

First of all we want to thank you, Your Honor, for allowing us the opportunity to speak here in court. Some may ask why we would want to be here. It is not to seek vengeance against Mary Bonn or to try to persuade you to give her a maximum sentence. We are here solely to make sure the truth gets told. Not a twisted story told by a habitual liar trying to cover her tracks and save her skin, but the actual facts of this horrible nightmare we have been living for the last year and a half. We have kept silent over the last 18 months. For ten of those we wondered where our daughter was or even if she was alive.

Let us be perfectly clear when we state two undeniable facts:

#1 WE NEVER ABANDONED OUR CHILD IN GUATEMALA LIKE MARY AND HER LAWYER TOLD THE PRESS. IF WE ABANDONED HER, WE WOULD NOT EVEN BE IN THIS COURTROOM RIGHT NOW.

#2 DESPITE WHATEVER CHARGE SHE PLEAD GUILTY TO, MARY BONN KIDNAPPED OUR BABY AND THE ELEMENTS OF KIDNAPPING (18.U.S.C.1201) WERE PRESENT TO CHARGE HER WITH THAT OFFENSE. SHE STOLE TEN MONTHS OF OUR BABY'S LIFE FROM US, ALL THE WHILE TELLING US THE BABY WAS IN A GUATEMALAN ORPHANAGE OR THE BIRTHMOTHER HAD TAKEN HER AND SKIPPED THE COUNTRY TO ECUADOR. TRY TO IMAGINE THE HORROR, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU WITH CHILDREN, HOW YOU WOULD DEAL WITH NOT KNOWING WHERE YOUR INFANT CHILD WAS, IS SHE BEING CARED FOR, IS SHE SAFE, IS SHE EVEN ALIVE.

Mary plead guilty to was Harboring an Illegal Alien. Our daughter didn't stow herself away on a plane and then asked Mary to hide her in her Florida home. Mary paid to have her passport forged, paid to have her birth certificate forged (remember we were listed as the legal parents on both), and then paid another woman to smuggle her into the country and ultimately to her own home. All this was done after we clearly stated, that in spite of her unknown medical conditions, we WANTED OUR DAUGHTER!! This was KIDNAPPING.

Mary and her lawyer tried to paint Mary in the press as some sort of "savior" who only did what she had to do save a child that was going to die in a Guatemalan orphanage. That is as far from the truth as possible. We know for a fact that she told the Investigator that when we didn't take the baby home with us on the first visit to the Embassy it was the "only chance they would get". She is a very vengeful woman with no concern for the families that she has hurt and yes I say families. This is not an isolated incident where a "Good-hearted woman" made a simple mistake. We know of scores of people Mary has nearly destroyed with her shady business practices. I personally have spoken with several agencies and top people in the adoption business who said they would never work with her again. She is dishonest, vengeful, person who believes she is above the law. She even told our own agency to "just lay low and don't say anything and this will all go away."

Please bear with me and I will try to get through this and give you the facts:

We had three children, one of which is adopted, and we wanted to complete our family with one more child. We had experienced the immense joy and love that an adopted child brings to a family. Although children come into families through different means, there is no difference in the love and attachment we feel for all our children.

We signed an agreement with A Field of Dreams Adoption Agency out of Pennsylvania to adopt our little girl from Guatemala. The agency assured us that our child would be receiving excellent care in a Guatemalan foster home. We trusted the agency and paid the required fees, which totaled approximately \$23,500. I am a fireman and my wife is a stay-at-home mother so this fee was a great deal of money for us. We were willing to make the sacrifice though to make a difference in the world and help a small child in need of a family and also to complete our home. This was in August of 2005.

As the months went by and we were proceeding through the sometimes drawn-out Guatemala court system, we had some questions in regards to our daughter's growth report, or I should say lack of growth. We expressed these concerns to our agency, Jen Holdren, owner of A Filed of Dreams, and she said she would get us some answers. The answers never came. Two months later we received the latest measurements. We were shocked to see that our daughter hadn't grown more than a couple of ounces in three months. We **immediately** contacted our agency and asked that they look into this because we truly were alarmed. Mary Bonn told us that our daughter was just fine, and not to worry, that she had personally seen her. Mary said she measured her herself and that "sometimes babies move around on the scale" so the readings may not be accurate. Mary stated that she had raised several girls of her own and that there was not a thing wrong with our little girl. We still did not feel comfortable and said that we would pay any expenses out of our own pockets to make sure our daughter was brought in to a doctor and make sure there was nothing wrong. This was never done. Mary just kept trying to reassure us that there was nothing at all wrong with our daughter. The time came shortly after for us to travel to Guatemala to pick up our daughter. I could not make the trip because I had agreed to give a fundraiser concert at a local church almost an entire year prior, not knowing that our pick-up date would turn out to be a direct conflict with the concert. My wife and teenage daughter made the trip from Seattle to Guatemala. They left with the excitement of picking up our daughter and bringing her home. Remember, up to this point we were assured that we had a healthy little girl waiting for us. Mary told us that she herself had seen her and she was in great health. My wife and daughter were very tired from an all-night flight when they arrived in Guatemala City. They were met at the airport by two women (the foster mother, the interpreter, and our daughter) and then went to the US Embassy. My wife was nearly in shock when she saw our daughter. She was almost ½ the normal size she should have been. She was 9 months old and could not support herself to sit up, something normally done by 5 or 6 months. She appeared too weak to cry and made only small whimpering noises which sounded like a cat meowing. Even my 14 year old daughter commented "she looks like an infant without the wrinkles". My wife could instantly and clearly see that our little girl had some definite issues and was obviously behind in where she should have been at that age. Having raised three previous children she had a mother's instinct

which told her something was wrong. Because my wife had never been exposed to a child suffering from malnutrition and neglect, her first thoughts were that the child was suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome. After all, \$23,500 was paid to insure excellent care so malnutrition wasn't the first concern, nor should it have been. My wife still continued with the process and completed the initial interview at the first window. When it was my wife's turn to see the US Embassy personnel at the second window, the employee told my wife that the US Embassy doctor had not cleared the baby and that my wife would have to sign a waiver because of her medical conditions. Needless to say my wife was nearly in a state of shock and exhaustion (she had not slept for almost 36 hours) at this point. The embassy employee actually took the file out of my wife's hand and said, "It's clear that you didn't know anything about this did you?" That was correct, my wife knew nothing about any medical conditions because Mary Bonn had said everything was just great up until this point. The embassy employee took the file and said (paraphrasing) "I can see you're in shock, you need to talk to your husband and physician to find out more information in regards to your child's medical condition. I will hold your file for as long as it takes until you get back to me and tell me how you want to proceed"

My wife called me and it was frightening the amount of stress I could hear in her voice. I asked what was wrong with the baby and she had no answers at that point other than they had visited the embassy doctor, Dr. Hagen. Dr. Sidney Hagen (sp?) stated that our daughter was RED FLAGGED. He did not pass her because she was suffering from at least two separate conditions. One being delays in developmental milestones and two because she was far behind in her physical growth. Dr. Hagen appeared to be scolding the foster mother and she started crying in his office. Dr. Hagen then told my wife that the foster mother had been giving the baby orange juice instead of formula. It's important to point out though that even a child who is not being fed enough should still meet their physical milestones such as being able to sit at almost ten months. Remember this is the foster mother that was personally trained by Mary Bonn's mother, Ms. Dawn Bonn. Ms. Dawn Bonn resides in the same house as Mary Bonn so there should have been no excuses for any miscommunications between the two.

