

Peru Family Testimony

The Reed Family

After a year and a half, our family received the long awaited news: we were finally matched! Our entire family and church friends rallied around us and rejoiced with us! I had no idea what to expect upon meeting our daughter. I'd thought about her and dreamed about her for a year and a half. How would she respond to us? How long would it take her to know us . . . love us . . . trust us?

After six months, and much faith stretching, the day finally came. Our family arrived at an orphanage in Amazonas, Peru to see the "end result," so we thought, of our faith. She was beautiful in every way. She came to us. Our hearts were so full. We had read many books and blogs and talked to so many people in preparation for the early days of adjusting with our daughter. But, our own emotions—well, nothing could have prepared us for those.

In the following days we temporarily lived in another country and then traveled home. As our new life with our daughter started, we began to understand that meeting our daughter after trusting the Lord to do the impossible in our adoption process was all about faith; but, it wasn't the end of our trusting God for the impossible or the end of the miracles, for that matter. "Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). This verse had been the foundation we'd stood on for two years on the road to adoption. It became the anthem of our new daily life. We knew God had called us to adoption. The more we trusted Him, we were able to see new mountains crumble. Our daughter began to learn what a family was, how to interact with others, and how to trust—and she continues to.

The same grace available to us along the entire adoption process was and is available for every hurdle. The same God who did the impossible over and over to bring our daughter home still does the impossible right before our eyes. As we trust the One who called us, we see Him do it! Adoption is the most faith-stretching and challenging yet most beautiful and rewarding thing I've ever said "yes" to in my walk with Christ. It's changed our family entirely. We no longer think or live the way we did before the miracle of adoption disrupted our comfortable and convenient lives and required us to step into a realm of love and giving like we'd never known. We never want to go back to marginal living after seeing the transformation that love makes. We have been impacted so much by the difference love has made in our daughter and by the change that love has made in us, we are in the process of adopting again.

If I had any advice to give to those parents preparing to meet their child or children, it would be this:

Your emotions will be all over the map. You will not feel exactly the way you thought you would in response to circumstances and behaviors. But feelings mean very little in light of the knowledge and assurance of your calling. The same God who called you to adoption will also equip and sustain you. Press forward in love. Stand on the promises of God's word. Rest in the boundless arms of grace, and then you'll witness the miraculous unfold—because it assuredly will, and you'll never be the same.