

General Overview of Intercountry Adoption

- Information packet is sent to families requesting information.
- Attend an information meeting focusing on intercountry adoption.
- Submit a preliminary application. You may fill out the application online by going to www.bethany.org/prelim or you may fill out the enclosed hard copy of the application.
- Formal application is completed and submitted.
- Formal application is approved by our corporate office in Grand Rapids, MI.
- Reference letters are sent to identified references.
- Paper work meeting is arranged with social worker to review necessary forms to be completed prior to the Joint Interview.
- FBI fingerprinting is completed.
- Apply for your passports. Passports are valid for ten years.
- Attend a Joint Interview.
- Attend an Individual Interview.
- Home Visit. You will be given the Immigration packet that clears you and your child through the office of Immigration and Naturalization.
- Following submission of the I-600A/I-800A application, you will be invited for fingerprinting.
- Dossier preparation occurs concurrently with the home study and involves notarization and state seals.
- Completed dossiers are sent to Grand Rapids for authentication and translation, depending on the country.
- Dossiers are sent to the foreign country.
- Attend Bethany's all day Intercountry Adoption Training or complete the NCFE training online. It is recommended that the training is completed early in the process.
- Referral is given to Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids contacts the social worker, who contacts the family.
- Acceptance of the referral is sent to Grand Rapids.
- Travel meeting is held with parents prior to travel.
- Couple travels to country to pick up child.
- Post-Adoption supervision begins as soon as family arrives home.
- Social worker remains available to the family as needed.
- Finalization or Adoption Registration. Obtain proof of citizenship, PA foreign born birth certificate, and social security number.

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