This points out that even though they had a personal connection with the foster mother, and we repeatedly voiced our concerns over our daughter's lack of growth, they did nothing. We can only surmise that this was their protocol in caring for children. Was this done to cut corners and save money? We were told by the Immigration Customs Enforcement agents that our daughter never got the medical check-ups she was supposed to be getting in accordance with our agreement with the adoption agency. Something we had paid \$23,500 dollars to ensure. Just where did all this money go? It obviously did not go to care for our daughter. This is supported by the fact that, using common sense, what doctor would have allowed our daughter to fall off of the growth charts and into the malnutrition range (as both Dr. Montiel and Hagen clearly reported she was) without attempting to rectify the condition. She obviously had not been taken to a doctor, at least a doctor with any competency. Once again remember throughout this Mary Bonn kept telling us she had seen our baby and there was nothing wrong with her, and that she had raised six girls of her own and we could rest assured that our little girl was healthy.

Then my wife, the foster mother, and interpreter took our daughter to the same doctor that we had earlier requested weeks before Mary Bonn to take our daughter to, Dr. Montiel. Dr. Montiel is a well known and respected doctor in Guatemala in adoption circles. Before entering Dr. Montiel's office, the interpreter (who had been talking to Mary Bonn over the phone while this process was going on) made it very clear to my wife that she should not mention that this was the pick-up trip and instead it should be emphasized that she was only there to visit the baby. Dr. Montiel stated that this was the first time he had seen our daughter. He verbally told my wife that our daughter was suffering from failure to thrive, developmental delays, and it appeared to him that she might be suffering from hip dysplasia. Dr. Montiel recommended that our daughter receive physical therapy and be scheduled for an appointment with an orthopedic specialist. We still had no idea what was causing these conditions. How could these people have ignored our request to help our child when we saw red flags early on and repeatedly requested it and even offered to pay for it ourselves? At this point my wife was not sure just who was to blame for our daughter's condition. Was the foster mother withholding formula from our daughter? Was she even getting the supplies she needed to properly care and feed our daughter? We can only assume that they realized that they had failed to properly take care of our child and they were afraid of being exposed. Why else would they tell my wife to say it was only a visit, and not the trip to take the baby home to the United States?

During the ride to the hotel, right after visiting the doctors, my wife was talking to Mary Bonn on the phone. My wife asked who would watch our daughter if she returned home to discuss this with me. Mary assured my wife that our daughter could stay with the foster mother in the meantime. My wife had questioned Mary on this because Mary had earlier stated that the foster mother was going out of town on vacation and we had to pick up our daughter on that weekend because of this. Mary then told my wife "don't worry about it, it will be okay" and then told my wife to hand the phone to the foster mother, who was in the car at the time. My wife does not speak Spanish so she is not sure what was said but clearly, Mary was fully aware that My wife was returning to the states because she later telephoned her in the hotel room numerous times asking her to go back to the embassy and sign the papers. In three separate calls she specifically asked what her departing flight number was and when it was scheduled to leave Guatemala.

Shortly after visiting these doctors and getting their opinions my wife telephoned me in Washington State. I spoke briefly with my wife and we agreed that we needed to follow the advice of the US Embassy and discuss this situation further in person. We agreed that we needed to seek advice from Pediatric Specialists here in the U.S. We needed more information to determine if our family was the right family to handle her medical needs because at this point we had no idea what exactly they were. **In no way did we ever say that we did not want our daughter.** Admittedly we were in a state of shock and confusion and we didn't know the extent of what lies had been told to us. I told my wife this is not a decision that should be made over the phone and in haste.

At this point while my wife was still in Guatemala, less than 12 hours after visiting the embassy, Mary had begun calling, pressuring and suggesting that my wife go back to the

embassy and sign the papers to finish the adoption. Mary told my wife that her own “pediatrician” (who we later found out was a nurse practitioner) supposedly looked at information Mary provided her and made the determination that our daughter most likely had cerebral palsy. Cerebral Palsy??? But Mary, just a couple weeks earlier said she was “just fine”. She told my wife that she and her mother (Dawn Bonn) would take our daughter. Mary said all we had to do sign the papers, take the baby into the United States and turn her over to her. She thought we were vulnerable and she was going to try to take advantage of us. THIS IS VISA FRAUD which is a FEDERAL OFFENSE and besides, we had never said that we didn’t want our daughter. Mary would have been about the last person on earth we would give our daughter to. After all she was personally responsible in part for allowing our daughter to be starved and neglected. Where was Mary’s concern when we had tried for 3 months to get her in for medical examinations to determine why she had stopped growing? Even if you weren’t paid for doing that job what kind of person could ignore a parent’s plea for help in seeking what was wrong with their daughter? How do you just turn your back on a child? Mary likes to portray us as the parents who turned our back on our daughter when in fact, SHE was the one who turned her back on a child. Now that the US Embassy was involved was Mary trying to cover her tracks?

Remember when we began this process we were expecting a healthy little girl and up until the point of the embassy visit we were assured that everything was fine. Then we get the shock of having our baby red flagged by the embassy doctor and told that we had to sign a waiver (something the embassy rarely does) to get her into the country. We didn’t know if she could even walk, or if she was severely delayed in her mental capacity. Being totally honest we needed more information. A severely disabled child changes the dynamics of a family and we had not even thought about it. When you do your home study with the social worker, it has to be clearly documented to make it a valid home study, that you are considering or want a special needs child. We simply wanted some more information and time to make our final decision. After all it was clear we had been lied to and we wanted to know the truth before bringing our baby home. I reiterate we never once said we did not want her.

Mary kept badgering my wife with phone calls and wanted to know what time her flight was leaving. That left us feeling uneasy because we didn’t know what she was capable of doing and at this point we certainly did not trust her. My wife and I agreed that she and my daughter should leave early in the morning without letting Mary know the flight time. It’s evident that she was capable of Kidnapping, what other things would she be capable of doing. I have 26 years of law enforcement experience and sometimes police have to trust their gut feelings about people and I honestly felt sick to my stomach thinking of what Mary Bonn was capable of doing to my wife and child and I was not there to protect them.

My wife and daughter returned to the States and needless to say they were exhausted and emotionally spent. My wife had to endure watching other adoptive parents returning with their healthy Guatemalan children and it broke my wife’s heart to think of how our baby’s health was allowed to deteriorate to the point it was. We immediately contacted

pediatric specialist Dr. Dana Johnson of the University of Minnesota (Mary actually referred us to him) and gave him what information and photos we did have. Mary was going to be making a trip to Guatemala in a few weeks. Mary said she would personally take our daughter into her care and bring her to doctors to diagnose what is wrong with her. My wife did not feel comfortable having our daughter stay with Mary but we had no other options for getting our daughter help. We were financially tapped out and at this point we did not trust the people we were dealing with in Guatemala. Mary promised that she would take a video so we could show it to Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson made it clear that he would need this video tape and further testing to help him make a better diagnosis. Shortly after arriving in Guatemala, Mary sent us an email in regards to our daughter that stated, "I can't believe that she has made it this far". Excuse me but just about 2 weeks prior Mary was saying that she had personally seen our daughter and that she was just fine. How does a baby go from "just fine" to "amazing she has made it this far" in a couple of weeks? Obviously we had been lied to and we doubted that Mary had even seen our child.

