

BirthMom Buds Bulletin

BirthMom Buds



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Special Points of Interest

- Book Review of "The Child Catchers" by Kathryn Joyce, beginning on page 1
- Finding Hope Again, in Ideas and Insights, page 2
- Our new section, "Good News!", on page 3

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Announcements

Save the Date – Save the date for the 10th annual BirthMom Buds Retreat scheduled for May 2-4, 2014 in Charlotte, North Carolina. More details to come in January 2014.

2013 Slideshow – The 2013 slideshow debuted at the retreat in May and is now on YouTube for your enjoyment. Watch the slideshow [here](#).

BirthMom Buds Chapters – BirthMom Buds is excited to announce our first chapters; [BMB of the Carolinas](#) and [BMB of MA](#). Please visit the web pages for each chapter for more information. We hope to add more chapters in the near future. If you'd like to start a chapter in your area, please [email us](#) for consideration.

BirthMom Buds on Social Media – Check out BirthMom Buds on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Marilee, our social media coordinator, has been posting some thought provoking questions on our Facebook page. Come join in the fun!

Buddy of the Year - Congratulations to Leigh Harding, our 2013 Buddy of the Year!

Bloggers Needed - We're looking for weekly bloggers to write for the [BMB Blog](#). Please [email us](#) if you are interested.

Chat Night – Don't forget about our chats every Monday night in the [chat room](#) at 10 pm eastern.

Newsletter Submissions - We are always in need of submissions for our newsletter. We're now accepting holiday related articles for the 4th quarter newsletter. Please [email Monika](#), our newsletter coordinator, if you are a birthmom and interested in writing for a future newsletter.

Adoption Spotlight

"The Child Catchers: Rescue, Trafficking, and the New Gospel of Adoption"

By Kathryn Joyce

Review by: Sarah Orlando, BSW

There is a new book about adoption that has been creating a buzz throughout the adoption community. It has people from every point of view talking and arguing with each other. [Kathryn Joyce](#) has done a remarkable job in her new book [The Child Catchers: Rescue, Trafficking and the New Gospel of Adoption](#). I have to admit that I was skeptical about the content at first and yet I was excited, as I already knew her book was causing a buzz. As I read I did what fact checking I could do in a few minutes so as to be sure that I wasn't believing everything I was reading blindly. What I found astonished, amazed, and angered me. From Ethiopia to South Korea to the United States, "The Child Catchers" captures the dark and unseen side of domestic and specifically inter-country adoption while taking a close look at how mainstream Christianity has contributed to making adoption a business.

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Adoption Spotlight continued from page 1...

Joyce addresses first what she believes is a main issue of adoption. "If you want to look at what's wrong with international adoption, state adoption, and Christian adoption," one agency director told me, "it all has to do with how they treat birthmothers. The common denominator in all of these is that the birthmother is invisible."

Joyce explores the roots of Christian theology and adoption and how it is affecting children and birth families. She takes you into what Rick Warren, Russell Moore and other Christian leaders have to say about adoption. What I read made me angry and sick. There is nowadays the concept that America is the best country and American homes are where those poor children from Africa, and other countries, belong. An entitlement to the children of other countries is becoming prominent in adoption agencies and in many adoptive parents. There is also the concept of American Christians saving the poor "orphans" of the world. This is referred to as a savior complex.

As Joyce explains, most Christians believe it is their obligation to adopt a child as God adopted us. She quotes Russell Moore's book, *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*. "That's adoption," he writes, describing his own approach of raising his adopted Russian sons to recognize that their heritage is no longer Russian but now Mississippian, trading Dostoevsky for Faulkner, borscht for red beans and rice. "We're part of a brand-new family, a new tribe, with a new story, a new identity."

This savior complex is dangerous and throughout her book, Joyce explains the reason why this thinking is such a danger to children and Christians. The book continues to explain, from the point of view of several birthmothers, what they were subjected to by Christian agencies and crisis pregnancy centers. The pregnant women were lied to, coerced, and treated as birthmothers before giving birth. The history given is disturbing and sends chills down my spine. Joyce does not attack Christianity, say

that it is a ridiculous religion, or that adoption is evil. She is giving light to what agencies and many Christians do not want to face or believe is true. This book gives great insight into what has gone wrong in modern adoption. I can't express in a few paragraphs the impact of this book or the power of the content. Joyce has done her research and presents it in such a way as to make you question your beliefs of adoption as a whole. I know that before reading this book I had only a small clue as to the corruption that can happen in adoption.

As a Christian I wasn't sure I would agree with what the author had to say about Christianity or Christians and I was prepared to write off what she had to say as just bias against Christians. The complete opposite happened. I now question how Christians and society view adoption. I recommend that if you have any ties to adoption or are interested in it for any reason that you read this book.

For Sarah's story and other writings, please read her blog: [Confessions of a Birthmother](#)

Ideas and Insights

Finding Hope Again By Amanda S.

For those of you who don't know my story, I relinquished rights to my daughter, T, in 2001. It was supposed to be a semi-open adoption, however it was closed a few years in. Several years later, much to my surprise (and elation) my daughter pushed to have contact with me! Prior it had been only with the APs, so this was new territory. Going through this brought up MANY emotions, both good and bad so I thought it would be a good idea to give you, the readers, some tips on how to handle both an adoption re-opening and first contact with your child (especially when they're younger).

- Take time! - Make sure you are okay and have processed feelings BEFORE you write back.
- Remember your words – Try not to overwhelm your child.
- Get advice – Have other momma friends proofread your letter – sometimes an outside opinion can make a letter!
- Make it age appropriate – If your child is still a "child" try not to inundate them with an overload of emotions; it might scare them.

