

Thursday, March 11, 2010

In Times of Doubt

1 John 4:16 *And so we know and rely on love God has for us.*

In 2003 we miscarried our 1st child. God healed our hearts and blessed us with a son in 2004. After attending an Ithaca Pregnancy Center Banquet, we had adoption on both of our hearts. We decided to start the adoption process in the fall of 2005. Our hearts were called to China once we found out that 95 % of the orphans were girls. It has been almost four years since we started the process. And the wait has been difficult to bear at times. To be honest there have been times of doubt for both us. We found ourselves asking questions such as were we really called to adopt? Will we ever get our daughter?

In the summer of 2009, we were saddened by the news that our adoption agency closed their doors. And we learned that we were going to be re-assigned to a new adoption agency. We saw this to be a blessing and an open door at the time. During that time of doubt we were questioning ourselves. Should we continue with this adoption? After paying more adoption fees, we continued to go through God's open door. We found through the process that God has closed doors and faithfully opened doors for us. This leads us to believe that this is His will. For me, I have found most frustrating part of all of this is we have no control over any of it. It is all in God's timing, not ours. We will continue to pray and ask God to bring our daughter home. There isn't a day that goes by that Zachary doesn't pray or talk about his baby sister.

Zachary even has doubts. One day I was disciplining him by sending him to his room. After awhile I went in to talk to him, and I noticed he had been crying. I said to him, "Why are you crying?" He said that he was the reason why his baby sister wasn't here. I said, "No, why would you say that?" He said, "Because God isn't happy with me when I do bad things, like talking back." My heart ached for this child. What children think and feel is interesting, and I can honestly connect with what Zachary said. I find myself asking God, "Why does this wait have to be so long, and is it something we are doing wrong?"

It is important to face your doubts now and then. Ultimately, remember that God will deliver us in His time, so that He will be glorified---a good reason to be thankful and all the more reason to believe. When it's time, we will be blessed with a daughter, Zachary will be an awesome big brother, and she will have a place to call home. She will no longer be an orphan. She will be adopted into God's family all for His glory. There is a verse that says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deut 6:5) We pray that God will give us the strength to move ahead without doubt. Somewhere God is preparing the way for our daughter to come home all in His time.

Prayer: Father, guide us every step of the way so that we can glorify You in all we do. We pray for the many orphans around the world. Thank You for adopting us into Your family. Help us to stay faithful and to not have doubts. You are in control, You are sovereign, and Your mercy endures forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

– Stacey Christodoulou