Looking back now, we understand that this was probably when Mary hatched her plan to take our baby. She was saying these things in hope to discourage us from taking her home for several possible reasons. #1. She was trying to cover her tracks, realizing there might be some heat coming down for the way she in part neglected our child. #2 She actually wanted our baby and for some selfish, sick reason decided she was going to take her for her own. Or #3 She was just doing this out of spite to get back at us for not doing things her way, which was committing VISA fraud.

We later learned that it was most likely #3. When interviewed by Investigator Lentz, Mary said the reason she took the baby was because we "only got one chance to take that baby and when they didn't take her the first time and left the country she was mine". Mary was also asked by Investigator Lentz, when the baby arrived in the United States (around April 29th) "did you bother to contact the Olsons to let them know their daughter was in the States?" Mary's reply was "F*** the Olsons, they didn't deserve her". And that mystery word rhymes with duck.

The next two weeks were excruciating as we waited for information to come from Mary Bonn. When we learned that Mary had returned from Guatemala we immediately telephoned her and asked if she had our video tape or any other information for us because we had several pediatricians waiting for this information. Mary's reply was "I don't take videos of children who are done with the adoption process". My wife couldn't believe her ears. After promising she would get this crucial video tape and the pediatricians were waiting for it, she now tells us she doesn't do that. It was totally obvious that this woman had no interest in working to help us with our daughter. She also said that the Doctors in Guatemala were incapable of doing any neurological testing and that only doctors in the US could do this. We now know this to be totally untrue and learned of several other agencies who have arranged to have neurological testing on Guatemalan children. In an attempt to pressure us further (or make us give up) Mary also stated to us (shortly after my wife returned) that to save our daughter's life would cost us about \$500-600 dollars a night to keep her in a Guatemala hospital. When she told us

this we did not balk because at this point we felt she was bluffing. Within about two weeks after returning from Guatemala we had a conversation with Jen Holdren. Even though we still had no promised information from Mary, we said we would take our daughter home. We pointed out to Jen that we had no clue as to what our daughter's medical needs (on-going therapy and medications) might entail. Remember Mary's own pediatrician told us she most likely had cerebral palsy, and Dr. Johnson also told us that she would probably never reach her full potential because of malnutrition. Jen agreed with us that it would be proper to reduce some of our fees to help defray some of our possible future expenses. This is commonly done with special needs children. Jen said yes, but Mary quickly said no to the request and said there would not be any reduction in fees. Mary kept trying to get us to commit VISA fraud and we told her that it was illegal. Mary said nobody would care and that she had done it before. She even gave us names of people to contact so they could explain how to accomplish this. One such person she put us in touch with was Danielle Stewart of Heartland Adoption Agency. In an email directly from Mary, dated Jan 10th, 2007 Mary writes:

I've spoken with Danielle recently and her recollection also was that she counseled you on disrupted foreign adoptions. She assured you that if you were not convinced that Karen was okay, she was willing to help you relinquish her and find her a new home. You declined.

Duh?!? We declined because we weren't about to give her up. This also points out that when you bring a child into the country you sign a form stating that you are fully intending to raise the child as your own. If you are just signing the form to bring the child into the states to turn her over to someone else, THAT IS VISA FRAUD. Danielle Stewart and Heartland adoption Agency apparently had counseled others before on how to handle this.

It's also important to note that Mary told my wife over the phone that she was looking for another family to take in another Guatemalan girl approximately the same age as our daughter. She described this little girl as very healthy, chubby, with light skin and hair, and of partial European descent. She implied that we could trade babies. My wife refused to even dignify the comment with a response. At that point it felt like Mary was acting like she was treating these children as puppies. Jumping ahead, Agent Lentz of I.C.E. had confiscated her computer when Mary was arrested and later learned that Mary had used this same child as a bait and switch tactic and referred this child to two other families. Then she rescinded the referrals a short time later, and to this date our understanding is that Mary has this child in her own home. We can't help but wonder if our child's situation was exclusive or if the other younger children in her home are questionable as well.

Mary never brought our daughter to any neurological specialist or took the requested video but she did manage to find the time to accomplish something. She took our daughter to a salon and had her haircut and her ears pierced. Excuse me but this was still our daughter. Mary said she would go to Guatemala to watch her and find out what was wrong with her. Imagine if you left your child with the babysitter and when you returned she had cut your daughter's hair and pierced her ears? You would be outraged!! This points out that either Mary had obvious plans to take her as her own or that she is some

kind of sick sociopath that feels she can do whatever she wants and doesn't care the least of how others feel. I personally think it is both. How arrogant to think that she could pierce the ears on another person's child. And make no mistake she was still our daughter. She violated both, our rights and the rights of our daughter.

We finally got sick of Mary trying to get us to commit a felony, VISA fraud, and told our agency's lawyer, Jim Adams, that there is no way we were going to do that. We still wanted information on our daughter's medical condition to help us decide what we were going to do. Jim Adams relayed this information to Mary and within a day or two she issued us an ultimatum through Jim Adams. Jim Adams told us on Monday morning of April 17th, 2006 that Mary and the Guatemala lawyers needed us to make a decision by April 21st, 2006 on whether or not we were going to take our daughter home or not, otherwise she was going to be put into a Guatemala orphanage. We still had no vital information from any reputable doctors, no video tape, no neurological reports, nothing we were hoping for to make an informed decision. We prayed about it over and over, and we discussed it with our other children. We resigned to the fact that we were not going to get any valid information and that we were just going to trust in God and take the leap of faith because no matter what her medical conditions were, we would not let her go to an orphanage. On April 21st we called Jen Holdren (A Field of Dreams) and told her that we were going to take our daughter home and explained that we would travel to Guatemala early the following week to get her. Jen Holdren seemed relieved and said she would immediately call Mary and let her know.

We anxiously waited over the weekend and started making traveling plans to bring our daughter home. Monday morning, April 24, 2006, I took a call from Jen Holdren which took our breath away. She said that she was sorry but we were too late and our daughter had already been put into a Guatemalan orphanage. I was somewhat in shock when I hung up the phone and told my wife what Jen had said. My wife immediately called Jen back and told her that there was obviously some sort of miscommunication. That we met our given deadline and made it clear we were going to take our daughter home. Only the weekend had passed and nothing should have changed. The Guatemalan courts were closed over the weekend and nothing moves fast in the courts even when they are open. She told Jen to please call Mary immediately and correct any misunderstandings. Jen called my wife back and told her "Mary said it was too late. There is nothing she can do and your daughter went to an orphanage." This was incredibly devastating. After all we had been through to think that our little girl was going to an orphanage.

