

Dear Chris,

It has been a while (8 years) since we last spoke, but I just wanted to take a few minutes to let you know once again how much I appreciated the work you and your top notch crew did for me. Although my birth mother had passed away once located, it was still comforting to know who she was and to meet her brother and sister. We still maintain contact, although things have cooled down a bit over the years.

My birth father (whose name and address you provided) had no interest in meeting me upon initial contact and over the course of the last eight years nothing has changed. He has even moved and did not provide me with a forwarding address, I guess there is a hidden message in there somewhere. I haven't bothered to attempt to contact him at his new address and have reconciled with myself to just let him go.

Thanks again,
AM/NC



Chris,

Thanks so much! I didn't expect to hear from you given the fact that you were in hurricane territory and figured that your return home might be delayed. I appreciate your efforts to inform me so quickly.

I am not planning to make contact right now, I need to do some more reading on the subject and get my thoughts and emotions together before doing anything. I am emotionally not ready to go to the next step. But I can tell you, I feel like the weight of the world is off of my shoulders and I can begin the move on and into another phase of my life. You have been such a blessing, thank you for everything, you did just what you said you would, and these days that is not commonplace. May God Bless you for the relief and joy that you bring others through your work.

With Sincerest Gratitude,
LK/NC



Dear Chris,

I'm writing to give you an update on Tim's contact with his Birth family. He will be meeting his birthmother and family on 13 Aug 05. He is really excited about this reunion and is like a little kid at a candy store. I can't Thank you enough for the joy you have

brought to him and the closure he only was able to dream about. Of course this took a little work but the final result is positive.

After Tim made that initial call to his birthmother she told him that she wanted to leave it in the past. It was not known to us until later that the only one that knew of Tim's birth was her two brothers. After their very brief call on the phone Tim wanted to speak to his brother Harry. I told him that I could find the number which I did that night. I called the operator and there was only two Harry's listed, Sr. and a Jr. I gave the number to Tim and he made the call that changed everything. At first Harry was skeptical and shocked, of course. However, after Harry Jr. confronted his mother it was downhill from there. Tim also spoke to his uncle Bill and he was taken aback along with his ex-wife Nancy. They are both excited for Tim and for seeking them. Deloris was not happy that Tim contacted the family but she is not angry. Little did she know that you gave him the key's to unlock a past that needed awakening. Since then, Harry and Tim have stayed in contact and talking for many long hours. Deloris did meet with her children and never denied Tim and gave them an explanation of her past.

Just yesterday Deloris called Tim after that initial call he made. They talked for hours and she is ready to meet him in August. Pictures have been exchanged and family history.

The only thing she is holding back on is the name of Tim's Birthfather. She says she does not remember. We find that hard to believe but maybe with time she will let him know.

Again, Chris and Scott, Thank-you for putting closure to Tim's life. You gave him a new life that he could only dream of.

Tim looks like his mother....very much. I'll give you an update after the reunion. I can't wait for him to go and call me back on how his first day went.

May God Bless you and may you continue to bring new life to all those that seek a positive outcome on their search for the Birthmothers and other family.

Always Grateful,
DT/PA

Hi Chris,

It's been a while since we've spoken and since you found my precious son,(back in Sept, 2003). But I thought I'd take some time to fill you in on our better than ever imagined reunion.

You know I waited a long time after finding him before I was ready to contact him....as a matter of fact I was into March, 2005 and still hadn't contacted him when out of the blue I received a call March 23rd from his wife. He had asked her to contact me because he was painfully scared of making the call and he wanted her to lay some groundwork. It was a short call and she told me that he wanted me to write him a letter. We talked a little about the adoption but not much else. I was dying to talk to him and I knew he was somewhere near when she called. As a matter of fact he was in the next room but outside of hearing distance. I said nothing about finding him at this point nor about anything else I knew about him.....and I knew a bundle about him and his family from doing all the research over the past year and a half.

So I wrote my letter and waited. My letter was short and sweet and didn't get into too much about adoption issues...just a little about me and my love for him. Three weeks passes and still no response to my letter so I had another mom call him and ask if he received my letter and tell him how nervous I was to call him since I had not heard back. He called that night and just the sound of his voice was enough to make me melt. I finally heard the sound of his voice after having a name for almost 2 years.

We had a nice conversation and talked about his relinquishment and his adoption. It was a very nice conversation and we talked for about an hour.

