



Three-year-old Sandy and her new Mom from Pennsylvania will soon begin adoption proceedings.

FRUIT OF OUR VISION

By Reverend Jim Powell

Our God continues to move in the hearts of Kenyan families to consider adopting one of the beautiful children at Happy Life. Currently there are 10 children living with their prospective parents. In addition, several parents from the United States have also completed adoptions from Happy Life Children's Home.

On the international adoption front, though, the government of Kenya, in late December 2005, revised its international adoption requirements to provide a more structured process. While today's requirements are more complex and exhaustive, the Kenyan government intends to more fully regulate the process and thus better protect the welfare of its children.

Given these new guidelines, we thought it important to provide a brief, and very general, overview of the Kenyan international adoption process.

Prospective U.S. parents interested in adopting from Happy Life Children's Home should first contact a U.S. adoption agency licensed to work in Kenya. At this point, how-

ever, there are no licensed agencies – but several are very close to receiving a license. One such agency, Carolina Adoption Services (<http://www.carolinaadoption.org/index.asp>) based in Greensboro, NC, anticipates receiving its license in July 2006 and has begun accepting requests from interested prospective parents.

Once an adoption agency is chosen, the next step is to locate and secure the services of a home study firm. The home study firm may be recommended by the adoption agency or can be hired independently by the prospective parents. For planning purposes, the home study process may take as long as three months and is valid for 18 months. Information on the home study process can be found on the Internet – one good source is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (although information is mainly directed to U.S.-based adoptions) - http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/f_homstu.cfm.

Happy Life Children's Home

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Parents will need to compile a variety of documents for the home study and the document dossier

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for the foreign court. Information on required documents can be found on the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse website, <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Once approved by an agency, it is necessary to file a petition for approval to adopt from Kenya. The petition, called the I-600A, "Application for Advance Processing of an Orphan Petition," should be filed with the nearest INS office. If a resident in the United States, this petition must be approved before an adopted child can immigrate to the United States. INS publishes a helpful booklet that explains more about the I-600A entitled "The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive

Children," publication M-249Y - http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/handbook/adopt_book.pdf

Currently, the government of Kenya requires a 90 day "foster care" situation. That is, prospective parents are required to live and care for the child for 90 days in Kenya. Once the 90 days of foster care is complete, adoption proceedings begin in the Kenyan court system. While each adoption proceeding is unique, prospective parents should understand the legal process may take an additional 90 days or more.

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New Babies Join Happy Life Children's Home:

HLCH opens its arms to children in need of a loving, supportive place to live.



Naomi



Beth



Abigail



Lydia



Pauline



Farida



Christine



Special Needs and Concerns:

Please consider asking your church, small groups, service organization or business to support the ministry of Happy Life.

For presentation materials or brochures, please contact Rev. Jim Powell.

Phone: 302-229-2098

Email: contactus@happylifechildrenshome.com

Fruit of our vision—from page 2

When the child is legally adopted in Kenya or the Kenyan courts have given parents guardianship of the child and permission for the child to immigrate to the United States, parents must then file INS form I -600, "Petition to Classify an Orphan as an Immediate Relative." Parents must file an individual I -600 petition for each child planning to adopt. Once approved for immigration, the child is issued an immigrant visa.

While this is a broad overview, we hope it provides some insight into the adoption process in Kenya. It is important to note, though, that Kenyan policies and laws are subject to change and each adoption agency has its own specific adoption criteria and processes. For more information, please contact Happy Life Children's Home, 302-229-2098.

"Please pray that the Lord will work in each of our hearts to grow in our desire to reach out in missions ministry." Rev. Powell

More Good News



Widener Law School Professor and His Wife Provide Banquet Inspiration

Thanks to Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church for use of their beautiful Family Life Center. Over 120 friends of Happy Life attended the banquet. Professor Patrick Kelly, Law Professor at Widner, and his wife, were our guest speakers. Professor Kelly has been to Kenya over 30 times to hold seminars for law students. More than \$6,000 was raised to support the ministry of the Home. See you next March!!!!



Annual Flower Sale Continues to Grow

Happy Life Children's Home's 2006 flower sale was again a big success. This annual fundraiser brought in more than \$1,200 through the sale of hanging baskets, annuals, perennials and vegetable plants.



School Bells Soon to Toll for Toddlers

Thanks to the Elementary Students at Wilmington Christian School, the teams are building a small school room for our three- and four-year-old children.



Looking Forward to 2006 Kenya Trip

Two trips scheduled this summer

It is almost time for the two teams to take flight for Happy Life! A team of 13 leaves June 24th while a second team of 7 leaves July 1st. Pray for us as we meet Kenya and minister to its people!

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Kenya Fast Facts:

Currently, 3.5 million Kenyans are affected by a serious drought. Nearly 20% of children under the age of five in this population are suffering from severe malnutrition.

Check out our
revised and expanded
website!

www.happylifechildrenshome.com

True Confessions Of My Coffee Obsession

By [Betsy Parkins](#)



Hi, I have a confession to make. I'm addicted to coffee. And not just the four ounces of Medium Roast that squirts out of my Senseo every morning. Oh no. I'm talking about that nirvana of all coffees - Dunkin Donuts medium iced coconut, heavy on the half-n-half.

I know things have gotten way out of hand. On a recent trip to Seattle my only souvenir was a nearly-full frequent drinkers' card from Diva's Java Hut. And when I go through the drive thru at the local Dunkin Donuts, all I have to say is "I t's me, again" and my nice cold medium iced coconut, heavy on the half-n-half, is waiting for me at the window.

But honestly, this much caffeine has caused me to pause and consider just how I might better spend my money and my daily Dunkin Donuts commute. Did you know that spending \$1 a day, for one year, at any coffee shop (okay, it's really \$1.72 when you figure in gas and tax) will buy you:

- ≈ 45.6 gallons of fluid - come and gone
- ≈ 20,000 calories - or 5.7 pounds to be worked off at the local gym
- ≈ 45 extra pounds of trash in the local landfill - those coffee cups have to go somewhere

Thankfully, there's an answer to this craziness. I can spend \$1 a day as part of the Happy Life Children's Home Soda & Coffee Club and help support:

- ≈ More than 320 new cloth diapers for the home
- ≈ Enough daily chewable children's vitamins to serve 13 kids all year
- ≈ A new toy or stuffed animal for each and every child at Happy Life Children's Home

So, please consider joining Happy Life Children's Home's Soda & Coffee Club. You'll be more productive at work (fewer bathroom breaks), save \$84 a month on that gym membership and most importantly, provide a happier, healthier life to the great kids at Happy Life Children's Home.

Join
Today!

HLCH Soda & Coffee Club

For membership
details or to join,
call:

302-229-2098

Become a member of Happy Life Children's Home's Soda & Coffee Club. Become a member of the club with a contribution of just \$1 or more per day.



Happy Life Children's Home