My wife immediately emailed Mary Bonn explaining that we definitely wanted our daughter, that there had obviously been a miscommunication, to contact the Guatemalan lawyer (we had no contact information for her) and to immediately get our daughter out of the orphanage because we would be taking her home. Mary Bonn immediately emailed us back and we were totally shocked. She said that she was not going to do anything, that we were horrible people who didn't care about the baby, and that it was our fault that she ended up in an orphanage. She said that she never wanted to hear from us again and that we would not be getting any of our money back. She added that we would

not get another referral as well. We were dumbfounded. We had agreed to take a special needs child not knowing what her specific problems were or the severity of her condition and Mary is telling us we are awful people and it is our fault she is in an orphanage. We later found out of course, that this was all a vicious lie fabricated by Mary Bonn in order to hurt us. She was well aware that this would have been our greatest fear as it would with anyone adopting from Guatemala. State run Guatemalan orphanages are not a pleasant place for a child to go, especially one who was sick and weak. Remember, that was one of the points she made when she was trying to convince us to commit VISA fraud and turn our daughter over to her. She said if our daughter ended up in an orphanage she would die. Now she was telling us that she was in an orphanage and in affect...she was going to die and she was not going to lift a finger to help us get her out. In essence Mary was going to allow her to die. What a mean-spirited, evil, hurtful lie to tell someone, but yet she tries to portray herself as some sort of savior of children.

In our efforts to find our daughter we emailed a very prominent Guatemalan lawyer who is well-known and respected for her outspoken advocacy for children of Guatemala. Susana Luarca has been featured in the New York Times newspaper in a lengthy article and too many other magazine articles to mention. I spoke with her and explained our situation of our daughter being in an orphanage and before I even gave her the name of our facilitator, she asked me if it was Mary Bonn. I said yes and she said "Mary Bonn is a very bad person who has done many bad things. I would not work with her or anyone who works with her. Anyone who works with her is bad too." Ms. Luarca was sympathetic to our plea and offered to help us. She went to the Guatemalan courts and made the proper inquiries. Ms. Luarca emailed us back and said that there was no record of our daughter being placed in an orphanage and that there would have to be in order for this to be done. I told her the name of our Guatemalan attorney (Dora Zavala) who was working our case along with Mary Bonn. Dora Zavala would have had to sign any paperwork in regards to our daughter's placement. When Ms. Luarca contacted her, Ms. Zavala started yelling profanities into the phone and hung up. Ms. Luarca called her back and told her she could be in serious trouble and she should talk to her. Ms. Zavala (who incidentally has been banned from the US Embassy) then stated that our daughter had not gone into an orphanage but went back to her biological mother and an aunt. We were wondering just what in the world is going on. Shortly after this we got a message on our answering machine from Guatemala. It was someone speaking for Ms. Zavala telling us "You can't have your kid back. She is back with her mother and aunt. She is signed off in the courts so quit calling any attorneys." We contacted Jen Holdren and told her that our daughter had not gone into an orphanage but apparently had gone back to her birth mother. Jen admitted that she knew this and in fact had been told by Mary Bonn to lie to us about the orphanage just to inflict hurt and pain. Jen also said to us that in fact the baby went to her birthmother on April 18th or 19th, two to three days before the deadline that Mary gave to us. The deadline obviously meant nothing and was just another lie. We were devastated but we also told Jen that if in fact the birthmother wanted her child back and could support her, we would not stand in the way of reuniting a child with her birthmother. We couldn't live with ourselves if we thought the birthmother changed her mind and wanted her baby back. With all the controversy over Guatemala adoptions we wanted to make sure that ours was squeaky clean with no room for discrepancies. We

told Jen that if indeed the birthmother was taking her child back we would need legal verification of this. Jen agreed and said she would try to get the paperwork for us.

It was sometime in mid-May that we got an email from Jen Holdren informing us that Mary Bonn had just taken in a new child into her own home. She mentioned the child was a little girl and approximately our daughter's age. We couldn't believe it. We knew she was liar, but we didn't think she would be that arrogant or stupid to try and take our daughter for herself but admittedly it was in the back of our minds. We waited a few more weeks for the verification of our daughter going back to her birth mother. There of course was no word. We turned to another respected organization in Guatemala called Adoption Supervisors to help us find out what happened to our daughter. A.S. is a private firm that assists prospective adoptive parents when they are stalled in the adoption process and are trying to find out what is causing the hold-up. We gave them what little information we had and they sent a person to the birthmother's last known address. They were satisfied that they had made contact with the right people. They basically had the door slammed in their face and were told to go away. Apparently a young adolescent girl told them the birthmother lived there along with a small child and an aunt. Adoption Supervisors said they were confident that our daughter was back with her birthmother and we should just move on with our lives. This was not good enough. There were still no court documents and no photos confirming anything, so my wife would not accept this and we continued our search for the truth.

At this point were perplexed as to what to do. Since Dora Zavala had stated that it went through the courts, we thought perhaps she would have the legal proof. It was now during the summer that I contacted Dora's English speaking daughter (Alba) who apparently works along side her mother in international adoptions, at least she did. She interpreted for me and said that yes her mother had the legal paperwork and would send it to me. We waited several days and nothing came so I emailed /telephoned her and asked about it. She told me that the fax machine was broke so she couldn't send it. I told her we would gladly pay for it to be Fed Ex'd and she said she would tell her mother. Once again more lies. Days went by and nothing. I called and spoke again with the daughter. I asked how our baby was given back to her birthmother when we wanted her. Her reply was that neither Mary Bonn nor Jen Holdren told her that we wanted our daughter and that she was paying for her care out of her own pocket. She stated she would not ever work with Mary Bonn again and that Mary still owed her \$12,500 dollars to help pay for the baby's expenses. The next day the daughter emailed us back and said that there was a miscommunication and that Mary Bonn had indeed paid Ms. Zavala the money but was late with it. She still promised the legal paperwork. About this same time we had contacted the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington D.C. and spoke with an Embassy employee so we let Ms. Zavala know that the Embassy was now involved and there would be trouble if anything illegal had been done.

At this point you have to understand that we weren't sure where our daughter was, but we thought there was a good chance she was with her birthmother. We didn't have the proof, but we were starting to resign ourselves to it. We started to think that okay....you took our daughter and gave her back to her birthmother....then you'd better give us back

our \$23,500 dollars. Our contract was with Jen Holdren and A Field of Dreams so we approached her about returning our money. We made it clear that our money was only part of this. We still demanded the proof of where our daughter was. Jen was of no assistance. She agreed that we deserved our money back, but she had no money to repay us, and she said she would try to get the legal paperwork to help us locate where our daughter was. Nothing came from Dora Zavala of course, and Jen Holdren provided no further helpful information.

This was now toward the end of summer 2006, when we started to get some information from sources in regards to Mary Bonn. Jen Holdren told us that Mary had fallen in love with our baby. Another lady told who was involved in trying to get a baby (who knew of our situation) stated that she had been speaking with Mary who told her about "this couple" who were still trying to find out information on their baby's medical condition. The woman did not let on that she knew who we were. Mary said it was unclear if they were going to take the baby or not. The lady said well if they don't want her I'll take her. Mary's reply was "oh no, this baby is mine". It was clear that Mary had made her mind up to take our daughter one way or another.

