



Written by [Raven Clabough](#) on June 30, 2022

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The Goodness of America

Family Expansion Through Adoption



The Landsgaards family

The landmark *Roe v. Wade* reversal by SCOTUS is an answered prayer for pro-lifers and is sure to prompt more conversations on how to help pregnant women in need who may have otherwise turned to the devastating and life-ending option of abortion. One of the more obvious alternatives offered by pro-lifers has always been adoption, but this option has historically been under-supported by pro-abortionists who refuse to see the unborn as living beings deserving of life.

Adoption not only presents a godly alternative to abortion, but it also enhances the lives of the families who are fortunate enough to adopt.

The Landsgaards of DeSoto County, Mississippi, are one of those families. Kristen Landsgaard is a mother of eight children, three of whom are boys she and her husband, Peter, adopted from China.

“We always wanted a large family,” she told *The New American*, “but we got married later in life. I was in my 30s when we started.”

The Landsgaards were blessed to have five biological children together, but they knew they wanted to grow further, and turned to adoption, something that Kristen always dreamed of doing.

“Around the world, there will always be children who need good families,” she told *TNA*.

When the family first began researching the adoption process, they reached out to an adoption social worker who told them that adopting from China was the easiest route.

Kristen explained, “There was no system in place in China for a mother to give up a child she couldn’t care for, so children were frequently abandoned, particularly children with medical needs. And the kinds of ‘medical needs’ in China that would prompt parents to abandon their children were not such big deals here in the United States, but because of the inadequate socialized medical system in China, they were enough to force parents to have to give up their children.”

In other words, orphanages in China were overflowing with children in desperate need of adoptive families.



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Kristen's social worker told her that adoption from China was approximately the same price as delivering a baby in the United States without insurance, and that ample adoption financial support is available to cover most expenses.

Kristen and Peter worked with Christian agencies for all three of their adoptions, and were astonished by all of the resources available to them that made the process affordable and relatively painless. Peter was blessed to work for an employer that offered adoption benefits, something that Kristen believes is more common than most would expect. There are quite a few grants available to help fund adoptions for those who are willing to do the research. And the federal government also offers adoption tax credits. In 2022, the federal adoption tax credit is \$14,890, according to AdoptHelp.com.

"God provides," Kristen celebrated. "We never suffered financial hardship because of adoption expenses."

Domestic adoptions in the United States have historically been harder and more expensive. At least one contributing factor is the cultural attitude toward adoption, Kristen contends.

"Women who are pregnant here in the United States are discouraged from turning to adoption by pro-abortionists," she said. "They have been taught that carrying their pregnancy to term will cause too much upheaval in their lives. There seems to have been a huge demand for American babies that was unmet by the limited availability of children being adopted out."

According to AmericanAdoptions.com, while it is hard to determine an exact number, there are approximately two million couples waiting to adopt in the United States, 36 waiting families for every one child placed for adoption.

The overturn of *Roe v. Wade* may soon change all of that, giving the unborn a chance at life with loving, adoptive families.

Kristen and Peter are hopeful that more families will consider adoption. They feel blessed to have a large family, something Kristen believes is often discouraged by today's culture.

"You change your priorities with larger families," she told *TNA*. "Things that you once thought were important become a lot less important when you are supporting a big family."

Through adoption, Kristen and Peter created three sets of "virtual twins" — same-age, unrelated siblings who have grown together since infancy. Three of her biological children have a "twin" from China that is nearly the exact same age, something that she says has been incredible to witness as they grow together.

"My youngest two are seven weeks apart, and it's been so interesting to watch them develop together," she shared.

"My daughter is definitely the bossier one and is happily prepping my son for marriage one day," she joked.

Kristen says her boys have not shown much interest in learning about their biological families or even maintaining their Chinese heritage, at least not now, but that she and her husband would support them if they took an interest in learning more about their culture and families.

Of course, life has been hectic with eight children. Busy work schedules, band classes, music lessons, and play dates have kept them busy over the years. But Kristen wouldn't have it any other way. "Our



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lives have truly been enriched through adoption. We love having a big family and having a house full of people," she said.



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