

**Here is our travel journal when we traveled to China to bring Madyson home! March 2, 2005, was “gotcha” day!!**

**February 14, 2005**

Hi everyone!

Just wanted to send a short note to let you know I discovered we will probably be leaving on Feb 23 or 24th!!! That is a little sooner than what we expected, but we would leave TOMORROW if they would let us!!!!

We spent the weekend getting Mady's clothes together. I have actually packed her stuff (including that adorable new little swim suit from Gymboree!).

Now, I need to get busy at work and get all of these loose ends tied up before we travel!

We will have confirmed travel dates tomorrow, and I will be sure and let you all know when they are!

Blessings and Happy Valentine's Day!!

Myndee

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**February 15, 2005**

Good evening everyone!! Just an update! We received our travel dates today. We will fly out of Wichita to Beijing on Friday the 25th. We are to be in Tiayuan, which is Madyson's adoption city, on March 2, 2005. Our consulate appointment is March 10, 2005. We will leave China on March 12, 2005. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel. I have been running around like a chicken with my head cut off today between work, dentist appointments, and airline tickets!!! We are sooo excited though!!!! I can't believe Miss Mady will be home before we know it!!

Blessings!!!

Myndee

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**February 20, 2005**

Good evening everyone! Well, this weekend did not go at all like I needed it to. Both Emylee and I were sick. Emylee had been sick earlier in the week, but she still has a cough and runny nose. I was in horrible shape on Saturday. We did manage to get to the mall to pick up a few things we need for travel, but it was not a great experience!! I ended up sleeping most of the day Saturday and a great deal of the day Sunday. I am hoping and praying to wake up ready to roll tomorrow, as I have soooo much work to do at the office before we leave, and still tons of stuff to do at home. Hopefully Emy will also throw this cold she has.

We did get our hotel booked in Beijing, where we will arrive on the 26th. The link to the hotel is

**1. <http://www.sino-swisshotel.com/english/index.htm>**

It looks like they have a great pool, and that was Gunner's biggest concern! ha It is also right by the airport, so that made me feel more comfortable than having to drive forever after we arrive in Beijing. We will be taking a tour of the Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tianaman (SP) Square. We are really looking forward to that.

And of course, the most wonderful day will be March 2, when we meet Miss Madyson!!!!

It looks like we will be in good shape for internet access most of the trip, so hopefully we can post updates often. I still don't know about pictures, but we'll figure something out!

Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare to conclude the journey of bringing Madyson home. :-)

Myndee Reed

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Feb. 21, 2005

Good evening everyone! You will be able to contact us in China beginning March 1 by calling the following:

011-86-13816762934 This is a cell phone we are renting.

Hope you're all doing great!! We are in pure rush mode between work

and home!! :-)

Love you all!!

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Feb. 25, 2005

Hi everyone! Well, after leaving work at about 10:00 tonight, I finally think everything is squared away there! The day was so busy I really did not even have time to soak in the fact we are leaving in a few hours!

We are currently packing (yes...I should be doing that right now! ha). Amie Yoder will be at our house at 3:45 a.m. to transport us to the airport in Wichita! Thanks AMIE!!!! Our flight leaves at 6:00 a.m. At this point, we are saving sleep for the plane. :-)

Bryce and Emy left with Grammy and Papa today for their trip to Colorado. I spoke with them this evening and it sounds like they are having a ball!! I already miss them so much, but I am also really really excited about heading out and especially about getting Madyson. I still can't believe we will meet her in a few short days!!

Well gang...I will close for now. I hope I am able to keep you all posted while we're in China!

Love ya all!

Myndee

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Feb 26, 2005

Hi everyone!! We have arrived and are doing well. The flight was a loooooong one, but uneventful for the most part. Our hotel in Beijing seems nice so far. :-) We miss you all! Emy and Bryce I love you guys and miss you SOOOOO much!!

I'll write more later. Having to pay for internet access. :-)

Love ya!

