



Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 1998

Dear Kinsolving,

On July 13th, 1997, thanks to God and to you, I was able to personally deliver the attached letter to my sister Linda. That is when we saw each other for the first time in 50 years. Another Kinsolving Case completed: my sister and I were reunited, despite all odds to the contrary. There were many tears, many feelings of sadness and joy for both of us. Since then we have seen each other twice. We talk on the telephone everyday, sometimes twice a day. We have shared our hopes, our dreams, and our secrets with each other. It is truly incredible! This last weekend she met my children for the first time. I will soon be meeting hers. Our families are thrilled for us.

I am truly sorry that our mother did not live to see this. I hope somehow she knows. Not, at least, I can finally understand why she drank herself to death. When people give a child up for adoption, I don't think they have any idea what impact it will have on the rest of their lives. Thanks to Kinsolving there is still time for Linda and I to have that very special sister relationship.

I knew that if I ever found her, it would have taken me years. Everyday that we have together is a gift. That gift was given to us by Kinsolving. Finding you guys on the internet was pure luck or maybe it was fate. Your work was quick and truly amazing. I didn't have much to go on, not even her birth date. The Vanguard sustained me and gave me hope while my search was going on. I hope my letter and pictures will give hope to others who are now waiting. Don't give up. It is possible!

There are absolutely no words to express how Linda and I both feel about you and your organization. How do you say thank you for a miracle? THANK YOU is all I can say. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank God for you guys.

Sincerely,
J., Ca.

Dear Sister,

Sometime soon, you will be celebrating your 50th birthday. Happy Birthday. How I wish I could be there for such a great occasion. This is a milestone in your life and how I would love to be a part of your celebration.

There are so many things that I don't know about you. I don't even know when your exact birthday is. I was only two years old when you came into this world and I can't even remember you at all. Someone decided for us nearly a half century ago, that we would be separated. You would be adopted and I would be kept. I was the oldest. I came first, so I got to stay, you did not. I have felt both sad and guilty because I was the one who stayed even though I know I couldn't help it. I was only a baby myself.

I don't know your name, I don't know if your married, if you have children, I don't know if you have been loved. I can only hope that you have. I don't even know who you are, except that you are my SISTER! I don't know what you look like, but I have a hunch. I bet I can tell you what your two littlest toes look like. I don't know if you have had a sad life or a happy one. I pray for the latter. There are so many things that I just don't know about you.

There are some things, however, that I do know. I know you are out there somewhere and that you are alive. I know that someday I will see you and I will know you. I know there is part of me that has been missing all these years and had I known about you sooner I would have been looking for you my sister lost. I know that I have looked for you every day since I did find out about you in August of 1996. I know that I will do everything in my power to find you. I will look for you until my dying day if that is what it takes. I hope it will be sooner.

So my dear sister, I will hold this birthday letter for you. I hope someday, I will deliver it to you personally. Know that I hold you in my heart, I grieve for the time we have lost and I dream of the time we will have, when someday we find each other in this great big world. So until the Happy 50th Sis and many more.

Love your sister,
Judy

Dear Kinsolving,

It has been 2 years since you found my daughter Linda's birth mother. I cannot ever thank you enough. Since Linda has met her birth mother, her attitude has changed so much. She was 35 years old, when I decided to tell her the truth about being adopted. One snowy Sunday in March of 1993, my daughter and I were having lunch alone. For years it bothered me that she did not know the truth. On that Sunday in March, God must have given me the courage to confess the truth to Linda. I was so frightened as to how she would react. I took her hand and with a shaky voice and tears in my eyes, I blurted out her biological truth. She could not believe what she was hearing, but she told me somehow she always knew. She hugged and kissed me with unbelievable strength. I was so relieved. We talked until midnight. I promised I would help her find her biological mother if she wanted to know her. Our search was fruitless until a friend told me about you. In July 1995 you called me while we were vacationing on Cape Cod. We rushed home (much to my husband's dismay). I had to get the information and did not want to wait another day. I was amazed at how much background you had found, as we knew absolutely nothing - not so much as a name. I could not wait to tell my daughter. You were so kind with the advice on how I should go about telling her. I invited her over to supper and we had a glass of wine. I kicked (just about) everyone out of the house. Then I hugged her and told her, this was her "Birthday Present." I handed her the envelope (tied with ribbons, of course) and a fax sheet with her life heritage on it - from Great Grandparents down to nieces, nephews and cousins. Millions of dollars would not have meant as much. We sat on the floor and we read and re-read it again and again. I was so happy for my child. After that she could not wait to go home and tell her husband. The next day I had beautiful roses delivered with so much love in them that I could feel it.

