

Becky Wright

Singer/Songwriter & Speaker

Dept. of Artists in Christian Testimony, Intl. Non-Profit 501(c)(3) based in Brentwood, TN P .O. Box 116 •Tahlequah, OK 74465

Cell: (918) 822-7103 • Fax: (209) 396-2703 www.beckywrightsongs.com www.beckywrightspeaks.com

Email: info@beckywrightsongs.com













Becky Wright never dreamed she'd be the mom of nine children in a uniquely blended family. Her desire was to be a singer and songwriter, and to make the world a better place, and she's been doing that since childhood. Inspired by close friends who'd adopted four children with special needs, however, the subject of her songwriting began to steer towards adoption, foster children, and even the birth mom placing her baby for adoption. All signs pointed to what took place next.

In 2008, a 14-state concert and speaking tour took Becky and her family to West Virginia, where they would meet the children who would later become part of their family, although they didn't know it at the time. Becky has passionately shared this riveting and truly inspiring account with audiences around the country. Her story and music are literally changing lives and healing hearts, according to numerous testimonials from audience members and radio listeners. (See www.beckywrightsongs.com and www.beckywrightspeaks.com)

God has blessed Becky with numerous awards including Female Songwriter of the Year, Top 5 Female Vocalist, Duo of the Year (with her first adoption song, "Child of My Heart"), and others. She has performed and/or spoken in nineteen states, and her music is playing on over 1,000 radio stations in 100+ countries. She has performed on the Jimmy Snow Gospel Hour (Nashville), ABC's Good Day Tulsa Show, Gospel Music Television, Oklahoma Living, 'The Stars Are Out Tonight... for the Kids' telethon (Denver), and in churches, schools, crisis pregnancy ministries, homeless shelters, and many public and government forums. Previous keynotes include the State of Pennsylvania Adoption Conference, Kentucky Supports Adoption, Texas Baptist Children's Homes, ATTACh Conference, Kiwanis Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, writer's groups, teaching Songwriting workshops, and women's ministry events.

Becky shares her story of personal tragedy and triumph that has inspired thousands, and poignantly displays how "a lifestyle of service, faith and philanthropy" greatly enhances teamwork, morale, loyalty, and productivity within a company, school, church or other group. Her family's story is featured in the Jan/Feb. 2010 issue of Fostering Families Today Magazine, and she's written articles for *The Adoption Exchange E-Heartlines Newsletter* and *Southern Child Magazine* (200,000 readers). Ms. Wright has been featured in the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, Tulsa World, Fort Worth Star-Telegram,* and many other publications. She has recorded five albums and written over 400 songs, and is working on her first book, The Architect's Daughter, due in the Fall of 2014. A 40-day devotional book and a worship & hymns album are also underway. The Wright family has also just agreed to be a spokes-family for Adopt US Kids, continuing to help find "forever families" for waiting kids in foster care. The Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services used her music in their 2012 PSA promoting adoption.

Her greatest *earthly* joy, however, is being a wife to Hank (Retired Navy Chaplain, now Child Welfare Supervisor), and mother to *nine* children—four by birth, three step-children, and two by foster-adoption. Becky, a former school music teacher, now teaches piano and voice at home, to accommodate her family and travel schedule. She is a Ministry Department of Artists in Christian Testimony, Intl, a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) based near Nashville, TN. A graduate of Northeastern State University (BSEd), Becky and her family now live in northeastern Oklahoma. *Event Scheduling by Aspiring Mark Agency (615) 656-5987*



(Partial list of previous events)

State of Pennsylvania: "Illuminating Lives" Adoption Conference 2012 Closing Keynote, Musical Performance, & Workshop Facilitator

Arizona Blue Ribbon Heart Gallery (Tucson): Musical Performer & Speaker 2010 & 2011

State of West Virginia: "Timeliness to Permanency" Adoption Conference 2010 Keynote Address & Musical Performance (My husband, Child Welfare Supervisor, also taught a workshop)

