



May 7th, 1996

Vol. 2, No. 3

### **This Could Be Your Last Newsletter From Us . . .**

We're updating our mailing list, so please check the enclosed postage paid card and drop it in the mail to us.

That way, you'll continue to receive our newsletters and other important information. It is also your opportunity to correct Dave's questionable typing skills (and even more questionable handwriting), by letting us know if we are spelling your name and address correctly! If you don't return this card in the mail by the end of this month, your name will be removed from our mailing list, and we will save a few trees.

### **Special Orientation and Support Group Meeting Schedule for May**

Because of Mother's Day and some personal commitments, we will be having both of our monthly meetings on the same day--**Saturday, May 18th**. After that, the meetings will be held on separate days, as usual. We hope this will not be too much of an inconvenience for you.

Here's the schedule for that day:

1:00 PM	Clients welcome
2:30 PM	Support Group Meeting begins
4:00 PM	Orientation Program begins (kids may find this 2 hour meeting a little boring.)

Call us for directions if you've never attended one of our meetings before. Our physical address is different than our mailing address.

## **Good News From China**

We are hearing from all over the country that Beijing is processing applications at record rates. It looks like the paperwork slow-down from the first of the year is coming to an end.

Referrals are here! Several of our client families who had been waiting to hear news that Beijing had approved their dossiers received their assignments of healthy infants recently! Even those families who were technically required to adopt "special needs" or older children were referred healthy infants under six months of age.

A big box of dossiers from several Americans Adopting Orphans families arrived in Beijing last week! We are now sending a batch of dossiers to China every month.

### **Cindy's Infant Care and Travel Medicine Course Begins this Month**

Receive 12 hours of hands-on instruction specific to the needs of parents adopting infants from China. Learn all about bathing, diapering, feeding, safety, equipment, and the much more from a registered nurse who is also the adoptive mother of two Chinese-born children. Also included are coupons and free samples of baby products to get you started! The entire last class is dedicated to preparation for travel and travel medicine. Classes will be held from 1PM to 4PM on the Saturdays listed below. Pre-registration is required to attend.

#### Dates of next course

May 25, June 1st,  
June 8th, & June 15th

#### For more info

Call Cindy  
(206) 524-5437

#### Cost per family

Full course:       \$95  
Travel class only:   \$30

## **New Chinese Culture Class Planned**

We are developing a curriculum for a class on Chinese Culture that would focus on the needs of adoptive parents and would like to know what would be of special interest to you. For instance, would you like to know about:

- basic Chinese etiquette?
- how to pronounce common words and phrases?
- Chinese attitudes towards children and adoption?
- what life is like in a communist country?
- how to use chopsticks like a pro?

Give us a call, we want your input.

## **Announcing New Expanded Hours**

Many of you have noticed a difference in our response time to telephone and written correspondence in the last few weeks and how your calls and document reviews are being returned faster than ever. All of that is about to get even better in mid-May as Dave resigns at the University of Washington and Cindy closes the doors of Mother Murphy's Day Care. We will be expanding our office hours to be even more accessible for client questions and consultation. Beginning in June our new office hours will be:

<b>DAY</b>	<b>AFTERNOON</b>	<b>EVENING</b>
Mon	1 PM to 5 PM	7 PM to 10 PM
Tues	1 PM to 5 PM	7 PM to 10 PM
Wed	1 PM to 5 PM	7 PM to 10 PM
Thurs	1 PM to 5 PM	7 PM to 10 PM
Fri	1 PM to 5 PM	7 PM to 10 PM
Sat	1 PM to 5 PM	

These are the best times to call us, and the times we are normally available for appointments. If we are in a meeting with another client, or out running an errand for our business, you may get our voice mail system. Please leave a message.

## **Parent Initiated (Independent) Adoption From China Still Possible**

In recent months, China has become more and more reluctant to work directly with adoptive families. For that reason, many families who began a parent initiated adoption, are now turning to us. Americans Adopting Orphans has always supported parents who want to do as much of their own adoptions as they can. We continue to accept such families into our program, and for a small fee, will review their paperwork, submit their documents to China, and represent them, as we do clients who use our more comprehensive services, with the China Adoption Center.

While we encourage families to work on their own, if you had planned to submit your application directly to China and are now considering using our services, please be aware that many paperwork practices that worked in the past for independent adopters are no longer acceptable. We apply the same high standards for paperwork to all documents sent to China under our license, regardless of who prepares them. The China Adoption Center is scrutinizing documents very carefully, and we are being very careful to send documents which meet their specifications, so that processing in China will be unimpeded.