

*Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established* (Proverbs 24:3). The wise man Solomon understood that it takes much wisdom from Christ to build a home that will bring Him glory. Such indeed has been the case as we look back upon our first year of operation here at Covenant Children's Home. We were told that it would take 3-5 years to get our feet firmly founded, and we are beginning to understand why. This past year has been a year of various transitions, yet God has been very good to us. I wanted to write and inform you of both the past as well as our future plans.

**The Children** – Our intent has been to be a Christ centered long- term residential care facility for non-delinquent school-age children. This intent has not changed. Providentially, we saw nine children placed this past year with only one being long-term. That one child remains with us and is doing very well thanks to your prayers and support. Rest assured, we remain focused upon our original vision. We have often expected a placement to be long term when factors may contribute it to be only short-term. Pray for wisdom to take in those children that God has for us. The needs are many, and God knows who He would have us to help.

**The Houseparents** – We have learned that one of the largest challenges is finding and keeping a committed couple who share our vision for children. Due to the many pressures and stresses of working with needy children, the turnover rate for houseparents is huge. We have had good houseparents, but our recent houseparents took a position in Texas that nearly doubled their salary at the end of 2010. At present, my wife and I are acting as substitute houseparents but anticipate having a solid couple in place before too long.

**The Staff** – We were blessed to have Dick and Karen Errett serve as directors through the development and establishing stages of the Covenant Children's Home. At the end of 2010, the Erretts stepped down to take a position as Field Representatives for the Florida Association of Christian Child Care Agency (FACCCA), which is our licensing agency. Pray for them in this new endeavor. Effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, I took over the position of Executive Director. I covet your prayers in this task and look forward to meeting you in the future. Please feel free to call me if I can be of any help or answer any of your questions.

Thanks to your help the easiest part of the Covenant Children's Home has been completed. A beautiful house has been built. We now face the challenges of taking a house and making it a home. It is here that the Word of God resonates loud and clear, *Through wisdom a house is built...* (Prov. 24:3). It is for that wisdom from God that we covet your prayers. As the new director, I am at present reorganizing the office to efficiently work through the mountains of paperwork that the state requires. Please be assured that we strive to be faithful stewards of your donations and that we continue with the goal to provide a long- term home for children in need. We know the kids will come, but as we have learned, there is much more to running a successful home than just building a house. We must lay certain foundations in order to advance forward with an effective program that we trust will help children and bring God the glory. We thank you for your faithfulness and patience as we seek to establish this long term ministry. *But those who wait on the LORD shall renew [their] strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint* (Is. 40:31).

Christ's Servant,