

Romans 8:15 says; "You did not receive the spirit of again to fear, but you received the spirit of adoption by whom we cry out. Abba father." Welcome to Spirit of Adoption Radio, where we soar above all the darkness of this world and see things in the light of God's eternal perspective. Now here's your hosts, Kevin and Tabitha Lovell. [Song...]

Hey, everybody! Shalom! We are so thankful and blessed that you would choose to join us today for episode number 26 of Spirit of Adoption Radio! I'm Kevin and with me as always is my dear wife, Tabitha, how are you today, Tzvia (Tzvia is Tabitha's Hebrew nickname which Kevin calls her)?

T: I'm doing great. Excited to be here for another episode of spirit of adoption radio praise, the Lord!

K: Amen, He is worthy to be praised great and greatly to be praised.

T: Amen! I love this song too. It's a really, really awesome song that our listeners should check out.

K: Amen. You almost feel like you're at the base of Mt. Hermon (in Israel).

T: Amen. Yes. These are our friends from frontier Alliance international that have a really beautiful singing ministry too.

K: Amen. Yeah. Everyone should look up FAI. Yes, they do amazing work in the middle East reaching Muslims and the Lord has positioned them and Israel for such a time as this.

T: Yes, they really have an end time focus to their ministry, and just a really kingdom coming focus. So just a real cool eternal perspective that these brethren have.

K: Amen. And on today's show, we want to talk about some of the joys of the coming kingdom. Exciting. Then we have a special interview with Becky Lloyd who is the founder and director of a ministry called signs for hope, which coordinates the adoptions of death orphans all over the world.

T: Yes. You will not want to miss that interview. It's just so exciting to hear about what they're doing. The perspective is so challenging and incredible.

K: Yes. And the Lord says for those who have ears to hear, Let him hear! Amen?

T: Amen.

K: So speaking of the joys of the coming kingdom, that song that we opened the show with, I really love that song. We were actually at the Maranatha conference in the Golan Heights when we heard that song for the first time, right?

T: Yes. I remember. And we both were just so blown away and touched by the words of that song. It's just so powerful.

K: And it's so perfectly and beautifully put into music, the heart of the Pilgrim or the Sojourner, right? Who's on the narrow way To the kingdom, the coming Kingdom, which that heart is a grief for paradise lost, which the song talks about that. Right? We traded everything, we lost everything. And now our only hope is in the coming of the promised King. Which is Jesus.

T: Yes.

K: Amen. So it shows the heart of the Pilgrim who is grieved over the paradise lost and all its effects on mankind. There's a lot of effects on mankind, Aches and pains and all that so much.

And it also shows the heart of longing for paradise to be restored.

K: Do you have that longing?

T: Yes. I really do

K: The Pilgrim has that longing. That's what we are. We're to have that longing. And, and it also shows a vigilance that we need to have to overcome the enemy by the grace of God and to enter into the everlasting joy of our Lord. Amen?

T: Yes.

K: So it's beautiful. That song is really ministering to me lately. And I love the verse that they use in the song from the book of Romans, the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly when he comes with 10 thousands of his saints. And He's going to establish his everlasting kingdom. And Oh, what a joy shall fill our hearts.

Does that remind you of a hymn?

T: {Singing...}. *"When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation and lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration and the proclaim, my God, how great thou art. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee. How great thou art...."* Hallelujah!

K: Amen. It's so exciting to think about the kingdom of God and what it will be like, which part of that kingdom includes by the way, new glorified bodies. Oh, I'm excited about that.

T: Yeah. My back!! My back is rejoicing thinking about that!

K: No chiropractors in the kingdom.

T: That's right!

K: The kingdom glorified bodies... Speaking of that, I hurt my ankle this last Sunday. The brothers don't know that, but that I re-injured my left ankle. Previously I had surgery on my right ankle. Now my left ankle is reinjured. I might have to have surgery on it. But the children! We do this dance, this messianic dance called Mayim, Mayim (meaning water). We learned in Israel.

T: Yes!

K: We dance around in a circle and then it's all good until this one part where we say, Hey, Hey, Hey, Hey, Mayim! And you're supposed to jump on one leg and clap and then switch to the other, jump on that leg and clap, clap. And I was jumping on my left ankle. And uh, and so I re-injured it. Yeah. So, but you know what? These injuries helped me look forward to the new body!

T: But the children, they love the Mayim dance. They actually beg for it. They begged Kevin. And finally he just gives in and Oh, bummer. He forgot about his ankle!

K: I can't jump anymore.

T: When in the Kingdom you'll be able to jump again on it!

K: So there's many ways that the King, our King has shown us glimpses of his coming kingdom and a taste of the age to come. There's many ways. But I just want to share a few here that will hopefully either light a fire in our hearts for the kingdom or blow on a fire that's already there. Amen? [T: Amen.] So one way he gives us a glimpse of the coming kingdom where a taste of the age to come is through the Holy spirit who lives in those who belong to him.