Dillon International Adoption Agency: Musical Performer for Lunar New Year 2010

Kentucky Supports Adoption/ University of Louisville: Foster Family Conference 2008

Keynote Address & Musical Performance

Adoption Exchange "The Stars Are Out Tonight... for the Kids" Telethon (Performer – Denver '12)

Texas Baptist Children's Homes: Keynote Address & Musical Performance (2008)

Crisis Pregnancy Outreach: "Birth Mom's Day" Musical Guest & Speaker (Tulsa, 2011)

ATTACh Conference (Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children)

Musical Performer, San Antonio, TX (2008)

Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services Adoption Celebration (2006, 2007, 2008)

Musical Performer; Also music used on 2010 "Waiting Hearts DVD" and 2012 PSA promoting adoption from foster care on television stations across Oklahoma, parts of Kansas & Texas

Arkansas Adoption Coalition: Adoption CONCERT featuring Heart Gallery photos; Also music used on Fox TV PSA for the Arkansas Heart Gallery

Chosen International (Adoption Agency, Oregon): Musical Performer & Speaker 2009

Testimonials:

"Becky Wright was *exactly* what we needed to hear at our conference...
Rejuvenating, refreshing and encouraging, to help us continue in the work we do."

"After hearing Becky sing and speak, I want to adopt MORE children!"

"I was riveted and truly inspired by Becky's incredible family story."

Videos of Becky: www.beckywrightspeaks.com

The Heart of Adoption... by Becky Wright

Music that matters.



From Families...

"Becky, I just love your new adoption song,
"Call Me Loved." I adopted my daughter at 10 days
old... As an Adoptive Mom, I thank you for what
you are doing for our children." Pam in Maine

"Thanks for helping me express to my birth daughter that I truly did love her and always will. Your song "I Gave You Away" is exactly what I needed to say. It brought tears of healing." Birth mother in OK

"As a songwriter, I appreciate your music. As a fellow laborer for Christ, I LOVE your heart, your work, and mostly that your life is centered around little children and everyone else you minister to. I thank God for you...I could use a "dose" of your spirit!" I.H. in Tulsa

"This music is not just about adoption: I listen with tears, realizing that love- and family- are what you make it. It's beyond flesh and blood... it's a choice."

Kelly J. in Texas

From Adoption & Media Professionals...

"It's been my privilege to meet Becky, hear her own adoption story, and see her passion for birth and adoptive families. She is truly a heroine of our day in her untiring efforts to remind us that all children need permanent, loving families." Deniese Dillon, Co-Founder, Dillon Intl. Adoption Agency

"Becky's music reflects her passion for children the Bible would call the "least of these". An advocate for holistic Christian care for orphans in third-world countries, Becky partners with Kids Alive International; her efforts helped rescue over 800 children from desperate situations in 2011." *Rich Anderson, Director of Artist Relations*

"Becky's album gives voice to the voiceless and vision for the forgotten...lives it out not just on stage, but at home, too!" Andy Lehman, Lifesong for Orphans

"We are honored to use Becky's music in our new Public Service Announcement advocating adoption on television stations across Oklahoma." Director Howard Hendrick, OK Dept. of Human Svcs.

"Even after adopting 4 and fostering 27 children, I was unprepared for the emotional response to Becky's songs. She has...a touch of insight... that helped me to see deeper... EVERY adopted child should listen to these songs to help them heal..."

David Durovy, The Post Institute



Concerts + Conference Speaker
Women's Events + Worship Leader

Scheduling by Lee Porter 615.656.5987 Aspiring Mark Agency, Nashville

Becky Wright is a Staff Department of Artists in Christian Testimony, Intl., a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) ministry based in Brentwood, TN. www.actinternational.org

www.BeckyWrightSongs.com

Comments & Testimonials from Adoption, Foster Care, And Crisis Pregnancy Organizations

It has been my privilege to meet Becky Wright, to hear her story of adoption... and to see her passion for birth families, adoptive families, and children. She is a true heroine of our day in her untiring effort to remind us that all children need permanent, loving families... this talent needs to be taken seriously... Becky's message makes it easy to understand God's adoption plan for each of us..."