He continued to call me about every 10 days and we continued to get comfortable with each other. But the icing on the cake was when he called me this past Mother's Day to wish me a Happy Mother's Day. It was a dream come true and totally unexpected. I would have never guessed in a million years that he would call me or let alone recognize me on Mother's Day. On that day, I finally asked for a face to face meeting and he agreed it was time.

We made a date for June 10th. He lives in NW Montana and I live in No. Calif., about 1200 miles apart. He made all the arrangements for me and my husband, who by the way has been my greatest supporter in our reunion, to stay near him. My husband and I decided to drive because we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into and if need-be, we needed a "plan B" just in case the visit didn't work out for either of us. And we had no idea how long we'd stay or want to stay.

We arrived on June 10th as promised and we ended up staying 8 days and we spent the whole 8 days (day & night). It was an incredible reunion and we all got along famously. It was if he and I had never been separated. I'll spare you all the details about his aparents and adopted life, but if you'll remember he was adopted by a very prominent people and the family had been in the area for over 100 years and had the largest law firm in the islands. But his afamily is a made for tv movie. There's lots more but like I said and it truly could be a tv movie.

When we came back from Montana, we were all in love with each other.....it couldn't have been a better reunion and what made it so special was that he wanted it as much as I did and he needs me as much as I need him. My husband and he hit it off like father and son and he looks to my husband like a father. My daughter in law and I hit it off immediately and have become great friends and my granddaughter, (5 yrs) is just tooooo precious. We are now referred to as Grandma and Grampa.

After that visit, I drove back up to Montana in August and he & I had 10 days together, 6 of those all alone. His wife and child went back East to visit her folks so he and I decided it would be a good time to get to really know each other. We had a great time together for 6 whole days and then D & H came home and I got to spend time with them. My husband flew up to join us and drive me back home.

We made plans to spend 9 days together again over Thanksgiving and this time my mother is driving up with us. This will be her first meeting with her grandson and great-granddaughter. What a thrill to have 4 generations together.

So Chris, again I owe it all to you and cannot thank you enough for making my dream come true. I tell everyone I can on the Sunflowers list about how you found him for me and it's money well spent.

Everything is going so great that the last time we were there he proposed that we might want to buy a vacation house near them so we could really spend some time together, we could travel up there more often and we wouldn't have to stay in the local inn when we visit (his house is only 800 sq ft and it's a tight squeeze with 5 people although I stayed with him in his house when I was there last...but it was just him and I then).

So we've put an investment house on the market and we're in the process of purchasing a house 5 minutes from H to use as a place to stay when we visit. He owns a 40 acre ranch which is a 3 hr drive NW of M and a 3 hr drive SE of S....it's in the middle of the B Mts and the most gorgeous country I've seen in a long time.

So that's how the reunion has gone so far and I truly believe that waiting all these years was worth it. He told me that when I first tried to contact him in 1993, he was 25 and not ready to meet me because his parents were going thru a horrid divorce and he moved to V to go to college just to get away from them. But he carried my information around with him for 12 years before he finally felt he was in a good place within himself to contact me. He was 36 when he first contacted me.

Anyway, Chris, thanks again and sorry to have gone on so long but it always feels so good to tell our story and it couldn't have happened without you. And all your advice about writing a letter or calling was given a lot of thought. I'm truly happy though that he contacted me first instead of me contacting him.....for now I know that he was ready for contact and I never have to deal with wondering if he would have ever contacted me. I'm secure in knowing that he wanted contact and wanted to build a relationship.

THANK YOU SOOOOO MUCH CHRIS,

LIFE IS GOOD

((hugs))
MM/HI

HI,
I guess I'm still on your searching list...you have already found for me, last summer, and I cannot tell you how happy my birthmother and I are together. I would still recommend you to anyone who is still searching, and when anyone asks how I found her, I always mention you.

Thanks again
KG/NC

Hi, Chris,

I enjoyed talking with you, and thanks for the advice about approaching my newly found birth family.

I decided to contact my birth aunt instead of my siblings, since it was most likely that my aunt knew about me. I also decided to write to her instead of phoning. I felt I could present more information in a letter than I could in a phone call, and then she would have more time to digest it all. I wrote the letter and mailed it on a Friday, she received it on Monday afternoon, and she called me on Monday night.

