

THIS WAS SUBMITTED BY AN ADOPTEE WHO SEARCHED AND FOUND HER BIRTHMOTHER HAD BEEN DECEASED FOR ONE WEEK AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR SEARCH. THE AUTHOR IS UNKNOWN.

"GOD PROMISES NONE OF US TOMORROW"v

Imagine. . .

There is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out ALL OF IT, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH,
ask a mother who gave birth to a premature
baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK,
ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR,
ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE,
ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE-SECOND,
ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND,
ask the person who won a silver medal in the
Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And
treasure it more because you shared it with
someone special, special enough to spend your
time.

And remember that time waits for no one.
Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift. That's why it's called the
present!!!

chris- I got your note about the Vanguard and sending in a reunion story. since I had
such a positive experience- I would be happy to share it.-R

I have known since I was 4 or 5 that I was adopted and always wanted to know where I
came from. It was difficult to obtain useful information from the adoption agency, though I
kept trying through the years; first by visiting and then through letters. But, I never could
totally trust what they told me since basic things like peoples ages would change from
letter to letter. Unfortunately, the state I was adopted from has very strict laws and its

almost impossible to extract information. Nevertheless, over 15 years, I did manage to find out two things. My birth name and the hospital I was born in. On my adoptive birth certificate, there is a number. I went to the New York public library and took out the genealogy books for the year that I was born and went through each page until I matched my number. Next to it, was my birth name. That was a VERY exciting moment for me. It was a piece of who I was during the first 16 months. Since I had never had a middle name, I took my birth name as my middle name.

I continued to search down many roads but all were dead ends. I would go through periods of time when I was very fired up about finding my roots and then would get very discouraged and not do much for a while.

Finally, through a friend's advice and encouragement, I decided to contact a search agency and see if they would have any more luck. I got in touch with Kinsolving in August of 2001. I gave them all the info I had collected over the years and waited. Part of me was initially eager and anxious and hoped that it would all be solved very quickly. I also worried that by now it was maybe too late and that the person I was looking for may not even be alive..

Months went by and I began to think about it less and less. I had put it on the back burner and went on with life. Then last June, I suddenly got a call out of the blue from Kinsolving. They had found my mom! Not only was she alive but she didn't even live that far from me! Within a week from their call, I had all the info and had to think very carefully about what to do next. My instinct was to write her a letter but after a long conversation with Kinsolving, I realized that to do that might put me right back to square one. What if she didn't answer the letter? as hard as it seemed, I only had one option which was to call her and be direct. The agency was very helpful in guiding me about what to say and how NOT to blow this opportunity. After all- I had been waiting for this moment for my whole life and wanted this to work SO badly. There were so many questions.... There could be any number of ways that she would respond and I had to be prepared for them. What if she hung up the phone- or said that " yes" she was the person but didn't want to have any contact with me. or maybe she would deny the whole thing. I wrote down a list of all the many things I wanted to say and had different columns. If when I asked her this question and she said that, then go to column B. that sort of thing. I decided that I should not call her on the weekend, since there may be other people in the house that didn't know about me and that could cause problems. so I waited until Monday morning and called her at work. .It has to have been THE HARDEST PHONE CALL I HAVE EVER MADE.

I was very nervous and just hoped that she would be willing to listen to me for even a few minutes. The agency had also coached me on how to approach the call and how to introduce myself. I said hello and gave my adoptive name and explained that this was a personal call and hoped it was ok to talk now. and then I told her my birth name and where I was born. As soon as I finished that sentence, her response was " oh, I've been waiting for this call" and I could tell from the tone in her voice, that all would be ok. I could ignore most of the lists I had made and just talk. and we did- we talked for almost an hour until we both had to be at work. we made plans to get together and met each other for the first time two weeks later. In that call I was able to tell her how grateful I am to be here and to thank her. I had been wanting to say that my whole life to this person. At the end of the call ,her last words to me ,were" welcome home".