Myndee (mom to Miss Emy and Bryce)

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Feb. 27, 2005

Well guys! One thing about it...if you need a great workout visit the Great Wall! We had an amazing day today taking in the sites of Beijing. As I suspected, I am starving!! I finally ate some spaghetti tonight, but even that didn't taste too woopy!! ha h Gunner learned quickly how to bargain with the street vendors. That was definitely an experience!!!

Well, will close for now! Hope you're all doing well!

Myndee

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Feb. 27, 2005

Good morning everyone! We just finished our "western" style breakfast and were so thankful for that. We are really getting anxious to get little miss Mady in our hands!! Only two more days! We met another couple who had a little girl they had just adopted. The little girl was about 4 months older than Madyson. It was fun talking with them and playing with their daughter. You should have seen the little girl's eyes light up when she saw Gunner. She just came to life!! I am so glad Gunner is here with us. I think that will help Madyson. Speaking of Gunner...he was quite the celebrity yesterday with his blond hair!! It was so much fun!! We also had a ball with our tour group. Lesson number one...just because someone is white doesn't mean they are from the United States and speak English! ha ha Someone at MSS be sure and tell Eric my husband actually spent the day with a French man!! ha ha The guy couldn't speak much English, but it was fun anyway. There was a Brit on the tour as well as a couple from Australia! It was so much fun listening to them talk. We loved it!

Well, I am going to close for now. Hey Christi at MSS...make sure you mailed off Brian's application for the guard job and my bills!! :-)) Thanks so much for doing that! You are awesome!!

Bryce and Emy...I love you and miss you sooo much!!!

I love you guys! C-ya soon~

Myndee

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March 1, 2005

Good evening everyone! It is about 10:30 p.m. here and we are now all settled into our room. We will have Madyson in our arms at 9:00 tomorrow morning!! We can't wait. We are a little nervous, and I pray she is not scared. :-) I think it will help having Gunner here with us. We actually have cheap internet access here! 21 yuan per hour! We were paying 3 yuan per minute at the other hotel. Maybe now I can give you all a little more detail! The flight to Taiyuan was very uneventful. We had KFC for supper! They have wonderful chicken nuggets here and they are very cheap!! Only \$1.00 for 6!! We finished our sight seeing in Beijing today. Someone at MSS tell SES I bought him the movie the Incredibles!! :-) Judd and Misty, I also bought a copy for Bryant. We ate at the Beijing Hard Rock Cafe today, but after we ate there we wished we hadn't. It was really expensive (about \$50.00) and other than the onion rings, the food wasn't that great. We went to the Pearl Market today. That was lots of fun looking at all of the items for sale and making deals with the vendors. Our taxi driver got lost on the way back to our hotel, so that was an experience! See...I'm not the only one who gets lost!! ha ha Of course, Gunner and Brian had to give me grief because our last taxi driver was a woman and she was the only one who got lost!! he he Speaking of driving, you guys wouldn't believe the way they drive here!!!! Honking their horns every 2 seconds and "shoving" their way through traffic!! I really only got scared once or twice, so that's good. And you guys think I drive bad!!! I just cannot believe how nice everyone is here. They will go out of your way to help you if you need help!! It is amazing and a few American's could certainly learn a few things from the Chinese people. Their work ethic is amazing. At the KFC I stood up with our tray to throw the trash away and before I took two steps one of the employees took the tray and took care of the trash. Brian and I were laughing when we bought our McDonalds yesterday (which only cost us \$7.00 for three people) that even though the cashier couldn't speak any English she managed to get our order right!! ha ha ha ha :-)

Our CASI guide met us at the airport. He is wonderful and so very concerned that everything is perfect for us.

Well, I think I better call it a night. We have an amazing day ahead of us tomorrow. I will be sure and write when I get a chance and let you know how Mady is doing. I hope I can sleep tonight, but I know it will be difficult.

