

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW FAMILY!

By Kate Heichler

A couple sit nervously in a waiting room. An official, SUSAN, comes out of the vesting room.)

SUSAN

Mr. and Mrs. Church, thank you for waiting.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, we've gotten used to waiting, that's for sure.

SUSAN

Well, I've got great news. The adoption is final! Christiana can go home with you.

MR. CHURCH

Today? Right now?

SUSAN

She's just getting her things together. I'll bring her right out to you.

(She exits to the piano chapel.)

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, honey, I'm so excited! A new little one for our family.

MR. CHURCH

Can't wait to introduce her to the rest of the kids.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, they'll love her! I already feel like I do, and I barely know her!

MR. CHURCH

But she's one of ours now.

MRS. CHURCH

One of ours.

(SUSAN and CHRISTIANA come to out of the vesting room. CHRISTIANA is a middle-aged woman.)

SUSAN

Christiana, this is your new family – Mary, and this is Joseph.

CHRISTIANA

Oh – just like—

MR. CHURCH

Yeah – we get that all the time. Just like a Christmas play.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, Christiana, we’re so happy to have you join the family!
We can’t wait to get you home and show you everything.

MR. CHURCH

You have a lot of brothers and sisters to meet!

MRS. CHURCH

They’re all adopted, just like you.

CHRISTIANA

Oh, you weren’t able to have any children of your own? I mean, biologically?

MR. CHURCH

This is how we have children – they’re all born again. We get them by baptism.
You’ll see. Come on, follow us.

*(They walk around and come up the chancel steps and sit on some chairs;
Add lines like: “It’s not very far,” “Just around the corner...”.)*

MRS. CHURCH

Here, have a seat on our couch.

CHRISTIANA

(Looking around) Nice house!

MRS. CHURCH

It belongs to the big guy. But He likes us to think of it as our own – so you just make yourself at home here.

MR. CHURCH

Now, we want to show you some family pictures.

(Gets out a photo album.

On the screen comes a picture of Easter egg hunt 2021)

MRS. CHURCH

Those are some of your brothers and sisters in Wayside gathering Easter eggs...

(On the screen comes a picture of Maundy Thursday.)

There are some more – that was Maundy Thursday – we were washing feet.

CHRISTIANA

Washing feet??

MRS. CHURCH

Here’s another meal...

(On the screen comes a picture of Veterans dinner, then the cake.)

CHRISTIANA

Boy, this family sure does eat a lot!

MR. CHURCH

Well – that time we were eating with veterans, just to let them know we cared about them. But yep, we ate with them too. We do like to eat!

(On the screen comes a picture of a Crab Feast.)

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, the annual crab feast at the Demas’s – talk about eating!

(On the screen comes a picture of National Night Out.)

MR. CHURCH

Honey, what’s that? I don’t recognize that picture.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh – don’t you remember National Night Out, when Danielle danced with the cow mascot?

CHRISTIANA

You dance with cows?

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, you haven’t seen anything yet. Your big brother can get us to do just about anything!

(On the screen comes a picture of Kirking of the Tartans.)

Even have bag pipes in church!

CHRISTIANA

My big brother?

MRS. CHURCH

Yes – he’s incredibly persuasive. Very charismatic, he is.
(*Picture changes to Baby Shower gifts.*)

MR. CHURCH

Here’s another time we collected baby things when it was your brother’s birthday. We gave this stuff to moms who don’t have homes, because when he was born... well, you’ll hear that story.
(*Picture changes to Easter kids.*)

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, some of the littlest brothers and sisters in our family. They get very excited about collecting eggs at Easter time.

CHRISTIANA

What’s Easter time?

MR. CHURCH

That’s when we celebrate him rising from the dead.

CHRISTIANA

Rising from the dead? How did he die?

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, that’s another long story you’ll hear before long!

CHRISTIANA

This big brother guy sounds pretty amazing.

MR. CHURCH

Oh – he is. As we like to say, “He walks on water.”

MRS. CHURCH

Well, he does!

MR. CHURCH

He taught the whole family how to live right.

MRS. CHURCH

He’s actually kind of famous, your older brother. (*Hands her a Bible.*)
Here – there are four biographies of him in here.
(*Picture changes to one of online Bible study.*)

Sometimes we get together to read the stories about him... they’re really cool stories.

(Picture changes to one of Christmas pageant set.)

MR. CHURCH

Oh look – that’s from his birthday party last year!

CHRISTIANA

Wow – angels and everything?

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, we act the whole thing out every single year. Angels, shepherds – his birth was quite amazing. You’ll read about it.

MR. CHURCH

And tons of other books have been written about him – Is he real? Was he who he said he was? Why has he had such an influence?

CHRISTIANA

Well, I can see if I’m going to be a part of this family, I’d better read up on him.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh my dear, the nice thing about being a part of this family – is you just get to know him. He’s always around the house – even when he’s hanging around with his real father, he still manages to be here with us.

CHRISTIANA

His real father... So, he’s adopted too?

MR. CHURCH

Yeah – well, in a way, you might say... I mean, his real father was always on the scene, but he kind of... I don’t know... lent him to us for awhile. Long enough for us to really start to love him, and so he adopted us as his family, and said everybody who joined this family was going to be connected to him – and to his father, who’s a very important guy. Very important.

CHRISTIANA

Am I going to get to meet him too?

MRS. CHURCH

Well, none of us has actually seen him – though your older brother told us that one day we will. But he also said he looks just like his dad, and if you’ve seen him, you’ve seen the Big Guy.

MR. CHURCH

And once you're in this family, you start to look kind of like your older brother... so we kind of see him every time we look at each other – even when we look really different from each other on the surface, we start to see a family resemblance.

CHRISTIANA

So... my looks are going to change, just 'cause I've joined this family?

MRS. CHURCH

Well... I don't know about how you look, but how you look at the world is going to change. Because you are loved in this family, just for who you are, not for anything you do or don't do, you start to love other people the same way.

And then you start to love the people who aren't in this family yet. And because we love each other, we start to look different to people who aren't part of the family, and some times they want to come in because they see the love.

CHRISTIANA

Gosh, I hope I'm up to all that.

MR. CHURCH

That's the best part – you don't really have to do much of anything. You just do the things you're best at, with love, and everything that needs to get done gets done. We don't have chores or hassles – it just all happens when we do what we love to do.

MRS. CHURCH

Oh, we still have so much to show you. But it can wait till after dinner. I'll show you your room, and then come on back down – on Sundays, we always eat together. A real feast.

MR. CHURCH

The whole family.

CHRISTIANA

The whole family, all over the world? How does that happen?

MRS. CHURCH

You'll just have to ask your older brother about that sometime. He just makes it happen!

(Stands next to altar.)

Now, you get yourself settled, and then come on down – *(gestures to the altar)*

The table is ready!

THE END.