So the Holy Spirit is the down payment of our future inheritance and shows us many beautiful things of the coming kingdom, right within us. 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 We know that if our earthly house, this tent is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens for in this we groan.. That's what we're talking about, right? Groanings earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation, which is from heaven. If indeed having been clothed, we shall not be found naked for we who are in this tent, groan being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now he who has prepared us for this very thing is God who has also given us the spirit as a down payment. And the Greek word here for guarantee or down

payment was used in ancient business documents for the first installment, the first payment. And it wasn't just a verbal guarantee. It wasn't like that. It was actually the beginning experience of what is promised. So by experiencing the Holy spirit, we are experiencing a foretaste of the coming kingdom and God's presence.

T: Wow, That's beautiful.

K: Corinthians 2:9-10 says this, As it is written, eye has not seen nor ear heard nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love him. But God has revealed them to us through his Spirit for the Spirit searches, all things. Yes. The deep things of God. So the kingdom that we're talking about, the coming kingdom it's already now through the Holy spirit, but it's also not yet. Right? So we see that right there in that verse, there are things to come that haven't entered into our heart, that we haven't seen, that God has prepared, but the Holy spirit has revealed them to us. So there's a level of knowledge that we have now. Yes. But there's a, not yet. We keep looking forward. Right. The consummation remains in the future. (T: Yes). But we already are living with some of the benefits of that future kingdom. Right?

T: Amen.

K: Amen. Yes. I love all of his benefits. Do you have any benefits dear?

T: Oh, so many. I can't even hardly count all of the benefits from the Lord. Wow, A peace that passes all understanding, you know, like sometimes you go through stuff and you're like, why am I so steady? Like why do I not get shaken by every little thing that's coming around? It's because I'm connected to the rock, you know, and just standing on the rock. So you're not shaken by everything. That's just a huge benefit. And I mean, that's just one of the millions, I mean, that's just top of my head.

K: You're experiencing some steadiness on the rock right now.

T: Yes!.

K: And that's is a foretaste of the kingdom to come because actually when the Lord comes that vision that was given to Nebuchadnezzar of the kingdoms of this world, the final kingdom is going to be the rock coming out of heaven, smashing the kingdoms of this world at the feet, demolishing them. And then that rock will grow and cover the whole earth. Talk about steadiness. Yeah. And the Bible says that the righteous are supposed to be like Mount Zion, but the wicked are like the raging sea. No steadiness. Right. So you've you, that, that is a benefit that you're experiencing.

T: Oh yeah, definitely. I also experienced a contentment that also passes my understanding because I can be just as content in my little RV as I am in my house, you know? And I think that's supernatural. I really do because it's a little bit more work in the RV, but it's, it's contentment too.

K: Well, my back probably isn't as content on that RV bed, but it's okay. My spirit is.

T: You find little things to be thankful for in the RV. And where the Lord just fills your heart with joy, just like, Oh, Hey, you know what? I can do this and give you this assurance. Like if I ever had to be here for a longer time, I know I could do it. It's not going to kill me, and I'm content.

K: [Joking] Yeah, You're content with your glamping.

T: Okay. Yeah. It is kind of glamping. [Laughing] Ok, I must say I'm not roughing it out there by any means!

K: But you know, Galatians chapter five shows us some of the foretaste of the kingdom that we have in us. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace. Like you said, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness. Self-control against such, there is no law. And so we have this through the Holy spirit, this foretaste of the beautiful intimacy that we will share with God throughout all the ages in his kingdom in fullness. Yeah. And his presence is fullness of joy. See, that's one of the passions that we

have right now. But in his presence, in his kingdom, the fullness of his presence is fullness of joy. And at his right hand are pleasures forevermore. Right? We have pleasure in the Lord right now. Sometimes when you walk with him and you serve him, you respond to him, his pleasure comes upon you. Yeah. It's true. He shines upon you and it puts a smile on your face. Like, wow, my father is pleased with me, but in the kingdom, full of joy, pleasure, forevermore. Amen?

T: You'll never have those little down moments where, you know, even the most wonderful day, you can have these little things that happen that can be like, kind of be down down moments. But no, not there!

K: Not there! So through his spirit, that's one of the ways we get glimpses of the coming kingdom. Then we get another glimpse of the coming kingdom, of course, through the ministry of our King Jesus, the Messiah when he was here on earth, right? So he began his ministry. He inaugurated his ministry with this in Mark chapter one. Now, after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and saying the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand repent and believe in the gospel. That's the first thing he preached. (T: Wow, powerful.) What was the first thing that John, the Baptist preached? Same thing. That's Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Wow. What were the first things His disciples preached about the kingdom of God? He sent them out preaching, Repent! The kingdom of God is at hand.

And so that was the inaugural message of the Messiah. The kingdom of God is at hand or the time has come. And the kingdom of God is at hand. All of Jesus's contemporaries, (those that lived at that time), were expecting the Messiah, the King Messiah, and the kingdom to come soon, meaning that he was going to establish it right? Then he was going to kick Rome out. Right? And he's going to reign in Jerusalem on throne and David. That's what they were expecting... And, and you see that many times in scripture where they just didn't quite understand, you know, they're asking questions about that, right? Yeah. And John, the Baptist, did you remember when he was in prison? So in Luke chapter seven, it says this, then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all of these things, all the things that Jesus was doing, all the miraculous things.