She was overjoyed to hear from me. We had a wonderful half-hour conversation, during which she filled in all the medical information I could ever want about my family medical background. She also said that her sister had never told anyone on the K side that she had had a baby. My aunt says that she knew, since she was 18 when I was born. However, my mother was virtually hidden away that summer she was pregnant, and the family told everybody that she had a bad case of sun poisoning and couldn't come outside. Things were like that back then.

My aunt said she wanted time to talk to some of the family before inviting me to visit. She felt that my youngest sister would be most open-minded about it, but as of when we spoke this morning, she had not been able to speak to my sister yet. She had mentioned me to her brothers, however, and they were against telling the K's. My aunt seems very happy to know me, and I feel that I couldn't have a better person to broker any contact I may have in the future.

Besides the coincidence about how close my aunt lives in C to where I grew up, I found out from her that, like my adoptive father, my uncle was also a C firefighter. Thru my aunt, I relayed where my Dad had been stationed and found out that my uncle may have even worked with Dad on occasion during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Small world.

My aunt asked if you had also located my birth father for me, but I told them no. She doesn't remember his name anymore, but said that he came from P, or somewhere in P, and that he was of German extraction. She said he never stayed around after learning that my mother was pregnant.

If I learn anything more, or if I do eventually meet the K side of the family, I'll let you know. Right now, I'm overjoyed with the one family member I've contacted. I'm still doing a "happy dance" inside! Thanks so much!

KB/IL

Yes, within the first 10 minutes she told me my father's name and that she had no contact with him once he went into the airforce. Eventually I will look for him, but no need to right now.

It turns out also, that when she gave birth to me, the agency involved with the adoption had her sign documents stating she would never try to locate me or my adoptive family.

I actually got an email yesterday (it had been 5 days since first contact) that she looks forward to meeting me, if that is ok with me! She is going to tell her daughter (my sister!) about me soon!

I feel blessed that this has turned out as well as it has. We have a connection, a lot in common, and I do have a sense of peace that I have never known.

So, thank you again.
JC/NY



I just wanted to say thank you again! The advice regarding making a call instead of a letter was right on. I did it, it was a tough thing to do, but it has now been 4 days and my birthmother and I have been corresponding by email and it is really great! I know if I had written a letter I would have been a wreck waiting for a reaction. Thank you again for the amazing work you do. I can't believe it all happened so quickly! Thanks,

JC/NY



Hi Chris,

Just touching base.. since March, D and I have emailed back and forth, sending pictures and sharing our lives. It has mostly focused on where we've been since my birth. I haven't asked too many questions about my father or information surrounding the birth. It just hasn't felt like the timing was right and I don't feel a huge desire for the

information. Otherwise, it has been a really nice connection. We haven't mentioned a meeting, yet I know it will come in time.

MO/CA

Oh my gosh. I want to thank you so much. Words can not say enough. I have paid many searchers, some helpful, and some just took my money over the years. I did not want to get my hopes up with you until I had the final email in my hands. I had been disappointed so many times over the years. I really feel so blessed to have found you.

Anyways, I wish all adoptees knew about you. I have been in turmoil for over 20 years, and in one day you have given me the answers I needed.

I had narrowed my search (over the years) to the 2 uncles. I would have never found them.

Ellen Goodeve, who is located in New York, recommended you and said if anyone could find my biological family you could. I have never met Ellen, but have talked with her on the internet for several months. She has been such a good friend. I thank the Lord she referred me to you.

I have been searching for a life time. Thank god you exist.

CW/NY

We would like to thank you again for the job you did finding all of I's children you did something that was almost impossible after we searched on our own for three years and hiring a couple of search companys. We could not believe you found them but you did and we were so happy so we say thanks again and God Bless You for a Great JOB.

J&I /NY

Please feel free to use me as a reference. My experience was so positive. Because of your work, I was reunited with my birthmother and we have been in close touch ever since. Our reunion has truly changed my life. Thanks.

MM/AK



Chris,

Thank you again for helping me find my birth mother several years ago. At first she didn't want to meet and then finally did call. She called a year or two after initial contact and asked to meet -- so we did.

It has been most fascinating observing genetic traits for the first time. Many I am proud of but one continues to bug me and I don't know who to talk to about it. My birthmother seems to have had a pretty serious problem with some sort of bi-polar disorder over the years

which has landed her in the hospital more than once. I expected there to be some history of depression simply due to the stress of being a birthmother and not knowing what happened to me. I did not expect to discover this depth of depression nor its frequency in her family. I

had one severe bout of depression when I was 19 which lasted 18 months. I thought I was over it and that I would never go through it again. So far I have not. But, now I'm a bit concerned and would like to get involved with some support group for adoption reunion issues as

well as find a psychologist or preferably a psychiatrist to discuss this with. Do you know of any psychiatrists anywhere who have experience or demonstrated interest in adoption issues?

