

Subject: ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter 3/3/07

From: "Robin Bartko"

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Hello Adoption Friends,

Welcome to the March 3, 2007 edition of the ThinkingOfAdopting.com Newsletter. In this edition I want to tell you about our live adoption telecourses and webinars for March and share with you some news and information I hope you'll find helpful for your adoption journey, no matter if you're thinking of adopting or you're an adoptive parent. The topics include:

1. Adoptive Parents are Cool!
2. Are You Really Prepared for Your Referral?
3. Dept of State Issues Caution on Guatemalan Adoption
4. Eight Steps to Select Your Adoption Agency
5. Russia Says All Orphans Should Get a Foster Family
6. US Springs Forward on March 11th
7. Have Fun with Your Child
8. Jessica Simpson Helps Orphanage
9. Did You Miss "Attachment and Adoption"?
10. Authentic Russian Recipes
11. Welcome to New Subscribers

1) Adoptive Parents are Cool!

Researchers recently concluded a study comparing the parenting of adoptive and biological parents. The results? Adoptive parents invest just as much in raising their children as do biological parents. Of course, we already knew this in our hearts. To learn more, click on the following link to read my post on our "Adoption News and Information" blog:

<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/blog/2007/02/adoption-comparison-of-parenting-by.html>

2) Are You Really Prepared for Your Referral?

Help ensure that you are by taking advantage of one of the two outstanding opportunities to talk live with international adoption medical experts on ThinkingOfAdopting.com this month. Dr. Todd Ochs, who will appear on Sunday, 3/11/07, specializes in China and is a father of five, including four daughters adopted from China so he speaks from experience. Dr. Alla Gordina, who will appear on Sunday, 3/25/07, specializes in Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine. Plus, having been trained in Russia, she has unique insight and knowledge including your rights under Russian law (which are more than you might expect). While we always hope our children will not have any issues, you owe it to your new child to understand the challenges they may face and to be prepared to provide them with the loving care they deserve. As the expression goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Moreover, I don't know of anywhere else on the Internet where you can talk live with experts such as these for less than the price of most co-pays live from the comfort of your home. Plus, it will help you really understand why you need an international adoption medical specialist to help you on your adoption journey. To learn more or register for "Ask an Adoption Doctor Live" with either Dr. Ochs or Dr. Gordina, click on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html

3) Department of State Issues Caution on Guatemalan Adoption

The US Department of State has posted on note on its web site stating that it "strongly cautions American prospective adoptive parents contemplating adoption in Guatemala to carefully consider their options at this time." The concern is based upon "the arrest in the United States of a well-known adoption facilitator as well as concern about wrong and unethical behavior and practices by others involved with adoption in Guatemala." If you are adopting from Guatemala, all the more reason to be sure you've selected an ethical agency with high standards for who it works with in Guatemala. To learn more, click on the following link:

http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_3147.html

4) Eight Steps to Select Your Adoption Agency

Are you wondering how to select the international adoption agency that's right for you? If so, join me for a two part, live webinar where I'll share my eight steps to selecting the agency that is right for you. You'll learn when to select an agency (it's not at the start of your journey!), what to expect from your agency, how you can find and research agencies to consider, the way to "interview" agencies, and more. Class size is strictly limited to 10 participants, so click on the following link to learn more or register today:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#SelectAgency

5) Russia Says All Orphans Should Get a Foster Family

According to a 2/8/2007 article on the ITAR-TASS News Agency web site, it appears that the Russian Government is attempting to create incentives to transition Russian orphans from orphanages to foster care and to encourage adoption in Russia. You can learn more by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/blog/2007/02/russia-on-adoption-all-orphans-should.html>

6) US Springs Forward on March 11th

Get ready for Daylight Savings Time! The United States begins Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 11th, at 2 AM when we turn our clocks forward one hour and unfortunately lose an hour of sleep. Of course, the US isn't the only country that observes Daylight Savings Time. If you'll be traveling soon to Russia or Guatemala, you may be interested in knowing they will also be changing to Daylight Savings Time, but on the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in April, respectively. China does not observe Daylight Savings Time. To learn more about Daylight Savings Time in the US, click on the link below:

<http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>

To learn about Daylight Savings Time around the World, click on the following link:

<http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/g.html>

7) Have Fun with Your Child

Looking for some nice activities to do with your children? Rainbowkids.com has some great activities for adoptive children (and their parents) to do based upon the country of their birth. There are coloring pages, maps, dot-to-dot, etc. Just click on the country of interest to you. The link follows:

<http://www.rainbowkids.com/HTMLFiles.aspx?page=KidsActivities>

8) Jessica Simpson Helps Orphanage

If you haven't heard, Jessica Simpson has been helping an orphanage in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, including auctioning the red dress she wore in the 2007 Super Bowl Pizza Hut commercial. You can learn more about the orphanage she's helping and how the auction is going by reading my "Adoption News and Information" blog post by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/blog/2007/02/jessica-simpson-helps-orphanage.html>

9) Did You Miss "Attachment and Adoption"

If you missed the first offering of Dr. Lark Eshleman's new webinar, "Attachment and Adoption: What is It and Why It's so Important", there's good news. It's now available as a recorded webinar along with the recording of the live Q&A session Dr. Eshleman held with pre- and post-adoptive parents. This is a great introduction to attachment for pre-adoptive parents that you'll only find on ThinkingOfAdopting.com. To learn more or register click on the following link:

http://www.thinkingofadopting.com/html/adoption_telecourses.html#AttachAdopt

10) Authentic Russian Recipes

Looking for some authentic Russian recipes to try? Check out these sites. The first includes photos of the dishes, and the second also includes Russian gifts and collectibles:

<http://www.eda-server.ru/meal>

<http://www.ruscuisine.com>

11) Welcome New Subscribers

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

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

"Inspiration & Information for Your Adoption Journey"

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