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- Pray for the adopted children and their families, particularly as they go through the sometimes-painful process of getting to know each other and becoming a family.
- Pray for The Shepherd's Crook Ministries: that God would bless us financially and allow us to continue doing this important work in His name

From the Director

world is the Autumn Crocus (colchicum autumnale), noted for its delicate petals and vibrant colors, ranging from a soft pink to lavender. The flower grows in temperate regions and is so named because it blooms in the autumn. The autumn crocus has medicinal uses, too. Its root bulbs (corms) yield colchicine, a medicine used to treat gout and certain fevers. This beautiful little flower, though, has a secret. The same colchicine which, within narrow limits, provides medicinal benefits, can be deadly when eaten. The toxic effects resemble those of arsenic, and there is no antidote for this poison.



even bedridden, almost glance but which, like the autumn crocus, comes with a huge danger that many people seem to be unaware of. I am talking about the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD). On the surface of it, this appears to be a good—even a needed—international agreement, particularly for parents of children with special needs.

which will improve conditions for its target beneficiary group but which, in reality, will benefit practically no one and which will harm many. The primary reasons for the danger inherent in this convention have to do with the usurpation of the rights and responsibilities that belong to our sovereign nation, and ultimately the stripping of parents' rights to raise their children as they deem best. A detailed discussion of the convention and how it would be bad for the citizens of the United States is beyond both the scope of this column and my own limitations, and so I refer you to a source I have found both informative and reliable. The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) has prepared a brief [review of the CRPD](#) and the ways in which it represents a dangerous direction for U.S. law. The focus of HSLDA, it's true, is directed to home schooling families, but this particular article also addresses the broader implications and ramifications of implementing the CRPD. They have also prepared an article addressing comments made by a U.S. Senator on key provisions of the CRPD, which you can [read here](#). Rather than simply believing what you may be hearing on the news or from your elected representatives, I invite you to consult these references and others you trust in forming your opinion of the CRPD.

The primary entity for raising children, according to God's design and intention, is the family. That is why we believe children should grow up in families and why we feel called both to adoption and to adoption ministry. God equips parents to raise their children under His leading, and He holds parents responsible for doing so. The CRPD, like the CRC, takes away a great many parents' rights in raising their own children, transferring them to governmental bodies subject to international scrutiny, interpretation, and authority. What a dark day it will be for America if this convention is ratified.

It is not a bad thing that the international community is concerned to protect the rights of persons with disabilities; indeed, it is a good thing. But for the government of the United States to surrender her sovereignty to an international convention is not the right way to handle the perceived problems addressed by the CRPD. The United States already has laws in force (e.g., the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) specifically to address these issues. We don't need the United Nations to monitor and police our government's activities, nor can we afford to take away parents' legitimate rights and responsibilities for raising their children, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, in the way they think best.

Soli Deo gloria!

[Signature]

Spotlight: Down Syndrome

By Greg Gudwin, Administrative Assistant

special need that will probably be familiar to many of you. Right now, there are fourteen waiting children with Down syndrome on our site, and a quick Internet search will reveal that there are a number of other organizations who aim to help find families for such kids. So, let's take a look at the reason that many of the world's orphans are waiting for their forever families.

Down, whose 1866 publication linked the physical characteristics with the decreased intellectual ability found in people with Down syndrome. It wasn't until 1959 that Down syndrome was discovered to be caused by a chromosomal abnormality. Dr. Jerome Lejeune discovered that people with the syndrome had forty-seven chromosomes in each cell instead of the normal forty-six, and that the extra chromosome was to be found in the twenty-first chromosome. Down syndrome is therefore sometimes referred to as Trisomy 21. The full or partial trisomy results in a number of physical abnormalities—including reduced muscle tone, flat nasal bridge, small nose, eyes that slant upwards and outwards, a small mouth, and broad hands with short fingers—and stunted intellectual development. People with Down syndrome are also at increased risk for certain health problems, such as congenital heart problems, hearing and vision difficulties, thyroid disorder, poor immune system, respiratory problems, and an obstructed intestinal tract.[1] Probably none of this is surprising to most of you because of how common it is to see or know someone with Down syndrome. Such popular familiarity was not always the case, however.

developed countries to place people with Down syndrome in institutions or colonies, where they were excluded from the rest of society. This practice persisted until the early 1960s, when parents, along with educators and other professionals, began to advocate for people with any mental or physical disability to be included in general society as much as possible. Now, in spite of their limitations, many people with Down syndrome are able to graduate high school and obtain gainful employment. As encouraging as this development is, another, rather disturbing trend has arisen among some prominent academics. From their utilitarian worldview, they assert that parents ought to avoid inflicting "genetic harm" on their offspring. Claire Rayner, then a patron of the Down's Syndrome Association, said, "The hard facts are that it is costly in terms of human effort, compassion, energy, and finite resources such as money, to care for individuals with handicaps . . . People who are not yet parents should ask themselves if they have the right to inflict such burdens on others, however willing they are themselves to take their share of the burden in the beginning." These views have apparently had some impact, as children with Down syndrome have been aborted at alarming rates. Between 1989 and 2006, 92% of women chose to have an abortion after a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. Here in the States, the percentage is even higher, at around 93%.[2] Even without knowing the raw numbers, we do know that approximately 1 out of every 691 children born in the States has Down syndrome[3], which means that the number of aborted DS children nationwide at least in the tens of thousands. The tens of thousands!

This utilitarian perspective gets a number of crucial things wrong. The biggest problem, of course, is that it fails to affirm that each human, from the moment of conception, is a person of worth by virtue of having been created in the image of God. It also fails to stand up under its own standards in the cases of those people with Down syndrome who do have jobs and are thus contributing members of society, but that is a secondary consideration. No matter how a human being may be disabled or limited, that person still bears the image of God. He saw fit to give that person life, and it is not our prerogative to take it away. It makes me sad that so many children have their lives taken from them, especially with all of the opportunities open to them here in the States. Our daughter Mikaela would have had no way of integrating to the society in her home country of Ukraine simply because of her Down syndrome. In fact, our facilitator while in Ukraine was surprised to learn that a lot of people just like Mikaela can hold jobs here. And not only can I say that she has the potential one day to earn a paycheck and achieve some level of independence, but she brings a joy to our family that wouldn't be there without her. That is a constant refrain around here, and having her for my daughter has made me want even more for every child with Down syndrome to have a home

the world w

- References:
1. *History of Down Syndrome*, downsyndrome.com/history-of-down-syndrome/
 2. *Neurodegeneration*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurodegenerative_diseases

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840.

The following children have come home to their adoptive families since TSC began in 2000. We include them as representatives of all of the children who have come home. Their faces provide just a glimpse into how significantly these lives are changed, as the children transition from the hopelessness and aloneness they once knew, to the comfort and security that come from belonging to a family. Thank you for helping us make these dreams realities, both for the adopted children and for their families.



Brendan,
in Mexico



Brendan, at home
in Washington



Rebekah,



Rebekah, at



Vera,



Vera, at home