Maybe a conversation with you sometime could help me determine what is "normal" for our situation and what is not.

Thanks,

JJ/NC

Hi,

I'm flying to Atlanta on Christmas day-my son asked if he could pick me up at the airport, my heart just melted.I'm constantly being amazed at the peace I have in my heart thanx to you all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CH/GA



I had never wanted to find my birth parents. Sure I had thought about it from time to time but even after my parents death, I really saw no need. I knew who I was, and I did not need an agency to tell me that. My parents were always very honest about the fact we were adopted. I can still remember the talk, and about “how we were special because we were picked from all the other babies”, and that is how I felt. Unfortunately my brother took it a little differently. I will also never forget his rebel teenage years when he told me he was going to find his birth right. I told him if he did not think I was his sister he could go straight to _____. Big mistake, but I was young.

As computers became the mainstay in homes across America and in my own, I got to where I would do brief searches, but I always felt as if I were doing something wrong. Cheating on my parents like a wife would cheat on her husband, so it was always very brief. I thought about it again, when I found out I was pregnant with twins, although only one made it to the first trimester it still made me wonder. But that was all I would do.

As I approached my middle thirties I was consumed with my children. Both sets of grandparents were deceased and I knew in the back of my mind that I could give them a very special gift. Something they were lacking. Something that could enrich their lives and possibly my own, but at what expense. Would it be worth it? I prayed about it and one day God spoke to me.

My aunts on my fathers side of which I love dearly had both spoke to me about my adoption at different times and without the others knowledge. I had told them the cheating theory and how bad it hurt when my parents passed. I knew if I found my birth parents I would be setting my self up to feel that hurt all over again. They understood my feeling but both pretty much told me that if it were them, they would want to know. Basically they were giving me there blessing. It was something I needed whether I knew it or not. The guilt would be gone. I prayed some more and once again God spoke to me.

Me and my sister-in-law were going to go get copies of our birth certificates, for reasons that would be another story. I knew my birth certificate was registered in Guilford County, the same as hers. Off to the courthouse we went. In a matter of seconds she had a copy of her birth certificate in her hands. But they did not have mine. Wait, why not? I am not different in any way. My parents had told me so. Special yes, but not different? Where is my birth certificate? Why is mine not here? This is a legal document. It should be here just like everyone else. Why am I different? Why would mine be somewhere else? I am not different I am special!! Then it began.

Off to the computer to find out why I am all of sudden different. Well my goodness, what I found out. I was different. I do not have a "real" birth certificate I have an amended birth certificate and I must write Raleigh to get copies, and just because my birth certificate said I was born in Guilford County did not mean I was born in Guilford County it meant that is where the adoption took place. I guess I had never really thought about it until that moment. I had always assumed the State of North Carolina would surely not lie on a legal document. That went against everything I had ever been taught. But they had, and I was furious about it. If I did not find out anything else I did want to right the wrong the State had cast upon me the day I was born. But guess what? No one would tell me where I was born. I wrote the Children's Society of Greensboro, the agency that handled the adoption and requested my non-identifying info, but that did not tell me, but it did give me some insight. It told me my mother was a kind a gentle person. That many of the family members had college educations. It told me many things, but what it really said to me was that this person was in a bad way at the time of my birth and that she did love me and want me to have a wonderful life. I knew this growing up, but somehow seeing it in black and white was quite different. If a mother did not love her child then a back alley abortion would have been appropriate, but I knew she had gone to a lot of trouble to give me life. This agency did know a little bit about who I was. But what it did not tell me was where I was born. I had also found out through research on the computer that telling me where I was born would be like telling me her name and after getting to know her just a little made me think that might not be such a bad thing.

I had found a search angel on the computer, who would help me and the Children's Society had given me the name of an investigator that was very successful in finding birth parents and my search angel confirmed the abilities of Kinsolving Investigations. After spending about a week on the computer (day and night). After reading all of the post of others that search, it is so sad, for so many it was painstaking and still they had nothing.

