

Adoption Spotlight: The Bardu Family

Not too long ago, we received a special visit from the Bardu family while they were traveling through Tennessee. We had the pleasure of catching up with parents Seth and Teresa, their daughter Jessica, and their son Godfrey, who was adopted through AGAPE as an infant in 1999. The Bardu family now lives in Maryland, but their story with AGAPE began many years ago when they lived here in Nashville.

Seth and Teresa first had their daughter Jessica. She was born with a heart defect that would require surgery. They were able to delay the procedure until she was 4.5 years old, but during this time, Seth and Teresa decided to wait until after her surgery before having other children.

After a successful procedure and recovery, Seth and Teresa found out they were pregnant again—but this time, with twins. There were challenges with this pregnancy, and Teresa had to be hospitalized until the twins' delivery. They were born in November, about three months early, with each baby girl weighing barely over a pound. They faced many challenges, and unfortunately, both twins passed.

As anyone can imagine, the emotional toll this placed on Teresa and Seth was a lot to bear, and healing took a great deal of time.

A few years later, Seth and Teresa went on a mission trip with their church to Southeast Asia where they visited Cambodia, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. This experience and the children they met touched their hearts, and they were reminded of the desire they had even before Jessica was born to adopt a child one day. As soon as they returned from their trip, they started looking into adoption and came to AGAPE.

After being approved as an adoptive family, they received a call one day about a baby boy in need of a loving home. Godfrey was placed with the Bardu family on October 28, 1999. This was exactly 6 years and 1 day after Jessica's surgery. The family thinks of both dates as "second birthdays" for each of their children.

"Adopting Godfrey has been a joy," Teresa says. "I remember the day we told him he was adopted. He couldn't believe it because he and Jessica look so much alike! God has worked in our family through his adoption story, and I tell him 'Nothing is a coincidence.'"

Teresa notes how Godfrey has always had such an amazing attitude about being adopted, and he shares with others how God has worked in his life through his adoption. She says she could picture him serving as a pastor or a counselor, but Godfrey believes he can serve like Jesus did and point others to God in different roles as well.

Godfrey turns 23 in August. He is talented in many areas, but his passion is in music and the arts. He has been accepted to the Sight and Sound Conservatory—a professional training program that teaches performing arts from a Christian worldview—which is home to the famous Sight and Sound Theatre that brings Bible stories to life on stage. He is excited to begin the program this fall.

We're grateful for the Bardu family and the chance to visit with them again after all these years. Since AGAPE's founding in 1967, 1,096 children have been adopted by loving, Christian families.

Thank you for supporting our mission and making stories like this possible!



L-R: Jessica, Godfrey, Teresa, Jayce (Jessica's son), and Seth at AGAPE in April 2022



Top: Teresa and Seth at AGAPE in 1999 with Godfrey, completing paperwork to take him home.



Middle: Seth, Jessica, Teresa and Godfrey at the courthouse for his adoption.



Bottom: Jessica and Godfrey growing up.