.

God has allowed YOU to sustain CFS in 2020. We are thankful to Him, and to YOU, for your faithfulness.

Volunteer with CFS

People willing to share their talent with the ministry have always blessed CFS. Early in the year, CFS welcomed two Interns from Santa Fe Colleges' Graphic Design department.

Karen worked in the office, refreshing logos, the newsletter, and electronic media. The graphic at right was created by Karen for Jerry to use at the Missions Conference.



Casey filmed, edited and completed our first CFS family testimony. At right is the first screen of her work. The video can be found on the Christian Family Services YouTube channel.



Staff

Jerry D.Callens, Exec. Director & Case Worker
Jasmine Pierce, Case Worker
Debbie Callens, Case Worker

Donna L. Brooker, Ministry Assistant
Becky Barclift, Bookkeeper
John & Charlotte JeBailey, Cradle Care

Board of Directors

Jimmie Brunson
Jackie Collins
Fran Poppell
Don Price
Rick Worley

UnSplash (select photos), Flaticon & Canva were used to create this publication

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ORDER SLIP for cards or earrings

(postage included-please provide your mailing address)

Card set of 6 - \$25

Please send me (indicate the number of sets you are ordering and enclose payment):

- Variety set of 6
- 6 of card 1 (blue heart)
- 6 of card 2 (Psalms 139:14)
- 6 of card 3 (Matthew 19:14)
- 6 of card 4 (Hearts within Hearts)

Earrings by Addison & Bailey \$6

Please send me (indicate the number of earrings you are ordering and enclose payment)



----- Earrings (color selection not available limited supply)

I Will help a baby have **life** and a **Christian Family** to raise him/her through the Ministry of
My One Time Gift Today: \$

Monthly Gift (*Hearts for Hope* donors pledge \$84 month or \$1000 year)

\$250 \$100 \$75 \$50 Other \$ _____

Memorial option below.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

This donation is sent in **Memory or Honor** of: _____

Please notify: NAME : _____ Their relationship to the honoree? _____

ADDRESS: _____ City/State/Zip _____

**Additional Caseworker
Needed for
Christian Family Services**

If you know someone with a Social Work background who would like to work with women with unexpected pregnancies, their babies, and adoptive families, please have them contact CFS!

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