I knew that Kinsolving was the right choice for me. Within 24 hours I had most of my answers. My mother lived in N NC. and I knew where I was born at last. I had passed threw the town on my way to the beach. It was a nice quaint little town. But that is where

I was born. I had my mothers name, address and telephone number and the investigator also gave me some valuable information on what to do once I got to her town. Yes, I was going. I did know I had to be careful. Kinsolving had prepared me for anything that could happen which helped dramatically, but I was still facing the unknown. My sister-in-law and I left home on Friday to spend a weekend in NB and basically to hopefully see my mother. Within three hours we were in NB and actually parked at the end of the driveway of her home. No one was home. The next day we called and again no one was there. We called in the morning, we called at lunch, and again in the mid afternoon and even the evening. No answer. That was okay because everyone is home on Sunday. So we walked around town and enjoyed the charm that N is famous for. The only strange thing is that it seemed like everyone there had red hair (like me). I guess I was a little paranoid. Sunday morning came and again I called. No answer. I was getting a little crazy at this point. Had God sent me this far for nothing? Okay I will wait until after church and try again. So I did. No answer. Mid afternoon rolled around and I knew it was time to go home. But how could I? I had done everything right, why was this not working? The sun had started to set and well I had to do it one more time. I still was not sure if I could go home but at the same time I knew I would have to. If no one answered this time I thought I would just loose it. Well here goes nothing. Ring, Ring, Ring, "Hello" There she was someone answered and it had to be her. I squeezed my sisters hand. What do I say? What do I say? There it was over I has said it. Wow what a relief. With out hesitation she wanted to know where I was and how she could see me. She met us in town. My sister-in-law asked her if it was a huge shock. She told us she had been waiting on that call for twenty years. We went and ate dinner with her and her husband. She had been honest with him from beginning. Good thing.

My mother and I now have a wonderful relationship. I have an older brother and sister and I have met both of them. My children have wonderful grandparents!!!!!! I had my sister-in-law call the birthfather. Unfortunately for him, he will not be a part of my childrens lives, but that is okay. God showed me the path to her. I still ache for my brother. He has always wanted to know and I think it would be a real healing process for him. He felt as though his birth parents abandoned him, and as though our parents abandoned him. The only way for him to heal is to find some of the truth. That was one reason I had Amy call my birth father. So hopefully he would not feel alone if he were rejected. Anyone that can help my brother heal please contact me. He does not pray so God will not show him the way.

ED/NC

It went spectacularly well. We will meet in August when I visit the states. I was so nervous I could barely get the words out. If you hadn't walked me through it I would definitely have messed up! I think it would have worked out anyway – but the crib notes helped a lot. She was anxious to see me – but hadn't told her family anything yet.

BC/NY



Hello Chris! Thanks! I will contact you next week to set up a time if that is ok with you. Just letting this sink in right now.

The depth of information is great. You do excellent work. Thank you.

Happy New Year! Have a great weekend!

JD/NY



Hi,
Just wanted to let you know I phoned my son tonight and got him and we talked for 14 minutes and 40 seconds. He knew he was adopted. The conversation could not have gone any better.....my heart is now complete and I want to thank you for your hard work-my life as I knew it yesterday will be forever changed and i'm so pleased you could make that happen for me....

CH/GA



Hi Chris - I hope you are feeling better. I just wanted to let you know that I have made contact with my half-brother. I wrote to my birth mother's husband and the son opened the letter (they are both named George and I did not specify Sr. or Jr. on the address). He did not know anything about me but was very nice - he wants us to meet soon, he is going to have my aunt and uncles contact me, and he has invited me to a family

reunion. We talked for about an hour and have emailed pictures, etc. I just wanted to thank you for all you've done. Take care.

JC/NC



Hello. I contacted my birthmother, and she responded positively. Thank you.

LS/NC



Dear Chris,

Back in April of this year, I hired your investigation agency to find my adopted son. You were able to find him within 24 hours. I thought I would let you know how everything is going for us.

Making that first phone call was very hard. I knew that not only would I be changing my life forever, but I would also be changing the lives of many people whom I have never met. He was very surprised to hear from me. He never really thought of contacting me. Partially due to his age (23) I am sure, but also because he was very comfortable with being adopted. He told me his parents have always told him that my decision was made out of love for him. He actually thanked me!! He said "I don't know what my life would be like if I had stayed with you, but I want to thank you because I have a great life". That took my breath away!!

