



An Open Door
Adoption Agency, Inc

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email: opendoor@rose.net website: www.opendooradoption.com

Dear Inquirers:

We at An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc. are very pleased that you have contacted us concerning adoption of a child. An Open Door is a private, non-profit, Christian agency founded in 1987. We are among the largest agencies in Georgia, having placed over 1,000 children. Please be assured that there is also a child for you. The agency now offers a number of domestic and international adoption alternatives.

Domestic programs include:

Caucasian infants
African-American infants

International programs (Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Russia):

Infants
Special Needs and Older children
Sibling Groups

Applications will be accepted immediately to begin the search for your birthmother or child. Families wishing to adopt a domestic infant can expect an average wait of eighteen months. Those of you interested in international adoption, can expect to have your child (or children) in four to twelve months after all your documents are received. Please indicate your program preference on the enclosed application.

Our domestic adoption programs hold informational meetings three times a year in February, May and September. Families applying for domestic adoptions are required to attend two informational and training meetings.

Adoptive parents pursuing international adoption are required to attend an international, adoption training. (Arrangements will be made for out of state adoptive parents.)

An Open Door staff looks forward to working with you as you plan for your future in adoption. We believe that your lives will be enriched by adoption as God answers your prayers and fulfills your dreams with a child waiting especially for your love and care. It is our desire to help you fulfill this dream and bless the life of a child.

Sincerely,

Walter E. Gilbert
Chief Executive Officer

“Adoption is a loving choice”



DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION PROGRAMS

An Open Door is reaching out in many new directions to offer life and nurturing families to children around the world. In addition to our original role offering adoption as an alternative for Georgia infants, we are now finding loving Christian families for orphan children from overseas. Almost daily the Lord is opening opportunities for the Agency to transform the lives of children. The following briefly outlines An Open Door's domestic and international programs.

DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS

Many families are now expectantly waiting to adopt domestic Caucasian and Minority children. Through a network of caseworkers across the state of Georgia, An Open Door finds, nurtures and counsels birthmothers who want to place their children for adoption. Families also network to find birthmothers themselves in order to speed their adoption process. Ultimately, each family is blessed with a precious child of their own.

Adoptive parents may enter the domestic program either through one of our free Adoption Informational Meetings, usually scheduled in February, May, and October or a personal interview may be scheduled as deemed necessary by our agency. Once a family enters the program, a homestudy is begun along with a family profile. The agency then offers a full-day "Preparation for Parenthood" meeting.

When all documentation and training are completed, families enter the active 'pool' of adoptive parents from which agency-matched birthparents select the family for their child. The average waiting time for agency-matching is now just over one year.

In addition to agency matched placements, the agency assists families in a networking program to find birthparents themselves. These networked or "designated" placements are handled on a cost pass-through basis. We are happy to assist a family by either program that finds your child first.

An Open Door is one of the largest and most reputable agencies in Georgia, placing over seventy-five domestic infants each year. We have offices or caseworkers conveniently located to service you anywhere in the state of Georgia. We welcome the opportunity to help you find your child.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

An Open Door is seeking loving Christian families for orphan children from many foreign countries. Almost daily the Lord is opening new opportunities for the Agency to transform the lives of children. The following briefly outlines An Open Door's international programs:

International adoptions are now available in Eastern Europe, Russia, Asia and Latin America. The Agency has placed over 150 children from Eastern Europe and Russia. Our Chinese facilitator has completed hundreds of adoptions. Many more international adoptions are in progress.

The Agency has wonderful bi-lingual facilitators trained to help families through the adoption process in each country. Instead of taking months in the foreign country to carry out an international adoption independently, our facilitators have everything prepared for our families to complete adoptions quickly. Most foreign adoptions are completed within four to twelve months after submission of all required documents and INS approvals. In every case, children available for adoption by American citizens are fully and permanently released for adoption with no further recourse by birth parents. All foreign adoptions are finalized in the country before bringing the child to the United States.

