



May 26, 2015

Hello Friends and Family,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Most of you know that our family is growing. We are currently in the middle of adopting a little girl named "P" age 9 and her little brother named "J" age 6. Not only are we deeply blessed to call these two ours, we have also come to love this African Nation.



Adoption has always been on our heart, but we were not actively seeking out adoption. Through an opportunity to go to Africa with some friends and be part of a Youth Conference this past December, God introduced us to P&J and we knew He was calling us to bring them into our family.

Since being back, we have been through the home study process, doctors visits, finger printing and a long list of other things to do to be approved for P&J. We have officially received approval and we continue to prepare our hearts and home to receive our two new children.

These past 6 months have been crazy.... God opened a job opportunity for Kevin, which financially has help with the adoption costs, but the down side has been that Kevin has been working out of town for the past 7 months. All the adoption paper work was a huge challenge for a non-detailed person like myself in the midst of single parenting for most of the time. The past months have gone by like a blur but each day God's grace has come in waves and we are humbled to know that in our weakness HE is made strong. We are on the other side now, where Kevin is able to be home more and where the paperwork for the adoption is behind us.... There is a sense of normalcy. For now...

As we wait for all the paperwork to go through all the legal tape, we take a deep inhale as we long to have our kiddos home, and as we look ahead to the next steps to get them here.

We know it takes a tribe to raise children, and it takes a tribe to bring the orphan home. The fatherless are a prime target for the devil and we are experiencing the battle.... We would be honored if you would be part of our tribe.

**1. We covet your prayers first and foremost.**

We know the hardest part of all of this will be leaving our loved ones back home as we go and bring two more of ours home.... We are told that it will take between 5 to 12 weeks, depending on legal process. It is all a walk of faith, as even now we are trusting God to be P&J Comfort, Caregiver, Protector and Father.... When we leave we trust God's grace to meet us as we entrust our kids here at home to His same great care.

We are praying that we will be able to leave sometime in August or earlier. We wish we could just snap our fingers and they would be home. We know without a shadow of any doubt God has planned before the beginning of time that these two would join our family and so for the Joy set before us we will go to the ends of the earth and trust God the Author and Finisher of this story to be more than we could ask or imagine for our family of 9.

**2. The next biggest challenge is not opening our hearts and home to these precious ones, but coming up with the finances to make this happen.** The estimated cost for bringing P&J home is \$49,000.00, this includes travel. That's certainly money we don't have, but as we prayed for God's leading to adopt them, God was calling us to trust Him in the whole process, including finances. By God's grace we've been able to pay the initial \$18,000.00. Our church family at Crossroads Bible Church has partnered with Lifesong for Orphans and committed an Adoption Matching Grant of \$5000 to help pay our adoption expenses. Will you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us meet this matching grant and cover the remaining \$31,000.00 adoption expenses to bring P&J home? Our goal date is *August 6*, but funds will be accepted towards our adoption until our children are home and/or our adoption is complete.

Please make checks payable to "Lifesong for Orphans. In the memo, note **(Smith/#5323) this** assure it goes to the correct account. Please mail to Lifesong for Orphans, PO Box 9, Gridley, IL 61744. Lifesong has been blessed with a partner that underwrites all U.S. administrative and fund-raising costs (TMG Foundation and other partners). That means **100% of your donation will go directly to the adoption.**

Another option is to give online. Go to [www.lifesongfororphans.org/give/donate](http://www.lifesongfororphans.org/give/donate). Select "Give to an Adoptive Family." Complete the online form and fill in "Family Account Number" **5323** and "Family Name" **Smith**.

In following IRS guidelines, your donation is to the named non-profit organization. This organization retains full discretion over its use, but intends to honor the donor's suggested use.

Individual donations of \$50 or more and yearly donations totaling \$250 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Receipts for donations under \$250 will gladly be sent upon request. Lifesong is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

If you want to follow any other updates or prayer requests we do have a blog: [www.kevinandmarcy.wordpress.com](http://www.kevinandmarcy.wordpress.com).

Thank you for loving us, we are among the richest people in the world with all the relationships we have and the community of people we belong to who displays the Splendor of Jesus.

We can't wait for our family to all be together and for you all to meet P & J, they are special treasures from the LORD.

For the Glory of Jesus,

Kevin, Marcy Sawyer, Ally, Brayden, Logan, and Landon