Deniese Dillon, Founder and Executive Director, Dillon International Adoption Services

I bought your CD... yesterday and went right back and bought 6 more! I love it. I founded Crisis Pregnancy Outreach in 1983 and we soon also became a Licensed Adoption Agency... I love Birth Moms. Our Annual Birth Mother's Day Ceremony is May 5. I was wondering if I could order 50 CD's from you to give a CD to each of the Birth Mom's who come... I am so impressed with the work you are doing. May God bless you—abundantly! *Cheryl Bauman, Executive Director* www.crisispregnancyoutreach.org



The music and lyrics from **Becky Wright's** *The Heart of Adoption*Album should strike a chord in anyone involved in adoption or foster care. Even with having adopted four children, and having taken in twenty-seven foster children, *I was unprepared for the emotional response to her songs*. **She has a touch of insight that not only helped me to see deeper** into the lives of the many children no longer with their biological parents, but also **better understand the**

many mothers who give up their children to adoption. No matter what the conscious reasons a woman has to give away a child, while listening to *I Gave You Away* [from the album], I felt deep in my heart that they are always the same reason. And my sometimes rather severe judgments toward these moms melted away with Becky's compassionate words and understanding of these mothers who no matter what, feel that they are doing the best for their children. "Every adopted child should listen to these songs to help heal the wounds of having lost their first family". David Durovy, Family Therapist; The Post Institute for Family-Centered Therapy www.postinstitute.com

"Becky's album gives voice to the voiceless and vision for the forgotten...she lives it out not just on stage, but at home, too!" Andy Lehman, Vice President, Lifesong for Orphans www.lifesongfororphans.org



"Becky's music reflects her passion for children the Bible would call the "least of these". An advocate for holistic Christian care for orphans in third-world countries,



Becky partners with Kids Alive International; her efforts helped rescue over 800 children from desperate situations in 2011." *Rich Anderson, Director of Artist Relations*

www.kidsalive.org

This article was published in **The Adoption Exchange** newsletter (32,000 subscribers) in Jan. 2012, and also in **Southern Child Magazine** Feb/March 2012 issue (200,000 readers).

The house that LOVE built.

A True Story of Hope and New Beginnings

by Becky Wright

There's an old house sitting vacant in our town.

It was a grand structure in its day, designed by the best architect, built by the most sought-after builder, and belonging to a prominent family who owned a



local high-end department store. Known as the "Hinds Mansion", the house has six bedrooms and five bathrooms! A mansion by my estimation, and to most folks, I would imagine. However, it has been empty for almost four years now, with all the Hinds family long gone. Why hasn't it sold? Doesn't anyone want this big house, with a fenced yard as big as a park, and a 3-car garage? Is it worth updating the electrical, remodeling the kitchen, redoing floors, plumbing and the like? My father was an architect, and my mother sold real estate.... I know what it could be worth! Or do I?

In 2008, my husband and I took a road trip with our youngest two children, Aaron (12) and Nathan (10), and our 17-year-old niece, Amanda, who stayed with us for 18 months after her mom- my younger sister-drowned. The trip was actually my "East Coast & New England Tour", traveling through 14 states and 4,000 miles, giving concerts and teaching a songwriting workshop. Our travels took us to West Virginia, where I was singing at a church in Charleston. When my mother learned of our stopover in WV, she reminded me that my little "long-lost cousin, Jeffery" lived there. She put us in touch with Jeffery's grandmother, who was raising him, along with a baby half-sister. Their mother was still using drugs, and had lost all rights to the children.