Our first meeting was a wonderful whirlwind of a day. I met not only my mom but also her husband and one of my three half siblings!. Since that first meeting, we have seen each other three other times and I have now met all three siblings. Everyone had been so welcoming and accepting. I don't know what the eventual relationships will be like and over time, we will see. In a way, we are all strangers and it takes time for any relationship to grow and evolve. I think that it helps that we are all adults and all have full lives. I'm not really looking for someone to be MY MOM. I want to get to know her as another adult and to be a friend. For her, its a bit different, since she has a memory and history with me. I wasn't surrendered till after a year old and she was able to bring me things like all my baby pictures. I wish I had some memory of her, but I don't. I think it's quite wonderful to have this opportunity to establish a new connection with this other adult who in fact is closer to me (biologically) than anyone else(other than my son).so-thats the story- and it's on going and it makes me very happy to have found this puzzle piece thats been missing for so many years.

RNT

New York State

Chris:

Just to let you know that the first communication with b.mom went well. (It was the hardest call I've ever made.) We talked for an hour like old friends. And you were right - it is just the beginning. Thanks for the script - it was more than necessary. You're doing a wonderful service! Thanks again.

SP/NYS

Thanks. We went down this weekend and had a marvelous reunion. Last Thurs. my wife got on AOLwhite pages and found R(you're right ,once my new sister told us the right spelling), but it showed he was still alive and 87. After meeting MOM and my brothers and sisters on Fri we went to Monroe on Sat and met his youngest son who is living in R's old house. This was the first time he heard of me but after a little warming up he treated us very nice by sharing pictures of our father and quite a bit of history. Seems you were right--- I do have some bib overhauls in my history but their from the H side of the crazy family tree more so than the other side.

The reunion or union? was great and both Mom and I are still stunned - especially now that I instantly have 4new brothers and 4 new sisters and goodness only knows how many nieces, nephews ,etc.?

Thanks for all you've done,

DM/IL

Hi, I just wanted to give you a follow up on my already many conversations with not only my bmom but also my sister. My bmom was thrilled to hear from me but extremely shocked because she was told that I died after I was born. But I did not have to worry about getting to my outlined questions because she just started talking about everything under the sun. She went over and got my sister to talk to me on the phone and set up her computer so we could email pictures. My bmom wants to set up a family reunion so I could be introduced with everyone...So I guess it was one of those cases that goes very well.

Again, thank you so much for your timeliness and diligence in locating everyone for me.

Sincerely,

MV/TX



Hi, Chris!

I haven't had any contact with D, yet. I'll keep trying. This pictures of her and P are very interesting. P looks like he spent to many birthdays (St. Patrick's Day) and other days in a bar.....and he was only about 59 or 60 in the picture I got but who knows. Anyway,I look more like D and my oldest son looks even more like her....I think.

A friend is looking for a birth mother who she did live with for 3 years.I e-mailed her all the numbers, web-site and e-mail information for you today. I couldn't say enough great things about you all! I hope she uses you and all your experience. C is talking like she is getting on a plane as soon as she gets a current address...whoa! To each his or her own. It just sounded like a story that could use your great insight into the reunion issues.

Talk to you soon! Especially, if I not getting anyone to pick up the phone.

Take Care,

KH/CA



Chris,

I just received my non-identifying info. from NY state. Of Course you were right on the money:) They did state that I have a sister one year older than me, but that she IS NOT registered.

I spoke w/ my b-dad yesterday. He never knew about me until sat. He was incredible about the whole thing and more understanding than I ever thought he would be. My mom contacted him and told him then he called me.

Things are going great. My mom will be here in less than 2 weeks. Kind of feeling like holding your breath, but in a really good way.

Thanks again,
SA/NYS



Hi Chris,

This is HL, sorry I've been w/o e-mail for a while. I cannot even begin to tell you how great our reunion has been. My mom & I spent my birthday together & its like we've never been apart. I'd be happy to share our story for the newsletter. In fact it would be good practice, since I've decided to write a book about it. I would love to mention your help in this process. Let me know.

