



Writer and Editor [Tiffany Fontana](#)

Shining Hope

The "Shining Hope" newsletter offers valuable resources and support to families facing child abduction and parental alienation. Our publication provides uplifting and informative messages to parents dealing with the abduction of their children, fostering a strong and supportive community throughout their difficult journey. Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news, events, and pressing issues through our comprehensive and timely newsletter.



Visit our [website](#) for programs, resources, and support!

Sunday night Zoom call for parents: email contact@stlforabductedchildren.org for more information. JOIN..... for yourself and your children!

Check out Courtney's YouTube channel! (from the featured article) [@courtneytheenthusiast](#)

Faith is the assurance that the best is yet to come, even when the present is difficult.
—David Yonggi Cho

Korea's Stolen Children 한국의 납치된 아이들

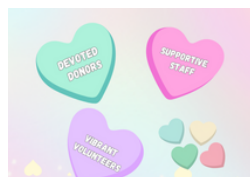
By a Guest Contributor, Translated by Jay Sung

She should have been safe. After months of enduring physical and emotional abuse from her husband, Courtney Lynn fled to a Korean police station, seeking help for placement in a women's shelter for herself, her three-month-old son, and her two young daughters from a previous marriage.

The domestic violence counsellors agreed to help, and one of them offered to hold her baby while Courtney signed documents to secure space in a shelter. It was only when the social worker stood up that Courtney noticed her husband and his mother had also been called into the station—unbeknownst to her and for unexplained reasons. Continued on page 2.



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Korea's Stolen Children

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The social worker handed over her baby to her mother-in-law. Courtney desperately tried to reach her son, but her husband blocked her. She begged repeatedly for them not to let her mother-in-law leave, finally getting on her knees and saying "I'm the mother, and I don't give her permission to take my son."

Yet, in full view of all the social workers and police, her mother-in-law left. When Courtney got home nearly all of her son's things were missing. Her husband messaged her that from now on her son would be held at her in-law's apartment, where she would not be allowed to see him.

The police claimed Courtney willingly handed her baby over to her mother-in-law. However, when she requested the station's CCTV footage—which should have captured the moment—her request was denied. A week later, when Courtney went to her in-laws' home and begged to see her son, the police escorted her out for trespassing.

The removal of her son was dismissed as "a family matter"—one the police refused to intervene in. It was six months before she'd see her young son again.

Courtney has spent months attending hearings in the Korean family court, with little support to rebuild her relationship with her only son. Today, she is arguably one of the most prominent victims of a Korean family law system that operates under the principle: "Whoever takes the child first gets the child."

Interruption of parental rights can be an issue in any country, especially after a marriage breaks down. But in Korea, it's not just a possibility—it's the norm.

On its South Korea page, the organization Find My Parent notes that, according to official statistics from South Korea's Institute of Judicial Policy, after divorce, children in South Korea continue to see both parents in only about 10% of cases. In 20% of cases, the children only met the non-custodial parent for special occasions. And in an additional 6% of cases, contact only happened online. So, for 64% of the divorces with children, there was no contact at all with the non-custodial parent after the divorce. This amounts to roughly 38,600 children entirely cut off from one of their parents per year.

Not all of this lack of contact is due to the non-custodial parent being forced out of their child's life. It is striking to observe how, in Korea, it is not at all unusual for non-custodial parents, both mothers and fathers, to give up on seeing their children altogether after a divorce, as though the old family never existed.

But there are also so many parents who are forced out of their child's life, regardless of how hard they fight to stay in it. The two biggest culprits of the problem are Korea's deeply rooted notion of sole custody system, and the fact that the country never developed a system to protect or enforce the other parent's parental rights.

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From Broken Steps **In the Space Between: Building Resilience**

By Tiffany Fontana

Life unfolds gradually, weaving unexpected twists into the journey; its path is fraught with uneven stones, cracked surfaces, and rough patches that test the resolve of its travelers. Still, bold steps must be taken, even on a journey that promises both joy and pain. With each move forward, the path leads closer to places where trials await and hardships arise.

At these junctures, new challenges emerge—experiences that shape character and kindle resilience. It is through navigating life's imperfect moments that strength begins to take root and purpose grows stronger.

Taking difficult steps in faith and inviting help along the way leads to transformation. It's a process that nurtures self-worth and drives growth. For many, it begins by acknowledging that suffering and challenges are integral to building perseverance.

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.” In echoing C.S. Lewis’ insight, the challenges encountered along life’s path are recast not as dead ends but as opportunities for the remarkable to unfold.

When facing broken pathways, taking actionable steps—such as engaging in reflection, building a supportive community, and establishing clear, manageable goals—is essential for refining inner strength.

Research indicates that adverse experiences can foster resilience, ultimately enhancing emotional health and balance. In a long-term study of a national sample, researchers found that individuals who experienced a moderate amount of adversity throughout their lives reported better mental health and well-being outcomes than those who had experienced no adversity at all (Seery, Holman, & Silver, 2010). This supports the idea that overcoming obstacles builds inner strength and paves the way for personal growth.

In the Space Between: Building Resilience

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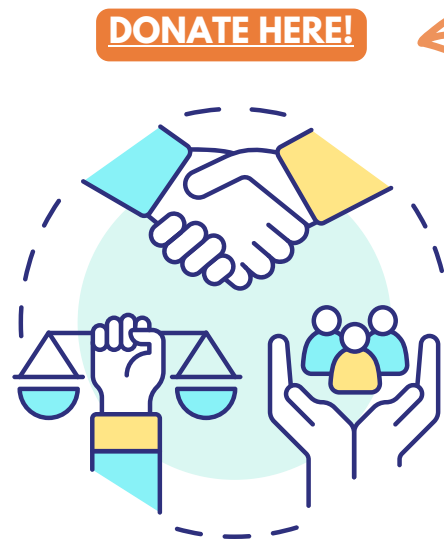
Of course, the world remains a place where fear and uncertainty loom. Yet a quiet assurance endures, suggesting that no hardship outruns the reach of grace. This profound sense of grace emboldens the weary and helps to dispel fear and doubt. After all, the impossible may only be one step away! Even Mother Teresa experienced moments of uncertainty: “Her doubt gives me hope; not that my own doubt will go away but that feelings of doubt are not as powerful as a faithful decision to act,” noted one reflection on her life.

From broken steps, unexpected strength, compassion, and faith can emerge. Recognizing that life’s path is messy and nonlinear, progress materializes through a posture of surrender and trust. One way or another, light finds a way through the cracks,

illuminating new possibilities for a future built on empathy and purpose—one unsteady step at a time.

References

Seery, M. D., Holman, E. A., & Silver, R. C. (2010). Whatever does not kill us: Cumulative lifetime adversity, vulnerability, and resilience. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99(6), 1025–1041.



Spreading The Love: STL’s Impact This Year

- **Assist with Legal Fees** – Helped a father in an international custody battle by covering essential legal expenses.
- **Provide Essential Needs** – Purchased clothing for a child recently reunited with their parent and delivered groceries to a family in need.
- **Enhance Outreach Efforts** – Funded campaigns to raise awareness about child abduction and prevention strategies.
- **Strengthen National Partnerships** – Secured registration for a delegate to attend the National AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in Indian Country Symposium in Washington, D.C., fostering collaboration with national organizations.
- **Facilitate Family Reunifications** – Assisted parents with travel expenses, enabling them to reunite with their abducted children.

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Share your stories, ideas, or feedback with our Editor at info@tiffanyfontana.com. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you!