



hcf heartbeat

Hamilton Christian Fellowship's Monthly Newsletter

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- "Spirit of Adoption" by Kristi Crosswell
- Profile—Adam Clark
- "Prophetic Insights" by Stacey Campbell
- Monthly Event & Prayer Calendar

"Spirit of Adoption"

By Kristi Crosswell

Ephesians 1: 6 " In love he pre-destined us to be adopted as his son's and daughter's through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will." Adoption is biblically and lovingly the Heart of God. Our actual destiny here on earth is to receive God's Love, in the realization and understanding that we are the cherished son's and daughters of our ABBA father, YAHWEH, THE MOST HIGH. In doing so, we allow ourselves to be loved so that we too may love. Walking in this understanding is a day by day progression of allowing our hearts to open, and receive



more and more of HIM for healing and transformation! In the natural, Adoption is GOD reaching into hopeless circumstances and lighting a path of hope and restoration. Psalm 27:10 "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." Our spiritual inclusion in God's family means everything to us as a people; who may choose to use the breath of Life He put in us to honor and worship Him all the day's of our lives.

Adoption is a word I have known my whole life. I am Kristi and I was adopted in New York City at four months old. Thirty year's later I ac-

cepted Jesus in my heart and realized how GOD loved me all along. The road in between is marked by an overwhelming sense of feeling God's Love, protection and blessing always, and also the undeniable presence of a great sadness and loss resulting from being rejected. "The Spirit of rejection" steals life and can only be conquered in a life submitted to Christ Jesus. It took me a little while to find Him! My mother gave me up for adoption and that decision gave me Life! I recall my adopted mother reading me a story about a child who comes home to live with a family. Mom let me know that I too was "special and chosen"~ "I was adopted." I honor my mother for her Love to explain this to me and for her heart to adopt,

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Profile - Adam Clark

By Bob Cowling

Adam Clark is one of the most extraordinary young men that I've met, and yet he uses the word 'ordinary' to describe himself and his journey thus far. Maybe he means that what he has achieved and sacrificed are part of the normal Christian life and not of any note. Maybe he's inherited a British gene from his mother's side, or picked up a virus while growing up in Farnham, England till age five, that leads him to understate matters. But hearing him say that after interviewing him for this story, the one scripture that comes to mind is John 1:47 (The Message) where



Jesus says of his new acquaintance Nathanael, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body."

Adam's first sense of God was when he went with his mom to St. John's Anglican on Locke Street up until age twelve. In

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“...Adoption” cont’d from Pg. 1

It was definitely through my earthly father that God first revealed His Loving nature to me and is what ultimately led me to Christ. My father was kind, gentle, quiet, patient and good. He was forever lifting people up with laughter and he did not judge. He showed us as children what life looked like for some in the city and taught us to be grateful. Later in God’s Word I recognized these characteristics as the fruit of the Spirit. I realized how God had blessed me indeed! He had replaced the loss of a natural father with a man who walked in the ways of Christ. Looking back I am so grateful for this influence over my life and blessed to have had this guidance from God even during the time when I wasn’t submitted to Jesus and may have taken this for granted! What would have become of me without this mercy?

As a child I felt waves of sorrow which would embrace me out of nowhere and always lead me into thoughts of where I came from, what is my story, and who are my people? These feelings of

loss eventually led me on a painful journey of travelling the world chasing a spiritual ancestry since I didn’t have “my own story.” Alone in Jerusalem I sat watching men and women of the Jewish faith praying at the wall and felt comforted by their dedication. I wanted to know God. One cold December I found myself sitting at the bus stop outside the Auschwitz concentration camp weeping and waiting. In the agony of what I had just seen and felt I was able to bury my sorrows which were nothing in comparison to this devastation.

I was drawn to Israel in an inexplicable way...was I following a trail home?

On my way to salvation God mercifully gave Life to my womb and mind by healing me of ovarian cysts and changing the myth I had created of being “the barren woman.” This was a true miracle on both accounts! Once I gave my life to Yeshua, his amazing Love just took over my life and blessed every facet of it. My adoption file which had previously been burned in a Brooklyn fire according to the agency, was sent to me upon request. Thirty years

after being born I learned the story of a girl with Russian ancestry who was pregnant and talking out her decision to give her baby up for adoption with her social worker. I felt so blessed to be that baby! God lifted the burden from my heart that I had been carrying for so long and that is the greatest miracle. Soon after God delivered the right husband to me and we were blessed with our wonderful son. I love being a wife and mother and thank God for that blessing every day.

