

We are getting very close to adopting a little girl! She is 10 months old and in foster care here in Dallas. About a month ago some friends received an email about her from an adoption agency and contacted us immediately. We had just gone inactive as foster parents in order to start looking at private adoption agencies when they reached out to us. We had an interview with the agency and began the pre-application process right away.

Everything has happened really fast. Our little apartment's been a frenzy of excitement, anticipation, and paperwork ☺. God's grace has been so evident as we've accomplished immeasurably more in the past few weeks than we ever would have imagined possible. However we have yet to decide on a name. We're making a lot of headway and hope to have her placed with us by the end of January!

When we first read about her, we had no savings set aside for an adoption. Our agency has been incredibly accommodating. They've basically ignored their regular fee schedule, allowing us to pay for their services as we can. EMC (Matt's employer) provides \$4,000 for an adoption as an employee benefit and Life Song for Orphans has awarded us a matching grant of \$1,500 to help meet the rest of our financial need. The Lord's blessings abound.


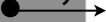
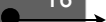
When you sit down at dinner or when you have your coffee in the morning, or whenever you tend to pray, would you pray for us? Even right now?

Here's what's on our plate and on our heart:

- We've finished lot of paperwork . Please pray for endurance and even enthusiasm as we tackle the rest of The Stack™ each night.
- We're anticipating some form of an open adoption – which means we will keep some contact with the birth family. Pray for discernment in how much openness is beneficial and healthy for everyone involved.
- At the composition of this letter, we have yet to meet the little tyke! Pray we'd meet her soon and that it would be sweet.
- Please pray for a smooth transition into our home. She is very attached to her foster mom (which is good). We want her to feel safe with us.
- The adoption agency's services total \$7,000 (we've attached a breakdown if you're interested). After EMC's benefit we have a deficit of \$3,000. Please pray for donations to Life Song totaling \$1,500 so we can receive the full match.

Please-please-please-please pray for us. Your prayers are the most effective support you can give us. Certainly, we have a financial gap to fill, but you're prayerful attention is what we covet most.

If you are willing and able to make a financial contribution to our adoption, we would *love* the help. We would also love it *quickly*. While our agency has not let any fees stand in the way of moving forward, the fees will be due in full by the time of placement. It's important we raise all additional funds by February 16th.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26  You have read this letter (we hope).
27 Please pray about supporting us.	28	29	30	31	1 February	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9  All financial support is mailed.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16  All financial support is received.

We know this is a tight timeline. We are essentially cramming 4 months of paperwork, training, and fund raising into 1 month. Again - please pray for us.

Checks should be made payable to Life Song for Orphans. The donation is to Life Song, not to us, and is therefore tax deductible. Be sure to scribble "Donovan Adoption" in the memo section, thus indicating how you'd like your gift to be used. Life Song will aim to honor that designation but retains full discretion and control over how it is used.

Mail your gift to:

Life Song for Orphans
 PO Box 40 / 202 North Ford Street
 Gridley, IL 61744

Whatever you do, *do not* mail your check to us. More likely than not, it will get lost in the aforementioned Stack™. Your prayerful support is of the utmost importance and is deeply encouraging to us. Please don't feel obligated to gift us any money if your heart has not been stirred your heart to do so. We hope to send you an adoption announcement very soon!

Warmly,
 Matt & Kristin

If you'd like to stay up to date o our progress, shoot us an email at donovan.house@gmail.com and let us know. We will do our best to keep you posted as things progress. We also update our blog and our flickr account pretty regularly:

- www.donovanhouse.com
- www.flickr.com/donovanhouse