

AHH Special Needs Program

Matt and Tami Ogren have adopted two children from China. In December of 2005, the Ogrens adopted Téo, a little boy living in an orphanage in Qian Dong Nan Zhou, Guizhou, China. The Ogrens adopted Téo when he was 2 years old. Téo's special need is missing digits. Here is their story.

Testimony



We've been home a little less than 2 months now and things have begun to settle into a fairly normal routine – if one can call routine what happens in a household with 4 children! Téo is a delightful little boy full of smiles, charm, and love for his new family. Don't get me wrong. We have our times of mischief and sibling accusations of who did what, and the normal desires for security that test boundaries, not to mention what Téo brings into the mix. Based on all that we've read and learned, it appears in all ways that Téo is adjusting well and has a healthy attachment to all of

us. He responds appropriately in new environments and to unfamiliar people. It is amazing to look at Téo and at the new shape of our family and realize how much joy the Lord has blessed us with.

A year ago we had discussed and prayed about what we felt we could handle in terms of adopting a child with special needs. We weighed with sober judgment what we felt God had revealed to us about our individual strengths and weaknesses; and we had peace about adopting Téo. He was "Dan" on February's new list and he won our hearts with his precious smile. His special need was four missing fingers and a partial thumb on his left hand.

When we met Téo, we doubted the peace that God had given us and we began to fear that something was not all together right with him in ways we did not feel prepared to handle in light of our commitment to our other children. When we finally decided to go to the hospital in China for some assessments, we began to discover how faithfully God had surrounded us with men and women of faith to support us. In the midst of our fears and uncertainty, the Holy Spirit comforted and strengthened us through Peter, and through Tony's calls, and through all of the AHH staff who were praying for us on the other side of the world. He allayed our fears about Téo's health through the results of the assessments at the hospitals and with the International Adoption Clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio. And He assured us of his purpose in us, that indeed this was something he had begun and would bring to completion.

Since our return to the States, we've gone through the myriad of doctors' appointments and exams and found that Téo's additional health issues are minor. If they had not been minor, God would have sustained us still, and although we thought we knew that before, it was a new and growing experience for us to have to depend on Him and feel His peace in face of our unanswered questions. Even when God has equipped us and confirmed in us his purpose, we are still utterly dependent on Him. That God uses sinful man to bring glory to his name never ceases to amaze us.

For Téo's little hand our options range from leaving him exactly as he is, to removing a toe or two to create a pincher for grasping. For the moment we will do nothing, as he amazingly uses his left hand the way it is. We have time to think about it.

Téo is a tender, gentle, affectionate little guy. He was much loved by his foster parents, to whom we will be eternally grateful, and whose love is reflected in the way he has adjusted so smoothly to our family. As with our other children, we cannot imagine our life without him. Praise God for His unfailing love, that He would allow us, imperfect though we be, the blessing to parent such precious children...

Sincerely,

Matt and Tami Ogren

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