Talk to you soon!!!  
Myndee

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March 2, 2005

We have our Miss Mady!! Today has been a wonderful and exhausting day!! Madyson DID NOT want us to take her. She kept saying, "I don't want to go...I don't want to go." (In Chinese of course) The directors of her orphanage were there, as well as a Nanney. When we left I had to carry her out. It broke my heart...not because I wanted her to run to me, but because I was so sad for her that she was so scared. That being said, once we got to the hotel she refused to take off her coat and her hat!! She obviously needed a bath badly, but we were not going to push it at that point. We were able to eventually get her to loosen up (although the hat and coat remained on). She actually smiled at me first, when her and I sat in the bathroom and I let her put the lotions, etc. in her new backpack!! She looked up at me and gave me a huge grin that melted my heart!! She is going to fit in with the other kiddos perfectly...she goes a 100 miles a minute!! We were loving it, after how sad she was at first. She was having pillow fights with Gunner and everything!!! Unfortunately, we had to go BACK to the same place where we got her at 2:00 this afternoon to finish the adoption. And yes...she is now officially ours!!! :-)) (Our adoption family photo is of her screaming!!!) It absolutely broke my heart to have to go back. She had a really hard time the second go around. It was so obvious how much the directors loved her. They were actually giving her money to put in her pockets!! They also gave her a large bag of mandarin oranges. It was awesome watching them with her, but boy...it tooks us awhile for her to warm up to us after that. We learned she had been in foster care for the past three years, and that was news to us. I know it is better for her though. We did get the foster family's address, so we can keep in touch somewhat.

We stopped by a toy store on the way back to the hotel to pick her up some toys. She got some blocks and some legos. We then headed back to the room. We took the toys out and played for a short while. She was not warming up to us at all. She still had not removed her coat and hat. (By the way...just a side note...you would not believe how smart she is!!! It blows me away. She buttons her coat on her own, puts on her shoes, etc. She is totally potty trained and asks you to take her potty even when she is mad at you!! ha) She does everything for herself.) Brian and I decided to lay down on the bed hoping she would lay down and take a nap. Well...she didn't. She actually packed up all of her clothes, all of her toys (she put them back in the box exactly the way they came), her blocks, and her back pack. She had her back pack on her back and the rest she had packed in two sacks. She then proceeded to walk to the

door. Of course, at this point I am crying!! I felt soooo awful for her. She just wanted to go home.

It was a tough afternoon, but Brian and I decided she HAD to have a bath and it was the BEST thing we could have done. She actually let us take her coat and hat off. We then gave her a bath, washed her hair, etc. Then, when she got out I wrapped her up in a towel and she and I sat on the end of the bed. Brian rubbed her feet and he and I just sat there talking and singing to her. She then started cracking smiles again (after daddy tickled her feet) and she was a totally different little girl. We then got her dressed and we went out to dinner where she kept hitting Gunner with her chopsticks (she was playing of course...it was really cracking us ALL up!!!) She is a little spit fire!!! She is absolutely beautiful and we are already so in love with her!!!

I am going to close for now. I actually didn't want to leave the room to write the update, but I knew you guys would kill me when I got back if I didn't write. :-) We can't wait to get home to Bryce and Emy!!!

Love you guys!!  
Myndee

PS- Mady appears to be the exact same size as Emylee. Her 3T stuff is too big!! :-)

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March 3, 2005

Mady is doing great!! She slept all night long, except when she woke up and asked to go potty, which she calls "Leeeow." She actually slept

in bed with me!! It was wonderful. We went for a walk today. She strolled along beside us and then daddy carried her. She is the same size as Emy, but she is more solid, weighs more. I LOVE her smile!!!

She is honery!!!! We took her to a really neat aquarium today. She loved the big fish!! She can say fish and ball, but other than that it

is all Chinese. Yes, she tries to speak to us in Chinese. She can zip her coat all by herself!! It is amazing the things she can do.