My personal story of adoption is complete in Jesus. It is my prayer that every child, like Moses, who is sent down the river in hopes of a new and better life lands on the shores of our Father. Children may come to know Jesus young through the adoption of these “little ones” into the homes of God’s people, and not have to suffer. Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:49 : “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” Living with God is our inheritance and Jesus is our Messiah.



“The angelic host does not call Him “Our Father.” Only Jesus and born-again believers—the adopted sons and daughters of God who have entered into the blessed Father-child relationship with God solely on the grounds of Christ’s sonship—have the privilege of calling Him “Abba, Father” which translates “Daddy, Daddy.”

Mike Bickle

Profile ... cont’d from pg. 1

Adam’s words, “life was good. I had both my parents and didn’t want for a thing. I attended great schools in Hamilton and played baseball as a pitcher eventually making it to the Hamilton Cardinals of the Inter-County baseball league.

It wasn’t until age 19 that Adam’s faith journey was kick started again when some significant changes started to shake his world. Adam began to date Brenda Mason whose family were long time members of Westside Baptist church in Westdale. Adam started to attend with her but listening in church to the stories of the people who gave their

lives to Christ, Adam initially said, “I had no issues in my life like those that were giving their testimonies. My good life made it difficult to come to Christ.” In fact Adam even considered himself hostile to the Christian faith at that time.

In 2001 at age 20 Adam’s parents divorced. What was once solid was now in flux. In 2003 Brenda started to become more serious about her faith, so much so that when Adam asked her some months later if she would marry him, she refused given the differences in their faith.

The final push for Adam came from his brother who was not a Christian but encouraged Adam not to dismiss something unless he

first commits himself to understand it fully. Adam wasn’t a big fan of all the fanfare of the conversion experiences he had witnessed so one day while alone with God he decided to believe in Jesus. In Adam’s words, “I now had a point of reference in life and it has helped in giving direction in my life.”

Adam and Brenda continued to date and within a year they both knew that God has called them together and they were married on February 14, 2004.

When I first met Adam five years ago he and his wife Brenda were planning for their first adoption. It was the first time I had encountered people who were having fund-raising gatherings to raise the \$10,000+

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JULY’S THEME IS “My Redeemer Lives ”

Send us your dreams, poems, songs, quotes, thoughts before June 25th at newsletter@hcfchurch.ca

“It’s Bigger Than You Think”

By Stacey Campbell

God has been highlighting a couple scriptures. One of them is the story of Elijah where he saw the cloud the size of a man’s fist, but what he heard in the spirit was the sound of a heavy rain. The Lord is looking for friends right now that don’t see after the natural but they hear the voice of God that is exceedingly, abundantly above anything they could ask or think. Because what God is about to do in the year 2012, beginning in this year is so big that none of you can imagine it. And it was His friends when He was alive on the earth that could not believe His purpose for while He was on the earth. It was his friends that tried to stop Him, that tried to shrink Him, that tried to say, “No! Don’t do that. Don’t die for the sins of the whole world.” It was His friends.

And I feel like the Lord is looking for friends that stay up with Him. That don’t just look with the eyes of the spirit but hear beyond that, something so much greater and then get ready to run,

to gird up their loins and say “Yes, Lord! Bring on that rain! Bring it on so big! We don’t care how big! We will never try to shrink it. We will never try to stop it. We will open ourselves up for it. We will open our churches. We will start running and running and running!” Because I am telling you that what is coming in 2012, this year -mark it- is huge.

And over in the heavens in the time of Jesus’ birth the stars began to sing out, and non-Jewish astrologers traveled hundreds of miles because the heavens were declaring the Glory of God. And there are calendars that are aligning even over this year, and non-Christian people are beginning to see signs in the heavens of something so big that is going to happen, beginning this year. But the Lord has already told His secrets to His servants the prophets and there is a harvest that is coming that is so big.

And I hear a concern in the heart of the Lord... “Will it be my friends who shrink me? Will it be my friends who go by what they can see instead of what they can hear in the spirit? Will it be my friends who decrease the container of the times for my purposes for this generation? Or will it be my friends that say: ‘Yes Lord, whatever you want we will run faster, we will run harder, we will keep up with you, we will stay up with you, we will keep running.’”

It’s bigger!! It’s bigger then all of us!! It’s bigger then all of us put together!! It’s bigger!! God, enlarge our hearts. Enlarge our minds, God. It’s bigger! It’s bigger! It’s bigger! Oh God, you want the whole world. There is not one that you’re not longing for. It’s bigger! It’s bigger than a city! It’s bigger than a nation! It’s bigger! It’s bigger! Oh God, let us think like you. Let us want it like You do. Stir longing, like You have longing, O God.