Thanks again,
HL
NC



<< Hi Chris,

Its me JS,I was just wanting to send you my new email address in case you want or anyone wants to contact me.My daughter is coming down tomorrow and later on this month she is moving down here to stay with me.Thank you so much,I could never in my life forget what you have done for me.You have made You have made my life whole again.

Thanks JS,NC

<< Can anyone refer someone who specializes in adoption investigations? We have a client who is searching for his biological parents >>

Members,

I can personally highly recommend an investigation company called KINSOLVING INVESTIGATIONS out of North Carolina. Just last month, within one week of receiving my contract, they were able to locate my personal original birth certificate in Washington DC and within another week they were able to tell me about 3 generations of my family, and all the information I needed to contact my birth mother. In addition to that, Chris Lee even counseled me on how to make that contact call to my birth mother which was based on 20 years of experience in the field of adoption searches. Everything she advised worked well for me. I have since been able to confirm all of the information KINSOLVING gave me via my birth mother. Very impressive indeed. I was astonished at their speed and accuracy.

<< Chris,

It is fine! I spoke with her last night. It went wonderful. We talked as if we knew each other all our lives. We spoke for 2 1/2 hours. She is a wonderful person and had a wonderful childhood. I believe that we will be having a relationship. I am so very excited and pleased. I pray very hard about this. Well, even you know how many times I got ready to proceed with the search. The timing I believe just wasn't right. It felt right from the moment I faxed you the contract. She will be home coming home soon and I know we will meet. I was a bit concerned that since she lived so far away, it might would be a while before we had a chance to meet. Fortunately, it will be soon, if everything goes well as we get to know each other over the phone and emailing. It sounds like she took more after "our" father and I look more like my Mom. She is going to send me some pictures. I emailed her some last night. She started crying the minute I told her who I was, then I cried. We laughed and she loved finding out what time she was born and how much she weighed. So, it will be this afternoon before I can be reached or try me on my cell in between those appointments. (both last an hour) school. That you from the bottom of my heart. I hope to talk with you soon.

LK/NC

Hi Chris,

Just wanted to drop you a line to tell you that I REALLY appreciate your work. I am still in contact with my birth family and things are going well. Just wanted to give you a heads up...I received an email from a prospective client of yours requesting information on how effective your service is etc, etc, etc. Before I give any information, I just wanted to check to see if it was ok that I do so.

-MS NYS



<< Hi Chris,

I wanted to let you know that I finally got to meet my mother a couple of weeks ago! She also has a daughter & two sons by her marriage - who I also was privileged to meet!

I have attached a picture of me (on the right holding the dog) - with my mother & sister.

It was a wonderful reunion - they all accepted me into their lives without question. I am very fortunate.

I got your email re: the reunion stories on vanguard and I am writing something up to send in. I will send it to you once it is complete.

Thank you so much again - my life has been changed in a way that I really never thought would be possible.

Warm Regards,

RC, CA

just some musings that you may understand...

Dear Chris,

As usual, in your succinct way, you have made things clear. It does not make me happy to know others feel this way, but vindicated.

The awareness of the effects on the natural/birth mother is in its infancy, and will, in all likelihood be buried for years to come. I have accessed many website, researching, in an effort to find some organization (no chat rooms, please!) whose purpose/goal is to free us from the bondage so often associated with the stigma attached to relinquishment. Perhaps a lofty goal on my part, since all reunions or hope of same are different.

Thank you again for your astute observations and your advice. It is always warmly welcomed and appreciated.

FR/PA



ms.chris..... well i contacted - i guess it has been three weeks now... we both stumbled all over ourselves... and it was all i could do not to cry.... but she said i was the result of a bad experience and that she had hope i had or would never find her. That she had her own life now and had not told her current family about me. only her parents knew. But i did learn she teaches, just like me, she had bleach blond hair growing up , just like me. Her daughters name is the same one i would have used if i had had a girl. Her husband is an engineer, just like my exhusband... and so on. I know where she attended high school and have someone trying to get me year book pictures. And even though she did not say i could not call back I am real hesitant to, but i did write her a letter and sent her some pictures of me and my children her grand children. And I plan to send her a mothers day card and a birth day card too. So we will just have to see what happens next. Thanks for getting me the info , even if it did not work out the way i wanted and had hoped for for all my life....