After that Linda contacted you and again, you advised and guided her on how to make contact. She followed you advice to the "T". Her birth mother welcomed the child she had only seen for three days after birth, with love. We invited her to Boston after Linda went to Florida first and met her half sister, aunts, and cousins. Emotionally she did not connect with her birth mother or Birth sister, but her cousin and aunts are very dear to Linda. Her questions have been answered. I am in touch with her birth mother and we share a very important person in our lives, "My Daughter." My daughter is at peeve and I am forever grateful to you for your search of the truth. I know you will help us again with our son, who realizes there is a void he must fill.

We love you and thank you,
L. - ME

Dear Kinsolving,

I wanted to let you know how our search has turned out so far. I know we could have never located our daughter's birth mother without your help. It is the best money I've ever spent!

I had given up - I didn't think anyone could find the information you provided. After your call I was so surprised. When we received your fax it was wonderful. The only downside was the knowledge that her birth mother had passed away 10 months earlier. How I wish we had found you a year or two sooner!

After I spoke with you I telephoned the birth mother. She was very surprised. She said that she has always wondered if her little girl was happy and hoped that she has a good family. She was eager to talk to Sara. This has turned out better than we ever imagined it would. Sara has aunts and grandparent calling and e-mailing. Everyone is anxious to meet her. We are trying to plan a trip and have invited them to come to south Florida. I offered her birth mom a plane ticket but she is afraid of flying. The grandpa went out and bought a scanner and has e-mailed pictures of the birth mother and his family. Sara has finally answered the question of "who do I look like?" We have gotten some very important medical information. The birth mother has been in contact with the birth father's family and hopefully, we will have some contact with them soon. Sara has found out that she has 8 half brothers and sisters. She commented that she was always the baby in the family and would have to get used to being the oldest.

Again, I can't thank you enough.

L., FL



Dear Kinsolving,

It's been 1 year today since I received your call with the name and location of my son.

Tomorrow it will be 1 year since I first heard his voice on the phone. The only other time that I heard his voice was 33 years before when the social worker took him from my arms, and he was screaming. When I said goodbye 33 years before, I promised him that I would find him. Thanks to you I was able to keep that promise. We now have a wonderful relationship. It's as if I had him with me for all these years, and I guess I

always did, in my heart. I also found the most beautiful grandson when I located my son. I was able to celebrate my Grandson's 5th birthday with him last weekend. I promised him I'd be there for all the future ones, till I'm too old to go out! I am so very lucky... My son just celebrated his 34th birthday. This is the first one we were able to celebrate together since the initial birthday!!!

Everything is working out so well. I took all of your advice, even about making the initial phone call. Everything else I've been doing by instinct, and it's all come together. It's been such an emotional year that it's taken me this long to update you!

Thank you so much for everything, but especially for giving me my son back! Please feel free to use me as a reference. Keep up the good work. My son and I speak to you frequently and we are so grateful to you. Would you like a picture? I'd love to send one.

M.



Dear Kinsolving,

I have waited a year before writing because of reasons that you will understand as I progress with this letter.

