

Adopted

Scripture Reading — Colossians 2:6-15

[You have] been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God. — Colossians 2:12

Dhini was a three-year-old with milk-chocolate skin, jet-black hair, and brown eyes like saucers. Her new dad and mom brought her from India to their North American home.

Pastor Craig Barnes remembers her arrival: She spoke only a few words of English. A large mole on her shoulder had to be removed before it would become cancerous. A series of complicated surgeries and skin grafts would take years to complete. Further, she had spent most of her life in an orphanage, often left alone. So her motor skills were underdeveloped.

But now she also had two parents madly in love with her, and a church family that had prayed for her a year before they knew her name. Most of all, she had the amazing devotion of God.

Barnes got through most of the baptismal liturgy. But when he came to the part about her being adopted into God's family and looked up to see Dhini in her father's arms, and her arms around her daddy, Barnes started crying. No one offered to take over, so the whole congregation worshiped in a teary silent prayer. Eventually, Dhini's new father poured the water of the covenant over his daughter's head. The entire congregation was a happy, tearful mess.

We all have issues. But none are so big that God's holy love can't cover them.

Prayer

Father, thank you for adopting us as your children, through the work of your Son, our Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Printed on August 8, 2020