EASTERN EUROPE

Hundreds of thousands of Caucasian children are abandoned in orphanages across the former Soviet Union. Many children are abandoned because of their parents' poverty in the economically depressed post-communist era. Others are truly orphans or have had parents rights terminated for criminal activity or child abuse. Parents must realize that children coming from orphanages will almost certainly experience some degree of developmental delay due to institutionalization.

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Infants are immediately available, along with toddlers, older children and sibling groups. Russia permits adoption of healthy children. Both healthy children and those with minor special needs are available. Many of the special needs are developmental in nature and quickly disappear under the nurture and care of their new parents.

An Open Door offers programs in many regions of Russia and Ukraine. Our facilitators are able to find children available for adoption, then take the child's and adoptive family's documents through most of the adoption process before the family travel's to the country. This preparation makes it possible to complete the adoption in two to three weeks in most Eastern European countries.

LATIN AMERICA

In order to make families available to these orphaned children (those released for adoption), An Open Door works with two Christian orphanages in Guatemala, a Christian attorney and a Christian orphanage in El Salvador and a Christian, Harvard-educated, Attorney in Ecuador. They arrange all adoptions as well as accommodations, interpreters and translations. Families will be accompanied during the entire stay in Guatemala, El Salvador or Ecuador. In Ecuador, one trip of 20 days or two short trips (five day/three day) will complete your adoption. Only four days in either El Salvador or Guatemala is necessary to complete an adoption. (There is also an adoption escort service in Guatemala for those that cannot travel.)

ASIA

An Open Door is working in both China and Taiwan. China's quota system created the need to expand and offer new programs, so An Open Door has now made Taiwan adoptions an option.

China's population is estimated at 1.1 billion, almost one quarter of the earth's population. Yet, China occupies only 7% of the earth's arable land. The threat of mass starvation has forced strict population controls. China has adopted a one-child policy which is enforced by giving extra food, larger pensions, better housing, free health care and salary bonuses to couples who pledge to have only one child. Those who break the pledge lose all benefits.

The one-child policy and a strong preference for boys has resulted in the abandonment of thousands of baby girls. So many healthy female infants fill orphanages that the Chinese government is very cooperative in making them available for adoption. Orphanages are anxious to please adoptive couples and allow great flexibility in selecting an infant. It takes 9-11 months to complete an adoption after submitting documents.

In order to make families available to these abandoned children, An Open Door works with a Christian facilitator of Chinese adoptions who has successfully completed hundreds of adoptions. He arranges all adoptions as well as travel, accommodations, interpreters and translations. Families will be accompanied during the entire stay in China. Only ten days in the country are necessary to complete an adoption.

In Taiwan, we are working with two wonderful Orphanages. One has very restrictive specifications for adoptive parents (must be 30 to 40, married 5 years and childless because of infertility). The other orphanage has opened up to single adoptions as well as younger and older couples with and without children. Both boys and girls are available for adoption in Taiwan.

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF PROGRAMS

An Open Door is not only concerned with adoption of orphan children, but with helping the thousands of children who must remain behind. We have helped arrange truckload shipments of food, clothing and medical supplies to Russian orphanages and equipment to orphanages in several Eastern European countries. We have arranged a free dental care program for street children in Ecuador. Contributions toward these programs will have an immeasurable impact on the lives of orphaned and abandoned children. Please help us demonstrate Christ's love for these children. Relief projects are carried out in cooperation with missionary groups in each country who can take God's word to these children. Your help in meeting the needs of foreign orphan children would be greatly appreciated.

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Acknowledgement of Receipt of Agency Orientation Materials

I/We certify that we have read or been trained in and understand the following:

- The Agency's adoption services,
- The Agency's eligibility requirements for adoption,
- A description of the procedures involved with adoption,
- The Agency's fee schedule and refund policies,
- The approximate time the assessment and adoption process will take, and
- The types of children available for adoption.
- The legal procedures involved in adoption.
- The minimum requirements for an adoptive home and the procedures for the home study.
- The selection and placement process.
- The process children use to locate birth parents, and the process birth parents use to locate children. (This does not apply to International Adoptions-International Adoptions are closed adoptions.)
- The Agency's grievance procedures.

