

TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN®
of Pennsylvania, Inc.

A Voice for LIFE in Education



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**MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: ROBIN ROSS**

“Adoption, the Loving Option” is a familiar slogan found on pro-life signs. How encouraging it is to know that President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush have a strong concern for promoting adoptions. They have begun a new initiative to facilitate the adoption of foster children.

Here are President Bush’s recent words on adoption:

“Common sense and social science lead to the same conclusion: Children thrive in secure, loving, and stable homes. Providing that kind of home through adoption can be a long and a time-consuming process. I understand that. Adopting a child can add to the normal challenges of one’s daily life. I fully understand that, as well. Yet adoption changes a single life forever, and it brings countless blessings to the lives of parents . . . And every child deserves to be a part of a permanent, loving family. That’s our hope. We live in a great country full of really loving and decent people. And there’s no doubt in my mind, when people hear the call, they will respond to the needs of a lot of our children.”

George W. Bush, July 23, 2002

Let’s support them with our prayers. May many children be adopted into loving families.

OUR PRO-LIFE JOURNEY: ADOPTION

Like most married couples, we wanted to have children. We eagerly awaited the day to have and to hold a child of our own. After a few years of trying, followed by disappointment, we tried to reflect on what this meant for us. Adoption was something that had intrigued us both regardless of whether we had biological children or not. So, after months and years of praying for children, we shifted our prayer toward adoption, since it seemed to be the direction God wanted us to go.

As we began researching adoption, we realized that many, many decisions had to be made before even receiving a child. First we had to decide whether we wanted to adopt

domestically or internationally. After being told by several agencies that it would take from two-and-a-half to five years to adopt domestically, we felt led to international adoption. Being an international family already helped to make the decision a little easier, until we had to decide from which country we wanted to adopt. After much soul searching and researching, we decided Guatemala was the place for us.

The first task required us to gather important documents, fill out many forms, write letters, contact agencies, etc. While many people warned of the difficulties of getting paperwork ready for adoption, we found the task relatively easy, although tedious. We, however, weren’t going to let paperwork get in our way; after all, we were teachers! Once completed, we submitted our paperwork, and it was sent to an adoption attorney in Guatemala. Then the waiting began.....

After three months we received “the call” and then photos of our new son. A sweet face with ten fingers and, we hoped, ten toes (his feet were always covered with socks, so we were unable to count the toes). We were told that in three or four months we could bring him home. The waiting was excruciating because we were unable to find out what was happening to our son, to see him, to receive news about him, but we put our faith in God that all would turn out well. The first four months passed with no news of going to Guatemala. We were told only that there was trouble with the paperwork, that some of our documents, such as our birth certificates were lost, and there were other extenuating circumstances delaying the process. This lack of control over a situation, and having to literally put everything in God’s hands, was emotionally difficult at times. The prayerful support of family and friends was a great blessing that gave us strength and patience.

After almost ten months, we were told, rather unceremoniously, that we could finally go to Guatemala to get our son. We were given less than one week notice, which was fine by us, but plane reservations were less easy to come by a month after September 11, 2001. We were nervous about flying, but nothing was going to prevent us from our mission to bring home our son. The flight down to Guatemala (continued on page 2)

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went exceedingly well, and we were escorted to our hotel by the facilitator. Sleep was somewhat elusive the first night, as we were emotionally preparing to meet our son the next day.

The next morning we nervously and anxiously met the facilitator, foster mother, and our new son in the hotel lobby. As we awkwardly exchanged pleasantries, without seeming too eager to hold him, we sensed that this was not easy for the foster mother. In the next hour we learned that we were very blessed to have our son spend the first ten months of his life with this woman. She was kind and gentle, and obviously loved him very much. These traits shine through in any language.

Before long the foster mother and facilitator left, and we were left alone for the first time with our new son, Joseph Erick Moyer. Wow, now what should we do? We were ecstatic, elated, and quite nervous being brand-new parents. We tried to acquaint ourselves with each other, and for awhile it was awkward, but what happiness and joy we felt. This son of ours didn't know what his future would hold, but we could only imagine. How wonderful for us and for this little boy that his birth mother chose to give him LIFE, so that we could share our lives with him.

