

Peru Family Testimony

The Mayes Family

“Is there anything in your life that you can look to—when you are struggling with your faith—as a reminder of God’s faithfulness and provision: a particular time, person or circumstance that you know is a reflection of His kindness and goodness to you?”

Our pastor recently asked this question in one of his sermons, and it took me less than a nanosecond to think of the answer: Ali. Not a day has passed since she joined our family in which we have not thanked God for the blessing that this girl is in our lives. That said, the process was one of the hardest things that we have ever experienced. We didn’t think that it would ever happen. Our hearts were broken several times when we were not matched with other children before we learned of her. But now we know—truly know—that God meant for Ali to be part of our family and that the waiting, wondering, and praying were all part of His “faithfulness, provision, kindness, and goodness” to us—all part of her and our story.

On February 17, 2012, Alejandra officially joined our family. We had already spent a lot of time in Peru; we lived there for a year when Rick had his sabbatical from the university where he teaches. This trip, though, was beyond special and memorable for us, as we met and embraced her for the first time. Our middle son, Ben, commented within days: “It feels like she has always been in our family.” And it has. Not that there aren’t tough days, grumpy days, sad days, etc. for all of us, but we’re in it together, as families are.

We read an article recently about how adoption always starts with heartbreak—that of the natural mother/parents, those who are adopting, the child, etc.—and we believe that to be true, as is so many things in our broken, fallen world. However, as Christians, we also believe in a God who controls our lives and that His plan is to make “all sad things come untrue.” Having Ali in our lives reminds us of this truth regularly. She will probably have lots of questions as she gets older. We may not know how to respond at times, but there is one thing that we can always tell her with great certainty: “We believe that God intended for you to be in our family. And not only that, but you are one of the most precious gifts that He has ever given to us.”

May God bless you at each at each stage of your “story”: the waiting, wondering, and praying, and, if He so wills, the opportunity to welcome a child into your home and lives.