And John calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus saying, are you the coming one? Or do we look for another? When the men had come to him, they said, John, the Baptist has sent us to you saying, are you the coming one? Or do we look for another? And at that very hour, he cured many of infirmities, afflictions and evil spirits. And to many blind, he gave sight. Jesus answered. See, these are the things that they are reporting to John. Right? All these things that he's doing and Jesus answered and said to them, go and tell John, the things you have seen and heard that the blind, see the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed. The deaf, hear the dead are raised and the poor have the gospel preached to them and blessed is he, who is not offended because of me.

These were the things of the kingdom. So when he refers to these things of the kingdom that the King is doing, he's referring John back to a certain passage in the book of Isaiah. That's probably the biggest glimpse in the old Testament of what the coming kingdom would look like. And it shows the credentials of the Messiah. So it's in Isaiah chapter 35, the wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose. It shall blossom, abundantly and rejoice. Even with joy and singing, the glory of Lebanon shall be given to it. The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God, strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees, say to those who are fearful hearted, be strong, do not fear behold, your God will come with vengeance with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened. And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer. Amen? With my ankle, I'm looking forward to leaping and the tongue of the dumb singing or the mute saying, Praise the Lord! Yes, even our brother Yacov

amen? {T: Amen.} K: We're going to sing with brother Yacov. It's going to be awesome. We're still praying that the Lord will do that now in brother Jacob.

Four waters shall burst forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool and the thirsty land Springs of water in the habitation of jackals where each lay there shall be grass and reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there and a road. And it shall be called the highway of holiness. That's a good name for a highway. (T: It is. I love it.)

K: There is no highway like that in the world right now. No, we're waiting for it. He's the way (Jesus). And we're on that highway right now in Him. But usually every city has a Broadway. That's the, that's the main big street where a bunch of sin is going on.

T: Yeah. It is!

K: Not in the kingdom - rather A highway of holiness! Wow! Amen. Amen. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. Now this is in the millennial kingdom. So there's going to be still those who don't have their glorified bodies who make it through that final week, that tribulation period when Jesus returns. So there's going to be those who are not in their glorified bodies, but we, right now we will be in our glorified bodies and we will reign with Him. No lion shall be there nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it. It shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sign shall flee away.

T: Wow. And it's just kind of going along with the theme of pilgrimage that has been resonating in my heart lately. Um, in fact, I went to shop for a few little Hanukkah gifts because we celebrate the festival of lights here, the feast of dedication, it's a biblical one. And we do that for eight days even as Gentiles. We do that because it's not just for Jews. Yeah. And Yeshua celebrated it. It's a very beautiful, beautiful celebration that you can look into deeper, but we do celebrate it here. And, I have eight little gifts and my theme for those gifts, I was praying about it. And the theme for the guy gifts anyways, was pilgrimage. And so I can't tell you very much about that because there's still yet some surprises to come during Hanukkah, but pilgrimage yeah. Goes along with that. Cause it's just like, wow, all this that we go through and we look towards that future, it just makes it all the better to be pilgrims and sojourners. Yes.

K: We have that heart. T: Right.

K: And we're Pilgrim on a journey towards this kingdom, this everlasting kingdom. Amen. We have a taste of it now, but it's also yet to come. And there's one who I want to play a clip of a dear sister who has tasted these things. And she is a Pilgrim and a Sojourner, but there's things in her life right now that won't be in the kingdom. Amen. But she has endured for the Lord and the Lord has made her just a chosen vessel of honor. Her disability has caused her to look forward to this coming kingdom and to shine like a jewel, like a diamond for the Lord in her wheelchair. And she has been used by God to help so many get ready for this coming kingdom. After reading Isaiah 35, it was on my heart to share this clip. So this is a clip of Joni Erickson Tada. That is going to be a tremendous blessing to everyone listening. Amen.

[Clip] Earth will feel like I have forgotten a dream. And I do hope that I can take my wheelchair to heaven with me. I know that's not theologically. Correct. But if I could, I would put it right there and I'd be standing in my new glorified body right here. And I'd be holding the hand of Jesus. And I would feel those nail prints in his palm. And I will say, thank you. And I know he'll know. I mean it, because he will have recognized me as the woman who came to him every single morning, hemorrhaging human strength. I need you Jesus desperately. And I will say to him, Jesus, you were so right when you said that

in this world, we would have trouble. That thing was a lot of trouble, but the weaker I was on that thing, the harder I leaned on you, and then the harder I leaned on you, the stronger I discovered you to be. And I'm just so grateful that you gave me the privilege of knowing you as not only my man of sorrows, the Lord of joy, rock of Gibraltar, real joy. Thank you Jesus. Now, if you want, you can send that thing to hell [clapping - end of clip]...

K: I love Joni. Yeah. She's talking about that wheelchair. She's been in that wheelchair now for 50 years or so. Yeah. Wow. Yeah. But she also says that the wheelchair is our crown and she says many times that, uh, jokingly of course, that she's gonna pole vault over the pearly Gates. Hey she, but she is going to be able to pull it. Yeah, she is. I can't wait to see that that's going to be, we're going to dance. We're gonna do some Mayim, mayim with, sister Joni, Amen?!

