



TAPESTRY

Adoption & Foster Care Ministry

2010 Tapestry Adoption & Foster Care Conference

The 2010 Tapestry Conference will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Irving Bible Church. This conference is a great opportunity to learn from a diverse group of experienced presenters about a wide variety of adoption and foster care related topics. Every attendee will attend the general session in which Sherrie Eldridge, author of *Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*, will offer her insight and wisdom. Attendees will also be able to attend three different breakout sessions with an option to attend an additional session during lunch. In addition, this year's conference will offer an adoptee track (for adoptees ages 18 years and older) designed to help adoptees explore the unique journey they experience into adulthood and beyond.

The 2010 Tapestry Conference is *completely free*! Conference registration begins on Tuesday, September 7th, at www.tapestryconference.org. Registration includes a light breakfast, box lunch and a conference notebook with notes, articles and resources from every session at the conference. Free childcare is also available with advanced registration. However, space is very limited, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible!

Check out more details about the 2010 Tapestry Conference below.

Schedule

8:45 to 9:15 – Check-in & Breakfast

9:15 to 9:30 – Welcome & Introduction

9:30 to 10:25 – General Session

10:35 to 11:35 – Breakout Session 1

11:35 to 12:40 – Lunch (3 optional sessions will be available during lunch)

12:50 to 1:50 – Breakout Session 2

2:00 to 3:00 – Breakout Session 3

Session Titles & Descriptions

General Session

Gifts of Adoption....Discovering Joy in Unexpected Places – Ever wish you could see inside an adoptee’s heart? Sherrie Eldridge, adopted at birth, will transparently share common adoptee issues and a practical tool she’s discovered for turning adoption difficulties into a gift. *(Sherrie Eldridge)*

Breakout Session 1

Becoming an Effective Advocate for Your Child in School – This session will help parents understand how to effectively advocate for the needs of their child in the school system. The session will focus on real-life issues that adopted and foster children face and will provide parents with practical how-to’s so they can better ensure that their child is able to learn and grow. *(Casey Call)*

Defining the Foster Care Experience – This session is specifically designed for anyone considering the foster care or foster-to-adopt path as well as those who are still relatively new to the foster care process. Led by an experienced foster family, the session will cover how to get started as well as provide many practical tips and insights aimed at helping new foster parents navigate the foster care system successfully. *(Bruce & Denise Kendrick)*

Adoption: Myths and Realities – As people explore adoption and begin the process they often encounter the many adoption myths that exist. This session will deal openly and honestly with many of the common myths – issues such as wait times, attachment, friends and family, birth parents, finances and much more. This session is designed to be helpful for those who are trying to decide which direction to go as well as those who still have tough, unanswered questions and concerns. *(Anthony & Kristin Violi)*

The Balancing Act: Parenting with a Balance of Nurture & Structure – Our children need nurture to develop trust and structure to grow. This session will focus on how parents can provide an effective balance of nurture and structure, even in the face of challenging behaviors. *(Michael & Amy Monroe)*

Longing, Loving, Losing, Living – Foster and adoptive families know grief and loss—if not before they begin the journey, they become quickly acquainted. Most families who serve children in need have felt a call to take this step of faith, and they long to love and nurture children, but the losses (even the expected ones) can be devastating. But, there is life after loss. This session will explore how we can give life to loss, and how to live joyfully even after loss. The session will focus on ways to recognize God at work in our midst and how to turn that purpose into a legacy. *(Travis Jones)*

Breakout Session 2

Out-of-Sync, Sensitive or Sensational?: Understanding Sensory Issues and How They Affect Our Children – This session will provide a brief overview of the sensory processing systems, how they can disable our children and how we can help. We will explore the connection between sensory processing and attachment for ALL children and how to super-charge your nurturing with sensory-rich activities. This session will strive to provide empathy, some practical tools to deal with sensory differences, and a new way to look at your child(ren) and their behavior. *(Kristin Mathis)*