Since the first contact in April, we have kept in touch via phone and e-mail. I have spoken with his mother, and we have corresponded with each other through letters. He has sent me photos of himself, his friends, and his girlfriend via the internet. His mother sent me about 30 photos of him growing up, starting with one of the first photos of him as a baby. I plan on making my own scrapbook of all the years missed. She also included a letter of various milestones and interest he had throughout his childhood. He and I are going to meet for the first time at the end of this month. I am excited to continue to form a relationship with him.

Thank you for your help. I don't know how you did it, but I don't really care! Please continue to help others, and hopefully they will have as happy an ending as I have.

MSN/NY

Dear Friends at Kinsolving, Eight years ago, you found my maternal birth family. As of now, we are closer than ever. I had four sisters and a brother (half siblings with me). One sister died two years ago. We just got back from Las Vegas where they threw me a 60th birthday party. A neighbor of mine who used to work for the FBI and is now an investigator here in Arizona (I moved from New Jersey over two years ago), recently located a death certificate for my father. He died in 2001 in Florida. He was able to locate two half brothers. One is in Florida the other in Georgia. Coincidentally, my brother from Florida was in Las Vegas the same time I was. We had a reunion there and it was wonderful. I have given your name to several people, some of whom have successfully used your services. Yesterday, I gave your name to a another adoptee who should be contacting you. Best wishes and thank you again for all you did.

JR/NY

Greetings, Chris and Kinsolving Staff!

I have some exciting news to share with you and your faithful readers. To digress a moment, for those not familiar with my story, it was in Sept 2003 that in three days time you located the information on my biological mother and members of the clan. It took your encouragement and instruction to help me make that phone call. I spoke to L for not more than 15 minutes and in that time I learned very little except that she made it clear she wanted no further contact saying she was "an old lady now and happy with her life the way it is". I waited for five months before I tried to reach her sisters. The first letter went with no reply . Three months later I wrote again and this time I got the mother of all nastygrams from Aunt C on behalf of the others saying not to contact them again. I was crushed as I had made it clear I didn't want to disturb their lives but merely wished for medical information.

I belong to a genealogy website and with the information Chris provided, I was able to begin to do some searching on my own. It has been really time consuming but it has been lots of fun. In addition I belong to an adoption forum and one day someone asked a question about St Anthony's Home for Infants located in Kansas City, MO. Having just been there I posted what information I discovered. Because of that post, I made another friend, B, and as it turns out we were in the orphanage at the same time. I am just about a month older than she..so she has coined the term " Crib Sisters"...Over the past year, we compared our reunion stories, the highs and lows of them. Then one day when I had been visiting the genealogy website, I keyed in my biological grandmother's name and what came up was nothing short of stunning! Her name appeared in an obit. From that I learned the name of two of my cousins and where they live. It was not easy getting a locate on them as their numbers are not listed. Now to make a long story shorter, I told this to a friend. As it turns out my friends daughter is engaged to a fellow who is in the same field as one of my cousins husband. Could this be a match I wondered? Even more interesting,my friends daughter's hubby worked only 20 miles from where my cousin's husband worked. The plan was that my friends future son in law was just to get a phone number for me so I could think more about this move before making the call. But as luck, and I do mean luck, would have it, G got so nervous he spilled the beans....all of them.....Well R didn't know anything about any cousin who had been relinquished and he called his wife, MA who didn't know anything either! After my friend spoke to both of them and sort of put down the ground work for me, I got this amazing call from my friend saying MA wants me to call!

I did...and I was just as nervous as I was when I called my birthmom. Chris, you would have been proud of me though..I worked up a similar script to the one that you taught me and it was perfect. MA and I talked for about 2 hours that first time...Amazing! She confided it was spooky listening to my voice as I sound just like my aunts (wouldn't you know it..the one who sent the nastygram). MA shared quite a lot of information on the first call. It seems my bmom was estranged from her family and MA didn't know much about her or her family other than she married a man who had been divorced. The family life of my bmom and her sisters was not especially good...our grandmother was a sweet lady but our grandfather was, shall we say, harsh. Three of the sisters married abusive men. The family is not close and it is sad. I have learned there are lots of secrets in that family too, secrets MA and I don't have figured out yet.

There is an interesting twist to the story too. As it turns out, MA and her sister are both adoptees! This is why MA was so open to talking with me. And in the months that have followed, we have talked on the phone and email several times a week. I sent her pictures and she tells me I am a carbon copy of one of the cousins....you guessed it....Nasty's daughter! Yet there is strong likeness to the other aunts and cousins too. And I now have pictures of the Aunties, the cousins, and yes, my mother too. I have her

eyes and her smile and the cleft in the chin she has. I have a picture of her in her Army Nurse Corps uniform and one in a regular nurse uniform...perhaps her graduation picture. She has a gentle face to match the gentle lady like voice I heard on the phone that Sept afternoon.

