



About the Author

Patrick is a licensed veterinary technician in the state of Colorado, and works at MWI Veterinary Supply in Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Aurora, Colorado with his wife, Pam, and daughters Amanda and Jessicann. He spends his free time hiking in the mountains of Colorado, and does volunteer work teaching 4th grade religious education classes at St. Thomas More. He also enjoys working with his dog, Paisley, in animal assisted therapy at the Children's Hospital, and in The Reading Education Assistance Dog program at Timberline Elementary School.

Chosen by God

Our Family's Journey to Amanda and Jessicann

By Patrick Smith '87

The Invisible Red Thread

"An invisible red thread connects those destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstances. The thread may stretch or tangle, but never break."

- Ancient Chinese Proverb

Holding our baby for the first time on that November day in 2001 seemed to evaporate all the time and tears when we longed for a child. Pamela and I tried for seven years to begin a family. After many hours spent in prayer, we decided to follow our hearts and fully place our trust in God. We agreed to His plan for us to adopt a child from China.

From the moment we said, "yes," we experienced an abundance of His grace in our lives as He led us on the path to our little one. It took two years of working in God's love and direction for our dreams to materialize, but the reward was far richer than we could ever imagine.

With plans finally set to travel to China and adopt Amanda, we discovered that Pam was 13 weeks along in pregnancy. An ultrasound confirmed the unbelievable news. We were going to be blessed with not one, but two children!

At that moment, I knew that He had known all along about our family that was to be, and how and when we would all come together—all in His perfect timing. We cherished the idea of how Amanda and Jessicann perfectly fit into our hearts and homes—two little sisters that God brought together, and to Pam and me.

After spending three weeks in China, we finally adopted Amanda, who was one year old at the time. With all adoption fees paid, we became her legal parents. The paperwork seemed like an inconsequential formality—our family bond had already been forged. What a beautiful international family we have become—or, "Smith International" as we like to tell friends.

What's in a name?

We chose Amanda's name because it means to be loved, and we believed that she was deserving of the full love that a parent has for a child, especially since God's abiding love brought us together.

Answering God's call to adopt has been a blessing for our entire family, especially Jessicann. Amanda is five months older, and has been an awesome big sister. She always looks out for Jessicann, and the two have bonded to each other for life. Pamela and I are proud of how our daughters show their love for each other and let it grow in their lives—a beacon of light for others—at only ages nine and ten. We can only anticipate what beautiful young women they will become. 🍀