

.....From Start to Finish.....



Feb 2005 – Secretly sent off for an application from Great Wall China Adoption



Mar 14, 2005 - Sent application to GWCA



Mar 21, 2005 - We've been accepted!



Mar 2005 - Wait time from registration in China to referral is 6-8 months



Apr-May 2005 - Assembling dossier...for our "Little China"



Jun-Jul 2005 - Hold off on Home Study while we move from Eagan, MN to Hilton Head Island, SC!



Jul 4, 2005 - Al transfers to Charlotte, NC



Jul 20-24, 2005 - Drive 1,500 miles from MN to SC with my dad



Aug 2005 - Moved in to Tricia's new house with them while our new house is being built



Sep 2005 - Get back to dossier...select Adoption Advocacy as our Home Study agency



Sep 30, 2005 - First meeting with June, our social worker



Oct 1, 2005 - Second meeting with our SW. Adoption seminar in Greenville, SC hosted by June



Oct 16, 2005 - Third home study visit...at Tricia's house!



Oct 17, 2005 - Another home study visit. Julee meets June.



Oct 21, 2005 - Sent initial I-600A to Charleston for US approval



Oct 28, 2005 - Al meets June in Gaffney, SC



Nov 18, 2005 - Wait extends to 10-12 months.



Nov 28, 2005 - Tricia, Ken, Al and I drive to Charleston to be fingerprinted



Dec 30, 2005 - Sold our house in MN



Jan 14, 2006 - I-171H arrives! First approval!!!!



Jan 16, 2006 - Final papers FedEx'd to GWCA for certification and authentication



Feb 3, 2006 - DTC!! Our Dossier is sent To China!!! Shweew!



Feb 3, 2006 - Met our local Families with Children from China (FCC) group



Mar 22, 2006 - Julee comes up with the perfect name: Chelsea



Mar 28, 2006 - LID!! We received notice that we were Logged In on February 28, 2006 in China!



Mar 30, 2006 - Wait increases to 12 months



Apr 22, 2006 - East Meets West conference in Atlanta, GA with Julee



May 6, 2006 - Brown Envelope arrives from US Embassy in China



May 22, 2006 - First set of shots for Tricia, Garrett, Julee and me (Hep A)



May 31, 2006 - More shots for Tricia and me (First Hep B)



June 2, 2006 - Julee's 5th grade class collected \$115 for our adoption. They named the project "Change for China"



Jun 28, 2006 - Second Hep B shots for Tricia and me



Aug 30, 2006 - Sent passport renewal applications for Julee and me



Sep 1, 2006 - Julee's 11th birthday party guests donated to "Change for China" instead of presents!! **\$298.50!!**



Oct 22, 2006 - Dossier moves from Translation Room to Review Room



Dec 2006 - Northwest closes the Charlotte station! Al is "forced" to retire!



Jan 2007 - Al moves to Hilton Head!! And wait increases to 14 months :(



Feb 2007 - Dossier moved from Review Room to Matching Room



Feb 23, 2007 - Changed request to 1-4 years based on my age, not Al's!



Feb 25, 2007 - Fingerprints #1 expire



Feb 28, 2007 - First LID anniversary spent mailing new I-600A with updated Home Study, medical clearances, new background checks, etc.



Mar 20, 2007 - More shots. Julee and Garrett got last Hep A while Tricia and I received the last of our Hep A and B shots.



Mar 21, 2007 - *The day my dad met you*



Mar 25, 2007 - Tastefully Simple fundraiser hosted by my sister raised almost **\$600** for "Change for China"



April 12, 2007 - Second fingerprint appointment - the one where they wouldn't fingerprint me under my legal name!



April-May, 2007 - Drag myself through the unbelievable task of having my name legally changed to what it already is!! Paperwork is an understatement!



May 23, 2007 - Sent legal name change document to Charleston CIS to accompany our awaiting I-600A application #2.



May 30, 2007 - Second I-171H arrives



Sep 2007 - Wait increases to 18 months



Feb 28, 2008 - Two year LID anniversary and the wait is now 2 years!



May 2008 - Wait increases to 28 months



Jun 19, 2008 - Completed our 10 hours of Hague Convention training



Jul 11, 2008 - Fingerprints #2 expire



Aug 8-24, 2008 - Summer Olympics in Beijing



Aug 10, 2008 - Quick visit to GWCA while in Austin, TX



Aug 28, 2008 - Sent third I-600A application to Charleston CIS with newly updated documents asking for the one free extension of our I-171H (US approval) and a new fingerprint appointment.



Sep 2, 2008 - Wait increases to 31 months



Sep 11, 2008 - June, our case worker, came to visit so she can update our Home Study to accompany our I-171H renewal request.

-  **Sep 22, 2008 - Al and I take our third trip to Charleston CIS office for fingerprinting**
-  **Oct 2, 2008 - Third I-171H arrives!!!**
-  **Nov 5, 2008 – Applied to God’s Grace Adoption Ministry for adoption grant**
-  **Dec 29, 2008 – Finally!!! We have been matched with Lu Fu Mei from Lu’An CWI in Anhui province. COMPLETE JOY!**
-  **Dec 31, 2008 – Received original referral package from China.**
-  **Jan 2-8, 2009 - Assembled and sent care package for Lu Fu Mei.**
-  **Jan 5, 2009 – Signed Letter of Acceptance (LOA) sent back to GWCA**
-  **Jan 9, 2009 – LOA sent to CCAA**
-  **Jan 14, 2009 – Filled out 4 Visa applications and sent to GWCA for further processing**
-  **Jan 15-31, 2009 – Notarizing, certifying and authenticating the Power of Attorney (POA) document**
-  **Jan 30, 2009 – 4 passports with China visas received from Houston, TX via GWCA**
-  **Feb 3, 2009 – POA document received authenticated from China Embassy in Washington, DC**
-  **Feb 6, 2009 – Travel Approval (TA) arrived!!! We are cleared to travel to China! Agency requests Consulate Appointment (CA)**
-  **Feb 8, 2009 – A beautiful shower for Chelsea. Thanks is not enough ☺**
-  **Feb 10, 2009 – We have travel dates: 2/26/09 – 3/12/ 09. CA is confirmed for 3/10/09!**
-  **Feb 20, 2009 – Almost ready to pack, almost finished with paperwork, almost about to pass out!**
-  **Feb 25, 2009 – Stay overnight in Savannah before 6a flight to Chicago**
-  **Feb 26, 2009 – Take off!!!!!!!!!! SAV – ORD – PEK**



Feb 27, 2009 – Arrive in Beijing, China! OMG!



Feb 28, 2009 – Tour Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City and The Great Wall



Mar 1, 2009 – Fly to Hefei, Anhui province and check in to the Holiday Inn Downtown Hefei



Mar 2, 2009 – the day we have been waiting for....Gotcha Day! We meet our Lu Fu Mei!



Mar 3, 2009 – Adoption day – she is ours forever!



Mar 4-7, 2009 – Living in Hefei and loving Fu Mei



Mar 7, 2009 – Leave Hefei and fly to Guangzhou. Bittersweet!



Mar 8, 2009 – Tour Guangzhou



Mar 9, 2009 – Medical exam and visa pictures



Mar 10, 2009 – Our paperwork's appointment at the US Consulate



Mar 11, 2009 – Oath at the US Consulate, receive Fu Mei's visa



Mar 12, 2009 – Begin the 30 hour trip home....at last! Sad to leave, tho!



Mar 13, 2009 – Breathe again!