Chris told me when I got the door slammed in my face that maybe it would open in the future. She was right. My mother's door has not reopened but a new door did. Just because a door looks closed does not mean it is locked! Chris said not to give up and I am glad I didn't. I still harbor hopes of hearing from my mother again and learning who my father is, what he did in the Army Air Force, and maybe what became of him.

I am sending this sequel because, while most of the letters in the newsletter are joyful, there are some that are not and mine was one such story. At the same time, it cannot be stressed enough that all is not lost, there is room for hope that one will find a new path to take in the search. I have found a cousin who is the most delightful person I could find. We are more like sisters than cousins even though we are not biologically related! It is amazing how MA's life and mine parallel as well. For us it is like looking in a mirror. We have not met in person, face to face, yet but we will. She lives in KS and I in CA. We both had loving adoptive parents and they are gone now. But we have found each other and take tremendous joy in that.

Chris, I would be more than pleased to be a reference for your wonderful service. I have sent some people your way in 2003 and 2004 and will gladly answer questions for anyone considering using your service. If it weren't for you and your work, many of us would never find the answers or the peace we seek. You are tops!

Best Wishes to you and your wonderful staff as you bring joy and hope to many many more adoptees and birthparents,

MO/CA



I just want you to know that my reunion has been wonderful and I will continue to recommend you to everyone. I am glad my friend decided to use you, too. We both use the same adoption chat room (where I am a room moderator). Thank you again...

KR/NY

Hi Chris,

Wow, what a (almost) couple of months it's been! I can never thank you enough for bringing my birthmom and me back together. She is just an amazing woman. My friend and I went to meet her the last weekend in July and stayed at her place the Saturday night. It was just an incredible time. Any doubt that you had found the right woman vanished as we stood on her deck, each of us staring into her OWN eyes lol! We can pass for sisters. What an experience, to finally find the people who look like you!

We have shared and talked about our lives at great length, and she is very honest and forthcoming. I have seen and heard enough to know (not just from her, but from other sources), that her rape was very real, and very violent. And that I am the product of that rape. The reason she couldn't have more children is that her internal injuries were so severe that she had to have a hysterectomy shortly after I was born. I was considered a "miracle child" that she could even carry me to term at all and give birth to me. Her rapist was not anyone she knew, he was thought to be there from out of state working on the highway that was being built at that time (his truck had a Michigan tag). He was never caught (at least in that instance, my feeling is that someone who would do something like that, it probably wasn't the first time and probably not the last). A good deal of my non-ID was pure fiction (I'm sure you've NEVER heard of such a thing lol!)

She works full time as a private duty nurse and as a caterer. (I told her I think that cooking gene skipped a generation lol!) She said there are quite a few people with her name in that neck of the woods, which could account for the birthdate confusion (hers IS ___ always has been and that's the only one she's every used, makes no bones about her age or about the fact that her husband is 10 years younger). Also, he is her second husband, husband apparently got a huge settlement for an industrial accident several years ago (which he is pretty much drinking away, his health is not good and he's in trouble for several DWI infractions.) She won't kick him to the curb despite repeated urgings from people who love her (myself included!) She's got all her ducks in a row, the house and everything else is in her name and she works very hard. I think she just feels sorry for him, even though we've all told her it's NOT her problem that he's hell-bent on drinking himself to death.

She was crazy in love with P and they adopted a girl together. She is a total sweetie-pie, whose biological sister just found HER a few months before we got together. Their breakup and divorce was his idea, she had some serious issues with men, which is understandable, given the history. They are still friends since they have her and two grandchildren together. Her current husband was sober when they married, and

apparently a different person (him I HAVE met, and I can believe it!) until he started drinking again.

My birthmom came down here in August for my family reunion, and we had a BALL! We dressed alike (yes, I have a mischievous streak!), and made our entrance. Most of them could figure it out, and of course they all had to come up and ASK about "that woman I'm with" lol! We had SO much fun! THEY had never seen anybody that looked like ME, either! It was so great for her and my mom to meet, I loved it. They hugged and made nice and got along great together. We all had a wonderful time.