K: So what effects should these glimpses of the coming kingdom have upon us, especially those of us who have received the down payment of the coming kingdom, which is the Holy spirit in us. Right? What effect should this have? First? It should cause us to pray what the Lord commanded us to pray regarding the kingdom. Luke 11:2

When you pray, say our father in heaven, hallowed, be your name, your kingdom, come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hallelujah, Jesus exemplified that. He brought the kingdom of heaven earth. Amen. Amen. Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus exemplified that. Yes he did. Next. It should cause us to tell others about the kingdom and how to get in the kingdom. That's what we have: a vision of the kingdom in us and the coming kingdom. It should cause us to want to tell others. Yeah. And it's funny. "Praytell" you've heard that, "Praytell?". It means 'please explain' so we should pray your kingdom come and we should tell, we should explain it to others. Amen. Yes. Just as Jesus told the disciples to go to John and tell him the things you have seen and heard, we are supposed to go and tell the things that we have seen and heard of the King and his kingdom.

Amen. And by sharing the message of the kingdom, we are actually hastening the coming of the kingdom, Matthew 24:14, Romans 11:25, 2 Peter 3:12. They speak to these things because when the gospel is preached to all the nations, then the end will come. When the fullness of the Gentiles come in, then Israel will be saved at that time. When they'd see the King coming, they say "Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai"[Hebrew for Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord] Hallelujah. Yes.

K: So Jesus preached the kingdom of God. John, the Baptist preach the kingdom of God. He sent his disciples out to preach the kingdom of God, Luke chapter nine. It says, then he called his 12 disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. These are all a foretaste of the coming kingdom. There's not gonna be any demons there. There's not gonna be any diseases there.

Right? So it's a foreshadow. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick and that's what we're to do. Amen. And we're not to make excuses. Amen. Cause later on in Luke 9, Jesus said to another follow me, but he said, Lord, let me first go and bury my father. Now there's a little problem there because he says, Lord, now, if the Lord commands you to follow, and then you say Lord, but let me go do this first. Then there's a problem with Lordship, right? Maybe you're just calling him Lord. And not really following Him. We don't want to be of those of say Lord, Lord. And he said to him, let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God. So we just don't want to make excuses. Amen. Then in Luke 10, he sent out 70 of the disciples, which is interesting because in the table of nations in Genesis, there's 70 nations, which show the Gentile nations.

So he sent out 70 because eventually this gospel of the kingdom is going to go to all the nations, right? Yeah. And then he, they went out and wherever they went, they said, the kingdom of God has come

near to you. So Jesus embodies the kingdom. So it's like, Jesus himself is the kingdom of God and in Him are hidden all the treasures of the kingdom. So wherever they go, when they're preaching the kingdom, they were preaching the King. So where the King is, there's the kingdom. So this is what Jesus was saying to the Pharisees. In Luke 17, he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God will come, he answered them and said, the kingdom of God does not come with observation, nor will they say, see here, see there for indeed, the kingdom of God is within you. And then right after that, he says, the time is coming.

When you will look for one of the days of the son of man, but you will not, you will not see him cause he's going to ascend. Right? So what he was saying is the kingdom of God is among you. It's not over there. Where when's it coming at the beginning of his ministry, he said, the time has come. And the kingdom of God is at hand it's because the King was here. He was showing us things of his everlasting kingdom, the blind being healed, the lame walking, the dead raised. He was showing us all the things of his coming kingdom because the King was among them. And the Pharisees are saying, when's the King, when's the kingdom coming? And He's like, no, the King, the kingdom is right here among you. It's Me. That's right. So praise the Lord that we have been delivered from the dominion, the authority, the power of the kingdom of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the son of his love Colossians chapter one, he's delivered us from the dominion of darkness. And we are now part of the kingdom of the son of his love in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. Are you thankful?

T: So thankful and you know, reading these verses about the kingdom and about how he healed the blind raise, the dead, healed the sick. I can't help right now with the holidays around this time to think about my absolute favorite movie that we try to watch around Thanksgiving is time. It's called The Fourth Wise Man. It's my absolute favorite movie. Every time I watch that movie, I have tears. So it is an old movie. The actors and actresses are older ones. It's very well done. It's a depiction of an old book that was written about the events of Jesus. They take a little bit of poetic license with it. It's not a hundred percent biblically accurate, so you don't want to look at it like a, you know, doctrinal statement or something, but, but much of it is. And the whole premise though of the movie is just so beautiful. And it just so deep. And it just so depicts someone on a pilgrimage and willing to sacrifice everything for that moment of actually meeting the King face to face. Yeah. And it is just such a cool picture of our spiritual lives. As we Pilgrim and Sojourn through this life and the trials we go through and the sacrifices that we make. And, and then I can't tell you the end of the movie. It shows that the blind and the lepers and those that actually were touched by the Lord and experienced the kingdom that had come and was a foretaste of the everlasting kingdom. What will come when he returns. It has that element in the movie in a, such a really beautiful way that I'm not going to share any more than that. But if you watch the fourth wise, man, you'll see how it relates to this episode. It's really powerful. Amen. You're going to love it. Amen. Yeah, it is all about the King and his kingdom.

I cry every time. I can watch it 50 times and I'll cry every single time. It's beautiful.