In July 1996 Kinsolving found my son who was born 28 years ago. I had tried for many years until Kinsolving answered my prayers. It was a real roller coaster ride for many months. My son never knew that he was adopted and I approached him through his Mother. It was very traumatic for everyone concerned but little by little we started communicating. I called him on his birthday in November and was welcomed by a pleasant voice. We talked for a very long time. Since July I had been writing to him asking for pictures and whatever else I could think of to get closed to him. At Christmas I sent his family (wife and 2 little girls) some Christmas presents, which I never got a "thank you" but guess that it was appreciated. He never called me - but never rejected my phone calls. He never wrote me - but my letters never came back. In April I had reason to go near his home on a Sunday and called ahead of time (he knew for a couple of weeks that I was coming in the area) to see if we could meet. He was going away. After that I fell apart. I believe that I was rejected. So, I wrote him in May and told him I would never turn him away, but I was not going to call or write anymore. It was just getting to be too much for me. Maybe I approached the whole thing wrong, but it's done now. My husband encourage me to go to his house and see him, but I can't bring myself to do it.

When I receive your paper, The Vanguard, I read it over and over and then I send it to him. He has told me he reads them.

I doubt if you will even print this because it would be the only letter I ever saw that was negative, not toward you at all, but my reunion. If you would print this maybe someone would read it and give me some advice.

My heart is breaking and time is running out. Thank you for listening.

P. - PA



Hi,

Wanted to update you with some good news!

After the initial rejection by my birth mom, I proceeded to search for my sister, Susan, and called her. She had no idea I even existed, but was nice. She approached my birth mom about it, and she told Sue that she was raped by a cab driver, and became pregnant with me as a result.

Susan called our brother, Neil, in NM, to see if he knew anything. He said that he remembered her running into the house hysterical one night, saying that a man had attacked her, but by the time he went outside, the man was gone. The next night someone tried to break in. I just have trouble believing that story, not sure why. I guess partially because she became pregnant again 9 months after she had me with her next child. Also, she hasn't told the two younger sons about me yet. Neil said that he knows they would like to know, but she just refuses to budge. He can't understand it, either. Neil was the only one that knew that she had given up a child, but she's never talked about it since, and doesn't want to now. In fact, when he first called her, she said that it was her sister that had been pregnant, and that she had put her name on the birth record. Why she was so reluctant to admit it, I'm not sure. Guess she thought the other sibs might be upset with her??

Anyway, the GOOD news is that I met my sis on June 28, and spent two days with my brothers Neil and Jack on July 12 in New Mexico as part of our summer vacation! I think Neil and I are alike in a lot of ways. He welcomed me with open arms, and speaks of my birth mom as "our mother" or "your mother." And calls me his sister when he speaks

about me. It was hard to spend such a short period of time with him, but I know who my sibs are now. I have seen pictures of my birth mom and 2 younger brothers, also. I also met one of my nephews, and a niece and her two daughters. I think Sue and I look alike if you take the 14 year age difference into consideration.

I have pictures that I will send as soon as I have extra copies made. I look at them and look at them.... No more trying to imagine why I look like I do! So THANK YOU again... words can't express what you have done for me. I will be forever grateful.

J., WI

Dear Kinsolving,

Thank you for your help in locating our son. It is very hard to express the joy which we have received and the new family added to our group.

I am enclosing an excerpt from a letter which my daughter wrote after talking to her brother for the first time.

"The answer came tonight as I worked through all the different thoughts and feelings after talking to my brother. I am so glad you called and gave me the opportunity to speak with him. I went to church, listened to a sermon and did not hear a word of it. All I thought about was you two, our family, and my brother. As I laid down to go to sleep tonight, I felt compelled to write once again in my journal and there the answer came as I poured my heart onto the paper. I was moved to share it with you and I pray it will bring you a little of the peace it has brought me tonight.

