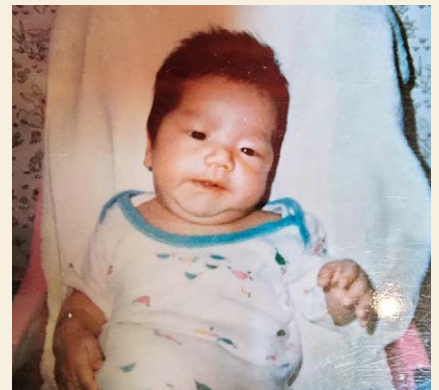


“ Since the adoption of war orphans began with the Korean War, about 200,000 children have been adopted overseas. South Korea once held the disgraceful honor of being the world’s largest exporter of orphans. However, since the introduction of a quota system in 2007 to limit the number of children adopted overseas, domestic and international adoptions have declined. South Korea is the only country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that sends children abroad for adoption. In 1983, KBS launched the world’s first and largest family reunification program, which became listed as a World Heritage Site. Sept. 17 is Hangawi, the largest Korean holiday. As a special event for Hangawi, the Overseas Koreans Agency organized a family reunion program to support adoptees in finding their roots. We continue to hope that next year’s Chuseok will be spent reunited with family. <Editor’s note> ”

‘I want to find my birth family before it’s too late,’ says Kang Soo-chang, Korean adoptee in U.S.

**Born July 9, 1985; ‘I keep thinking there is something I don’t know’
“I want to meet my birth parents before I get old, before it’s too late, and tell them that I’m doing well.”**



Kang as a child (Courtesy of the NCRC Adoptee Support Team)

Kang Soo-chang (R), a Korean adoptee to the United States, and his family (Courtesy of the NCRC Adoptee Support Team)

This is what Eric Reinhart (Korean name: Kang Soo-chang), a Korean adoptee from the United States, said in a find your roots story sent to the Adoptee Support Team of the National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC) on Sept. 5, adding, “I have a wife and a 6-month-old daughter.”

According to his adoption records, Kang was born at 7:13 p.m. on July 9, 1985, in Seongae Hospital in Jung-gu, Incheon. His birth mother, who could not afford to raise him, left the hospital with a request that he be adopted by a good family. Kang was then

referred to the Korea Social Welfare Association for adoption through the Myeongseongwon orphanage, and in November of the same year, he was adopted by a family in the United States.

“I have wanted to find my birth parents for a long time,” Kang explained. “I grew up being loved by my adoptive parents, but I always felt like there was something I didn’t know.

“I’ve always wondered if my birth family is curious about me and wants to find me, just as I am curious about them,” he said. “I want to know who I am and how my birth family is doing.”