



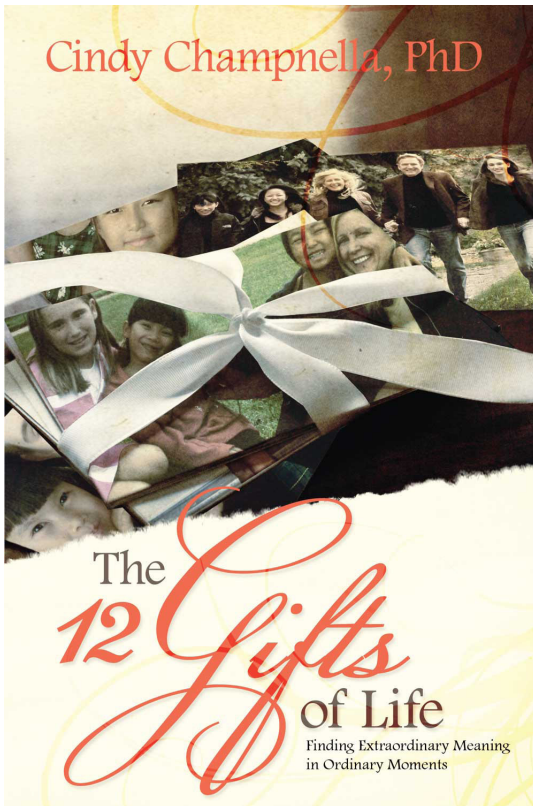
# news release

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## FIND GREATNESS IN ORDINARY MOMENTS WITH NEW BOOK

*Author Cindy Champnella shares 12 gifts of her life*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Cindy Champnella believes life is not meant to be survival of the fittest. We all face uncertainties-- floundering finances, failing families and fickle friendships. Champnella's new book *The Twelve Gifts of Life: Finding Extraordinary Meaning in Ordinary Moments* (Ambassador International; October 2012; \$14.99; Paperback) shows that life gives us wonderful memories and experiences through every single unnoticed moment. "The gifts of life restore us, they give us hope," she says. "They give our lives meaning. They are meant to be savored."

Champnella says *The Twelve Gifts of Life* is a guidebook to her younger self. "Sometimes we miss the gifts that are right in front of us until we are at the end of our lives and we more clearly understand the beginning," she says. "If we view the world as a gift we will be much more joyful. If we spent as much time giving thanks for what we have instead of yearning for what do not have, we would be a lot happier." Also, *The Twelve Gifts of Life* encourages readers to use prayer as a source of strength. "It should be the place we go to for directions to the right path instead of the place we go for help when we crash," says Champnella.

Cindy Champnella is a PhD prepared psychologist, author and acclaimed speaker. She has assisted hundreds of families in their international adoption efforts. She is married and has five children, including two daughters adopted from China. *The Twelve Gifts of Life* was inspired by her daughter Jaclyn, an orphan from China.

RELEASE DATE: October 2012  
TRADE Paperback  
PAGES: 288  
PRICE: \$14.99  
ISBN: 9781620200483

To learn more about the author Cindy Champnella and *The Twelve Gifts of Life*, visit [www.cindychampnella.com](http://www.cindychampnella.com). For interview requests please contact publicist Alison Storm at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

## CONTINUED ON BACK

**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:** Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit [www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com). You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

### **Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:**

1. What led you to write *The Twelve Gifts of Life*?
2. How do you make someone in their 20s listen to the wisdom of older people?
3. What do you know now that you wish you had learned earlier in life?
4. How can people in challenging circumstances come to the realization that difficulties are part of God's plan?
5. There are 12 gifts included in the book, which one influences you most now?
6. How did God use your adopted daughters to change your life?

### **Advance Praise for *The Twelve Gifts of Life*...**

“Cindy Champnella seizes ‘ordinary’ moments and recalibrates them with God’s yardstick. The result? An immeasurably poignant read that spans seas and family secrets and will soften the heart of even the most persnickety person in your sphere of influence!”

