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ADOPTION INFORMATION EXCHANGE  
P.O. BOX 4153  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1984

--CALENDAR--

AIE Board Meeting

November  
Call for information  
919/493-6050 Durham  
919/489-0008 Durham  
919/942-8077 Chapel Hill

AIE-Charlotte

November 9  
Call for place  
704/568-2402 Charlotte  
704/867-1571 Gastonia  
704/922-7053 Dallas

Concerned United Birthparents

November 28  
Call for information - place  
may be changed  
919/544-7532 Durham



"CHRISTMAS WISH"  
FUND

Marion Teague, AIE Branch President, came up with this idea! This year AIE will have a fund designed to surprise a person who is in search, but thus far has been unable to find. We will surprise someone by giving him or her collected donations, which will enable that person to seek "higher assistance" in his or her search. If you wish to give, mail donations to the AIE office, or to M. Teague, 800-54 Whitesides Rd., Gastonia, NC 28052. Please specify that it is for the Christmas Wish Fund.

NEW AREA SUPPORT GROUPS:

- Asheville, NC \* For information call: 704/693-6297 or 704/254-8248
- Rocky Mt., NC \* For information call: 919/443-5085

\*Welcome to the new editor of the newsletter: Lynn Carney

\*Thanks to Michelle R. for her contribution for stamps!

\*Robin Wilson, AIE Board member, is excited about a letter she received from a minister and an adoptive couple who took her class on adoption last spring. Because of the information shared and the soul searching encouraged in the class, the couple has undertaken an open adoption with the minister's help. Robin's educational outreach is important and does have results. Congratulations, Robin!

**J**T'S CATCHING!! When people share their stories and feelings, it can be 'catching.' A few weeks ago, Eloise Williams of Durham made contact with and met a brother whom she had never seen. She's 45; he is 63. Mrs. Williams is not an adoptee; however, after sharing her feelings with Lynn Giddens, she learned she was not alone in wondering for over 40 years about a brother from a previous marriage of her father's. Lynn encouraged her to find her brother, who resides in South Carolina. She did, and the past two weeks have been filled with sharing pictures and memories--which Mrs. Williams describes as "one of the happiest events of my life!" Both brother and sister claim they will stay very closely in touch. Both also agree, "What a wonderful difference this has made in our lives!"



AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS continued

there are systems even more problem-ridden than the adoption system and children even more separated from security than most involved in adoption. It is my hope that we can somehow acknowledge these children. Jerry Smith is available for speaking to your other groups- church, professional, community groups, etc. He can be reached through Wilson County Department of Social Services, where he is director.

Betty Jean Lifton (Twice Born, Lost and Found) was a very thought-provoking keynote speaker, and her books are thought-provoking too. She loves exchanging ideas; if you have any of your own "theories" about the adoption experience, I'm sure she'd like to hear from you: B. J. Lifton, 300 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024.

The 1985 A.A.C. conference for the whole country will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, in June. That's near enough that some of us should be able to go. The nurturing you can get at these conferences is well worth the effort, even if we aren't changing the world right away. \*\*\*

Woman's Day 9-1-84

**TALKING IT OVER**

WITH EDA LESHAN



**Q** After years of waiting we adopted a developmentally delayed three-year-old girl. She is absolutely beautiful and very well-mannered. She's been with us a year now, and we feel no real love for her. At times we even dislike her because she watches us like a hawk and keeps nagging about inconsequential things: "Can I eat my pickle with my fingers the next time?" "When can I get up in the morning?" We don't want the adoption agency to know how we feel because the papers aren't final yet. But what's wrong with us? Why aren't we able to enjoy this child? When does love start?

**A** You *must* tell your social worker how you feel. That doesn't mean that he or she will consider you a failure or take your daughter away. It's the best way to get the help you so badly need. The circumstances of your child's early life seem to have crippled her emotionally. Her questions are not at all inconsequential to her. She may have been beaten for eating pickles with her fingers or locked in a dark room and not allowed to get up when she wanted.

As for not really liking your daughter, many teachers and other adults feel the same way about certain children. I've found that it's usually because the child

reminds us of something we've rejected in ourselves. When we see a very sad and frightened child, we hear echoes of our own past and of long-forgotten suffering. We use anger and rejection to protect ourselves from that pain.

You need help in understanding your own feelings and those of this child who has apparently suffered so much in her short life. She's desperate for love, and that can be frightening. If you can face your own fears, you'll be able to help your daughter cope with hers. **WD**