This of course made us realize that the chances of Mary having our baby were better but we still did not have proof. I contacted the Naples, FL. Police department and explained the situation to them. I requested that they go to Mary's house and check to see if our daughter was there. They stated that they could not help me because Mary's home was addressed in Collier County, not the City of Naples. Several calls to Collier County Sheriff Department were useless as well. They listened to the story, passed the buck and said they couldn't help me because this was something the F.B.I. should handle. I contacted the Naples F.B.I. office and spoke to Agent McCormick. Agent McCormick listened to the facts and said I should contact the Seattle F.B.I. because it is where we lived. I contacted the Seattle office of the F.B.I. and told them of the situation. The screening agent in Seattle told us to write a thorough, chronological report of the events and she would forward it to her supervisor, who would then determine if they would start a case file or not. Once a week for approximately 4 or 5 weeks I called and left messages requesting what, if any, progress had been made. No reply. I finally went to the Seattle Police Department asking if they could help make the connection with the F.B.I. so I could get some answers. That afternoon the F.B.I. screening agent called me and stated that she was sorry but they had lost my file and I would have to re-submit it. You can imagine our frustration. I resubmitted everything and waited. The Seattle F.B.I. eventually said I should contact the Naples, Fl. F.B.I. because that is where the alleged crime took place. My wife spoke to Agent McCormick and again told him the facts of the case. She also gave him several other names for him to contact. These people could verify with information, some of the questionable dealings of Mary Bonn. Agent McCormick never contacted any of them. My wife telephoned him again at a later date and he abruptly cut her off and said "she (Mary Bonn) had the right to give that baby to anyone she wanted to" and he made it clear he wanted nothing to do with the case. He obviously knew nothing about the law and totally misunderstood any facts about the case.

We were about ready to explode with frustration from nobody seeming to care about what happened to our daughter.

In the meantime I went back to the Seattle Police Criminal Intelligence Unit who at least tried to help us. They sent communications through Interpol to try and locate the birthmother in Guatemala to see if she had regained custody of her daughter. We never did get any feedback from that avenue. We still had no proof that Mary had our daughter, only a gut feeling. With no law enforcement agency willing to help us (aside from the Seattle Police) we were beginning to lose hope of ever seeing our daughter again. I even called the Collier County Sheriff's Office again and said I would pay for my own airfare down to Florida and they could send a Deputy along with me to Mary Bonn's house to assure that nothing would happen. I said I wouldn't try to remove the baby from the house but I needed to know if she was there. From that point I would proceed legally from there. The Collier County Sheriff's Department again said they wouldn't do that. Once again, we were kicked in the guts, this time by my own fellow law enforcement community.

We started to give up hope but at the same time grew angrier thinking of how our daughter suffered, how we had been lied to, that we may have lost our daughter back to her birthmother, and then to top it off they were going to keep our \$23,500. We started to focus our energies on trying to at least get our money back. We asked Jen for our money back and she basically said all she could come up with was about \$3,000 dollars. We refused of course and stated that was not acceptable. We told Jen Holdren our contract was with Field of Dreams, not Mary Bonn, and she should be responsible. She could then settle with Mary Bonn, Dora Zavala, and whomever else she needed to.

Jen Holdren totally agreed with us, as well did her lawyer, Jim Adams, and she told us she had malpractice insurance that would cover this sort of thing. So once again we were instructed to write up all the facts and submit it to her insurance company. This was done and again we waited. The insurance company said they would not cover this claim. We told Jen that we did not want to but we had no choice but to start legal action against A Field of Dreams and we also made it very clear that we were still demanding some sort of legal proof of where our daughter was. To avoid costly legal fees we first sought out the assistance of the Better Business Bureau of Western Pennsylvania to try to obtain some restitution for our fees. Again we filled out a lengthy report of the facts, and sent it in. A Field of Dreams was given the option to choose if this was going to be binding or non-binding arbitration for the amount of approximately \$30,000. They chose non-binding arbitration and a hearing date was set for the early to mid part of November, 2006.

As the hearing approached we were in contact with A Field of Dreams lawyer, Jim Adams. At one point he said Jen could possibly offer us \$9,000 if we would drop the case. He asked me to think about it and get back to him. I told him at that time this was not only about the money. I said we also needed to know where our child was. I asked him if he could possibly get in touch with Mary Bonn or Dora Zavala and try to give us the proof we needed as to our daughter's whereabouts. He said he would see what he could do and he wanted me to think about the offer of \$9,000. A couple days later I

called him back and said we would not accept the \$9,000 and then asked him if he found out anything about our daughter. He said “there is nothing else to talk about”. I said, “Jim these are two separate issues. The money is one thing but we’re talking about the humanitarian issue of trying to find out about my daughter”. Again he said there was nothing more to talk about. I then asked “You mean to tell me you’re not going to give me any information about my daughter unless I accept your offer?” He clearly and distinctly said, “That’s right”. I was in shock and beside myself with anger at that point. How could any human do that? That seemed like extortion to me and I could not believe someone could sink that low.

After I cooled down I later realized Jim Adams probably had no information, perhaps he did, but I felt it was just a sneaky underhanded tactic to try to settle for a fraction of what we were seeking. Several days later I was on the phone with Jim Adams and I mentioned that we didn’t know if our daughter was healthy, where she was or even if she was alive. Jim said “well she looks okay to me. She looks like she’s walking around in these pictures I have.” I was shocked and asked where he got those pictures from as I had only seen pictures of when she was under 1 year old, when she looked small and frail. Jim said he believed they came from the birthmother. My wife was standing nearby when I hung up the phone. I told her what Jim had said she had me immediately call him back and ask for a copy of the photos. I did and Jim said he would send them. For some reason he could not send them via email so we called Jen Holdren and she forwarded her copies of the photos to us. These photos were obtained for the arbitration hearing by A Field of Dreams in an attempt to show just how healthy our daughter was and we were obviously wrong for saying she was sickly. Well the plan back-fired.

It was a like a lightning bolt from God himself. It was definitely our daughter. We were told that she went back to her birthmother, who was a very poor young Guatemalan woman. Our daughter however, was not in tattered or dirty clothing. She was dressed in what appeared to be “Baby Gap” type clothing. She had gold jewelry on and her hair was all done up in a modern style cut. These were hardly things that a poor mother would dress her child in. We also noted immediately that she was standing not on some old cobblestone bricks or dirt or concrete floor. She was standing on some very modern looking ornate patio bricks, the kind you might buy at your local builder’s supply store. And of course we wondered how an indigent, young mother would have money for a digital camera, let alone a computer and internet hook-up to send the photos. At this point we at least knew she was alive and appeared relatively healthy, but we didn’t know where she was. We thought perhaps Mary had somehow given the baby to another family to spite us. We even thought perhaps Mary had the child herself but we had no proof.