K: So the coming of our King and the establishment of his kingdom, it's our blessed hope. Yes. It's our blessed hope and everything in the kingdom of this world and Satan is called a God of this world. Everything of this kingdom will end in disappointment. Yeah, it's true. Well, eventually it will end in disappointment, but the kingdom of God that came through the King and is going to come again, it gives you a hope that will never disappoint like the things of this world, right? Romans 5 - Now hope does not disappoint the hope of the kingdom because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy spirit who was given to us, the foretaste of the kingdom. It doesn't disappoint the Holy spirit, doesn't disappoint, but there's a lot of counterfeit spirits in this world. The spirit of the age, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience, right?

You even have stores on the corners where you can get spirits. And I'll tell you, you pour those in your body and they're going to disappoint you in the morning. Yeah. But praise the Lord, John 14, we'll end with this verse. Jesus said in my father's house are many mansions. If it were not. So I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you. It's a kingdom. And one day new Jerusalem is going to come out of heaven and God will dwell with man on the New Earth. Yeah. So he's going to prepare a place. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself. That where I am there, you may be also in the kingdom of God because where the King is, there's the kingdom. And now Christ in us is our hope of glory. So we have the foretaste of the kingdom, the spirit of Christ in us, right? Yeah. The foretaste. Wow. But we need to be on pilgrimage to the kingdom. Yes. Where the blind will see the deaf will hear.

T: So now we're going to be going into an interview with Becky Lloyd, from signs for hope. And this all ties into what we've been sharing about the blind, being able to see the deaf hearing. And we just want you to be blessed by this beautiful interview.

[song plays]

K: Well, praise the Lord today, we have with us a very special guest, Becky Lloyd from a ministry called Signs for Hope, which focuses on facilitating the care of deaf orphan children all around the world. So welcome to Spirit of Adoption Radio, sister. Thank you so much for being here with us.

B: Thank you so much for inviting me today. I feel honored to be here. Thank you.

K: As do we do we, and uh, so why don't we just begin with you telling us a little bit about signs for hope and the work you all are doing with deaf orphans globally?

B: Hmm. Well, I was raised in a Christian home, came a believer and follower of Christ at the age of 14. And I had deaf family members growing up and I'd never learned to sign with my deaf family members. I had a deaf grandmother and a deaf great aunt. And then she had, um, a daughter who was deaf. So my aunt was also deaf and she married a deaf man and he had four deaf children. And the statistic goes that the vast majority of hearing family members, especially immediate family members, rarely learn to sign with their deaf family members. And so I was that statistic growing up and did not sign with my, my desk family, even when they lived in the same city with us. And I do remember my grandmother teaching me the alphabet in sign. And I remember practice a few signs with her when I was very little, but beyond that, I don't have a memory of having engaged with her in conversation.

And that's really sad. My mom, became kind of the default interpreter for her parents who were deaf. She was the oldest hearing child. And so anytime I was around and there was a conversation to be had, my mom was the interpreter between me and like that mother and anybody else that might be visiting. And so I, you know, as time went on and I got older, I was really curious about my deaf family members. And I wanted to know more. So life went on, I began to date my now husband Charles. And, um, we were very serious in college and started talking about marriage. And he said to me, he said, you know, he said, you have the possibility of hereditary deafness in your family. Maybe we should learn to sign. And I agreed with him. I thought that would be a really good thing to do just in case.

So he took one class. Then I took one class at the university of Tennessee and I don't know why we thought one class is enough, but that's all we took. And we did have two children. And while I used sign language with both of them, what both of them are hearing and they don't know American sign language, they're, you know, fully engaged in the hearing world. You know, life went on. I wanted to know more about my deaf family. I wanted to learn sign language. I thought it was incredibly beautiful. And I just wanted to know more, but that was apparently not God's plan at that point in time. Uh, eventually God placed us in a church that had an interpreted deaf ministry. So about 1998, um, God

moved in a hearing woman who had deaf parents and she began to work within our deaf ministry at our church and I just loved her and fell in love with her immediately.

She was really encouraging me 'you really should go back to school and learn sign language.' And this is 1998, but in 2000 God made it very clear. It was time for me to go back to school. And I finished a two year degree in three years and was doing some signing at our church. And I know you can, you can practice the songs. So I would practice the songs during the week and maybe find them for church on Sunday, but I would never do the message. And so after that three years, I knew I didn't have enough. And I thought, what are you going to do now? Where am I going to go? There's nothing close by. And I really felt God had called me to go back to become an American sign language interpreter. Um, so anyway, ended up at Gardner-Webb university.

God made it available for me to commute. So I would commute 70 miles one way for classes there. And I started doing that in 2003 and I finished there with my ASL major ASL studies major in my interpreting minor. And December of 2008, there were two things that I really became obsessed over. When I went back to school in 2000 and those two things were, I wanted to know everything about deaf ministry around the globe. And the second one was what is best for the deaf child. So in 2008, when I was about to graduate, I just didn't know what God would do well on March the 18th of 2008, I was listening to a radio program called family life today. You might recognize that. And that particular day I was driving to class and they were talking about Christian Alliance for orphans summit. I did not have a heart for the orphan at that point. They were not on my radar, but I had a son who was 19 whose heart was so embedded in the orphan that I listened to the program that day

And while I was listening to the program and they were chatting about all the networking opportunities and the Christian organizations that would come together. This was this particular year that we're going to be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. And I was thinking, my goodness, how in the world do I get to there? How do I get them from Northwest Arkansas the first weekend in May down to South Florida? And they're doing exams that weekend. How in the world will I do that? But I thought it would be a great opportunity for him to network and low and behold, in the middle of thinking that, God said to me: "I want you to coordinate the adoption of deaf orphans in the world."