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Ideas and Insights continued from page 2...

- Let your child set the pace! - Go off of what they write. Respect their feelings.
- Keep up your end! - Try not to lapse too long in contact. Remember that if they have initiated contact, chances are they want this as much as you do!
- Realize that your emotions are important! - It's a bittersweet thing. Remember to have a good support system to get those feelings out when you get something in. You'll need it.
- Enjoy!

For Amanda's story and other writings, please read her blog: [The Forgotten Mom—My Journey](#)

Inspiration



My Pearl By Caitlin Killoy

You are my pearl and my pearl you will always be.
 Just like a pearl grows inside an oyster, you grew inside of me.
 Rare, beautiful, one of a kind, I love you baby girl, you will always be mine.
 But God had other plans and said you were meant to be shared.
 He led me to your future parents so I could place you in their care.
 Now they will raise you and love you as their own.
 You're where you're meant to be, your home.

Love always,
 Mom

Good News!



This is a new addition to our newsletter. In this section we will be sharing the noteworthy events of our members. If you know any of these women, be sure to extend a congratulations to them again!

- Congratulations to Michelle Lasater Carlson, who married her daughter's birth father on June 8th. May the newlyweds live a long and happy life together!
- Congratulations to Michelle Thorne, who received her degree of a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Child and Family Development from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on May 11, 2013. What a huge accomplishment!
- Congratulations to Rikayla Douge, who received her degree of a Bachelors in Business Administration with an emphasis in Supply Chain Management from Central Washington University on June 9, 2013. Way to go, Rikayla!

If you have a piece of good news you would like to have shared in a future newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to bmbulletin@gmail.com.

Birthday Celebrations



If you'd like yours or your (placed) child's birthday shared in a newsletter, please email it to bmbulletin@gmail.com.

July

4—LeiLani Wood
 5—Caitlin Karalus' son
 10—Amanda (Shults) Argyriadis
 11—Chelsie Burke's son
 13—Kelly Hartman's daughter
 14—Kellie Shirek's son, Zachary
 16—Tracy Parker's son
 20—Desha Wood's son
 21—Jenifer Tyndall
 25—Erica Johnson
 27—Britney Clemens O'Connor's daughter

August

1—Lora Urquhart-Rudsill's daughter
 4—Gwendolyn Stanley's son
 7—Lorinda Makinson's son
 8—Suzanna Silkwood
 9—Gwendolyn Stanley
 12—Danielle Card
 12—Debra Ellis
 16—Monika Zimmerman
 31—Elizabeth Beaver

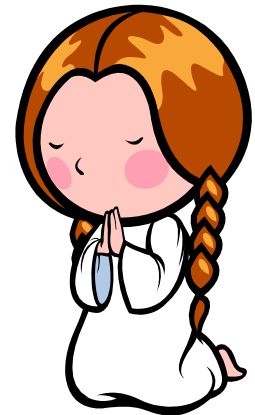
September

11—Leah Outten
 15—Debbie Logan's son, Blake
 16—Coley Strickland
 16—Lani's daughter, Kinsey
 20—Coley's son, Charlie
 25—Lora Urquhart-Rudsill
 27—Kari Brynne

Prayer Requests

By including the prayer requests section it is not our intent to force religion on anyone. We've had multiple requests to include this section. If you don't pray, simply skip this section. If you have a prayer request for a future newsletter, please email it to bmbulletin@gmail.com.

- The significant other of one of our members has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He had brain surgery on July 1st. She asks for prayers that he will recover quickly from the surgery and that the surgery and subsequent treatments will work so that she and he can live a full life together.
- Melanie Mosberg, our retreat coordinator, has a few prayer requests. The first one is for herself, as she needs insight on a career path. The second is for her mother, who is facing her second hip replacement surgery in mid-July. The third is for her father as he recovers from spine surgery.



Best of the Blog



You Are Strong: <http://birthmom-buds.blogspot.com/2013/06/you-are-strong.html>

written by Amber, published on June 26, 2013

Grandchildren as a Reward?: <http://birthmom-buds.blogspot.com/2013/06/grandchildren-as-reward.html>

written by Terri on June 20, 2013

Broken Can Be Beautiful: <http://birthmom-buds.blogspot.com/2013/06/broken-can-be-beautiful.html>

written by Bethany on June 4, 2013

2013 Slideshow: <http://birthmom-buds.blogspot.com/2013/06/2013-slideshow.html> published by Coley on June 1, 2013

Founder's Corner

Dear Friends,

The biggest thing that has happened since our last newsletter was the 9th annual BirthMom Buds Retreat & Celebration held in Charlotte, North Carolina the weekend before Mother's Day. We hosted our biggest crowd yet of birthmoms from all walks of life, representing all adoption types, and a wide variety of ages.



Coley and Lani dressed as super heroes at the BMB Mixer.

While there is so much planning and work that goes into carrying off this retreat and trying to make it meaningful for each and every person, the stressful nights become worth it when we get to reunite with old friends and meet lots of new birthmoms who quickly become friends. Re-establishing old friendships and making new ones is definitely one of our favorite parts of this retreat.

Next year, we'll celebrate our 10th annual Birthmom Retreat! Double digits! Because this will be a big celebration of that accomplishment, we are already making plans for next year's festivities. So mark your calendars now (May 2 – 4, 2014) and start saving those pennies to attend! Since we are already preparing for the retreat next year, if you'd like to assist in preparation for next year's retreat now is the time to let us know. Email us at birthmombuds@gmail.com.



2013 BMB Retreat Attendees

Thanks to each and every one of you who came to this year's retreat and made it so memorable. We can't wait to see you (and hopefully lots of new faces too) next year!

Hugs and love,
Coley and Leilani