



PHOTOS SPEAK M1



Photos courtesy of the Aromis



KEEPING A FAMILY PROMISE

IMAGINE

... you are 9 years old and have two younger sisters, 5 and 7. You are all living in a really depressing orphanage in Guatemala. There's not a lot to be hopeful about. But, a glimmer of hope appears when a couple from America promises to adopt all three of you. The thought of living in America is very exciting! But almost three years go by and you're still at the orphanage. Can the American couple be trusted? Will they live up to their promise?

The story of the Aromi family begins when Aditi Aromi went on a trip to Monterrey, Mexico to help in an orphanage. She was shocked by the pitiful conditions. Aditi returned home to Mark, her husband, with a quiet determination to adopt a child. To her surprise, Mark agreed that adoption was how he wanted to begin a family also. Shortly afterward, the Aromis saw a picture of three sisters from Guatemala ages 5, 7 and 9 and fell in love. It was not the family they'd envisioned, adopting three children at once, but it ended up being great.

The first of eight visits allowed Mark and Aditi to meet the girls and see the orphanage where they lived. It was a depressing place with bare mattresses and only one working bathroom for 30 kids. And with only two caretakers, it lacked the love and special care of the home to which Mark and Aditi longed to bring the girls home.

Mark and Aditi knew that to build the girls' trust would take commitment and dedication. They called the girls every Wednesday for 84 weeks, a practice which helped bond the bilingual family (Aditi grew up in Mexico and speaks fluent Spanish). They made seven additional trips to Guatemala to visit the girls. They also periodically sent care packages with candy, clothes and hair ribbons. The ribbons that weren't stolen by the other children were worn by the girls to remind them of the couple who loved them and were fighting to bring them home.

Mark and Aditi's character muscles were strengthened during the nearly three-year process and numerous roadblocks of a frustrating adoption process. The approval process seemed to

change with every step they took. Their grit taught their daughters a valuable lesson about what it means to have integrity and be trustworthy and dependable. The girls' character muscles were also strengthened as they waited and hoped.

When Aditi could stand it no longer, she flew to Guatemala determined not to leave without their precious girls. After contacting the wife of Guatemala's president, Aditi parked herself in the waiting room of the adoption office and refused to be ignored. Approval finally came and shortly after, Mark and Aditi welcomed their daughters into their home. All the waiting and worrying and trusting paid off in a family that began in two separate countries and ended together at last.

What can you learn from the girls and parents about integrity to help write your own best TrueSuccess lifestory?

Note: See more lifestories, videos and more: www.TrueSuccessTools.org.

QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING M2/5

1. What evidence is there that both the parents and girls exhibited integrity? What shows that it positively affected their lives?

2. How did integrity play a role in building relationships between the girls and parents? Why do you think Aditi was so intent on bringing the girls home?

3. How can you learn from the Aromis' story and benefit from integrity? What specific actions can you take to show integrity with your life?