Our son's journey to his new home was an exciting one for all of us, and he did quite well on his first plane ride. The journey to Guatemala had ended, but our lives together had only begun.

Those of you who have adopted know that adoption brings the greatest possible joy to the lives of those it touches: a child to hold and love unconditionally. Adoption can, at the same time, bring the greatest heartaches when the process does not go as planned. There are many challenges to face even if the process goes smoothly. Adoption is full of many unknowns, and you have to deal with the ups and downs of the process like anything else in life. As adoptive parents, we do not know when a child will come home; we trust it will be soon, but adoption must answer to bureaucracy and "red-tape." Our child may never physically resemble anyone in our families, and when adopting internationally, as we did, there is usually little or no medical history for the child.

Our adoption journey has immersed us in a life-changing adventure. It also has helped us to appreciate the gift of life even more than before. While adoption is not an easy process for the birth mother, nor the adoptive parents, it is a worthwhile and awesome experience that is surely better than the alternative. Joseph's birth mother chose life and has given us a gift like no other. Thanks be to God and to her for the special gift of our son. Our life has been blessed beyond words!

As we are working on this article and newsletter, we have been matched unexpectedly with a little girl from Guatemala. We are going to adopt "Joseph's baby sister," as he so fondly calls her. The suddenness of this news and the expediency of our new adoption agency has forced us to do a lot of paperwork before we anticipated and make many more

important, life-changing decisions. We are, however, eagerly looking forward to adding another LIFE to our family!!

(Scott and Cornelia Moyer are current members of the Board of Trustees for Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc.)

MEET OUR NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER: JEFF REMINGTON

I have been a teacher and a coach for 15 years. Most of those years have been spent in the Palmyra School District located just east of Harrisburg. I hold a BS in science education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and M.Ed in Teacher Training and Development from Pennsylvania State University. I love teaching science and have been fortunate enough to share that love with colleagues in my positions as adjunct instructor at the Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for Life Science Educators as well as in Lebanon Valley College's Masters of Science Education program.

I have been married to my wife Helen for 15 years. Our daughter Brigid is 14, our son Brandon is 11, and the newest member of our family is Brian who was one in December. Two years ago, our son, Kevin Charles, died at 19 weeks. Kevin was born alive, but was too little to survive for very long. Knowing that many babies are aborted at 19 weeks has made Kevin's death especially poignant and has stirred me to take a more active role in the fight for life.

My wife has been active in local pro-life organizations, and my mother-in-law, Mary Catherine Scanlon, continues to be a strong supporter of the right to life through many activities, including serving on the board of the Pittsburgh-based group People Concerned for the Unborn Child (PCUC). My wife and her family have shown me by example how important the right to life cause is.

Besides school-related activities, I have been involved in my church as a lector and religious education instructor. I enjoy running, weight lifting, fishing with my son, climbing sports, and the great outdoors. Like George W. Bush, I also defeated Al Gore in a race. It was not a presidential race, but the Marine Corps Marathon in 1997. Of all the things I enjoy, I enjoy time with my immediate and extended family most of all.

As I serve on the Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania board, I hope to contribute innovative ideas to increase membership and awareness of life issues among teachers in Pennsylvania. Please use your talents as an advocate for children and strive to support right to life issues by helping us increase our membership.

**Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc. has a
NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

tscfpa@earthlink.net

1999-2000 FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance – September 1, 2001		\$2,393.62
Receipts:		
Contributions	\$	155.00
Membership '01-'02		520.00
'02-'03		220.00
Interest (9/01-7/02)		34.56
Total	\$	929.56
		\$3,328.18
Disbursements:		
Administrative	\$	143.40
National Dues		
'01-'02		104.00
'02-'03		44.00
Postage		34.74
Public Relations		
Printing		
Promotion		410.00
Accountants' Fees		150.00
Travel		14.40
Total	\$	900.54
Balance – August 31, 2002		\$2,422.64

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE FOR PRO-LIFE TEACHERS
AND ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN SAVING LIVES @

www.teacherssavingchildren.org

Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc. REGIONAL MEETING

In April 2001, the first regional meeting of Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc. was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and was attended by 12 people.