It was now time for the arbitration hearing which was done over a conference call hook-up in Pennsylvania. Just prior to the start of the hearing the arbitrator was asked to leave the room. Jim Adams then asked me if my wife and I would accept another referral for another baby and then we wouldn’t have to go through this process. He went on to say that it wouldn’t be from an agency but Mary herself was offering another child to us and she would handle all of the transactions. After what we had been through there was no

way in the world we were going to trust Mary Bonn and go through another 9 months with her working our case.

A week or so before the actual arbitration hearing both parties were allowed to see what documents were going to be presented by each side. Among some of the paperwork for the Field of Dreams was a bogus “sworn affidavit” from Dora Zavala in which Ms. Zavala wrote up a statement saying how we had abandoned the child and the baby was returned to her biological mother and aunt. It is important to note that this “affidavit” was written to look like it had been documented on April 29, 2006. The notary signature is on August 18th, 2006. Coincidentally, the notary’s signature is about 3 or 4 days after I informed Ms. Zavala that the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington D.C. had been notified of what was going on. Ms. Zavala appeared to be getting nervous and quickly drafted this paper to cover her trail. It was not in any way an official document, just something she wrote up and then had notarized, again more lies. About ½ hour before the actual hearing we received Ms. Bonn’s statement in support of A Field of Dreams. It of course was filled with lies and misrepresentations including how the pictures of our daughter (where she is walking) were taken by the foster mother in late May. This was about two months after my wife had seen her and we were supposed to believe that she progressed from not even being able to sit up and the size of a 4 month old, to an able-bodied toddler. Her hair was also much longer and her face was obviously progressed in age much more than two months as well. The last point of her statement said that our daughter was returned to her birthmother and aunt, and that they had moved to a location unknown to anyone (we were told they had fled to Ecuador). It is interesting that the very last line says: This Affidavit is being made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. #4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities. Mary’s signature is about 1 inch away. Needless to say she has no problem with the threat of breaking the law because she believes she is above the law.

After the hearing the arbitrator made his decision which favored A Field of Dreams. This so called “trained arbitrator” definitely knew these facts prior to the hearing:

1. That Jen Holdren agreed we deserved all of our money back.
2. Jen told us to pursue the claim through her insurance.
3. Jim Adams had agreed that we should get all of our money back and in fact told Jen she should do so rather than going to court.
4. Jim Adams came to us two separate times with offers of first \$3,000 and later \$9,000.
5. The fact that they chose the ruling to be non-binding was also an indicator that they were expecting things to go against them and this way they would be able to appeal it.
6. That he (the arbitrator himself) was asked to leave the room just immediately prior to leave the room because Jim Adams offered us another referral.

All of these things pointed blatantly to the guilt and responsibility of the agency to reimburse us. The ignorant arbitrator chose to believe A Field of Dreams and whatever Mary Bonn had said, even though we were able to refute and expose every lie she wrote. Would this madness ever end? We were beginning to wonder just what was wrong with

the world and why was evil winning over what was right and truth? We truly thought that somehow maybe he was paid off to rule the way he did. We thought maybe he had a close relationship with Jim Adams and sided with an "old friend". It just didn't make sense and we just kept hitting roadblocks. If we didn't want this child like Mary Bonn is trying to portray us, we would have given up long before.

We still had the photos of our daughter which convinced us that she was not with an indigent family in Guatemala, but we still did not know where she was for sure, even though we had a hunch it might be with Mary Bonn.

It was about this time that the producers of NBC Dateline had announced that they were doing a story about Guatemalan Adoptions. My wife contacted them and left a message stating our agency's name, and our facilitator Mary Bonn. We were hoping that they might be able to post a picture of our daughter on the show so we could try to locate her. The producer called back a short time later and said she was interested to talk to us because she had heard from several people about Mary Bonn and some of her misdeeds. Mary's name had also come up in a story they were going to do on the closing of a Minnesota agency known as Reaching Arms International, whom Mary had been affiliated with. The producer asked us to be interviewed for the show but we declined. We were not interested in making our story public.

The producer suggested we contact Kevin Kreutner, who runs Guatadopt.com, which is probably the largest internet website dealing with Guatemalan adoptions. When we mentioned Mary Bonn's name he was well aware of her illegal and questionable activities and said that he would at least put up the photo of our daughter (the one in which she was standing) and see what happened. The photo went up and there were some people that responded but none that were willing to say for sure where they had seen her.

We had just about exhausted all hope of finding her when my wife contacted a private investigator in southern Florida. We explained our suspicions and that we wanted to proceed cautiously. We just wanted someone to verify if our daughter was at Mary Bonn's residence or not. Remember law enforcement had turned their backs on us. The investigator told us it would cost us about \$1,200 per day with no guarantees of a final answer. We were financially drained at this point and sadly said we would go bankrupt if we were to pay those fees. The P.I. was very sympathetic to our quest and stated that she had worked in the past with an agent with the Immigration Customs Enforcement agency and that he might be able to assist us. The P.I. presented our case to Agent Robert Lentz of I.C.E. who agreed to take a look and see if there was anything he could do. We of course were guarded in our expectations but at least someone in law enforcement would hopefully listen to us and even perhaps help us to find our daughter.

While waiting to hear from Agent Lentz we proceeded to follow any useful information in our search. We were able to obtain a Christmas card photo of Mary's family in which there were 8 girls of varying ages posed for the picture. We later learned that there were actually 2 separate photos made, one without our daughter and one with her included.

We felt this was another obvious attempt to conceal our daughter from the public eye. When we knew the photo was coming we alerted the private investigator and said we would try to find out once and for all if our daughter was among the children in Mary's family photo or not. We told her she could then forward this information to Agent Lentz, who at this point we had still not spoken with. This is where I have no doubt that God played a huge part in this saga.

I was just finishing up singing at church when my wife called me and I could tell she was very distressed and crying. She said she had received the family Christmas photo and our daughter was not there. "Mary Bonn doesn't have our daughter she sobbed." She said that she had already written an email to the Florida P.I. explaining that this was a dead end, Mary Bonn didn't have our daughter, and she should just disregard bothering Agent Lentz. I asked her if she had sent it out yet and she stated no. I told her to wait until I got home so I could at least take a look. When I got home I couldn't believe it. I could clearly see our daughter sitting on the lap of one of the older siblings in the photo. My teenage daughter also agreed with my wife that our daughter was not there. I blew the photo up and examined it and even sent it out to several friends who agreed with me that this was indeed our daughter. At least it was close enough to warrant checking it out further. My wife agreed not to send the email that would have canceled further investigation, to the P.I.

It was now just about Christmas time and ours was a house filled with mixed emotions for we had our three other children to think about but large on our minds was our little Guatemalan angel. On December 23rd, my wife sent out an email to Mary Bonn basically letting her know that we were the end of our rope and were going to take her to court to recover our fees. We also let her know of our disappointment of not having our daughter with us on Christmas and how that was so painful. We told her we couldn't understand how she, as a mother, could not see how desperate we were to find out what happened to our daughter. She responded on January 3, 2007 with a letter explaining how she had done everything she could to help us get our daughter and she basically blamed the rest on the Guatemala attorney. She offered to give us back \$3000 and suggested that Jen Holdren might give us back her portion of the fees as well. Mary also mentioned that she didn't appreciate Kevin Kruefner of Guatadopt.com, sending pictures of her family over the internet because she valued their privacy. When Mary Bonn was arrested she and her lawyer certainly had no problem splashing our daughter's picture on the ABC affiliate and on CNN news several times, in an attempt to garnish public support for such a "kind and loving soul". We told them, through Agent Lentz, not to do that again but she was on several more times after that. Where was your desire to protect a child's privacy then Mary Bonn?

