

2016 *Golf for the Gift* Golf Tournament

You are receiving this email from me because you have, in your own unique way made an impact in my life. I can only hope that I have done the same for yours. One rarely spends time to think about the path that his life has taken, the many twists and turns along the way and the people in their life who have literally changed their destiny.

Until recently I have been as guilty as anyone in terms of accepting my life's path as pure destiny; that was until last November when my wife Linda got involved in this very special organization called *The Gift of Adoption*. Linda was a Korean orphan with her brother Jim and sister Kathy and destiny to them, at that time, was completely unknown, until one day a couple from the States showed up to bring Jim and Kathy back to the States with them. Little did they know when they arrived that Jim and Kathy had a sister who was going to be left behind, and they were devastated at the thought of breaking the siblings up. Although they did their best to also include Linda in the adoption process, the paperwork was already completed for her to become part of a different family in the States. It is hard to imagine the emotion of that moment when Linda watched her brother and sister leave for the States, not knowing if they would ever see each other again.

Fast forward about fifteen years and that's where I come into the picture: the lunch counter of the Fairlee Diner where I first laid eyes on Linda. This beautiful young Asian gal with hair that went on for days was working as a waitress while she was attending college, and she had my immediate attention. From that moment on, my destiny was about to be changed forever.

So we married in 1977 when we were both young, I started playing with The Breakfast of Champions band at the same time, a year later I started my own business and in 1981 we had our first son Todd. So things were not boring in the early years of our marriage by any means.

One day in early 1982 we started talking about Jim and Kathy, wondering what their lives have been like and how great it would be to see them. Fortunately, the family who adopted Jim and Kathy had managed to keep Linda's family informed on their whereabouts but there had been little or no contact. At that time, Jim was a student at Duke Law School, and we just called him up one day totally out of the blue. As you can imagine, it was an interesting conversation but it led to us getting an invitation to his graduation from Duke. So, with 9-month old Todd in tow, we headed out for Duke to meet Jim and Kathy and their adopted family for the first time, not knowing what to expect. What could have been an extremely awkward meeting turned out to be just the opposite. After not seeing each other for almost 20 years, Linda, Jim, and Kathy were so comfortable with each other and their mannerisms and personalities so similar that it was somewhat surreal. This family