I can't wait to get her, Emy and Bryce together!!! They will have a ball!! I was able to get pictures put on a disk, but for some reason

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cannot open them on this computer. I am going to keep trying, as I know you are all really anxious to see some. She is a little DOLL!!!!

We are going to try to take her swimming tonight! I think she will love it. The water is really warm. She is eating really good!! We are still starving!!!! :- ( We'll make it though. We are getting ready to be home. Just a little while longer! We'll be taking her out

for some new shoes this afternoon. She needs them really badly.

Will close for now and see if I can figure out how to get these pictures loaded!!

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March 4, 2005

Thanks "Yoders"!! I miss you guys!!! I am ready to be home, mainly because I miss everyone so much and am so excited for everyone to meet Madyson. We ate at Pizza Hut tonight!!! I think it was the best pizza I have ever eaten. Of course it may be because I was starving!! ha ha

Well, I have to get back up to the room!!

We're all doing great!!!

Myndee

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March 5, 2005

Hi everybody!! Brian and Mady are taking a snooze so I thought I would take this opportunity to answer a few emails and send an update. We are all doing very well. Madyson ate at her first McDonalds today for lunch!! She LOVED it!! Especially the balloon our guide gave her when she finished her lunch. Emy, she really loves ice cream so you and daddy will have someone else joining you for your late night snack!! Mady ate chicken nuggets and fries. She has made amazing progress!! She wants to be held all the time (ok...that may not be progress...he he..) but seriously, she loves for us to hold her now. She giggles all the time. She LOVES to tease Gunner!!! Watch out Bryce...Mady will be giving you competition on the craziness!! I have a feeling she will be climbing those trees right along with you when she gets bigger!!

Dad, Brian was able to buy a motorcycle helmet here for \$25.00!!!  
Gunner got one too. We also bought Emy and Mady one (they were only \$1.00 a piece!!) They are soooo cute!! They look just like the big ones with the face mask and everything!! We thought the girls could use those while riding their bikes!!

We visited some really neat places today; although, I am not exactly sure what they were. Some kind of shrines or something. After naptime, we will be trying to locate a cheap duffel bag to take the helmets home in!! Madyson loved the fish and water at the place we visited. I can't wait until I can share all of the pictures! I wish I had a way to reduce the size of these. The computer I am using is all in Chinese, so I am not finding any program to reduce the size of the pictures.

We ate Pizza Hut for supper last night and it was wonderful!!!! Our guide could not believe we did not want any soup with it!! he he He ate his pizza with ketchup!! :-) Mady actually did not like the pizza, but that's ok. We'll keep working on her!! Yesterday we visited the ancient city. It was amazing!! We ate at a really nice place. Madyson used her chopsticks like a pro. It was sooo cute!!! Jenny at Beijing Garden in Hutch is just going to eat her up!! You can tell someone has really been working with Madyson. Our guide said children in China generally cannot eat with chopsticks until they are at least 5! He couldn't believe she was able to do that.

Madyson has definitely learned what a stranger is. We are so lucky that she only wants to go to us now. She cries when someone walks up to her if she thinks they are going to try to pick her up or talk to her. This is a really good thing for attachment purposes. She is just now starting to warm up to our guide. She will respond when we call her Mady. She has never responded to her chinese name since we have had her. Even when the guide says it, so I know it is not a pronunciation thing. You can tell she was well cared for and well loved in her foster home. I am so thankful for that. Everyday she grows closer and closer to us, and her personality begins shining through more and more. She still talks a lot in Chinese. We have videotaped it so we will always have it. It is really cute to hear her.

We will leave tomorrow at noon for Guangzhou. We are really looking forward to that. The warm weather will be nice and it means we are closer to being able to come home!!! :-) We are going to be able to stay at the White Swan for most our time in Guangzhou. We were so

excited to hear this!! We are hoping we can get two barbies, one for Mady and one for Emy. I think our chances are pretty good. The guide said they will advocate for us and try to help us out there. It will be interesting to see how Mady does on the flight.