More Than Just Words: A More Complete Look at How to Communicate Effectively with Your Child About Adoption or Foster Care – When it comes to the issue of “talking” with your children about adoption or foster care, most parents immediately think in terms of what they should (and should not) say. However, effectively communicating with your child on these important matters involves much more than just the words you use. This session will focus on how to effectively communicate with your child about their story and your journey as a family, and will touch specifically on the importance of nonverbal communication, learning to listen to your child and finding perspective and meaning in your shared journey. *(Michael & Amy Monroe)*

What Now? How to Successfully Seek Help, Support and Direction for Your Foster/Adoptive Child – Many foster & adoptive families face the challenges of successfully identifying resources & supports for their children, as well as maneuvering with purpose in the child welfare system; instead often times experiencing frustration, helplessness, and a lack of knowing where to turn. How do we know when to leave things to the professionals and when to take matters into our own hands? And better yet, how do we advocate in a system-friendly way so that we are working with our team and not against them? Receive feedback on several ways to ensure positive outcomes for you and your children. *(Jennie Bullard)*

Not the Same This Time Around: Exploring the Differences in Parenting Adopted and Biological Children – After adopting, many parents quickly realize that there can be significant differences and very unique challenges parenting a child they adopted as compared to a child born into their family. This session will explore many of those difference and some of the unique challenges, and will offer practical insight and advice as to how parents can be prepared and effectively respond. *(Matt and Kristin Donovan & Darren and Cheryl Macdonald)*

Answering the Call Later in Life – Adopting or becoming a foster parent later in life (i.e., after 40) has its own share of joys and blessings mixed with challenges and concerns. Two experienced families will talk honestly and openly about these realities that come with adopting or fostering a bit later in life. *(Mike and Johnna Wolverton & Scott and Monica Brown)*

Lunch Sessions

Whatcha Reading? A Survey of Helpful Adoption and Foster Care Books for Adults and Children (Kristin Violi & Annie McClellan)

How to Start a Ministry in Your Church (Q&A format led by Michael Monroe)

Making Sense of the Cost of Adoption (Anthony Violi)

Open Forum Q&A with Sherrie Eldridge (Facilitated by Amy Monroe)

Breakout Session 3 – General Session

Making the Wait Worthwhile – Waiting is a challenging time in any adoption or foster care journey, and yet few times offer as much opportunity to learn, prepare and grow. This session will focus on helping those who are waiting understand how they can effectively use this period of time to benefit themselves and their child. (Scott & Annie McClellan)

Keeping Race in Its Place: A Practical Approach to Living Life in a Trans-Racial Family – This session will focus on the challenges, joys and realities of life as a trans-racial family, and offer practical insight and wisdom for parents and their children. (Greg & Tracey Fields)

Hot Topics for Adoptive and Foster Single Parents – This session led by two experienced adoptive and foster single parents will focus on some of the key issues that singles face and will provide practical insights and advice to help singles successfully navigate the adoption and foster care journey. (Kathryn Veazey & Jill Silvey)

Connecting With Your Children as They Get Older – For adoptive and foster families, developing strong connections with children when they are young is often challenging. As they grow older, or when older children come into our families, these challenges often increase. This session will equip parents with the insight and tools they need to know how to effectively connect with their children as they grow into the pre-teen years and beyond. (Dr. Karyn Purvis)

Adoptee Track – Journey to Self: Reclaiming Our Story

This breakout session track is a series of interactive discussions designed to help adoptees explore the unique journey they experience into adulthood and beyond. These sessions will take a closer look at where our adoption story began, how our story has impacted us and where it has led us. All sessions will be facilitated by adult adoptees and will only be open to adoptees ages 18 years and over.

Breakout Sessions for Journey to Self (Adoptee Track):

- *Session 1 – Where Does the Story Begin...And Why Must We Reclaim It?*
- *Lunch Session – Birth Mother Panel*
- *Session 2 – Finding Ourselves in Our Story: Identifying What We Didn't Know, We Didn't Know*
- *Session 3 – Choices and the Journey: Connections in Your Story*

Visit www.tapestryconference.org for more information
and to register (starting September 7th)