And I want you to understand, I have never heard before that time or since my God speak to me audibly, but he spoke very clearly to me and I was in shock immediately. My first thought was what's that? Wow, my next thought was, well, Becky, Satan wouldn't want you to do that. Then I thought, all right, you're going to have to praise it. So things went on and God began to prove what I asked him to prove, even though he didn't need to, this is not something I ever dreamed of doing. This was not even on my radar. And I have to tell you, I didn't know a lot about adoption, but what I did know, I really didn't want to do this because the families that I had been exposed to, and none of them were my family, but God's family who had reached out to bring foster children, children who had been abandoned when they would bring them in their homes.

They did not have happily ever after ending. And I thought, why Lord would you want me to do this? Knowing what I know unless you know, something else I need to know. And of course he did. And, um, God made it very clear that I needed to see deaf orphans that close and personal. And so I began to ask, ask him to show me where and got back on the internet, looked for weeks, trying to figure out okay, where, when, how, and eventually, um, he made it clear that Liberia West Africa was to be the first place and, um, was connected to an organization out of Matthews, North Carolina that was making annual trip, uh, Liberia. And it just so happened. Um, the, the hearing this hearing, uh, organization that was church planting at its core, they had also established a deaf home or a deaf school.

So they were excited. They had never had anyone travel with their groups and their sign language. So this time someone with sign language could actually grow with them. And so this was, um, probably

about may or June of 2000 mine. Well, they had just made their trip for the year. So I had to wait until June of 2010 to join them. In the meantime, God closed adoptions and lobby area in January of 2010. And it's like, okay, Lord, you have called me to coordinate the adoption of deaf orphans in the world. And my thinking is, okay, this is earthly traditional adoption. Why in the world do you want me to go to Liberia if they aren't doing adoptions. So I felt he was so clear and where else to go. I went and the children that we saw were in the hearing, but they had absolutely nothing sleeping on a concrete floor with fellow mattresses that were disintegrating, um, maybe a bowl full of rice a day and sometimes a little casaba on top, but not much. And when this little girl brought me her bowl of rice and offered it to me, I thought I was going to melt to the ground.

And I thought, okay, Lord, we've got to do something here. And so the idea of what we call hard adoption was birth. And we partnered with that organization to find monthly sponsors for these children and the teachers. And they were very excited to be able to provide that. And we made six trips there the next four years. Then God kind of took us in a different direction. So eventually the Lord began to send folks to us from other countries. And one of those countries with Vietnam, I was contacted by Tony Brewer of orphan Voice. That's another CAFO member. He had found Signs for Hope on the internet. And so he was calling to see, um, what they could do. There had been a medical missions team in the rural area of Vietnam. And while they were treating a variety of, uh, children and adults there, they became aware that there were deaf children and adults that had no language and there was no school for them.

And they felt like they needed to do something. And they began to ask God, what do you want us to do? And so the idea of the school is, um, what came about. And so within the about 18 months, they opened, what's called the new beginning school for the deaf out in, um, Pumpkie, which is about probably an hour and 15 minute drive from the name. And these are children of all ages that had been identified and had no formal education at all. And our first trip to Vietnam was six months after they opened the desk school. It was incredible to see what they can do within six months of time being in a situation where they had someone who could sign with them and who cared for them, and then give them an ability to do things that they were never given the opportunity to do in any other formal educational setting.

So I was blown away, blown away and, um, they were so endearing. I still, our hearts instantly. And it was, it's been fun. Uh, we missed our trip in February of this year because of COVID. Um, but I'm ready to go back. Anytime the Lord opened that door, they are just incredible. Wow. And another deaf school in Danang, um, God placed on our radar as well. And so we're partnered with them and they to our, on the, and that hands for Vietnam. And it is just fun to go and be with them. Love it. Absolutely love it.

K: Praise the Lord. And I just had this thought that maybe the Lord spoke to you. He doesn't speak to everybody audibly, but perhaps he spoke to you audibly to your hearing ear because he was calling you to those who cannot hear audibly.

Fascinating. It's beautiful. I like the trust Jesus sign. I think it is like you hold like you're holding onto a rope. And then Jesus is where you touch the, like the Palm of your hands, trust Jesus. So hold onto the rope and then touch the Palm of your hands. And I don't know if this is it, but I'll put up my hands and surrender. What does this mean in every language? And they'll say, Oh, it means surrender. You put your hands up. Right. Surrender. And uh, every language it's the same, the Lord wants us to surrender to him in sign language. Is that it?

B: It is, it is. But, there are some additional things you can add to it, um, because it's still a weak sign, um, and concept for deaf folk. So if we're since surrendering, what are we actually doing? We now obey him. So it's surrender, but it's also obedient.

How are the deaf children being ministered to the gospel? Um, the children that are deaf that don't know the Lord. How, how has, how has that gone?