Well guys!! I am trying to think if I have left anything out. I think I have told you all the news I have for now. I did upload a few more pictures. I need to get my ones from the past two days put on a disk so I can upload those. When I get home I will make sure to put the pictures on Myndee.com so you guys can see our trip pictures.

We miss you guys!!

Myndee

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March 6, 2005

Hi Amie (and everyone else on the group!!) We are doing GREAT!! We are now at the White Swan in Guangzhou! We LOVE it here!! It is absolutely beautiful!! Everything is green, it smells so good, and the hotel is amazing!! They even have a store called "Ladybug Corner" with the cutest clothes you have ever seen!!! Madyson is doing awesome!! She had her medical checkup this morning and is in tip top shape!! We took a river boat dinner cruise last night down the pearl river. Mady loved it!!! It was so beautiful! I just can't believe how amazing she is and how well she is doing. We are so blessed to have four wonderful children! Gunner is doing great as well. As the days go on I am seriously considering taking Madyson and Emy to the Steven Curtis Chapman concert on the 13th. We thought we would play it by ear, but I know Emy would love it and at this point, I think Mady would love it too. She really enjoys music, etc., and loud music does not seem to bother her at all. We'll still wait to make the final decision until after the long flight home, but right now I think it's a go!!

Well, this internet service is REALLY fast, but at this point I don't know how much I am paying for it, so I guess I better go. :- ) I miss you guys and can't wait to get home!! Mom said Emy is doing great, as is Bryce!! We are ready to give them both big hugs!!!

Miss ya!!!

Myndee

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March 7, 2005

Hi everyone!!

We had to change hotels for tonight, so are at the Victory Hotel a block away from the White Swan until tomorrow. Didn't bother me too much though, I was just thrilled we were able to stay at the White Swan. We were able to leave most of our luggage there to wait for us tomorrow. This hotel has 30 minutes of free internet so I can actually do some emailing. The White Swan charges 40 yuan for 15 minutes!!! Very expensive!!!! The White Swan did give us two Barbie dolls!! We are thrilled at that and so grateful to them for doing that so Emylee does not feel left out.

Amie, I am so sad to hear you are not feeling well. Hang in there!! You'll be better in no time!! I can't WAIT for the concert!!!! :-)

We are all doing great!! Madyson actually rode in a stroller today (one that a lady in a shop let us borrow for FREE!). She hated it at first, but is now doing ok. We'll keep our fingers crossed. She sure is heavy to tote around, but of course Mommy loves to carry her and she KNOWS it!!! ha ha She is wearing a new pair of jeans today that say "Cutie" on the butt! And believe me...she is definitely a little cutie pie!!!

We will have a nice dinner at the White Swan tonight compliments of our agency. We are excited about that. The breakfasts have been wonderful and they are free as well!! :-) We are glad.

Not too much else to report on today. Madyson did say "Good Job" today. It was so cute!! She will be speaking english in no time!! We played in the Swan Room for quite awhile yesterday. It is a toy room at the White Swan for the kids. Mady loved doing that. When it was time to go I told her we needed to pick up. She immediately started putting ALL of the toys away (and believe me...there were tons of toys to put away because others who had played hadn't picked up). She was putting toys back on the shelves and in the bins! It was great!!

We miss you guys SOOOO much and are so excited to get home at this point, but the weather here has been amazing and I could get used to that!! It sounds like Kansas has been nice as well, so we'll be home just in time for spring!!

Amie, we're keeping you and your family in our prayers!! Hang in there girlie!!! We have been telling Mady that when we get home Amie YoYo will have to cut her hair!! ha ha :-)

We love you guys!!

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March 8, 2005

Hi Patty (and everyone else on the group)!!