I spoke to my brother today, This is a courageous man. I don't know if I could have stepped forward into the world of questions and possibly painful answers that he entered. I wonder if there hasn't been a twitch here and there, a casual fleeting wonder of why. Understanding can be difficult to attain in situations like this. But, ultimately, there is always room for love and acceptance if hearts are big enough and egos are small enough. If we can step aside and look with clear eyes at the needs of the players, can our hearts do anything but fill with love and tenderness for them? God is good, but consequences of our actions can be brutal. A baby, a desperate young mother and father...a man, longing older parents. Connection made through reaching out and forgiveness. God is good as He restores what was lost and shows us again how He never forgets, always listens, and is forever faithful.

Finally, I can truly say I rejoice with you and share your happiness."

The above words from my daughter have had quite a deep impression both on us and our son, and to many of the friends who have read it, so I thought I would pass it on for your publication.

M.
NV

Dear Kinsolving,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your help in finding my birth mother. I have enclosed a picture for you to add to your collection. We had a great reunion in March and have developed a wonderful relationship. I have since met 2 of my aunts, my grandfather, half-sister, nieces, nephews, and a cousin. I have talked with my birth father on the phone but have not yet met him. Thank you so much for helping make my life feel so complete. You and your staff are truly appreciated.

Thanks, J., NC

Dear Kinsolving,

I'm sure you get a lot of letters like this, so bear with me.

It's not 11:42 pm. I should be sleeping, but I can't before I thank everyone for their involvement in this search and it's end.

I took your advice and spoke to 'Liz' at 2:00 pm this afternoon. She said she is "thrilled." I have spoken to her twice since. She is truly ALL my sister.

I cannot ever express my thanks, for now money is no object. You are an angel on this earth. God bless you and yours. Now after 32 1/2 years, life is complete and all neatly packed into this package I call my life.

I know that I can never repay you for your gift, but never hesitate to ask...

L. - MI



Dear Kinsolving,

As I was sitting and reading an issue of the Vanguard I realized I had a different kind of thank you to give you. My story is basically no different from others but my thank you is. Eight years ago after the birth of my first child, I had a strong need and desire to find out answers as to the reason why I was adopted. My husband had concerns as to "what I might find" but my biggest hurdle was approaching my adoptive parents. Like others it was a big fear of hurting them and since I had is so good why do I want to know the reasons behind my existence. Well, it's simply the we (adoptees) need to know the answers to the "whys." I don't recall how I got your name but I remember when I called how impressed I was with the concern and confidentiality. I had decided to do a search and not say anything to my adoptive parents because I figured I had plenty of time. I've always heard stories where searches take numerous years. As I was filling out some of the paperwork I realized that by the questions asked that my chances of a find would be greater if I had more information. I need to ask the questions! Well, for a couple of reasons I put the search off. In September. of last year, I decided it was time and if I was going to do a search I needed to do it now. I have never felt I've missed someone or missed out on something. I just wanted the answers to the "why."

I again contacted you and once again was impressed with the concern and willingness to help in anyway. I was ready to more forward with the search. The next step was to approach my adoptive parents and once again I was reminded of how much I love them and how lucky I was to be their child. With their support we moved forward. My mother felt that before I contacted you, she wanted to seek some avenues out first. Luckily, I grew up in a small town and the adoption was handled by social services. My mother contacted a social worker and my records were opened after my mother and I signed a letter of consent. The first contact was a link. That link was the eldest of my birth mothers three brothers, George. As I was typing this letter I got a call that George just died from a massive heart attack. Again, a reminder that life is short and how lucky I am that I had a chance to meet and get lots of hugs from him. My birth mother is deceased along with her parents. Unfortunately, a lot of my answers to questions went to the grave because the grandparents kept my birth a secret. You see, my birth mother was mentally ill and I conceived while she was institutionalized and my father was probably

another patient. I found out that I have two older half brothers whom were raised by their grandparents. They were 9 and 7 when I was born and they led a very sheltered life from our mother. Our mother was not able to care for us let alone herself. I now have answers that satisfy my need to know "why." My birth family has been very loving and accepting and we have kept close tabs on each other. We all met for the first time the day after Valentine's day.

