

waiting children

by Ka'thy Gore Chappell, CBFNC Leadership Development Coordinator

“Waiting” children can be described as children 18 years of age and younger who have been abandoned or orphaned. “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless.” Psalm 82:3a communicates God’s love and care for these children and directs the Christian community to love, care, and protect them.

CBFNC has invited three families to tell their stories about foster care and adoption. Meet these parents who model love.

the Smith family Our call to orphan care began long before we considered adoption. I worked internationally providing medical care for vulnerable mothers and children, while Chris (“Smitty”) worked locally with kids from hard places. Through these experiences, our eyes were opened and our hearts broken for “the least of these,” not knowing that adoption would be the way that God would grow our family!

As a couple desiring children, we encountered infertility and loss. After our second miscarriage and based on our readiness from earlier experiences, we felt our hearts tugging in the direction of adoption. We began the process to adopt from Guatemala and our first son, who was a beautiful gift to our family, came home a short time later. God then gifted us with two biological children and we thought we had completed our family.

Our hearts were stirred to do foster care in North Carolina. After fostering for a year, we learned of a ministry in Uganda that seeks to restore and preserve families. We sponsored children in the orphanage and prayed for their life-giving ministry. When we learned about twins with special needs who would not be reunited with their biological family, we said “yes” to adoption again!

For the last three years, we have been a family of seven. God continues to remind us of His extravagant love.” *Smitty is a healthcare industry compliance officer. Meredith is a pediatric physician’s assistant. They are members of First, Winston-Salem.*

the Powers family After eight years of marriage, we came to a place in our lives where we were ready to grow our family. We both realized that adoption, specifically from foster care, was how we felt called to do this. Part of our decision was due to the desperate need for adoptive families. Currently, there are more than 100,000 children who are legally free for adoption in the United States alone. We decided that we had a safe home where a child could find a restorative place in which to grow.

As we continued to discuss our family journey, we decided that we wanted to adopt a child over the age of five. After a year of preparation, we had our 12-year-old son placed with us. Like every other parent, we hope our son will find a place to chase his dreams as he grows into the person God is calling him to be.

One thing we have learned is that you do not have to be perfect to provide a place where children can feel safe, find love, know they are accepted, and, most importantly, have deep familial roots. *Lawrence is the Campus Minister with the CBFNC Raleigh area/Duke Collegiate Student Fellowship. Heather is an athletic trainer with UNC Orthopedics.*



The Smith family

the McCosh family “I know the name of this church from somewhere,” said the oldest of our three foster sons. He’s been with us for 2 years now, and 2 of his younger siblings just passed the 18-month mark. Our story is rooted in our own experiences—Paula’s adoption at birth; our work as foster-care social workers while in seminary; a tough pregnancy with our biological daughter; and the desire to open our home to a child in need.

Our church name was familiar to our boys because they had been receiving weekly Backpack Buddy bags for several years from our congregation through our local elementary school. Only God could set the stage for such familiarity in the midst of chaos.

Our daughter is elated to have siblings and our congregation has embraced our growing family that is now “half pink and half brown,” as the youngest informs us. Juggling our schedules is not easy, and we and our congregation have had to adjust to our greater family needs. In the process, new leaders have developed in the congregation and the community has witnessed an incarnational Gospel. An added blessing is having the foster family of our boys’ two youngest siblings begin attending our church recently. Yes, there have been challenges and yet we have learned so very much about God’s grace in the process. We now patiently wait to adopt, making the “McSix” a permanent family unit.” *Scot is Pastor and Paula is Family Pastor at Mt. Pisgah, Fayetteville.*