

Shelby Grace: A story of God's love and faithfulness

We know that so many of you have been praying for our adoption of Shelby Grace. A lot of you probably know the whole story, but some of you may have just heard parts of it. Now that we are safely home with our new baby, we wanted to update you entirely.



God first placed adoption on our hearts before we were married. We thought it was such a great parallel to how Christ loved us, adopting us into His family. After 4 1/2 years of marriage, this past summer we felt an urgency to start pursuing adoption more seriously. In October, we officially started the adoption process and began filling out all the paperwork.

Once we started filling out the paperwork, we knew it could be anywhere from three months to three years before we would be able to adopt a baby. Ten days later we learned from a close friend that there was a couple who had just decided to choose adoption for their baby only if we would become the parents! The baby was due in 7 weeks, so we learned that we would need to get done in 7 weeks what would normally take at least three months.

We immediately drove to Wyoming to meet the birth-parents of the baby. This gave us a great respect for them and their decision. We were able to finish all of the paperwork and the home-study by early December. Even our background checks (which normally take 3-4 months) came back in about a month! God also provided all of the finances for the adoption. At one point, it looked like we would need to raise up to \$20,000 for that adoption. Through various circumstances, that was reduced to about half the expense! We ended up having enough for the adoption fees and other various expenses that would come up along the way!

Throughout the whole process, we could see that God was orchestrating everything. Every time we faced something that seemed to be an obstacle, God was one step ahead of us. He has demonstrated his love and faithfulness to all involved in this story.

Shelby was born on December 20, 2007. She weighed 7 pounds 1.5 ounces, was 19 1/4 inches long and very beautiful! We had the privilege of knowing her from the very first moments of her life. We are now home from Wyoming with our new baby. She has been such a blessing to so many people even though she's just a few days shy of a month old. Please pray that we will be Godly parents and that Shelby will grow up to love Jesus.

Because of Christ,

Jesse, Rhonda and Shelby