—Patti Lacy, author of *Reclaiming Lily*

“I think each of us has hit a place in our lives when we wonder if what we are doing and who we are really matter. This amazing book by Cindy Champnella lets us share in her exploration of those questions and join in the journey for ourselves. Each of us has a mark to make and gifts to give. *The Twelve Gifts of Life* allows us to see how abundant our lives are and how much meaning they have, not only for ourselves, but for every other life we touch. Cindy has touched many lives, mine included. After reading this book, you will come away changed, and thank her for touching yours.”

—Carrie Kitze, Publisher EMK Press and author of *We See the Moon* and *I Don't Have Your Eyes*

“For generations to come, readers will be quoting from *The Twelve Gifts of Life*, the inspirational and uplifting new book from favorite, Cindy Champnella. This is a vital and unforgettable reading experience for everyone....Cindy has the gift of being able to see ordinary family events as extraordinary, events to be treasured and held close for the treasures they are. Cindy’s talent for giving these events a new life, enables us to change how we think and opens a whole new world of understanding and thanksgiving for being a part of the experience.

A superb and deeply emotional book, Champnella is at once compassionate and incisive. *The Twelve Gifts of Life*, through its honesty and conviction, is a rich reading experience.”

—Richard Fischer, Publisher of *Adoption Today* and *Fostering Families Today* magazines

“I loved this book. Reading it was like getting hit over the head with a tidal wave of thought, observation, wisdom and emotion. Cindy Champnella is just like me, only better! I easily relate to her story and the challenges she has faced (international adoption, parenting a child with trauma, divorce, working single parenthood), but her story flies on wings of faith and hope and her challenges work to strengthen her resolve. I am not left behind, however, because *The Twelve Gifts of Life: Finding Extraordinary Meaning in Ordinary Moments* lets us all experience the insight, clarity and miracles that have shaped Cindy’s aptitude for appreciation, and helps us clearly understand that we all hold our own perceptive key to truly conscious living.

Dr. Champnella’s family is integral to her discovery of the 12 gifts, and her children sharply outline some of Cindy’s most important life lessons with humor, spirit and brutal honesty. Motherhood is life-altering; for Cindy (and for those of us touched by her writing) motherhood is also world-changing. The author’s 13th gift to her readers is the fact that she generously shares her close-to-the-heart, “ordinary moment” life lessons with each of us, and that seeing ourselves in Cindy, we recognize how to gain, use and value the extraordinary ‘ordinary’ in our own worlds, too.”

—Jean MacLeod, author of *At Home in This World* and author & co-editor of *Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections*

“Cindy’s first book, *The Waiting Child* riveted audiences with its powerful story of love and hope as told through her daughter Jaclyn’s desperate journey for reunification with her beloved orphanage charge. Now, Champnella is sharing how motherhood, the adoption of her children and her life journey has forever changed her and shares the gifts of wisdom she has received on her life journey. These are stories of everyday miracles and the power of love, forgiveness and commitment. *The Twelve Gifts of Life* is a great read and will leave a profound impact on the reader.”

—Kim Hansel, Editor of *Adoption Today* and *Fostering Families Today* magazines; Editor of *The Foster Parenting Toolbox*.

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## CINDY CHAMPNELLA, PHD *Author of "The Twelve Gifts of Life"*



Cindy Champnella is the author of *The Waiting Child: How the Faith and Love of One Orphan Saved the Life of Another* (St. Martin's Press, March 2003). She is an acclaimed speaker who has presented to numerous civic, community and religious groups all over the United States and has appeared on several TV programs. She has had features published in numerous publications including Ladies Home Journal and Women's Weekly. She is a feature writer for Adoption Today and a former guest columnist for The Detroit News. She is a keynote speaker at conferences and forums including a recent appearance at Duke University.

### Connect with Cindy Champnella



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