Even though you did not do my search my special thanks you are for all the answered questions, guidance, link to local support group and keeping me on The Vanguard mailing list. I enjoy reading about all the reunions, they are so heartwarming. I am a nurse and once I finish with your magazines I take them for others to enjoy in the waiting room. Of course a copy of The Vanguard goes along with the stack. I hope it gives others the courage to find out the answers to the "why" and for others I hope it leaves them with a warm fuzzy feeling inside.

Thanks so much.
L., NC



Dear Kinsolving,

I just wanted to let you know now things are going since you found my son in January of 1996. We have become quite close and he has visited about six times. He and his wife just divorced and who did he come to share his problems? Me. I couldn't believe how he confided in me after all these years. It was nice.

My son is in the army in Texas and he is studying to be a Physician's Assistant. I am very proud of him.

My son has gotten close to his grandparents and his uncles. But most of all he has become very close with his sister. They are great friends and after all these years I have been able to get that one picture of all four kids together.

I want to thank you for all of this happiness which I have every time I write to him, talk to him and see him. I will keep you up to date.

Keep up the good things that you do to help so many people find happiness.

With all my thanks, D., FL

Dear Kinsolving Investigations,

All I can say is that after 33 years of searching, meeting dead ends and brick walls, Chris Lee found my son. She did everything she said she would. I gave no money up front, no money until my son was located. All the info was accurate and current. I found my son a year ago. My only regret was that I didn't know about Chris Lee sooner. My husband and family were so unsure, and untrusting. I'd spent too many futile hours with little results, it was worth the investment. In 48 hours she found him. I've since recommended other adoptees and birth mothers. She's found for them. Yes, she may be expensive, but she's honest and gets results. I highly recommend her!

Thank you.
B., NJ

Dear Kinsolving,

Thank you for all your information and encouragement. After you gave me my information on Friday evening I just couldn't wait any longer. I contacted my birth mother and it went so well. She was so glad to hear from me and I've already been in touch with others in the family. I can't remember when I've slept so well.

Thank you for doing what you do. You have truly changed my life. I will send something soon for the newsletter... we are now planning on when we can visit each other.

Best wishes,

J. - NY

Dear Kinsolving,

Since I spoke to you on Wednesday, September 3, 1997 and you gave me the information I so desperately had waited for 25 years to hear, I cannot explain the range of emotions I have felt. But of course, I know you understand, since you've been there.

It took me two days to call "Kathryn," and I am happy to say that she answered the phone and everything went great. Hearing her voice for the first time was wonderful. As we suspected it was hard for her to talk, her parents were indeed there. We spoke for about 5 minutes, I then gave her my phone number and she called me at 8:45 that night from her boyfriend's house.

I was amazed to find out that she had lived so close to me for all these years and that throughout her life she never told ANYONE that she was adopted. Can you believe that? I called her around 4:45 that Friday afternoon and learned later that she was going to take a shower and go pick up her boyfriend at the airport. He travels a lot. She told me that after she picked him up she told him about my call and he was very excited.

He tried to talk her into waiting until Sunday to call me back but she said she couldn't wait. When she did call we talked for almost two hours, just like we were best friends, we had an automatic rapport, which delighted both of us. She shared many things with me, but what saddened me the most is that to talk about her and her sister's adoption was almost forbidden in their house. That is why, I assume she never told a soul. All she knew was that she was adopted and was born in Savannah, GA on 11-25-72.

She said she was closer to her dad than her mom, and that her mom was old fashioned, but was very loving and a good mom. She attended Catholic school from K-12th grade and now teaches 6th grade at a Catholic school.