Yes, I think Miss Amie YoYo would probably be upset if I let anyone else cut Mady's hair! ha ha :-). All is going well here. You wouldn't believe the weather. It is beautiful!!! We have been taking long walks along the river in the evening. Madyson is finally sitting in the stroller (thank goodness!!) so that makes walks a lot more enjoyable. I think we will head to the market today, which is a blast. It is a little frightening seeing the scorpions and turtles in the bins for sale! YUCK!!!! But...there is light at the end of the tunnel, because just down the street is a pizza hut, Mcdonalds and KFC!!!! Wooohooo!!! Something other than Chinese food!!!!

We are stocking up on DVD's at \$2.00 a piece. We have purchased National Treasure, The Incredibles, Aviator, and tons others. Yes, sad we come all the way to China and spend our time buying DVD's. ha ha

Well, not too much news for today. I think we have our consulate appointment on Thursday or Friday. At this point, I am losing track of what day it is for everyone. I think today is Wed., here.

I miss you all and can't WAIT to get home soon!!!

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March 9, 2005

Hhi guys!! We are sooo ready to be home at this point. We miss everybody!!! We are touring a museum today, so that should be neat. We are running out of things to do! ha ha

Miss you guys!!! See you soon!!

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March 10, 2005

Just wanted to send a short note to let you know I have finally been able to download some more pictures of Miss Madyson in the photos section. We are soooo happy to be leaving in two days!! Our consulate appointment is tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. That is where we will take the oath and get Mady's visa!!

We will see you guys VERY soon now!!

I love you Emy and Bryce!!!! :-)

Love ya all!

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March 15, 2005

Good evening everybody! Well, we arrived back home on Saturday evening about midnight. Our flight arrived in Wichita around 9:35 p.m. We were soooo happy to be home! The flight home was extremely long, but Madyson did very well. Other than a small meltdown by Miss Mady (i.e. she threw a huge fit on the flight from Guangzhou to Beijing because she had to buckle up when we landed) she was very good on the flights. She slept the majority of the way. We were so happy that Mom, Dad, Bryce, Emylee, Jeff and Jolene Wells and their family were at the airport to welcome us home. Madyson was a little scared, but it did not take her long to warm up to the rest of the family.

Her and Emylee are doing great together!!! They play so well, and that is very nice. Mady is a little rougher than Emy, but most of the time they do just fine! As you can imagine, we were so thankful to see Bryce and Emylee again! We missed them soooo much, as well as the rest of our family and friends! Emy continued to say, "I missed you when you was in China!" What a sweetie!! Mom has placed our homecoming video on

**1. <http://www.netprojections.com/albums/displayimage.php?album=random&cat=0&pos=-15>** so you can view if you want.

I was jet lagged VERY badly, as was Madyson. We are both now feeling human again, and that is so nice. I think I will be in good shape tomorrow morning, finally. My computer was also messed up majorly when I got home, so I have not been able to do a great deal of emailing or posting of photos. I have now fixed that problem, and have placed some new pictures in the albums section. There are also new photos of our China trip on [www.myndee.com](http://www.myndee.com) under the photo album link.

I am so thankful that Madyson seems to be getting into the groove. She still gets upset at night sometimes right before bedtime, but other than that she is grinning and playing up a storm. She still shuts down around strangers at this point, but that's good news as well. She knows who mom and dad are and that is so important. On a side note, we did eat at Beijing Garden last night, as we knew Jenny, the owner, and Eping, her daughter, were on pins and needles waiting for us to bring Mady in. Madyson absolutely loved Jenny, Eping and Jenny's husband!! I couldn't believe it! They are really three of the few strangers she has immediately felt comfortable with. She was probably happy to finally be eating Chinese food again! ha ha And yes...we had to psyche ourselves up to step foot in a Chinese rest. after such a short return from China!! One thing

is for sure though, Jenny's food is much better than anything we ate in China, so it wasn't too bad. :-)

Well, this will probably be my final update to the list. I will continue to upload photos to my myndee.com site so those of you who want to keep posted can. Thanks so much for taking this amazing journey with us. We are so blessed to have a beautiful family and wonderful friends.

Love ya all!  
Myndee

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