

# Stories from the field

how A Child's Hope International is making a difference

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## *Journey to the Fatherless*<sup>™</sup> “Wrecked by the Truth”

“There are 143,000,000 orphans in the world.”

“Less than 10,000 orphans will be adopted each year.”

“Orphans could form a line around the  
United States four times.”

Jen and Jeremy Coleman’s world was rocked as they saw statistics like these while watching a video at a Hands Against Hunger<sup>™</sup> event (a ministry of A Child’s Hope Int’l.) at the Hope Factory<sup>™</sup> in Cincinnati, Ohio in March 2012.

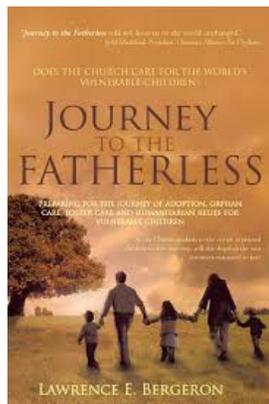
James 1:27 challenges us, “*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...*” (NIV).

This Scripture came alive through that three-and-a-half minute video which became a springboard for the Lord to reveal the Truth to the Colemans about *His heart* and *His plan* for the orphans of the world.

Despite the fact they had already adopted Allie from Korea after their biological sons, Ben and Sam, were born, that video wrecked the couple’s lives. God broke them and there was no turning back.

Jen and Jeremy also met Larry Bergeron that day. Bergeron is the Executive Director of A Child’s Hope Int’l and author of *Journey to the Fatherless*<sup>™</sup>, a book written to awaken the Church to fulfill God’s mandate to care for orphans and vulnerable children. *Journey* also helps prepare those called to adoption and foster care by presenting a realistic view so they don’t go in blindly, become discouraged, and quit.

Needless to say, Jen bought the book.



*Journey to the Fatherless*<sup>™</sup> is based on the Truth of God’s Word. As Jen and Jeremy absorbed what they read, the connection between the gospel and adoption became crystal clear. Convinced this was the Lord’s will for their family, they began the process to adopt a second child, Maggie, then later on, Joey.



Both have special needs and both came from China. The Colemans brought these children into their home out of obedience to God’s Word and out of hearts that ache for the orphan, especially those with special needs.

*Journey* did more than reveal God’s heart and plan for the fatherless and inspire Jen and Jeremy to pursue adoption again. It gave them a keener awareness of the spiritual battle in which they were embroiled and the need to be constantly covered in prayer.

“The enemy is going to attack us, but God has won the battle!” Jen proclaims. “These attacks have reassured us we are doing Kingdom work.”

*Journey* has given this couple the courage and confidence to go the distance, regardless of how hard it may be at times, and despite how naysayers might warn against it.

“God doesn’t always call us to *the easy*,” Jen said. “Sometimes He calls us to *the hard*, but He empowers us through it all and those experiences shape us into who He wants us to be.”

*Journey* has also given the Colemans perspective.

Jen and Jeremy had many stipulations for their first adoption: a girl—healthy—no special needs—young... They even adopted from Korea because overseas travel wasn’t required at the time to adopt these orphans. They were brought to the U.S. to meet their forever families.

Then the couple visited the Hope Factory<sup>™</sup>, met Bergeron, and read *Journey to the Fatherless*<sup>™</sup>. God used these things, not only to open their eyes to the plight of

the orphan, but also to His sovereignty. As a result, they became impassioned to adopt according to *His* plan, not theirs, and to trust *Him* to place the children in their home whom He had already ordained for their family.

As the Colemans have stood on the Lord's Truth, they have seen Him provide in miraculous ways, like funding three adoptions in six years and providing \$30,000 for Joey's adoption in just ten months!

"If God has picked a child for you," Jen assures prospective adoptive and foster parents, "you don't have to worry about the what-ifs. God is faithful. He will equip you and provide." She does stress, however, the importance of being prepared and having a strong support team in place for the hard times that will likely come.

To that end, *Journey to the Fatherless™* offers a wrap-around model of support that surrounds the child and his or her family within the framework of the Church. It encourages members of the Body to use the gifts God has given them to assist adoptive and foster families in a holistic fashion.



As they help meet these families' needs in a variety of ways, the Body of Christ is drawn closer together.

Jen can't believe how blessed her family is. They cling to more love, joy, and hope than they ever could have imagined. "We're blessed so we can be a blessing. It's so obvious now," she said. "We could have made excuses like not having enough time, or money, or room, but we wanted to do what the Bible tells us, *even when it's often hard*, because there's nothing better than doing Kingdom work."

This grateful couple encourages others to push through the fear. They shudder at the thought of all their family would have missed out on if they had succumbed to it, as many do.



The Coleman family enjoys serving together at the Hope Factory™. The kids love the lively atmosphere and upbeat music, and especially knowing they are making a difference. But for Jen and Jeremy, the significance goes far

beyond packing high-protein meals for hungry children.

The Factory was the fork in the road where their adoption journey took a radical turn. It is the place where God wrecked their lives in a brief moment, and where they found an invaluable resource—*Journey to the Fatherless™*—that provided them with foundational truths and a realistic look at adoption that helped prepare them for the journey He had marked out for their family.



Although the Colemans returned from the Hope Factory™ that first day with heavy hearts for orphans, they were inspired and felt hopeful knowing there was a solution to the problem, and they could be part of it.

Praise God that our heavenly Father did not leave us as orphans! Just as He reached down and rescued us, and made us His children, God asks us to help do the same for the fatherless children of the world.

Though more and more churches are starting adoption and orphan care ministries, the need is much greater than the number of Christians who are responding to the call. *Less than .01%* of the 143 million orphans of the world will be adopted in any given year.

What role is God asking you to play?

Has your life been wrecked by the Truth?

To learn more about A Child's Hope Int'l and how you can have a life-saving impact in children's lives, please contact us at the phone number below or visit our website.



As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the mission of A Child's Hope International is to motivate and mobilize the church and community to care for orphans and vulnerable children through adoption, foster care, orphan care, and humanitarian relief. As advocates for the least of these, our programs reach thousands of children worldwide.

*We exist because the children are waiting™.*

**A CHILD'S HOPE INT'L**

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