We finally got word from the Private Investigator on January 5th, 2007 that Agent Lentz had a chance to look at our case and was willing investigate it. We sent him all the information and copies of pictures that we had, along with the original reports from the US Embassy in Guatemala. On Jan 12th we sent one last impassioned plea to Mary Bonn to try and understand our heartbreak. We basically said if our daughter really went back to her birthmother than she needed to do what was right and refund our money, because

up to that point there was no legal paperwork telling us where our daughter was. She never answered us.

The rest of January was spent waiting for any news to come back from Agent Lentz. We had given him the photo that we thought would most likely be helpful, and that was the one with her standing on the bricks. We had tried to Google Earth Mary's house to see if we could actually see a brick pattern from a satellite image but there just was not enough clarity. I explained to Agent Lentz that those bricks just might be in Mary's driveway or patio or somewhere else around her house.

On February 2, 2007 we were still in contact with people in Guatemala trying to locate our daughter's birthmother because we still at this point thought she might have our little girl. At this point we just wanted the peace of mind knowing she was safe. We wanted the birthmother to know we had no intentions of taking her, especially after 9 months, but we really needed to know she was okay.

It was like the day that Kennedy was assassinated or when you first heard the news of the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center. You can picture the exact place you were when you heard the news. On February 2nd, I was driving home from work in downtown Seattle when I got the call while I was on the freeway. The voice said 'this is Agent Robert Lentz and we have just arrested Mary Bonn'. I of course asked the million dollar question about my daughter and he said "Yes, I have her and she's sitting here on my lap." I could not believe my ears. You can not believe the flood of emotions that came over me. I had to pull the car over on the side of the freeway and I just started bawling like a baby. I'm sure if anybody saw me on the side of the road they would have thought I was crazy. I was shaking as I drove home trying to envision my wife's reaction when I told her. I got home walked in the door and told her. Her first reaction was one of disbelief and she thought I was playing some sort of cruel joke. When I said it again and started crying I guess she believed me because she let out a scream like you wouldn't believe. It seemed like our incredible nightmare was over.

Agent Lentz requested that I come to Florida to identify our daughter and pick her up (like I needed to be asked). I immediately began making flight plans to go to Florida to pick up my daughter. I took my ten year old son with me because is great with kids (he has a younger sister) and I figured this would be very traumatic for my daughter and having another child along may be a comfort to her. After all, I would have been the fourth person to have custody of this little girl in her short lifetime.

We traveled down on the first available flight and I met with Agent Lentz near the Fort Meyers Airport. Because my daughter had entered the country illegally she had to stay in the temporary custody of the Florida child protective agency. I got to see her for about one or two hours. I was both anxious and nervous as I got to hold her for the first time. She went to me though without crying and laid her head on my shoulder. It was obvious that she was frightened. To her I was another stranger in her life taking her away from her security. It really made me angry that she had to go through all she did to make it home to her parents. We were told that it would take about two maybe three days to get

her immigration status figured out. I wish it happened like that but the nightmare continued.

For some unknown reason to me there was indecision among the Federal agencies as to who should handle this, who had jurisdiction, and just a myriad of issue that we deemed totally unimportant. We just wanted to get her home with us and adjust whatever needed to be adjusted later. Well to start wrapping this saga up, I had to get my son back to Seattle for school so after several days I returned home without my child. Talk about heartbreaking. I know Agent Lentz worked extremely hard on trying to work this out but it was beyond his hands and unfortunately in the hands of the bureaucrats in Washington, DC. At one point we were told the baby would have to go back to Guatemala and we had to write to the District Director of Central American US Embassies, Oscar Lujan, and plead with him not to let this happen. It was maddening how insane this seemed to be moving so slow. We wrote letters and called our Washington State Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and our Congressman Dave Richert, and begged them for assistance to end this madness. Our daughter had to spend almost two weeks in a shelter before she was allowed to travel home with us on February 17th, 2006.

During this wait, we were contacted by a reporter from the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Frederick Melo. He called me and asked if I would care to comment on Mary's arrest. He said if I didn't the story risked being one-sided in favor of Mary. I told him this was a private matter and pending the outcome of a possible trial I felt that I should not say anything.

On February 14th we finally got the news from Agent Lentz that we could come to Florida and get our daughter. I made arrangements as quickly as I could and eventually returned home to Seattle on February 17th with my little girl. What a joyous greeting we got at the airport from my wife and other children. We were finally a family.

The next day on February 18th, the Pioneer Press article came out. It told of Mary Bonn's arrest and yes indeed it was rather one-sided. In it were quotes which were outright lies from some of Mary's cohorts. I will make this brief but we truly feel this has to be stated. One such quote was from Tamara Hillstrom, the director for A Family Journey adoption agency out of Minnesota. Ms. Hillstrom blatantly lied when she said she was in Guatemala with Mary Bonn at the same time of the adoptive mother. She's quoted: "I know why she did it. I was there while she was asking this family to please give this baby a chance. Mary's fear was that if she was put in a Guatemalan orphanage she'd be dead in a month." Mary wasn't even in Guatemala at the same time as my wife. My wife has never met either Hillstrom or Bonn. The article stated that Hillstrom severed her agency's ties to Bonn. Why would you sever your ties to such a good and trusting person? She went to the press and defamed us at such an emotionally stressful time in our lives.

The article also quotes another Mary Bonn sycophant, Marilou Pederson, a physician assistant who tried to pass herself off as a pediatrician. Ms. Pederson was the one who told us our daughter had Cerebral Palsy in what appears to have been a Mary Bonn

attempt to discourage us from taking our daughter. She stated that my wife seemed “hesitant to accept this little baby” and “angry that she was not a big healthy baby”. Excuse me but yes we were angry, angry that Mary Bonn had allowed our child to become malnourished and neglected despite our pleas for help. My wife never was angry with Ms. Pederson on the phone and she never would have said she wanted a “big healthy baby”. Ms. Pederson also stated that she spoke to my wife while she was in Guatemala. Again not true. My wife was in Seattle when they spoke and it was in reference to how she could say our daughter had CP when other specialists said they needed much more information.