We spent an hour playing with and taking pictures of the children at the park, then reluctantly said our good-byes to head back toward our home in Oklahoma. When I handed little Jaycie back to her aunt and grandmother, little Jaycie reached her arms back toward me and began to cry. Of course I began crying, then my son, my niece, Jeffery, his aunt, and his grandmother. What was happening?

I had the most overwhelming sense as I tearfully got back in our minivan that **these were going to be our children**. It was a preposterous thought, since we also had five grown children, making 8 in total, already. I didn't say a word to my husband, fearing he'd drop me on the roadside in Kentucky, telling me I was crazy! The magnetic pull between each of us was unexplainable and undeniable, however.

I'd given 8-year-old Jeffery my music CD that day, saying that he could call or write to me any time he wanted. There had been no communication, however, and five months passed. One evening in mid-October, our son Nathan asked, "Mom, if Jeff and Jaycie's grandma dies, are we going to adopt them?" Again, this seemed an absurd statement, and I told him so... we were virtual strangers to these children, and their aunt would likely adopt them. "Go to bed," I instructed him. But his question haunted me.

Three weeks later in early November, I received a call from the aunt--- she'd never called me before. "Becky, I just want ya'll to know that momma died three weeks ago." Her words were piercing as hot tears stung my cheeks. I felt her pain as one who'd lost loved ones, and also grieved deeply for little Jeffery and Jaycie, who now had lost not only their birth mother through no fault of their own, but now had lost their "surrogate mother" in their sweet grandmother. I telephoned my husband at work, who came home immediately. Hank walked into our living room declaring matter-of-factly but with a somber face, "Well, honey, you *know* what we have to do."

"What??" I responded, as if I didn't know. But I *did* know. We *both* knew. In a whirlwind of decisions, phone calls, fingerprints, tears, prayers, excitement, fear, and family discussions (our kids were in full agreement), we began the adoption process.

Our new children arrived Feb. 27, 2009, and we celebrated a belated Christmas with them on Feb. 28th, having kept the tree up until they arrived at Jeffery's request. He'd lost so much-- it was the least we could do. After about a two-week "honeymoon" period with our new "babies" (Jeffery was 9, Jaycie was almost 3), we each witnessed some of the issues that come with children who've been traumatized. Nothing insurmountable, but *not* what we were accustomed to. Thinking ourselves "seasoned parents" (my teaching degree, my husband a Child Welfare Supervisor), we felt as equipped as any to deal with whatever might arise. However, we soon discovered how much a child can miss through serious neglect and abuse, particularly in the preschool years. We still often find we are training a 4-year-old in a now 12-year-old's body, and it's difficult.... But it's *worth* it! Both children have come such a long way... including Jeffery getting all A's and B's on his last report card, being chosen Student of the Month, and Jaycie being in the top reading group in Kindergarten and dancing ballet in our kitchen. We've seen the positive results that good self-esteem can produce for a child who once had none. We're sticking with it, working diligently, and laugh a lot amid a few tears!

We're uncovering *treasures* in these children who were once without hope. We see the *diamond* that they each are, and cherish *who* they are—underneath the hurt--- and whom they will become. And, we have the honor, joy and indescribable *privilege* of being "mom and dad", with all its rewards. A worthy effort--- even better than refurbishing an old house. Hey—I'll take that old house... it's a valuable treasure worth restoring. **How much more...** *a child?*

Becky Wright is an adoptive mom with a blended family of nine children (plus her niece). She and her husband, a Child Welfare Supervisor, live in northeastern Oklahoma with their four youngest children. Ms. Wright is a singer/songwriter and keynote speaker at foster and adoption events nationwide, and was named 2011 "Female Songwriter of the Year". She released her fifth album in 2011, "The Heart of Adoption", and is working on her first book, The Architect's Daughter. She holds a BSEd from Northeastern State University, and is a Staff Dept. of Artists in Christian Testimony, Intl., a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit organization



based near Nashville, TN. For more information: www.beckywrightsongs.com or www.beckywrightspeaks.com