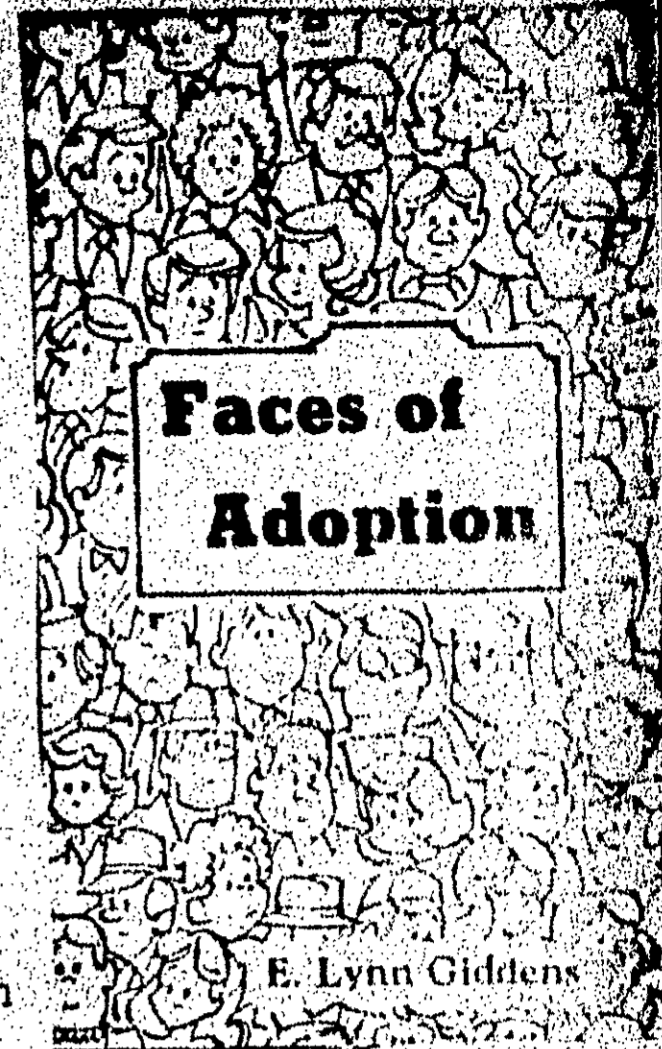
AIE wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas! Please remember AIE in your gift giving - stamps, envelopes and office supplies are always needed; as well as your financial support with donations.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* COMING ATTRACTION \*  
 \* A holiday party in December!! \*  
 \*\*\*\*\* -3- \*\*\*\*\*

# SECOND EDITION!

# FACES OF ADOPTION

## E. LYNN GIDDENS



True stories from those whose lives are affected by adoption! How do many adoptees feel? Are "searching" adoptees psychologically maladjusted as once believed? How do the majority of birth parents feel - are their experiences with adoption in the past as many wish to think? Or has surrendering their children had life-long effects? Are the views of adoptive parents now changing as compared to 10..15 years ago? Are the views of professionals changing?

This book contains stories; thoughts and poems from adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents and professionals. An eye-opening revelation into the lives of many whom adoption serves!

"An intimate view into the lives of our clients - a reality orientation experience."

- B. Davies, ACSW -

The author, E. Lynn Giddens, received her education in Sociology from the University of North Carolina and plans to attend law school in the future. She is President of the Adoption Information Exchange in North Carolina.

AMBERLY PUBLICATIONS

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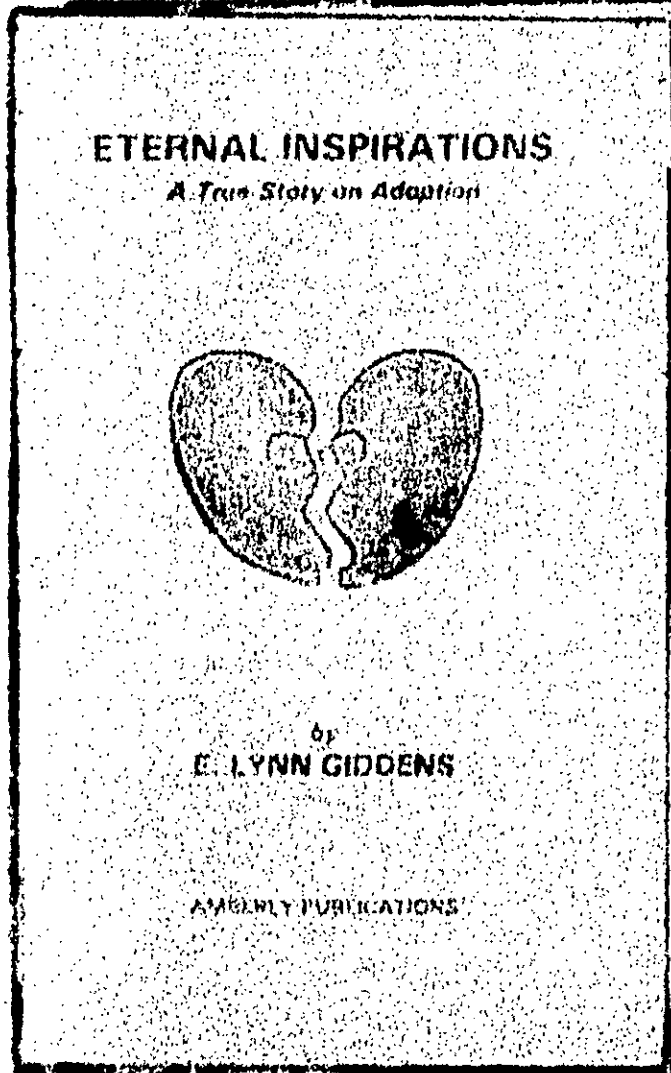
**REVISED! Second Edition**

**January Delivery**

# ETERNAL INSPIRATIONS

**A True Story On Adoption**

**E LYNN GIDDENS**



A true story focusing on four separate lives touched by adoption. An inspirational, yet thought-provoking account of happiness and despair; joys and heartaches; laughter and tears! This book deals with contemporary issues: drug abuse, terminal illness and death. It emphasizes the struggles of one adoptee to overcome the compelling desperations of life to reach a goal of peace and serenity!

Many questions are provoked! Do adoptees really need their birth experiences kept intact? Do male adoptees suffer more from identity problems versus female adoptees? Are there aspects to the adoption experience yet untold or accepted?

" A testimony to the resiliency of human beings! "

- Robert F. Laws, M.S.W.  
Duke University

" A deeply touching story..reaches anyone ever connected to adoption..lets you feel the real life of one adoptee, but speaks for the thousands..."

- Robin L. Huff  
Wife of an Adoptee

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