Another totally inflammatory remark was posted March 4th, 2007 on the internet site by a Mary Bonn cohort, Jane Costello. Jane chose to support Mary without any concern for our family. First of all it has been established that Mary had confessed to the I.C.E. Special Agent Lentz, that when my wife left the Embassy, Mary stated, “I only give people one chance, that baby was mine”. Yet Jane goes on to say totally ignorant statements like; Mary begged us to bring our daughter home, “the child did not fail the U.S. Embassy exam,” and “This child had NO medical issues” (It was Mary Bonn herself who told my wife while she was still in Guatemala that her U.S. physician thinks our daughter may have CP!), “It was months before the parents changed their minds about wanting this child” remember we offered to take our daughter home two weeks after we returned, without any medical information. I’m not sure what it is that makes a person like Jane Costello tick. Did she have a close personal relationship with Mary Bonn, a need for attention or to see her name in print? It has been well established that Mary paid off people in Guatemala to cover this up, were some of these sycophants also paid a fee for allegiance to Mary? Whatever the reason these heartless people had, they did not have all the facts yet chose to go public with there extremely hurtful remarks. If anyone had hurtful things to say about Mary it would have been us, yet we said nothing. My favorite quote of Jane’s is “we (Mary supporters) have no illusions that she will be completely vindicated, but what will undoubtedly show is the she put a child’s well-being above all else.” Mary put her own selfishness in front of everything and nothing else. She wanted to add to her collection of pretty girls and didn’t care who she hurt in the process. Remember, in her own words, and those of her friends Mary supposedly “did this to save the life of a child”. Early on, when Mary was trying to pressure us to commit VISA fraud, Mary told us that the only way to save this child was to get her to American doctors, yet when she kidnapped our daughter and smuggled her into the country she never even took her to a pediatrician. That’s saving a child? It sounds more like neglect to me. Even a healthy internationally adopted child should have been brought to see a pediatrician. Our daughter still has medical issues which are thought to have been linked to her earlier malnutrition. We made many attempts to get any medical information on our daughter to pass on to our pediatrician and never once did we receive anything so we can only assume nothing was done. Quit playing the martyr Mary Bonn. If you had done your job and made sure she was cared for in Guatemala instead of ignoring our pleas you wouldn’t be here today Mary Bonn and you know it.

Make no mistake, there are going to be plenty of people whose adoptions went fine with Mary at the helm. These people I’m sure are very happy with the work she did for them

and we are happy for them as well, happy that their families are complete. There are going to be those who have nothing but glowing things to say about Mary. You don't become a wealthy woman off of the backs of orphan children without having happy customers. However think of the predatory coach or pastor who molests an innocent child, they may not have accosted all the kids on the team, or in the parish, but they definitely need to be punished for the ones that they did. We of course are only dealing with our case here today but make no mistake, there have been many others left in Mary's wake of lies and shady business practices. If Mary would have kept quiet and just accepted that she did something wrong I may not have even been here today. It was her arrogance of proclaiming herself as some sort of savior of children and defaming us publicly in the news, along with the lies proclaimed by her friends, that made it impossible for me to stay away and be silent. We are not here for vengeance. We truly feel for the children that Mary has at home. We have heard nothing but good things about them and I am sure that they are hurting and fearful at this time. But a person can not use their children to protect themselves from being punished when they commit a felony. When they selfishly hurt other innocent people there are consequences. What do we teach our own children if we commit crimes and then don't face up to what we've done? We of course have no say in what the Honorable Judge Steele recommends for punishment today. Whatever it is we will not be bitter and we will accept it.

I finally want to say that I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge God and his role in this. We hit so many roadblocks and disappointments throughout this ordeal that it is a miracle we are here. Remember the Christmas photo that my wife said had no picture of our baby, and almost sent the email to terminate the investigation? It turned out that my wife and daughter were correct. I only found out days after the arrest that our daughter was NOT in that photo. It was the decoy photo Mary had made without my daughter that we saw. In my stubbornness, God made me see our daughter in that photo and I convinced my wife to push forward. Had I not seen her, I possibly would have thrown in the towel as well.

I couldn't count the number of times we prayed for some sort of answer and just when we were about to give up God would come up with the missing piece. This may sound crazy but I remember that I prayed for God to give me a definite sign if we were meant to get our daughter. I wanted it to be distinctive and unmistakable. Don't laugh but I chose a giraffe as the sign. It was about 2 ½ minutes later I turned away from the computer and there staring right at me was a giraffe. It was one of my kid's toys in the corner of the den. I'd seen it there before and never paid any attention to it. The hair stood up on my neck but I thought I probably just subconsciously chose that as a sign. I told myself that one didn't count, I remember purposely saying I would not count The Toy's are Us Store (Geoffrey Giraffe) by our house. It was several hours later that I stopped by a McDonalds drive-thru for a drink. I pulled up to the menu board and it was sporting some advertisement for an upcoming movie. There it was bigger than life, a large giraffe looking back at me. I'm telling you I could almost not speak my order out and I was shaking all the way home. I was ashamed for doubting God the first time.

My wife was going through the same feelings of despair when she prayed for a sign that God really wanted us to have our daughter. My wife chose a sign of roses to signify a “yes” from God. The very next day a letter came in the mail from a Catholic charity we donate to. On the envelope was a large picture of a rose with the caption: “A single rose is waiting for you”. Once again our faith was confirmed. This happened many times and it always kept us going. I have to admit my wife was the stronger of the two of us. It was her tireless tenacity that kept us going. It did take its toll on the quality of our family life. I can’t begin to tell you how many hours were spent at the computer or on the phone that should have been spent playing Monopoly with our kids or just sitting down and enjoying a video with them, or how many times we had to repeat the facts of this case to people who were trying to help us.

We want to go on record as saying that Agent Robert Lentz and the agents in his office at the Immigrations Customs Enforcement Agency are truly heroes in our eyes. Agent Lentz cared enough to listen and investigate when everyone else either turned us away because they were not interested. The Private Investigator, Carrie Kerskie of Marcone Investigations. You were the one who cared enough to help us get in touch with Agent Lentz. We would not have our daughter today if it wasn’t for you. Kevin Kruetner of Guatadopt.com helped us immensely with cutting through some of the bureaucratic red tape and getting the information we needed in the right hands. He also helped us to present our side when so many questions arose as to what really happened. Thanks to Angela, who helped care for our daughter and shuffle her around so we could visit with her during those unbearable weeks in the shelter. Judge Steele and this court for allowing us to present our side of the story so it goes on the record and will hopefully erase any doubts as to how this saga unfolded. My wife personally wanted to thank our daughter’s God-parent, who for almost two years lent a supportive ear and offered prayers and support. Most of all we of course thank God for somehow leading us to the correct conclusion in all of this and delivering our daughter to us, **the daughter we never abandoned in Guatemala.**

We are not happy that Mary Bonn sits here awaiting sentencing. We wished that our case would have gone smoothly. This case has opened Pandora’s box and has had a huge affect on future Guatemalan adoptions. We are not to blame for this. We only pursued what was right and just. We were the parents of our daughter and Mary Bonn was not. She had no right to take her from us. There are very few things in this world stronger than a parent’s love for their child. Mary we are sorry for your troubles, especially sorry for your children, but you only have yourself to blame.

Before sentencing is announced, your honor, we have several conditions that we hope the court will impose:

1. To this day, we do not have full knowledge of what our daughter’s medical needs are. We have repeatedly requested any medical files existing from any pediatrician that she may have seen here in the U.S. once Mary brought her into the country. We have been told they don’t exist. If they are in fact available then we would like the court to order them given to us.
2. That Mary Bonn or her family is forbidden to publicize this case in the press, use our daughter’s picture, or make any profit from this.
3. That Mary Bonn reimburse us for some of the incidental expenses incurred because of this case.