Anyway, I won't bore you with details. The bottom line is we had a wonderful talk. I told her everything she wanted to know, and I could sense such a relief from her. She told me she was going out of town to a wedding this past week-end and I told her we were also going out of town. I asked her if she wanted to meet me and she said, "yes," but needed to sort through everything and that she would call me to set it up.

She also said that her parents would be very upset if they knew I had contacted her and asked me several times if I would call and tell them, and I said, "of course not."

So now I am anxiously awaiting her phone call, and hoping she hasn't changed her mind. I told her the ball was in her court and that I was here for her and to even call me collect if she had to. I wanted her to have the time she needed, I didn't want to pressure her. I didn't want to risk calling her house again and putting her on the spot... she agreed.

I feel she will call this week, I hope she will anyway, I don't want to push her.

Thank you for finding her and counseling me through this sensitive time in my life. It was definitely something that only I could do. I basically said exactly what you told me to and it worked out great, but it was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do besides giving her up.

So now if I can just meet her and hold her, I feel my life will be complete.

Again, thank you for your time and professionalism and making this a lot easier than I ever dreamed it would be.

D. - NC



Dear Kinsolving,

I just wanted to let you know how everything is going.

My son and I went to meet my daughter and everything went just great!

She is a very beautiful person. We got to meet her mom, dad and son, Derek. They were great and very nice to us.

We are planning to get together in August. I will let you know how it goes.

Thank you again and God bless you.

Sincerely,
K., NC

Dear Kinsolving,

I can't say anymore than "THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart.

Without you, I would still be in "no where land" with my search! Now my life is complete and there are no more unanswered questions. To find both of my parents was such a blessing and I've been welcomed by my siblings.

G. - PA

This article is copied from the Courier-Times, Roxboro, N.C. Saturday, July 26, 1997.

For 25 years, Linda Yates agonized over the son that she "gave up for adoption." On July 10, Linda Yates found that son.

"I have been looking for him for a long time," said Mrs. Yates, who is 50 years old and resides at Timber lake.

"There has always been something gnawing at me all these years," she continued. "Birthday parties, Christmas would always remind me. Halloween was the worst time, because Halloween is my birthday. At Thanksgiving, I would always be thankful for what I did have, for the rest of my family, but there was also one who was missing.

"There wasn't a day that has gone by without me wondering about him. I worried about him, about what kind of family he had, about whether or not he was being abused."

"I never had any real peace of mind before this," she continued. "I was always hoping somebody would knock on the door and say, "Hey, I'm your son." My husband (Larry Yates) is the one who knows what I've been through, because he's the one who has been there with me all the time. My husband has supported me in every way. He has supported me 100 percent. I couldn't have asked for anybody to be any better to me. He has a heart as big (spreading her arms so far apart as they would go.)"

Linda and Larry Yes have been married for 15 years. When they put their families from earlier marriages together, they created a large family. "I have two older children," said Mrs. Yates. "Then, I had Christopher, the one I gave up for adoption, then Ricky, the younger one. Larry has adopted Ricky, so he is a Yates. Larry has two children by an earlier marriage. It is a very large family and we all love each other."

Christopher (Mrs. Yates did not know his name until July 10,) is now 25 years old. He was born on September 22, 1971, in Durham. Before he was born, Mrs. Yates had made the decision to allow her son to be placed through adoption. "I just didn't have any choice at the time," she said. That was followed by her years of agony.

During an event of the early 1990's, she decided to do more than agonize. She decided to begin a search for her son. "That was about the time the Gulf War broke out and I did it because I thought he might be in it... and he was," said Mrs. Yates. "I talked it over with (husband) Larry" and he said, "I will stand by you, whatever you decide to do." And, he did too.

"I talked to lawyers and I talked to those places that say, "Send us \$39 and we'll send you a kit." Well, don't ever get into that. After they send you the first kit, the next one is still more (money) and the one after that is still more. All of that was a dead end.