Profile ... cont’d from pg. 2

to cover the legal and administrative fees so they could adopt. It was a happy event with many of their family, friends and church at Westside Baptist eager to help them achieve their goals.

After one fund raising event however, an expectant mother picked them to be the couple she wanted to adopt her soon-to-be-born child. Thankfully close friends of theirs loaned them the money needed to continue the adoption process and then the Clarks sold their home and moved into shared accommodation so they could begin to repay the funds! All of this allowed Adam & Brenda to adopt Jacob the day he was born. “I held Jacob in my arms when he was four hours old” beamed Adam. “Jacob is God’s child and we are the stewards of him.”

Adam explains that this is true for all parents but for adoptive parents who choose to adopt privately, the point becomes crystal clear. The birth mother has seven days to sign off on the adoption after the baby is born. Then there is another twenty-eight day period where she is allowed to change her mind. This is followed by a six month period where others can contest the adoption during which time there are required visits with the birth mom and her family which still continue to this day twice a year. “It was through grace & God’s blessing that we are able to celebrate Jacob’s fifth birthday in May 2012” said Adam.

Within 2 years, working both as a mortgage broker and a waiter, with Brenda working part-time as a Registered massage therapist they were once again able to buy their own

home. And once again, after only nine months of starting the process of adoption with Children’s Aid, a call came that a three month old baby girl is available, beautiful Ava. Again the Clarks’ see God’s hand in the details of Ava’s adoption and it causes Adam to reflect on all that the Lord has provided for them. “I believe that no matter what your situation, or hole you’ve dug yourself, yield yourself to God and He will bless you, He will fulfill His purpose in your life.”

Romans 8:15 says, “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

That Spirit of adoption is palpable in Adams life as he receives his heavenly Fathers love and reflects it to the children He has placed in Adam’s care.



“Adopted children are no less children of their parents than are their naturally born offspring. Remember, in Christ Jesus, we are His special family growing in different ages, yet all are one in the unity of Christ. As we love each brother and sister, we do not need comparison with our family member to gain our identity which can only come from our intimacy with our Father—Daddy God. This is a season of breaking out of the “orphan mentality” into the “heirship” of sons and daughters of Abba Father!

John Mark Pool



It's Raining, It's Pouring
by
Christie Council

"It was actually a photo I found online that touched me, so I contacted the photographer, and she gave me permission to paint it in church. When I first saw it, it made me think about worshiping in His presence, becoming like a child playing in the rain. This little girl wants to feel it on her skin and drink it in too. He also gave me Psalm 72 to go with the painting."

View more of Christie's art at:
www.christiecouncil.com

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: All prayer watches are held in the Prayer Room EXCEPT for Thurs. a.m. corporate Prayer, Aliyah prayer and Devotional Prayer (main sanctuary)</p>					<p>1 Men's Prayer 6-7 am Devotional Prayer 7-8 pm</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Communion & Community Sunday 10 am</p>	<p>4 Crisis Response Prayer 12-1:30</p>	<p>5 NRH 7 pm</p>	<p>6 Corporate prayer 7 pm Focus: Hamilton</p>	<p>7 Corporate prayer 9:30 am Band of Brothers 7pm</p>	<p>8 Men's Prayer 6-7 am Devotional Prayer 7-8 pm</p>	<p>9 Baby Shower for Amy Cowling 2-4 pm</p>
<p>10 Sunday Service 10 am</p>	<p>11 Crisis Response Prayer 12-1:30</p>	<p>12 NRH 7 pm</p>	<p>13 Solemn Assembly 7 pm</p>	<p>14 Nehemiah Prayer 11:30 am Band of Brothers 7pm Aliyah Prayer 6:30pm</p>	<p>15 Men's Prayer 6-7 am Devotional Prayer 7-8 pm</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Sunday Service 10 am</p>	<p>18 Crisis Response Prayer 12-1:30</p>	<p>19 NRH 7 pm</p>	<p>20 Corporate prayer 7 pm Focus: Hamilton</p>	<p>21 Corporate prayer 9:30 am Band of Brothers 7pm</p>	<p>22 Men's Prayer 6-7 am Devotional Prayer 7-8 pm</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>Sunday Service 10 am</p>	<p>25 Crisis Response Prayer 12-1:30</p>	<p>26 NRH 7 pm</p>	<p>27 Corporate prayer 7 pm Focus: Jessica / Missions</p>	<p>28 Corporate prayer 9:30 am Band of Brothers 7pm Aliyah Prayer 6:30pm</p>	<p>29 Men's Prayer 6-7 am Devotional Prayer 7-8 pm</p>	<p>30</p>