JC/NC

Hello Chris,

Well, thank you for helping me close a chapter in my life. I received the information about my birth mother on March 5th of 2003. I called her on that Thursday. I had been calling her every 30 min since I received the information but was unable to get up with her. So I finally decided that I needed to quit driving myself crazy and leave her a message on her answering machine.

The answering machine was really strange, because her message sounded just like ME. It was my voice on the other end. I had written out a script to use. I followed my script to the letter. My voice was very shaky. I then went to work.

Later that day, I came out of a meeting and went to check my voice mail. There she was. She said she had gotten my message and would be home the remainder of the day. She said for me to call her back. I was so nervous I left work and went home to make the biggest phone call of my life.

I called her. She never asked me to prove anything. She never denied anything. She just started talking about why she had not tried to contact me. She was very afraid that I would hate her. She said she would rather live not knowing anything than to have to go through the rest of her life knowing that I hated her or blamed her for anything that I might have gone through over the years. We really didn't talk long. We did make plans to visit the very next day.

It helped that she only lived 1 1/2 hours away. When I got to her house the next morning, I was not nervous at all. I walked to the door and met my "mother". There were no huge fireworks or extreme emotions. I think now that she had time to think about it and talk with her family, she needed the proof. Especially since we look nothing alike. She is a blonde, I am a brunette. Our facial features are very different too. She said that she didn't look anything like her mother either. She looks like her aunt and I look like her mother. When I told her I knew my birth name, she started to warm up. I had never been a secret to her ex-husband or her children. I was very grateful for that. She had no problems talking about my birth father(but she didn't know much). She did say that I had his eyes, and that is what had first attracted her to him over 33 years ago. As we talked it became so clear that we are truly related. We might not look alike, but we act identical. Everything I do almost mirrors her life. Our personalities, our likes and dislikes, our beliefs and values. It was the best feeling in the world to not be so alone. It is a feeling that I can not put into words.

I made plans to visit again on Sunday. This time I brought my husband and two children to meet my "sister". T had already had plans to drive in from Texas to visit her mom anyway. Things have a way of working out. She is identical to my daughter. They both

have long blonde hair and blue eyes. They have the same body shape and facial features. It was a good and emotional day. T too, is a lot like us in personality. All three of us (mom and sisters) are very independent, very head strong, very opinionated, very determined, etc.. For the first time in my life, I could sit in a room with other people and not stand out because of my differences. For the first time in my life, I was not criticized for being me. Again, there are no words to describe the feelings.

I have not met my birth father. We really do not know who or where he is. I do want to meet him, but my true desire has been met. Even though I do not look like my mother, and would like to see if I look like my birth father, I am just happy to belong for once in my life. We do not talk as much as I would like, but I am trying to be understanding that these people had a life before I came into it. I would love to be one big happy family but I really did already have that before the search.

I do want to say that this meeting has made me truly appreciate the family I grew up with. I did have a mom and dad my whole life. They gave me a very secure home and a secure life. I was never hurt as a child or ever felt afraid. They also raised me to put God first in my life. I am very thankful for that. I have prayed for this meeting, for years. I truly believe God had a hand in this and waited until I was strong enough to accept it and appreciate it.

Thank you again for all that you did. You can not put a price on knowledge and peace of mind. May God bless you and your work.

MS/NC

TAKE CARE by FWR

The angels came and spoke to me
In answer to my prayers.
I asked of them...what shall it be?
mine?...or is he theirs?

They asked of me...what shall it be?
The choice is yours to take.
A child to hold or give away...
It's yours the move to make

You need to choose, time's running short
There's people waiting there.
They want a child. It's yours to choose.
Take care...take care...take care

They've wanted and they've wanted
So long and hard they've tried
To be patient, and so willing
To have that child...inside

So take some time to make your choice
Take care...take care...take care
But know, throughout all of your thoughts
That we will be right there.

