

# **14<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN ADOPTION SYMPOSIUM**

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

*13 May 2006*

## **Family Building through Adoption**

*Sponsored by the KMC Adoption Support Group*

**And**

**435<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing Chapel Outreach Program**

**08:30 a.m.**

**Registration  
Refreshments, and Agency information in the Cultural Hall**

**09:00 a.m. – 09:25 a.m.**

**Opening remarks in the Sanctuary (Room A)**

**09:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

**First Seminars**

**Room A: A Military Perspective on the Adoption Process**

**Col. Pat Mulcahy**

**The military perspective on the adoption process focuses on current policy regarding leave, DEERs enrollment, TRICARE benefits, personnel processing and resources for assistance.**

**Room B: The Basics of Adoption**

**Krista Karp**

**Down to basics – how to get started, what to consider, what a home study is, other required information and where to find your child.**

**Room C: Adopting Older & Special Needs Children**

**Kerry Palakanis and Dana Barton**

**Opening your heart and home to sibling groups, older children and those with special needs is uniquely challenging and rewarding. Specialized parenting techniques may be overlooked while accomplishing the pre-adoption maze. If you have adopted, or consider adopting an older or special needs child, this presentation is for you!**

**Agency Presentations\*\***

**Room 1: Adopt Abroad**

**Room 2: Christian World Adoption**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.**

**Second Seminars**

**Room A: Adopting From Foster Care USA**

**Linda Foster**

**How to navigate the public system to adopt. How and where to see children available for placement from all states. Why public agencies have children available for adoption. The basics of working with the system.**

## **Room B: Closing the Door of Fertility and Opening the Door of Adoption**

**Krista Karp**

**Why and when couples shift their energies and resources to adoption. Personal experiences, information about fertility struggles and adoption issues such as grieving the loss of a genetic child and/or dream of experiencing a pregnancy, and dealing with family issues will be explored. Primary and secondary fertility issues will be discussed.**

## **Room C: How to Adopt Internationally**

**Kathleen Kaiser**

**How to choose a country to adopt from, how to file immigration documents, obtain documents for your dossier, how to authenticate documents, and the many interesting twists and turns of adopting internationally.**

### **Agency Presentations\*\***

**Room 1: Children's House International**

**Room 2: China Adoption With Love**

**Room 3: Adoption Exchange**

**Lunch 12:15 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. Refreshments provided in the Cultural Hall by your donations**

**13:00 p.m. – 14:15 p.m.**

### **Third Seminars**

#### **Room A: Medical Issues in International Adoption**

**Kerry Palakanis**

**Covers the common medical and developmental issues facing children adopted internationally. The effects of institutional care of child development will be explored. Basic medical and developmental information will be given to guide parents through the international adoption process.**

#### **Room B: The Many Faces of Open Adoption**

**Krista Karp - and panel of experienced individuals**

**The advantages and drawbacks of open adoptions will be discussed in a forum setting, including creative ways to include birthparents without intrusiveness – all with a panel of parents by open adoption.**

#### **Room C: USCIS Processes in Adoption**

**Sandra Echeverri**

**Representative from the Frankfurt USCIS office shares her expertise on how to make the system work for you and avoid errors which could delay your adoption. Actual forms and instructions will be provided.**

### **Agency Presentations\*\***

**Room 1: Great Wall China**

**Room 2: Wasatch International Adoptions**

**14:30 p.m. – 15:45 p.m.**

### **Fourth Seminar**

#### **Room A: And the Beat Goes On – Developmental Tasks of**

**Adoptees (and how their parents can provide effective support)**

**Suzanne Dosh**

**Adoptive parents may be unaware of (and unprepared for) some of the issues that may occur as a result of unresolved grief and loss that many of our children experience. Addressing these issues effectively is important to successful completion of age-appropriate developmental tasks. Solid research combined with stories of adoptees and their families transform the data and outcomes into relevant and useful information for adoptive parents.**

**Room B: Financing Your Adoption**

**Carol Albers**

**Learn about the various tax credits, grants and loans which are available to help fund your adoption. Covers state benefits available for adoptions from foster care.**

**Room C: Why China? The Future of Adoptions in China**

**Michele Jordan**

**Dossier, homestudy and immigration. What are the qualifications for adopting from China. What exactly to expect before, during and after the adoption.**

**Agency Presentations\*\***

**Room 1: Project Oz**

**Room 2: Oklahoma Department of Human Services**

**16:00 p.m. – 17:15 p.m.**

**Fifth Seminar**

**Room A: Facilitating the Attachment and Bonding Process with Your Child**

**Leigh Anne Baseflug**

**With definitions of attachment and bonding, parents can begin to recognize the signs of each, and how to best facilitate attachment. Warning signs of attachment issues and tips and resources will be given.**

**Room B: Building Relationships – Positive Expectations of Parenting**

**Lillian Zhang**

**Birth parents, institutionalization, racial and cultural backgrounds are out of our area of control. Adoptive parents must view these elements positively with positive expectations and see growing up issues as objectively as possible.**

**\*\*Agencies present will be in Rooms 1 & 2 (and 3) at assigned times to meet with attendees and present their programs. See the Bulletin Board in the Cultural Hall and the classroom doors for agency times and room locations.**