



Lisa's Story

Regular readers of the Thai News will remember a story we ran back in December 2001 (Thai News - Issue 39) called Lisa's Story. She had emailed us from Upstate New York, where she now resides, asking if we could help to locate her family. We recently received another email saying she had finally found them. Her husband, Luke Jarvis has kindly sent us this update on their journey to Thailand to meet the relatives.

By Luke Jarvis

Lisa Jarvis was adopted by an American military couple stationed in Thailand in 1974 at the approximate age of 18 months. A loving, caring middle class family raised her. Lisa began to search diligently for her biological family in Thailand over 13 years ago. This is her story.

offered their help with no luck. But this time was different. This time there was contact with Lisa's aunt and uncle.

After confirming the relation and receiving e-mail photos of her aunt, uncle, mother, father and sister. Lisa had hope that her dream had come true. Shortly thereafter she was given a phone number to contact them in Thailand. Her phone calls were translated through Thai friends in the United States. A phone line relationship began with her Thai family.

English. Lisa has Thai friends who helped her with the Thai culture and cooking Thai food. Lisa now continues Thai language lessons and hopes to one day to speak fluently and to read and write.

Lisa was greeted by her brother-in-law and nephew in the hotel lobby the morning after arriving in Bangkok and brought to her

She was finally feeling the pride that has defined the Thai people the pride that she was longing for.

aunt and uncle's house in a Bangkok suburb where she was reunited with all of her cousins and their children, amongst other relatives.

The premature death of Lisa's father and sister and her missing mother has made this a bittersweet reunion.

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My name is Luke Jarvis. I met Lisa in 1998 and 10 months later we were married. When I met her she showed me piles of paperwork that she had acquired while searching for her biological family. At first I thought finding them wasn't possible. But I was amazed at her persistence. It wasn't long until I felt compelled to get involved in her quest and write this story of my wife's incredible journey to meet her biological family in Thailand.

After years of accumulating of stacks of boxes of Thai and American government paperwork and hours upon hours of Internet research, Lisa contacted a private investigation company in Thailand that was willing to help. Not a surprise since several private investigators in the past had

During telephone conversations Lisa discovered that her father had passed away in 1996 after being struck by a motor vehicle and her sister was in a car accident that resulted in her death in 2001.

Lisa's Thai family was of her father's side and they hadn't seen her mother in years and did not know where she was. The good news was she discovered that she had several cousins and a brother-in-law and nephew (from her deceased sister) who were all astonished that she had found them after all these years. A trip to Thailand was planned for April of 2004.

To prepare for this trip, Lisa and I had to take Thai language lessons because her family in Thailand did not speak English very well. Only one cousin spoke moderate

