

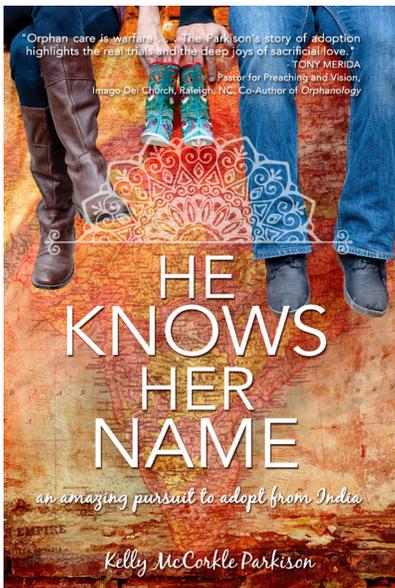


news release

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AMAZING RACE LAUNCHES UNFATHOMABLE ADOPTION ADVENTURE FORMER BEAUTY QUEEN AND REALITY STAR SHARES HEART FOR ORPHANS IN INDIA



RELEASE DATE: May 2016
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 256
PRICE: \$13.99
ISBN: 978-1-62020-505-1

For immediate release: Kelly McCorkle Parkison didn't step foot off American soil until the host of the CBS reality show *Amazing Race* yelled "Go!" Beginning at that starting line in California, God sent Kelly on a worldwide adventure that would lead her into an even bigger challenge-- tackling the orphan crisis. During her time on the popular reality show, the former Miss America contestant experienced poverty up close. "I was becoming increasingly aware of the tremendous needs in this world, and they were beyond anything I could have imagined," writes Kelly. "Coming face-to-face with such neediness began to penetrate my heart and mind." And as she explains in *He Knows Her Name: An Amazing Pursuit to Adopt From India* (Ambassador International; May 2016; \$13.99, paperback) racing for the million dollar prize lost its shine knowing those children didn't even have simple things like running water, electricity, a house, a car or even a family.

Kelly zipped through 11 countries in all, making it to the reality show's finale. She returned home with endless stories of adventures and promised to return to every country except one: India. Once in India was enough for Kelly. But not long after the show's finale she received a call that would bring her back to the very place she decided to never return. In *He Knows Her Name* Kelly explains how God began to chisel away at her stubbornness and eventually she agreed to go as long as she could raise the funds. "God's provisions came pouring through, confirming to me He definitely desired my return to India," writes Kelly. But she admits she was clueless on the lasting impact the return to India would have on her life.

It was on that mission trip that Kelly felt God's call to adopt a girl from India. *He Knows Her Name*, the book title and also the name of Kelly's adoption blog, comes from verses in Isaiah, scripture God used to draw Kelly to adoption. With transparency and love, Kelly lays out her family's inspiring path to adoption, complete with tears and anguish. *He Knows Her Name* also reveals Kelly's personal battles with God as her faith stretches and grows in ways she never imagined.

About the Author: Kelly McCorkle Parkison is a native of South Carolina and currently resides in Tennessee. A Mass Communications cum laude graduate from North Greenville University, she held the title of Miss South Carolina 2002, earned Top 15 at Miss America, and placed third on the CBS Reality Show, *Amazing Race Season 7*. Now she proudly wears the titles of "Babe" to her awesome husband, "Mom" to her five children, and "Pastor's Wife" to her church. She is an inspirational speaker and the founder of the LOFT 218 Organization, a ministry to orphans, widows, and sex trafficking victims in India. She loves Jesus and coffee!

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *He Knows Her Name* please contact publicist Alison Storm at media@emeraldhouse.com.

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. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. What inspired you to write *He Knows Her Name*?
2. What went through your mind as you pushed off from the starting line on *Amazing Race*?
3. You told your parents you wanted to return to all of the countries you visited during your *Amazing Race* adventure except India. Why did you say once was enough?
4. How did God change your heart and feelings towards India?
5. During your first mission trip to India you heard some incredible stories about the children at a Christian orphanage-- including one child being cared for by monkeys. Can you tell us more about that?
6. When did you hear the call of God to adopt from India?
7. How did having children of your own challenge your desires to visit India?
8. How did struggling with learning disabilities help you develop perseverance? And how did that quality serve you in the adoption experience?
9. How did you answer those who asked why you were adopting from India when children in America need homes?
10. What was the most difficult part of the adoption process?

Endorsements:

Kelly McCorkle Parkison's heart for adoption and helping orphans is not only admirable, it's contagious! As an adoptive father myself, I can relate to the emotional roller coaster the adoption process can be. I was deeply moved by Kelly's journey of faith and encouraged by her resolve to triumph over every obstacle. "He Knows Her Name" is a transparent and honest look into the heart of a sold-out believer seeking to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the least of these.

—Kyle Sherman

KyleShermanMusic.Com

May I commend to you this precious story of perseverance, compassion and honesty in the context of this adoption story. Having known Scott and Kelly for years, I commend to you their testimony, this story, and their walk in the Lord. It will bless you as it did me.

—Frank Page

President and CEO of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

Kelly Parkison tells a compelling and courageous story . . . her own. While the will of God takes some people around the world, it was during a nationally televised trip around the world that this remarkable lady found the will of God.

During Kelly's journey God allowed her to see a sea of people without Him and without hope. It broke her heart. And then the Lord reshaped that heart into the heart of a missionary. And that heart would become the heart of a mom.....an adoptive mom. The personal and transparent way it is written makes this the best book I've ever read on adoption. The journey that Kelly and her Pastor-Husband Scott takes leads them to adopt a beautiful little girl. HE KNOWS HER NAME . . . and soon, you will also.

—Dr. Randy C. Davis

President and Executive Director

Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

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As an adoptive mom myself, I was completely drawn in from the first sentence. This beautiful story is an amazing one of God's perfect timing and complete sovereignty when His children listen to His call. Kelly's story is so moving, and one told so anyone choosing to adopt could certainly follow the process. Many times as I read, I felt myself being transported back to the six adoption trips we have made. Each one with its own harsh realities and great blessings. Thank you Kelly for sharing your heart, your testimony, your family, and your adoption journey. We are more blessed because of your willingness to write and allow us to read. Hoping many orphans find their forever family because someone hears God's call on them as well.

— Sharon M. Ankerich

Everythingbeautifulshay.blogspot.com and Growingwholehearts.blogspot.com

Orphan care is warfare. Whether you set out to adopt children, or care for orphans in a variety of other God-reflecting ways, you will face obstacles and opposition. But it's worth it. The Parkison's story of adoption highlights the real trials and the deep joys of sacrificial love. It also magnifies the grace of God needed for such an endeavor, and the grace that God has shown us, as His adopted children. Read and be edified!

—Tony Merida

Pastor for Preaching and Vision, Imago Dei Church, Raleigh, NC

Co-Author of *Orphanology*

Our hearts must be open to the Lord, His mission, and what He might have us do. In *He Knows Her Name*, Kelly Parkison reminds us to "never say never," and to trust the Lord's work in our hearts and minds.

—Ed Stetzer

LifeWay Research

Kelly is a woman of faith. She travels daily the path that God has shown her. She is a blessing in my life and this book will be a blessing to you.

—Rep. Rita Allison

S.C. House of Representatives

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