"I listed with the registers," Mrs. Yates continued. "You list with the register and then, if he (the child being sought) lists with the register, it will match up." Listing with the registers brought no results for Mrs. Yates, but she believes that the listing eventually brought her a pamphlet through the mail.

"Apparently, this lady (Christine Lee, who operates Kinsolving Investigations in Charlotte) got me name off one of those registries and I got this pamphlet in the mail sometime around the last of June," Mrs. Yates said. "When I got this (holding the pamphlet), I had already given up. One of the things on it was that there would be no money (paid to Kinsolving Investigations) unless they found him. So, I had nothing to lose."

"My husband said, "Go ahead and send for the kit." It was really just one page. I filled it out as best I could and sent it back. I told my husband, "Nothing will ever come of this." I could answer only four of the questions. That was all I knew.

"After that, they sent me a contract to sign," she continued. "the contract had an amount of money we would have to pay, if they found him. I said, "Larry, do we have that much, in case they find him?" He rifled through some papers and said, "Yes, we have that much." I sent her (Christine Lee) that signed contract, but I really didn't think she would find him.

"She (Lee) received the signed contract on July 2nd and... the next Tuesday she called me back and said, "Linda, I've got him." That was just Wednesday until Tuesday that she had to work on it." Mrs. Yates was given certain good faith information during the

first phone call but had to make payment in order to receive the remainder of the information about the son she hadn't seen since the day he was born. She sent the payment by money order and received the remainder of the information, including his name, Christopher Ellis, and his address.... in Durham.

"As soon as my husband got home, we went to Durham and rode past his house," said Mrs. Yates. "I felt anxious, nervous, sick at my stomach. I was afraid he would reject me. I wondered if he would grab and hug me. I wondered if he had been told (that he was adopted). I was thinking everything. I was driving my husband crazy."

The Yates did not stop at the residence. Instead, they went to the Durham public library and began looking through high school year books. They found Christopher's photo in a Northern High School yearbook.

"From there (the library), we left and went back to his house," said Mrs. Yates. "I broke out in hives and was itching terrible. We went home and I called his house."

This information supplied by Kinsolving Investigations had indicated that Christopher is married. When Mrs. Yates called his home that evening, Christopher's wife answered. She related that Christopher was not at home and Mrs. Yates said simply that she would call back later.

By then, it was late in the evening of July 10 and, despite her anxiety, Mrs. Yates had become sleepy. "I couldn't wait to go to bed any longer," she said. "I had taken a Benadryl for the hives and I went to bed. I was in bed and the phone rang. My husband said, "Linda, it's Chris." I could only figure that he had caller ID. I found out that he was at a friend's house. When I called, his wife had used Star-69 and she had gotten my number. She called him (Christopher) where he was and gave him my number.

"When I answered, I just said "Hello." He said, "This is Chris Ellis. Did you call me?" I said, "Yes, I did. You are Christopher Stephen Ellis?" and he hesitated and said, "Yes, I am."

"I told him my name and told him that I needed to talk with him a few minutes about a personal matter," Mrs. Yates continued. "I told him, I said, "On the 22nd of September on '71, I gave birth to a baby boy weighing 10 pounds. Are you him?" He didn't let me finish my little speech. He said, "Oh Lord, let me sit down."

"We talked two hours and, remember, he was calling long distance from a friend's house. I told him that all my searches had led back to him."

During the long phone conversation, they set up a meeting the next day at Zeko's Restaurant in Roxboro. Mrs. Yates knew what vehicle to be on the look out for. "I got there early so I could see him when he drove up," she said. "When he stopped, I walked around behind the truck and said, "Christopher?" I could tell that he was nervous. I was nervous too. I was so nervous I couldn't drive but I suggested that it was so public there that we should go to my house. He asked, "My truck?" and I said, "Please, I'm so nervous, I can't drive."

