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Nearly 1,000 children in South Dakota are in the foster care system waiting for a home. Yet, they are overlooked -almost erased- from society. These kids matter, these kids belong. Foster children are searching for stability, even though most age out before they can find what they are looking for. Most feel abandoned, lost, like God has forgotten about them. But I think they are wrong. I think they are searching in all of the wrong places.

The daily struggle of foster children is not easy to accept. Many are switched from house to house, never believing that permanency was possible. The foster care system is not always - and rarely ever- perfect. It has bumps and flaws, and many children seem to slip through the cracks. Still, these children's lives are just as important as any other child's. These kids mean so much to God, even if nobody else seems to see them. As of the year 2020 there were around 5,000 runaway foster children reported missing. Who knows how many cases were overlooked, never being reported. Just imagine all the children lost in the mix of everyday life. My now adopted brother, Eliezer, was once one of these many children. He has always had the cutest chubby cheeks, adored by our whole church family. How many pairs of chubby cheeks run wet with tears with no one to wipe them?

Who wouldn't feel alone? If they only knew what glorious, eternal home the Father has prepared for them. Through it all, our Father has never forgotten them. He has a home for the lost and lonely, a purpose for the scared and sorrowful. He will remain no matter where you go, how you feel, or what someone tells you to be. **John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."** The "thief" is the sin within people, that sin causes these flaws in our imperfect system of foster care. But our Father comes so **that they may have life**. He comes to save them from this loneliness, waiting for them to see he has what they are looking for. He waits to wipe the tears from their eyes, and kiss their perfect little chubby cheeks. The truth is, these kids were never forgotten, just looking for belonging in all the wrong places.

Bibliography:

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