

TOGETHERFORADOPTION

Adopting a Child from Haiti and Gospel-Patience

By Dan Cruver

Adoption agencies all over the country have been inundated with people calling in to inquire about adopting Haitian orphans. As I've noted before, the complexities of Haiti's orphan crisis are enormous, especially when we add the question of adoption to the mix. In light of these complexities, I think it's safe to say that it will be quite some time before Haiti is even able to open its doors to adoption again. Even before Haiti's earthquake, the adoption process was anywhere from 2-3 years, and a difficult one at that.

Given the current situation in Haiti, here is my question to those who are interested in adopting a child from Haiti: "How long are you willing to wait to give a Haitian orphan a home?" My concern is that our compassion for Haiti's orphans, our desire to give them a home, won't have the necessary patience (endurance) to see it through. What Haiti's orphans need once adoption opens back up is Christians who have gospel-endurance.

When God predestined us to adoption (Eph. 1:4-5), there was no such thing as a watch or a second hand. As a matter of fact, God hadn't even created the world yet! Once God did create the world, though, his work of adoption didn't actually break into human history until after he sent his Son (Gal. 4:4-6). When it came to adopting us into his family, God was *extremely* patient.

The day will come when the adoption process will open back up in Haiti; and when it does, what Haiti's orphans will need is Christians who imitate the *patience* of their Father in heaven. How many of us who are now interested in adopting a child from Haiti will still be interested when the adoption process finally opens back up? I don't know.



Image by - Boston.com - The Big Picture: Faces of Haiti

What I do know, though, is that if our desire to adopt a child from Haiti is fueled by the gospel, there will be more of us who are willing to wait than there would be if it's not. How do I know this? Because the gospel produces gospel-patience.

So, here's my encouragement to everyone who is interested in adopting a child from Haiti. First, continue giving to organizations that are providing immediate relief to Haiti's orphans. Food, water, safety, and protection are still Haiti's orphans' most pressing needs.

Second, keep feeding your compassion for Haiti's orphans with the gospel. If we are to imitate the adoptive-patience of God, it will be because of the gospel.

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