Yeah. So it's not as fast as I would like for it to be, and it doesn't happen very smoothly. Um, you probably don't know, but the very first Christian Bible was translated into American sign language and that translation was completed this year after 40 years. Wow. Does that tell you something that's kind of American American translation of the Bible and the sign language? Yeah. So you can imagine that the resources out there for families in American sign language are lacking as well. So one of the things that God has opened up for signs for hope in the midst of COVID-19 is all these new opportunities for folks to be involved with us in creating and developing resources, for example, taking children's Christian books and putting them in sign in a video form. And so this is so new. This is, this is something that he has revealed just within the last month.

In fact, it went out in our prayer letter today. I announced this in the fare letter and there are 11 opportunities for folks to partner with us in these particular areas that he has really made clear that we should move forward in. But if you want to stop and think about how many children's books, Google copay, that there are. And as far as I know, there's not one that has been put out there where families who have adopted deaf children or who have given birth to deaf children have access to them greatly. We have started putting resources on our website and the biblical ones are not there yet because we don't have them yet, but we're going to make them. Yeah,

That's exciting. So is the Bible that came out, is it dramatized? And then they see the sign, like the sign language there, along with the pictures and stuff.

You know, it's interesting, the translations that are being developed in the U S at this point in time, don't have the graphics with them, which just is really interesting to me. So we will probably create Bible stories that have graphics, and I'm not going to say probably that's the plan. There's a variety of translations of the Bible being put in so many sign languages around the world. And Wycliffe Bible translators are involved in that as well as a variety of other folks, the deaf Bible society, um, deaf go is another translation that's being worked on by a group of folks. And, you know, it's interesting because when I've seen in other countries, they are creating graphics to go with their Bible translation, but that's not happening in the U S and I just find that interesting.

K: Yeah. Well maybe it's the doors just been left open for you to do it sister,

B: Maybe, maybe, and, you know, I'm stubborn enough. I will want it so pure and, and visually being comprehended, it's not just going to impact the death. I can impact the hearing.

Yeah. So everyone can part, so it, that would be, that would be a resource that those who are hearing, they would, they would be able to watch it and then they would be able to learn sign language halls by watching that. So it provides something for both, right? Yeah. Wow. Amen.

T: So one of the things that we were discussing a uni in an email was just really powerful. And I kind of want to elaborate on this a little bit. Um, but you were sharing how, you know, for hearing families who embrace their children's deafness, whether adopted or born into their families, embracing that as a gift from God, instead of a disability, their understanding of who God truly is increases. And that's a quote from the email that you just sent me last night. I was so blessed by that. And, you know, just so many examples throughout the word come to my mind. But one in particular that you brought out on the email was really precious. And you shared about this passage in Mark chapter 7 verse 31 to 37. And one thing that really stood out in your mind and in your heart about that was where Jesus was sharing with the deaf man and how he took him aside from the crowd, probably because Jesus knew how visually distracting that crowd was going to be for the man. He took him aside and he healed him privately. And I just, I never thought about that before. Yeah. But just, just thinking about that now, like, just for

example, what is a crowd situation like for someone who has who's deaf, can you kind of explain that a little bit for us?

B: Yeah. Especially for our children who have sensory issues, um, you know, for, you and I, it might be the loud noise, but the visual distractions for, for deaf is as, um, I dunno is loud. So when you think of you interpreting at a church on Sunday morning as an example, so if you've got hearing folks or anybody walking around the sanctuary, the deaf folks are gonna immediately look. If they look away, they've missed what's being shared by that interpreter. And so anytime there's something that would visually distract you. And if somebody yelled at us, we would look instantaneously unless we train ourselves not to do that. And I have, because if you are in a conversation with a deaf person and you have their eye contact for me to look away, because someone called by name is very disrespectful. So I have learned, and I asked God to help me not look away.

When you hear a loud noise, when someone calls your name, you keep your conversation first and foremost with that, that person. But you know, when you think about the visual distractions that are out there, especially when you think about our technology to stay in time, I'm telling you requiring deaf children to do homework on zoom and schoolwork on zoom is far more challenging than it is for the hearing kids. And it's so much less engaging. And, you know, they can't look around with the depth. They have to look right at the person signing. I was interpreting for a women's conference and we had several deaf folks that were attending. And this particular teacher would teach for 45 minutes without stopping. And after the first break, my deaf folks said, you know what? She said, ``My neck is hurting already because I don't want to miss anything. And I can't look away. Is there any way we could have more breaks? And so when I began to explain that to the presenter, she's like, well, of course we can, but while you, and I can look at our paper, we can tap our feet. We can, we can look away. And actually our mind can wander from what's being shared, but we could be doodling, or we could be doing a variety of things. The deaf folks have to visibly watch and without moving often.

T: Wow, That, that just even more magnifies God to me in that verse and how Jesus took him away privately, because although we don't understand all of this, those of us who are hearing and have not really had been exposed to very many people in the deaf world, um, Jesus knew them through and through. He knew everything they were struggling with. He knew all of their challenges and he met him on his level. And I just think that is so powerful when you think of it - it just magnifies the Lord and magnifies his love so much as we think about that example in the word, because people get distracted away from the Lord by many, many things. And here you have this one that the Lord takes off to the side. So he could just have his full attention on Jesus. Wow. Praise God.

T: So how, how can the body of Christ, uh, get involved in the work that you're doing sister and also pray for?