I had already called my daughter, who was in Kingston, and she came up that same afternoon. She got there (to the Yates' home) late in the day. I could hear her car coming up the road and I told him, "Here comes your sister." When she got out, you could just see it in his face and hers. It was just instant. Christopher visited until nightfall and plans for another reunion were made then. "He was to come back Sunday (just a couple of days later) and bring his wife and little girl," said Mrs. Yates. We were going to have a cookout. But, he came back on Saturday and brought his wife. They didn't stay long. He just wanted her to meet me, because she had been through the same thing with him - looking for me. When they came back on Sunday, he brought me a big bouquet of flowers. They spent the whole afternoon with us. By then, there was some joking and laughing, but he was still right nervous.

"He had a million questions he wanted to ask me. We even found out that my daughter had once dated one of his best friends. We found out that our paths had actually crossed several times during the years."

"He came back last Thursday and we spent the afternoon together, just me and him," said Mrs. Yates. He told me to stop beating myself up for giving him up for adoption. He told me that I did the right thing, that I made the right choice. I have assured him that I love him and that I always have. I don't really know him yet, but I love him.

"He's just so sweet," she continued. "He's sensitive. He's kind. He's loving. He hasn't said, "I love you," but I know he does. He has said, "We have the rest of our lives."

For Linda Yates, the excitement of recent days has replaced the agony of 25 years. "I guess there are some who could give up a child and never think anything about it," she said. "It didn't work that way for me. It was hard on him too. He knew from the time he was five years old that he was adopted.

"It's wonderful to put it to rest."

Dear Kinsolving,

I'm exhausted, delirious, grateful. It went fabulously well when I talked to Rina in London yesterday. Not only is she a QUICK thinker, she was looking for me as well!

We talked for about 1 1/2 hours, and later that night, I talked to her A-Mom (she called me). We were all falling over each other thanking each other.

I'll write more when my brain returns to an energized state. But I wanted to let you know how well it went! Thank you so very very much.

Fondly, J.



Dear KI,

You haven't heard from me in a LONG time but I wanted to update you on the wonderful work you did for me!

I finally worked up the nerve to call my sister Susan in October. We spoke for over an hour and she already knew all about me but figured she'd never find me! She promised to send me photos and still had my baby bracelet that had been found in my grandmother's things when she died in 1984. Well, 2 months passed and no photos, so although I thought the call had gone well, my feeling was that Sue had changed her mind or wasn't sure.

I got depressed until December 23 when I received a Xmas card, letter and photos in the mail from my youngest sister Cindy. I called her and we talked for 3 hours and have since had 3 conversations within the past week! Then the second miracle occurred....Sue called me on Xmas Eve and asked if I would like to go with her to Ottawa to see our mother's grave and meet my aunt and uncle in Le land. She told me that she was a terrible procrastinator and had the photos and bracelet all ready to mail to me.

We met last Saturday and the resemblance is amazing! We're definitely sisters. When she gave me the bracelet and photos of our mother, I was speechless. I look like my mother! I can't even begin to describe the feelings I experienced.

I did want to thank you for the greatest gift this Xmas...my family. I realize you get lots of letters like this but I had to thank you for helping me do the impossible! And, I wish you had been doing this in 1975-76 because when my birth mom found out she was ill with cancer, she contacted the State to find me, with no luck. She celebrated my birthday each year and always wondered what hap happened to me. What a blessing!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

P.
Canada



Hi K.I.

Just a brief note to say hello and hope you are doing okay. On October 25th, David and I celebrated his 27th birthday together. We all had dinner. It was so nice. On Nov. 1st we celebrated my birthday. So many firsts!!!!

Our relationship is going well. He is a son to me, and I think I am a special friend to him. He plays golf with my husband every few weeks. Hopefully, we are looking forward to a long term, growing relationship.

Thanks for giving me that push to make that call!!

Take care,
C. - GA



Dear K.I.

I can't find the words to thank you enough. From the bottom of my heart, no matter what happens from here on out, I want to thank you.

L. - MO