We'll watch you and we'll help you
To make the choice so right
We'll hold this child you love so dear
In God's Most Holy Light.

We want him to be happy
So the choice for you is clear
You need to send him far away
So he can be "their" dear.

So, the angels fled and I sat alone
With my worries and my fears.
I gave to them my only child
That I would birth in all my years.

I knew the day I left him
I had made a mistake
One not soon forgotten
One I could not forsake.

I searched for him to no avail
The records forever closed
"Oh he's quite happy, I'm sure," they'd say
I'd hang my head, go home...and pray.

For many years the sadness stayed

For many who knew not why
I'd sit and look out o'er the ocean
And for some reason...just cry.

I've waited and I've wanted
So long and hard I've tried.
To be patient and so willing
To have that child...inside

So, I took my time to make my choice
And it became so clear
That is was time...to make my choice
And time was growing near

I called around and made a choice
The waiting was unbearable.
The woman looked, and the woman found
And my son... was alive... and adorable.

I wanted him to be happy
And the choice I made was clear
He's wonderful, he gorgeous
And for that I call him "dear."

I saw him first in 32 years
I barely saw him through my tears.
He held me close and didn't let go
I looked at him and said, "I know."

We marveled at each other
My God! We look the same
Your smile, your face...it's quite amazing
And I even like your name!

He finally had to go.
I thought my heart would break.
But as he held me so....
Time was in our wake.

<< Hi! Many times I have thought of writing and telling you of all the unbelievable things that have taken place since we open our email last March. A lot of the stuff is so bizarre we have taken to writing some of it down. However, the bottom line to all of it is we have met the biological mother, half sister and half brother. It started with a 3.5 hour phone conversation between the bio mom and R. After a lot of discussion and opinion getting we decided it was best for R to make the call. The many things that took place following that call and the eventual meeting between the siblings is all good stuff. Following the meeting of the three kids, the bio mom found out and want to meet B immediately. She came to Chicago with the daughter. It was a strange but good meeting. Over the course of the summer we traveled to Iowa and they came here. The half sister and B are very chatty. The brother is more distant from both the sister and B by nature. We have been invited to his home in Texas and we plan to visit in March.

The bio mom has her ups and downs with all of it, from jealous of B and sister relationship to wanting to be "the mom." B's parents were told of the discovery in Sept. The first reaction was ok and since that time it has been more negative. We have no longer brought up the situation and do not discuss it with them. It has upset both his parents, especially his mother.

We did find out B's parents have a "letter of sorts" given them in 1949. They do not know where it is or if they even have it in the safety deposit box. We have not asked for it. On one of the visits with the sister and her husband we met in Omaha and went to the college world series. Knowing B's parents were in for the night we went out to dinner with the sister. Big mistake-B's parents decided not to stay in and went to the same restaurant. Their story is much more involved but the sister was extremely upset as were we but she felt very bad about his parents. We did not tell them who these people were and even after telling them in Sept. About the adoption search did not tell them about the couple they met in June.

Time is a magic thing and I think that eventually the bio mom will tell us who the father was. It took her 4 months to fess up that she did have an affair. The bio mom has said that someday she may tell Rita who the dad is. She has also said she has no idea whether he is living or dead. We also think he may not have known she became pregnant.

I hope you can read this and understand most of it. B is home recuperating from hip surgery. He plans on writing some of this down so that we have it in later years. Take care and thank you for all you did. Yes, I know it is a job and you get paid but the rewards are greater than the dollars.

R&BY/NE

CHRIS WORDS CAN NOT EXPLAIN HOW HAPPY I AM . THINGS ARE GOING WONDERFULLY. HE HAD GONE TO HIS MOM A WEEK BEFORE HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY AND HAD ALREADY BEEN DOWN AT SOCIAL SERVICES. I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO WRITE EXCEPT THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS THE JOY YOU HAVE BROUGHT IN MY LIFE. THE CIRCLE IS NOW COMPLETE.