Adoptive Father

Date

Adoptive Mother

Date

Please sign and return this page with your application



An Open Door
Adoption Agency, Inc

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please return this application form with a recent snapshot, preferably in color of both of you and your children, if any. Snapshot is not returnable.
2. Complete and return the entire application, including the preliminary medical form and statements of faith.
3. Please enclose a \$200 application fee, which is not refundable.
4. If applying from outside of the US, send money order or cashiers check in U.S. dollars.
5. Once your completed application is received along with the application fee, your application will be processed promptly, and further instructions will be provided.

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PLEASE INDICATE PROGRAM YOU ARE APPLYING TO:
Domestic International
If International, what country?
Age preference of child?
Gender preference of child?

APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION

Please Print or Type

*When returning application please include a photograph of yourselves.

ADOPTIVE FATHER

ADOPTIVE MOTHER

NAME Last First Middle

NAME Last First Middle (Maiden)

ADDRESS Street City State & Zip County

HM PH NUMBER () CELL PH NUMBER ()

E-MAIL:

CIRCLE ONE: Apartment/House Own/Rent? How Long? NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION

EMPLOYER

EMPLOYER

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

PHONE # () HOW LONG?

PHONE # () HOW LONG?

APPROX. ANNUAL INCOME

APPROX. ANNUAL INCOME

AGE & BIRTHDATE

AGE & BIRTHDATE

BIRTHPLACE

BIRTHPLACE

CITIZEN OF U.S.? ANCESTRY

CITIZEN OF U.S.? ANCESTRY

HAIR EYES HT. WT.

HAIR EYES HT. WT.

COMPLEXION HEALTH

COMPLEXION HEALTH

HOBBIES

HOBBIES

RACE RELIGION

RACE RELIGION

IF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, WHAT RELIGION WOULD CHILD BE REARED?

DATE & PLACE OF MARRIAGE

HOW DID YOU HEAR OF AN OPEN DOOR?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING TO ADOPT?

DO YOU HAVE A RECENT HOME STUDY? IF YES, DATE COMPLETED

NAME & ADDRESS OF AGENCY

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Application fee (\$200), which is not refundable, is due with this application.
2. Send certified copies of your birth certificates. (If you have ordered these, please send in your application) and indicate that the missing documents will be forwarded ASAP) (These will not be returned to you
3. Attach a photocopy of your marriage certificate and (when applicable) your divorce decree.
4. Attach a Statement of Faith from each of you.
5. Attach one current family photo {adoptive parent(s) and children if any}.
6. All information must be complete for this application to be processed.



ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

ADOPTIVE FATHER

ADOPTIVE MOTHER

PRIOR MARRIAGES _____

PRIOR MARRIAGES _____

NAME OF EX-SPOUSE _____

NAME OF EX-SPOUSE _____

HOW TERMINATED _____

HOW TERMINATED _____

WHEN & WHERE _____

WHEN & WHERE _____

OF CHILDREN & AGES _____

OF CHILDREN & AGES _____

WHERE CHILDREN RESIDE _____

WHERE CHILDREN RESIDE _____

CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOME

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE _____ ADOPTED/BIOLOGICAL HEALTH _____

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE _____ ADOPTED/BIOLOGICAL HEALTH _____

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE _____ ADOPTED/BIOLOGICAL HEALTH _____

EDUCATION

DEGREE _____ MAJOR _____

DEGREE _____ MAJOR _____

NAME OF COLLEGE _____

NAME OF COLLEGE _____

DATE OF GRADUATION _____

DATE OF GRADUATION _____

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

SAVINGS _____

OTHER INVESTMENTS _____

REAL ESTATE MARKET VALUE _____

MORTGAGE PAYMENTS MONTHLY _____

EQUITY IN REAL ESTATE _____

MORTGAGE BALANCE _____

RENTAL INCOME _____

OTHER INCOME _____

(AP#1) LIFE INSURANCE _____

(AP#2) LIFE INSURANCE _____

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL HISTORY - Explain all "YES" answers on a separate sheet.