B: So we have big visions. I have no idea what God will do with all that. He leads me one step at a time, thankfully. And, um, he did give me the ability to dream big. I have no clue what they'll do with that yet, but as far as praying for great wisdom and discernment in this, uh, I covet prayers for that. I am a hearing person stepping into a deaf world and I do it very carefully. I never want to do anything that would hinder any of them from knowing Jesus Christ and hearing people have caused great damage through the years and every day for many of them. And so they, they are suspect of me, which they should be until I can prove them different. But I used to think, Lord, surely you're going to have a deaf person lead this, right? But now it's much more clear to me. As a hearing person, I can speak to my hearing culture and ways that that would be received, whereas a deaf person could not speak that truth to them and be received. Right? And so I can see why a hearing person is needed in this area. At least

maybe not alone. I would love to say partner with a variety of deaf folks to do this together. And that is our desires to do this together.

Funding is always something that's out there. And, you know, if God touches your heart and you want to give to this ministry, I'm telling you, he's touching hearts right now to give. And I just, I'm blown away. We actually have a \$15,000 matching grant. And, um, just the way things are right now, he's going to have to match this one differently than he has in the past. So I can't wait to see what he's going to do. I think it's going to be from people who've never given before. And it'll be exciting to see what he chooses to do with that.

T: That is exciting as you trust him. And, and this is a non-profit organization here. I mean, Signs for Hope is a 501c3 approved charitable organization. So, for any of our listeners interested in getting to know what Signs for Hope is doing, please visit their website signsforhope.org and read more about their stories. Becky has a really amazing blog and newsletter. I believe that you can sign up for, am I correct on that? That you have a newsletter, Becky?

B: Yes. We send out one at least once a month.

T: Thank you so much for being here with us on spirit of adoption radio, Becky, we've just really learned a lot and we really value your insight and everything that you shared with us is just such a, a blessing. And I really appreciate having you with us.

B: Well, I thank you guys for even thinking of me and inviting me to be a part of this. And just one last thought I would leave with you. And you know, when God said, I want you to coordinate the adoption of deaf orphans in the world that ultimately became a reality to me when, when God revealed that it's his adoption of every single one of them, that is his goal. And that's what he's calling us to do is to be a part of that, coordinating the adoption of every deaf person in the world to become a child of God.

T: Well, that certainly resonates our heartbeat here at Spirit of Adoption Radio.

K: Thank you so much sister for joining us.

B: Thank you guys. I'm so honored to be here. Thank you.

[Song Plays] K: Amen. Praise the Lord for what dear sister Becky is doing to reach the deaf, it is all for him.

T: And I'll tell you what this interview and our time spent with Becky was not in vain. In fact, um, some really good fruit is coming out of this and we are actually going to be doing our very first transcription of this episode #26 of Spirit of Adoption Radio is going to be transcribed. So the deaf can actually hear it, uh, with their hearts and what an honor and a privilege. And it's just, our eyes have been open. Our ears have been opened to so many things through sister Becky and this interview. And we're just excited to see what the Lord is going to do. Not only in our hearts, but in your hearts too, after this.

K: Amen. We all need to have our eyes opened yes. To the Lord. Amen. In our hearts. Most of all. That's right. Open the eyes of our hearts. Lord. Yes. Amen.

T: Well, as always, I just want to thank all of our listeners near and far. We want to thank our listeners in Kenya. We want to thank our listeners and Ireland

In Israel, Australia. (Both say Israel Simultaneously and laugh) K: I know what's on our mind. We always look forward to the kingdom coming. Hallelujah.

T: All of our friends and family all over Israel. We just love you all so much. And just thank you for listening to this show. Um, we're really excited to share some things on our episode blog. We're going to have some transcription of this so that you can share with those who might not be able to hear a radio

show like this. And maybe you can share this transcription with your deaf friends or family. We also are very excited to share some things on our episode blog links to Becky's ministry. So you can be in touch with them. All of that is going to be on our episode blog. I'm also going to share a little link of things that we've talked about in this episode, including my favorite movie, the fourth wise man, I'm going to share a little link to that.

So you can have more information if you want to watch that. So look for this episode, blog episode, number 26 at adoptionairfare.com/SOAR so look for that episode blog, we'll have lots of really awesome resources in there as always. Also, please visit us at adoptionairfare.com if you've got any upcoming travel that we can help you with, we have really great discounted airfare for international travel, as well as some even domestic travel extra bags. If you need to take supplies on a mission trip, we have lots of really awesome things with airfare that we can do at adoptionairfare.com. So check us out there.

Also soar naturals. We still have some really great products here, ready to ship. We've been shipping orders throughout the holiday season, and people are getting their melatonin, their fermented melatonin, their liquid zinc just powering up their immune systems for the upcoming winter ahead. So, you can do that too. If you go to soarnaturals.com and enter code SOAR15, which will give you 15% off of your order. And we'd love to get that shipped out to you. So, anyways, thank you so much for listening and may the Lord bless each and every one of you. Thank you.

K: Amen. And remember God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. He has everything under control. Amen. So look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draws near. Amen? T: Amen.

K: May the Lord bless you. Seek him today. Thanks for listening to spirit of adoption radio. You can reach us through our website, adoptionairfare.com. Also please subscribe and leave us a review on the listening platform of your choice. Lord willing. We'll see you next time. Maranatha!