Next week I'm having a minor day procedure on my lumbar spine, then after that on the weekend, we're going BACK to the mountains for a fall festival at her brothes church. He and some of the others have asked for me especially and I am very excited about meeting my 8(count 'em, EIGHT) aunts and uncles (and all still living)! I met the oldest sister, when we were there before, I look like HER too lol. My birthmom and I had a great time swapping pictures, and I gave her three of my baby teeth and a lock of hair from my first haircut. Yes, she cried :)). It was ok, though, I did too. She has a cousin that could pass for my twin!

Chris, I can never thank you enough for what you've done for us. My story does have a happy ending, and I know a lot of them DON'T. But when I finally got her on the phone, I did EXACTLY what you said, and it was PERFECT. We talked for 20 minutes that first night, and for TWO HOURS the next day lol! My mom gets tickled watching us, we do things like put our arms out on the table, side by side, just to see how much they look alike, right down to shape, skin tone, and those blasted FRECKLES lol!

We talk several times a week and wish we could spend more time together, but we are both so grateful to have found while we're both still alive. We both have a peace and a joy in our lives that nothing else could have given us, except for our reunion.

Thank you again so very much, Chris, for putting this within my reach, and for the gift of my history. I have never felt as whole and complete as I now do.
((((((((((((((((((Chris)))))))))))))) big hugs to you...

Much love and success to you,

KG/NC

Dear Chris;

I hope this note finds you well. As I shared with you previously I did call my daughter, on June 28th and have received a call, e-mail, and note from her. Her birthday is Aug so I will send her a card with a letter in it. I am just amazed that she is not curious or interested to obtain her ancestry/birth history.

I feel very sad and hurt.

I know that you have located many people over the years but I just wanted to keep you up on what (and what has not) transpired.

Sincerely
LC/PA

Chris

Thank you for all of your hard work. What a great feeling it is to know who my mother was and that I have 5! siblings. That is almost mind-boggling to me after my life as an "only child". I joked to my husband that I married him for his family (2 brothers & 1 sister), and now I can really one-up him! Too bad I was too late by just weeks to know my mother, but from the obituary, I see that she was surrounded by a huge loving family, so I'm happy about that.

How about an item for the "It's a Small World" file? My birthmother's sister lives in C, just 2 miles from where I used to live!!! I checked out her address on MapQuest and found out that it was on the west side of M Airport, and I lived 2 miles east of M all my life until 1976!

I'm making a family tree in my mind, and I can't believe that I can trace ME back to my grandparents. I will do some more research on the name, and see what I might come up with even farther back.

Thank you so much. I would appreciate any advice you could give me about the etiquette of contacting the family without freaking them out.

Happy New Year!!!

KB/IL

Dear Kinsolving, just wanted to update you all on the great work you did for us. Several months ago we hired you all to do a search for us for my husband's birthmother. Within 24 hours we had the information we needed. He was a little shy to make contact at first. He attempted twice with little success of his birth mom being home. He gave up for awhile and just this past Tuesday he attempted to again contact his birthmom. What a day that was in our house. His birthmom was home and answered. He was choked up by the conversation and just told his birthmom "I am your Birthson". She was absolutely thrilled to hear from him and said she thought she would never hear from him. She was thrilled to hear she had 5 more grandbabies. This was especially sweet as we just gave birth to baby number 5. We just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you at Kinsolving for helping make this possible for my husband and his birth family. He spoke with his birthmom again lastnight with the idea of a reunion in the near future if all works out well. She told him the name of his birth father so he now has that piece of the puzzle to put together but Thanks seems like such a thin thing with what he has gained and will gain by being reunited with his 4 birth siblings and his birthmom.

Thanks and many mountains of appreciation to you all

BD/PA

Hey Chris,

Thank you for responding so quickly. I would like for you to go ahead with the search. Please send me the contract. I never got a chance to send you guys my reunion story, but everything went well. I found my biological brother 1 1/2 years ago and we are really close. Finding my dad will be good for me and my brother because we were told we have the same father. My birthmother suffered a brain aneurism, so her memory is really bad. I don't have my dads date of birth and I am not sure how much older or younger he is to my mom. One more thing, ARA is a catering company that was located in C. I don't remember if I state that in my previous email. Everything is finally pulling together. I have three girls 2,4, and 6 and they have a lot of questions and so do I. If you have any other questions I will be happy to assist. Take care. Talk with ya soon.

ME/OH