Have either of you:

_____ Been in Bankruptcy

_____ Been in a Mental Hospital

_____ Placed a child for adoption

_____ Having/Had Therapy/Counseling

_____ Been turned down by adoption agency

_____ Past due on any child support

_____ Been approved by an adoption agency in the past year

_____ Been Arrested _____ Convicted

_____ Received other than Honorable Discharge from Military

_____ Filed for divorce, separation, or annulment of this marriage



ADOPTIVE PARENT CRITERIA

<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Age</u> Minimum/Maximum		<u>Years</u> <u>Married</u>	<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>Estimated Time Till</u> <u>Placement</u>
<u>UNITED STATES</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Newborn</u>	<u>12 - 18 months</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>	<u>Age</u> Minimum/Maximum		<u>Years</u> <u>Married</u>	<u>Age of Child at</u> <u>Placement</u>	<u>Estimated Time From</u> <u>Dossier Till Placement</u>
<u>EASTERN EUROPE</u> (Caucasian Children)					(Older Child is Quicker)
<u>Latvia</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>No upper limit</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>6 years to 15 years</u>	<u>6 - 9 months</u>
<u>Lithuania</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>6 years to 15 years</u>	<u>6 months - 2 yrs</u>
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>10 months to 15 years.</u>	<u>6 - 12 months</u>
<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>No upper limit</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>1 year to 15 years</u>	<u>2 months</u>
<u>LATIN AMERICA</u> (Hispanic and Indian Children)					
<u>El Salvador</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u> (For an infant)	<u>5</u>	<u>9 months to 15 Yrs.</u>	<u>12 months</u>
<u>Guatemala</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u> (Older considered)	<u>2.5</u>	<u>4 months to 15 years</u>	<u>4 - 6 months</u>
<u>Peru</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>5 years to 15 years</u>	<u>9 - 12 months</u>
<u>ASIA</u>					
<u>China</u>	<u>30</u> (3 & Older – No Upper Age Limit)	<u>45</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>9 Months to 15 Yrs</u>	<u>24 - 36 months</u>
<u>Taiwan</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6 Months to 2 Yrs</u>	<u>10 months</u>

*Minimum age and length of marriage at time of Placement. Couples may begin application process earlier



PRELIMINARY MEDICAL INFORMATION, (Print and complete)

Adoptive Father

Adoptive Mother

Name: _____
Last First

Name: _____
Last First

Have you been, or are you currently, under treatment for any medical, psychiatric or emotional condition within the last five (5) years?

___ YES (see below) ___NO

___ YES (see below) ___NO

If YES, describe condition(s) and reason for treatment
(attach additional pages if necessary)

Date diagnosed: _____

Date diagnosed: _____

Treatment: _____ to _____

Treatment: _____ to _____

Name, address, phone number of doctor, therapist, counselor, etc.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Phone: (_____) _____

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE AND HONEST
INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION FROM
CONSIDERATION.**

EACH ADOPTIVE PARENT MUST SIGN!

Adoptive Father

Adoptive Mother

Date

Date



INVESTIGATION AUTHORIZATION

We hereby authorize An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc. or its representatives, to pursue any investigation it deems necessary in order to properly evaluate us as an adoptive family. We understand and agree that at times it may require independent investigations conducted by personnel hired by An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc.

We also authorize An Open Door Adoption Agency, Inc. or its representatives to submit applications, documents, requests, etc. on our behalf to further our adoption process as is needed. In doing so, we also ask that all entities respond and assist An Open Door as our agents in this adoption.

EACH ADOPTIVE PARENT MUST SIGN!

Adoptive Father

Adoptive Mother

Date

Date