

**Subject:** ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter 2/3/07

**From:** "Robin Bartko"

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Hello Adoption Friends,

In the February 3, 2007 edition of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter I want to share with you some news and information - including a special opportunity to learn about attachment and adoption live - that I hope will be helpful to you on your adoption journey and beyond. The topics include:

1. Special Opportunity on Wednesday to Learn About Attachment and Adoption
2. Excellent Resource: Where to Find Lists of Orphanages
3. Have You Heard the News from Russia?
4. Twenty Things Adoptive Parents Should Do ...
5. Is There a Chinese Baby Shortage?
6. Have News You Want to Share?
7. Russian Nesting Doll Charm
8. Are You a New Subscriber to the Newsletter?

### **1) Special Opportunity on Wednesday to Learn About Attachment and Adoption**

If you listened to the story of adoptive parent Dawn Choate in "Healing Hannah", you just can't help but understand how important attachment is in adoption. Dawn's heartfelt story chronicled how difficult it was for her to realize she was facing attachment challenges and her emotional journey to heal her daughter, Hannah. Because of the overwhelming response to "Healing Hannah", I asked Dr. Lark Eshleman, founder and Director of the Institute for Children and Families and author of *Becoming A Family: Promoting Healthy Attachments with Your Adopted Child*, to develop a course on attachment that would help us better understand the causes of the challenges Dawn faced and recognize the warning signs of broken attachment. The resulting course, "Attachment and Adoption", is a highly informative recorded webinar. In addition, for this first offering only, a live 60 minute question and answer session with Dr. Eshleman, scheduled to take place this Wednesday, 2/7/07, at 9 PM Eastern. This is a special offering, and future offerings of this webinar will not include this live Q&A. To learn more or register click on the following link:

[http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption\\_telecourses.html#AttachAdopt](http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#AttachAdopt)

### **2) Excellent Resource: Where to Find Lists of Orphanages**

One of my favorite adoption related web sites is Karen's Adoption Links. While there are many excellent resources posted on her site, I wanted to let you know of one in particular - links to lists of orphanages in China, Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Vietnam, and more. Most people are surprised to find out how many orphanages are in the world, so here's an easy way to take a look for yourself. Can you believe how many there are? You can see for yourself by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.karensadoptionlinks.com/orphanage.html>

### **3) Have You Heard the News from Russia?**

I was watching the news Thursday (2/1/07) and saw a very sad and disturbing story about babies in a Russian hospital - likely orphans - allegedly having their mouths taped shut to help keep them quiet. As I adopted my youngest, it really hit home with me and made me think. I share my thoughts, along with links to learn more about this story, in a post to our "Adoption News and Information" blog that I

made that evening. You can read it (and post your own comments!) by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/blog/2007/02/sad-story-of-treatment-of-russian.html>

#### **4) Twenty Things Adoptive Parents Should Do ...**

I found a great listing of 20 things that adoptive parents should do to transition your child from the orphanage to your home in the "Detoxification from Institutionalization" section of the book, "Help for the Hopeless Child: A Guide for Families, 2nd Edition" by Dr. Ronald S. Federici. OK, I admit that it sounds kind of clinical and the title of the book is a bit ominous, but don't let it scare you. Dr. Federici is a neuropsychologist and father of seven adopted children. There is very good information in this book for pre-adoptive parents including the detailed list of 20 things adoptive parents should do to help transition their child from the orphanage to their home, including ideas on what type of environment you should have ready for your new child, the types of foods they should eat as well as the type of videos for your new child to watch. Plus, if you have not yet determined what country to adopt from, there is a section titled, "Understanding the Complexities of U.S. and International Adoptions", that discusses in detail adopting from the United States (including foster care) an internationally from Latin America, Eastern Europe, China and Southeast Asia. I highly recommend this information for all pre-adoptive parents. Perhaps your local library will have it available. You can learn more or purchase the book by clicking on the following link:

[http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption\\_books.html#HelpForHopeless](http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_books.html#HelpForHopeless)

#### **5) Is There a Chinese Baby Shortage?**

With new regulations taking place, the China adoption process has been getting much press. I wanted to let you know about an article that appeared in the January 23, 2007 edition of the New York Times, "The Mystery of the Chinese Baby Storage", written by Beth Nonte Russel (an adoptive parent of two children from China). I've written a posting about it as part of our "Adoption News and Information Blog" that you may find interesting. To read (or comment - don't be shy!) on the post click on the following link:

<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/blog/2007/02/is-there-chinese-baby-shortage.html>

#### **6) Have News You Want to Share?**

Do you have adoption news and information that you would like to share with others? Let me know and I may include it, with your permission, in an upcoming edition of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com newsletter. You can help others on their adoption journeys! Email me at [Robin@ThinkingOfAdopting.com](mailto:Robin@ThinkingOfAdopting.com)

#### **7) Russian Nesting Doll Charm**

Looking for a nice gift for yourself or your daughter? I was browsing the Internet and found a beautiful Russian nesting doll charm. You can see for your yourself by clicking on the following link:

<http://shop.nordstrom.com/S/2904528?Category=&Search=True&SearchType=keywordsearch&keyword=nesting+doll+charm+in+All+Categories&origin=searchresults>

#### **8) Are You a New Subscriber to the Newsletter?**

Are you one of the many new subscribers to the Newsletter? If so, welcome! If you'd like to read some of the past issues of the Newsletter you can do so by using our Newsletter Archive. You can access the Archive by using the following link:

[http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/newsletter\\_archive.html](http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/newsletter_archive.html)

#### **Help Spread the Word**

As always, I'd certainly appreciate if you would help spread the word about adoption and

ThinkingOfAdopting.com. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone who you feel would be interested. I'd sincerely appreciate your help in getting the word out. There are so many children who need homes!

My best to you on your adoption journey. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Robin Bartko**

Adoptive Parent

[ThinkingOfAdopting.com](http://ThinkingOfAdopting.com)

"Independent Information & Inspiration for Your Adoption Journey"

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