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FILMING Eva Kroon Pike interacts with the residents of the Florida Baptist Children's Home on the campus at Jacksonville during the filming of her music video. Photo by Joni B. Hannigan

JACKSONVILLE (FBW)—Realizing she is the proof of God's grace in the face of her parent's long struggle with childlessness, Christian artist Eva Kroon Pike set out to honor them with a song and video chronicling the joy of adoption.

Encouraged by her congregation at First Baptist Church at Mall in Lakeland and leaders at the nearby Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Pike, 25, intertwined her own testimony into a song while highlighting the need for adoption by recently filming a music video at the FBCH campus in Jacksonville.

"Grace that Chose Me" is set to debut at the Florida Baptist State Convention annual meeting in Brandon Nov. 8, when the Children's Homes president, Jerry

Haag, delivers his report to messengers. The video is produced by Dove-award winning producer Don Koch.

In the video Pike summarizes the story of her life, sharing with viewers her mother's, Gail Kroon's journey, from an early marriage at 18 to Arie, who was born in the Netherlands. The couple decided to expand their family after three years, but after seven years of medical testing were told, "Sorry, there's nothing else we can do."

"Little did they know that something so simple as conceiving a child would become a heartache and develop into feelings of despair and abandonment by God," Pike says in the video. "What they didn't realize was that God was performing a miracle that would soon be revealed."

Detailing the next step when her parents "open(ed) their heart and mind to the idea that there were orphaned children who needed love and a family through adoption," Pike tells a story of God's "grace and love" when in five months they were given a baby boy to adopt and six years later a baby girl.

"Thank you for the hand of grace that chose me," Pike says. "I am that baby girl and this is my story in song!"

Gail Kroon, at Jacksonville's beachfront Huguenot Park with Pike and children from the Jacksonville campus of the Children's Homes, told Florida Baptist Witness she remembers those dark days when the doctor said, "give it up."

But standing in the sand, watching the daughter she adopted at 10 weeks old—play with her own two-year-old son, Jonathan, and film segments of a music video about adoption—Kroon said she was nearly overwhelmed with thanksgiving.

"It's everything," Kroon said. "It's who I am. To see that God orchestrated all of this (despite) all the years we questioned this."



FAMILY Eva Kroon Pike (center) and her parents, Arie and Gail Kroon, at the Children's Home campus in Jacksonville. Photo by Joni B. Hannigan

Arie Kroon said it is a fitting story to tell and worth the investment he's made financially into his daughter's ministry.



WATCHFUL Two residents of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes Jacksonville campus participate in the filming of a music video on adoption. Photo by Joni B. Hannigan

Pike, who this past year joined with the Florida Baptist Worship Choir to produce the album, "God of the Ages," has also performed before Ruth Graham, Anne Graham Bell, and Babbie Mason. She plays flute and guitar and performs at community and patriotic events, festivals, and benefits.

"Grace That Chose Me" is the title song of her new album, set for release January 2011.

And since she was 3, she has been plugged into her family's church, where she is involved in the choir and praise team and leads as a soloist. Her pastor, Jay Dennis, recognizes Pike's origins and says she has been impacted by her experiences.

"These circumstances nurtured Eva into the singer/songwriter she is today with an extraordinary spirit, a compassion for people, a passion to share the Gospel, a heart for God, and an awesome voice," Dennis said.

Pike married Jonathan Pike in 2005. In her bio, she calls him a godly man and a "man of her dreams.

At the Jacksonville campus of the Children's Homes, Pike sat on a fence post petting a horse while children with many needs gathered around her. Some are orphans; most are foster children. Some are children who were adopted and they've come back to help film the video.

Singing along with a boom box in order to get the desired effect for the video, she squinted at the bright glare caused by filming screens. "Are we finished?" she asked at the end of three takes.

Jumping down lightly from the fence, she looked over at her mom and dad who had hurried to change into jeans and casual shirts, and gestured them to come on in close on a dirt road for a still shot of the three of them—father, mother, daughter.

Gail Kroon handed off her squirmy grandson, Jonathon, to the older Jonathon Pike.

Arie Kroon couldn't hold back a smile.

"It's a story that brought us to this place," Kroon said.

For more information about Pike, go online to evakroonpike.com.