KB/PA

BMOM (FOUND AT LAST 2003)

Chris,

What a day! After talking with you I discovered that my birthmother has lived within 5 miles of my childhood home! After receiving the info from you, I waited a few hours and felt compelled to make the call. Having the guidelines in front of me was truly the only way I felt comfortable and you were certainly right on target. The shock for her was tremendous and # whatever happened, dead silence. After assuring her that I was not trying to be intrusive, she began to really open up to me and was happy to answer my questions. Perhaps it was meant to be... she was at home alone when I called. Her husband of 40 some years and my half brother and sister know nothing of me so she gave me a more private number for future calls. You certainly must hear this constantly but I cannot tell you how appreciative I am for your guidance and your mission to reunite people. Life is short and I'm grateful to have found you when I did. The best to you both...

CG/NC

February 14, 2003

hi Chris- I'm back again- the whole connection with my birth mom and half sibs has been amazing- I have met everyone now 3 or 4 times and it couldn't be more welcoming and supportive- I feel very lucky. but I am also still curious about my dad. he would be 75 at this point- so I don't know if he's even alive. The last time R saw him was in the mid sixties in NY. His name is - I know he was born in Greenfield, MA and at some point his family lived in Springfield, MA. If you still have all my paperwork- then there is some info on him in one of the letters that I had gotten from Louise wise. R doesn't remember

many more details- she seems fine about my wanting to find him.its too bad that theres not more on his on my birth certificate or on any of the other official papers that R had saved.-

Chris,
K has made contact ..all is well. She has been on the phone constantly with her and other family members. K is so happy. Thank you for everything you did to make this reunion possible. They plan to meet next week face to face.

Thank you again.

KC/PA

Hi Chris.

Wow! So much has happened and changed for me over the past several months. You guys found my birth mother for me and now I've started my own business, oh and got remarried too. Since starting my own business my e-mail address has changed and have lost touch with you. Can't remember if I ever submitted any info about my reunion for your newsletter. Couldn't have asked for anything more wonderful. They are the most wonderful people and we get together quite often. Even talked with mom this morning and my little sister just an hour or so ago. We have and are continuing to build and grow the most awesome relationship.

Drop me a line and let me know if I ever sent you anything.

Thanks again for everything...
MT/NC

Dear Kinsolving:

My story is a bit amazing and I would like to share it with you & your potential clients...

You found my birthmother in late Aug of 2002. After 2 1/2 years of searching on my own, your staff found her (& tons of my b/family members) in only 5 DAYS!

On Aug. 29th, I received the info you sent me. I called her that evening but she was out of state for the weekend. I first spoke to her, 4 days later, on Sept 2nd. We met that SAME day, in the evening. It was wonderful. I look exactly like her. She's a sweetheart..we have an

awesome relationship (she calls me "baby girl" & I call her "mom") and I couldn't have asked for a better reunion, but there's more to the story....

The day that I met her, I asked her what my birthfathers' first name was, and she told me. A week later, I asked her what his last name was, and she told me. I began looking for him that evening, and 6 weeks

later, on Oct 20th, I found him. I met my birthfather (who knew all about me) on Oct 22nd. My birthfather was in the hospital when I met him...He had had a hernia operation & was still admitted in the hospital due to complications...My birthmother went to "secretly" visit him in the hospital...This is where it gets interesting...

When my birthparents saw each other again for the first time in over 30 years, they discovered that they had never stopped loving each other...and now, they are back together!!! My birthmother got married in 1974 (2 years after I was born) and my birthfather (divorced since the

1990's) has been living with a woman for the past 14 years. To make a long story short, my birthmom has filed for a divorce from her husband, my birthfather has left his girlfriend, and on March 5th, my birthparents moved into an apartment together.