The active members exchanged many ideas on how to improve membership, inform the public of our pro-life mission, and gather more pro-life educational materials to share with all our members and those interested in presenting pro-life information to their family, friends, and students. Discussion also included the setting up of a website for Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc. This has been accomplished through our national organization. When you have a chance, please visit www.teacherssavingchildren.org.

We are now in the process of organizing our second regional meeting. Everyone is invited. Please come and bring along your valuable ideas and suggestions. (See box on last page for further information.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

If you have questions regarding Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc., please feel free to call the Board member that lives closest to your area.

Robin Ross, York County (Executive Director)	(717) 292-2021
Linda Burroughs, Warren County	(814) 757-5077
John Dunkle, Berks County	(610) 796-0627
Michael Grella, Dauphin County	(717) 939-6431
Scott Moyer, Northampton County	(610) 863-8213
Cornelia Moyer, Northampton County	(610) 863-8213
Barbara Purcell, Cumberland County	(717) 737-9459
Jeff Remington, Lebanon County	(717) 838-7538

2002-2003 BUDGET

September 1, 2002 – August 31, 2003

Administration	\$	150.00
Copier, Supplies, and Letters & Envelopes		
Public Relations		1,000.00
Advertising, Printing of Newsletters Display tables at conferences		
Postage		350.00
Regular Postage, PO Box Annual Fee		
Telephone		40.00
Travel Expenses		200.00
Miscellaneous		150.00
Audit and Legal Fees		
Grand Total	\$	1,890.00

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2000-2001 Membership

(as of March, 2003)

	Renewals	New	Total
August	9	1	10
September	28	1	29
October-March	9	1	10
Grand Totals	46	3	49

**Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc.
ATTENDS MACSA**

"In Christ Alone" was the theme for the 54th annual Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association (MACSA) Teachers Convention held November 13-15, 2002, at the Lancaster Host Resort in Lancaster, PA. More than 2,100 delegates attended the three-day conference. Delegates came from as far as New England and Virginia, representing over 180 schools from the Mid-Atlantic region. About 160 educational workshops and seminars were offered for both elementary and secondary faculty. Topics ranged from "Geography Across the Curriculum," "Internet Security," to "Brain-Based Learning" and "Dealing With Difficult People." Seminar speakers included instructors from Philadelphia Biblical University, Langhorne, PA; Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA; Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, PA; Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA; and Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Jeff Myers was the key note speaker. Dr. Myers is Assistant Professor of Communication Arts at Bryan College and Part-Time Professor of Religion and Society at Knox Theological Seminary. Teachers Saving Children® of PA joined the more than 60 exhibitors who presented educational software, camps for school retreats, and contemporary textbooks. We were able to share our commitment to establishing a respect for all human life especially for the unborn. We encouraged all who stopped at our booth to consider membership and to help us have a stronger Voice for LIFE in Education.



**Teachers Saving Children of PA, Inc.
PO Box 214
Pen Argyl, PA 18072**

A VOICE FOR LIFE IN EDUCATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SECOND REGIONAL MEETING of
Teachers Saving Children® of PA, INC**

WHO: All members and interested people who wish to learn more about Teachers Saving Children® and/or wish to join our organization.

DATE: Saturday, May 17, 2003

TIME: 10 AM – 12 NOON

PLACE: Lehigh Valley Christian High School
1414 East Cedar Street, Allentown, PA

Targeted Counties (although anyone may attend)

Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Wayne, and Wyoming

Details, directions, and topics to be discussed have been mailed out to all members in the counties listed above. If you need more information, please contact us by calling a Board member or emailing us at tscofpa@earthlink.net. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Join us and be a voice for LIFE!!

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS