

Small Town, Big Miracle

by Bishop W. C. Martin

with John Fornof

Discussion Guide

Introduction

When Terri was three, she was literally dumped in a trash bin. Are there people in your community who are viewed as “throwaways”? Do you ever come in contact with society’s less fortunate?

Possam Trot, Texas, is a town of 300 people. Do you think it has the makings of heroes? Why or why not?

Chapter 1: At the End of the Pavement

What was the paradigm shift in the Martins’ thinking that allowed them to adopt?

What had they learned from raising Princeton?

What was the foundation laid down by Donna's mother?

What transformed Donna's grief?

Chapter 2: The First of 72

What character traits are evident in the Martins? How did Donna and her sister, Diann, work together?

Who joined them as they persevered with the class on adoption?

How did they meet the challenge of racial stereotyping with their first child?

How did the initial paradigm shift help them meet the challenges they faced? How is fear driven out?

What tools did God give them as they worked with Mercedes and Tyler?

Chapter 3: "I'm Your Mama Now"

What changed Diann's mind about adopting?

What was the solution for Randy and Joshua?

How could a similar sense of family and community be built in a larger city? How did Donna's obedience impact their community?

What happened in their church that multiplied the impact?

Chapter 4: Finally Home

What was the creative insight that changed Terri's behavior?

What did it help establish for her in her new home? What stands out the most to you in Terri's story?

Chapter 5: "You've Got to Be Out of Your Mind"

What helped Miracle adjust to having five new sisters?

What do the Lathans list as the rewards for the labor of adoption?

Chapter 6: A No-Matter-What Perseverance

What were the challenges Johnnie and Fred Brown faced when they adopted a set of two-and-a-half-year-old triplets and their 18-month-old sibling?

How did The Vow help Johnnie and Fred?

How did Johnnie's health change the children's hearts? Whom does Johnnie give the credit to?

Chapter 7: The View from Outside Possum Trot

How did the people of Possum Trot develop such legendary perseverance?

What helped them overcome their distrust of "the system"?

What were the hallmark characteristics of their caseworker? of the community of Possum Trot?

How do these characteristics line up with the Bible's description of what the church should be?

Chapter 8: Possum Trot Touches America

What God-sized dream came true in Possum Trot?

Chapter 9: How?

List the six foundational principles exemplified by the residents of this small town.

What is the source of these principles?

How can they be developed?

Chapter 10: Your Turn for a Miracle

Do you believe that God cares for orphans? What is the church's responsibility toward orphans? What is your responsibility?

If you are in a position to adopt, what is stopping you?

If you can't adopt, can you support another family in practical ways, such as babysitting, giving money, or tutoring?