It took awhile for all of this (birthparents getting back together) to sink in & for me to accept it, but I am dealing with it the best I can. I sometimes wonder "why"...I mean, I love my adoptive parents (they are both deceased now), but it's just confusing to know that my birthparents were SO much in love back in 1972 (when I was born), they broke up, she placed me for adoption, and now, 30 years later, upon my finding both of them, they are now back together. Some people would say 30 years were wasted, but I don't look at it that way.

I had a pretty good childhood growing up, & my 1/2 sister (birthmoms' other daughter, 3 years older than me) didn't, because the man my birthmom married in 1974 spent years mentally & physically abusing the both of them. I consider myself "lucky."

On top of all of this....I grew up as an "only child", but now, I have 11 siblings (3 brothers and 8 sisters, all have been found except for 2 of them (sisters), but I have a "lead", so it's only a matter of time).

I just thought I would share my extraordinary story with you. My birthmoms' family has 100% accepted me into their family. They treat me as if I have never been apart from them, and when I found them, everyone already knew about me. It was very nice to find that I wasn't "some big secret".

Thank you SO much for making my life complete.

Sincerely,

SJ/Bridgeport, OH

Reunited 9/2/02 w/ birthmom

Reunited 10/22/02 w/ birthdad



Chris -- As you requested, here is my reunion story, so far.

I was in my late thirties when I found out that I had been adopted as an infant. Both of my adoptive parents had died, so I never had the opportunity to ask them the many questions flooding my mind. Suddenly, it seemed that my history was gone and I was left with a lot of mystery and mixed emotions. On and off for several months, I searched on my own for the truth. I joined adoption registries, queried family members, even asked the court to open my records, a request that was denied. One registry and some volunteer "search angels" helped me obtain my non-identifying information from the state, but this information was rather limited.

In June 2002, I heard about an upcoming Oprah Winfrey show on adoption. At the oprah.com "message board" for this particular show, I heard about Kinsolving. At Kinsolving's website, the testimonials of folks who'd been reunited with their birthparents seemed way too good to be true. I'm a skeptical person, so I checked out their licensing and such. No problems. I asked some folks in the adoption community about Kinsolving and was cautioned simply that they were expensive.

In the meantime, I had become more and more driven to know the truth. I sent Kinsolving my information and asked for a quote. It wasn't cheap, but it certainly turned out to be worth it. From start to finish, Kinsolving's work on my case was completed in less than a week! At last, I knew my birth mother's name, address, phone number and some facts about her background. The investigator, Scott, reviewed the information with me, giving me tips on how to make initial contact, so as to improve the chances of a successful reunion. He also told me how I could obtain more information from public records, now that I had a name.

I took a few weeks to absorb everything. Just having the facts wasn't enough. I was surprised at how strongly I wanted to make contact, though I knew that I had to be prepared for rejection. Summoning up my courage, I finally telephoned my birth mother. I've never been so nervous making a telephone call. For the first time, I heard my mother's voice! Kinsolving's advice helped me explain who I was in as gentle a way as possible. She was skeptical for a while (who wouldn't be?) but we kept talking and she grew more comfortable. Since then, we've spoken by phone several times, exchanged photographs, and plan to meet soon. It's been amazing to discover how much we have in common.

--- CF, Florida



Chris,

I did exactly like you instructed, down to the last word!!! It took me 3 weeks to get the nerve to call, but when I did my part of it went smoothly. She was quick to identify herself and relatively quick to acknowledge that she was my mother. Followed by "No one knows about you !" She was very reluctant to answer questions at first, but later warmed up abit. She offered info abt. my father. He was in the Air Force and was also adopted. (what are the chances of that !)

It ended with her willing to think about talking again some time and asked for my phone #. So maybe there is some hope, but she definittely doesn't want her family to know about me. She directly or indirectly confirmed everything you had told me. She had 4 sons. Her mother lives with her sister.

Can you tell me if St. Ann's Maternity Home still exists. Maybe it's an adoption agency now. I'd like to know more about what it was like to live there during a pregnancy, which my mother did even though she already resided in DC.

I'm still feeling confused about it all and will allow a month for her to call me back before I decide what my next move will be. Maybe a letter, nothing too pushy.

DW
DC