



ADOPTING FOR LIFE CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS
February 26-27, 2010

Don't you Already Have Kids? Adding to Your Existing Family Through Adoption

Randy Stinson – Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY

This breakout session will offer rationale, strategies, and advice for those who want to adopt when they already have kids.

What about the Birthparents? Thinking about Birthparents and the Adoption Process

Justin Taylor – Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL

Adoption, Orphan Care and the Church: Finding Your Place in the Story of Redemption

Dan Cruver – Together for Adoption

For Christians and churches, involvement in orphan care and adoption ministry has the potential for providing a unique opportunity to participate in the grand story of redemption in deeply personal ways. When a church embraces the mission of orphan care, it's never just about orphan care. It's ultimately about the Gospel and a deeper appreciation of it. This session will explore how caring for orphans can take you and your church deeper into the Gospel and help you find your place in the story of redemption.

A Call to Holiness: Crisis, Transracial Adoption and the Gospel

Maridel Sandberg – The MICA Fund, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN

Come hear Maridel share her journey through personal crisis, adopting brown babies, parenting eight kids, and what it means to pursue "pure religion" in the mess of life.

Attachment Disorders and the Gospel: Building the Right Adoption DNA in Your Family

Timothy Paul Jones – Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY

"Reactive Attachment Disorder"—it's a label that's applied to many children, especially orphans that are

adopted at older ages. According to some psychological literature, to be “attachment disordered” is to be incapable of forming healthy family relationships. Yet how does the Gospel of Jesus Christ relate to attachment disorders? Should you adopt a child who has been diagnosed with an attachment disorder? What are the unique challenges that will face parents of “attachment-disordered” children? Dr. Jones has dealt with these issues both personally and academically. Building from a biblical foundation, he will debunk many assumptions about attachment disorders, reinterpret others, and show how the Gospel relates even to this aspect of life and development.

Here is the Church and Here are the People: Where Does Adoption Fit in?

Kevin Ezell – Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Adoption can change your life, your family, but can also change your church. How can a church start an Adoption Ministry? Why should a church start an Adoption Ministry? How can an Adoption ministry impact your churches view of missions? Your church will never be the same once you begin to reach out and bring the world to you through adoption.

God’s Generous Ministries: Church Adoption Funds & Innovative Adoption Funding

Andy Lehman – Lifesong for Orphans

How churches can create simple, effective Adoption Funds through innovative adoption funding tools removing the number one barrier to adoption. Specifically this session will provide solutions to the top 3 most common hurdles for churches. It’s about “more than just dollars and cents”, and will share incredible testimonies of God’s blessing and provision through the financial challenges.

Funding Your Adoption: Resources for Families and Churches

Jason Kovacs – ABBA Fund

For most couples, the greatest obstacle to adoption is the cost. This workshop will look at a Biblical and practical perspective on how to fund an adoption. We will cover God’s promises and God’s provisions through interest-free adoption loans, tax-credits, grants, and creative fundraisers. We will also look at the benefits of establishing local church adoption funds.

Every Tribe and Nation: The Nuts and Bolts of International Adoption

Mark Tatlock – The Master’s College, Santa Clarita, CA

Considering the global statistics of true orphans and categories of at risk children around the world, this seminar will highlight the role of the church in developing responsive ministries to international adoption and the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, orphanage development, emerging strategies in child rescue and human trafficking, counseling for traumatized children, and educational and developmental resources for children who have been institutionalized. Each of these issues provides an opportunity for US and international churches to design ministries of engagement that mobilize skilled lay people to apply their vocational expertise to address the continuum of needs today’s children represent.

The Land of the Free and the Brave: The Nuts and Bolts of Domestic Adoption

Dan Dumas – Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY

A Sign of Things to Come: How Ethnic Adoption Prepares Us for Heavenly Worship

Eric Bancroft – Castlevew Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN

The church is slowly realizing what much of the world has already accepted – society is increasingly multicultural at many levels and in many areas. Ethnic adoptions have the ability to demonstrate what is not only true in society around us but more importantly in heaven above us. Salvation offered and accomplished for people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and languages is not the idea of a coalition of people for affirmative action. It is God's idea Himself. Come to this seminar to learn more about the lessons, blessings, and challenges that ethnic adoption provides.

Foreign Affairs: The Sticky Side of International Adoption

Bill Bistransky – Office of Children's Issues, United States Department of State

What is the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention? Is the Convention process different from the orphan process? These questions are only two of the many that often cross the minds of prospective parents who are debating adopting from overseas. The U.S. Department of State will provide answers, discuss relevant issues, and answer your questions during the Intercountry Adoption: Adopting from Convention and non-Convention Countries session. Topics covered will include current trends in intercountry adoption, things to consider when adopting, and how intercountry adoptions are processed in the United States.

Taking Initiative: Launching an Adoption Ministry in Your Church

Tera Melber – Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Big or small, your church can have an effective adoption ministry that serves families in every stage of their adoption journey. In this session you will learn practical tools to assist you in launching an effective adoption ministry in your church. An adoption culture in your congregation can unite and engage every member of your church with the believer's call to "defend the cause of the fatherless." (Is 1:17)

A Call for Men to Lead: Mobilizing Men for Adoption and Orphan Care

David Prince – Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, KY