

Faith and Adoption: Principles of Alan Keith-Lucas

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Plan for Our Time

- Alan Keith-Lucas: The man and the model
- Helen Harris: Introduction to and application of the principles
- The Principles
- Beth Harris: My experience
- Reunion Blessing

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STCH: The Beginning



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AKL Principles and Application

- **Never rule out a child's biological family no matter how inadequate they seem to be.**
 - Offer to provide support if that would make the difference
- Man (sic) has neither the right nor the ability to judge his fellows in terms of what they deserve;
 - This was never about who was good or bad; worthy or unworthy
- Helping people find their own way is better than controlling them, however subtly;
 - Children's Home gave options of family aid and option of families

Keith-Lucas, A. (1989)

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Principles and Application 2

- Feelings, and personal relationships, matter;
 - Yearly letters
- People should be treated as “subjects” and not as “objects.”
 - “I miss my birthmother.”
- We help, not because it always or even usually ‘works,’ but because it is the right and loving thing to do.
 - Adoption is not about my needs.

Keith-Lucas, A. (1989)

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Principles and Application 3

- Human beings are fallible, but at the same time sometimes capable of transcending themselves and showing great courage or unselfishness.
 - The decision to complete the pregnancy.
- The difference between “good” and “bad” people is insignificant compared with the standard demanded by their maker, and consequently people have no right to judge each other.
 - There is inadequacy, grief and loss on all sides of the adoption equation.
- It is always dangerous business to tie a label onto any of God's children.
 - Unwed, unwanted, unable.....or self sacrificing, loving, providing

Keith-Lucas, A.

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More Principles

Protecting clients from consequences is not helping.

- Helping, from Keith's point of view, is not for the faint of heart or head.
- Reality: "This is it."
- Empathy: "I know that it must hurt."
- Support: "I am here to help you if you want me and can use me," or "You don't have to face this alone."

Keith-Lucas, A. (1972)

- In adoption
- Acknowledge the realities
- Empathize with the loss and pain
- Support where the child is in the process

Keith-Lucas, A. (1969)

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And then what....?

- People need to know that they are accepted and that the helping person will not give up on them. The helper will still care.
- Christians understand the finite nature and fallible (sinful) behavior of persons, but they see persons in terms of their destiny and their nature as made in the image of God.
- "The wisdom of the world has always stated, 'Behave and you will be loved,' but Jesus, when He died for our sins, said, in effect, 'You are loved; therefore behave'" (p. 182).
- If a child does not find something to love and appreciate in their birth parent, they will not be able to find something to love and appreciate in themselves.

Keith-Lucas, A. (1972)

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So....we decided

- To love her birth parents
- To value their contribution
- To tell Beth the story
- To value the possibilities of the future
- To let her experience her grief
- To write the letters every year
- To search when she was ready

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Beth's Story

I always knew I was loved

Something was still missing

It was OK to miss her

Deciding to search

Finding my birthmother

The reunion

The quote: "Just two different kinds of love"



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Summary.....

- Your story....Once upon a time...
- Annual Letter and Photo
- Strengths: You have her hair
- "I miss her too...."
- Yes we can search....let's talk about when
- What if.....it will be ok....

Harris & Harris, 2010

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Reunion



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Celebration







Next steps

- Summary
- Questions




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