So you’re thinking of adopting internationally . . . .

We know international adoption may be overwhelming and confusing at times, but ultimately it is a very rewarding experience. The Cradle will assist you in your adoption journey, but first you need to decide on your destination.

Choosing the country from which you wish to adopt can be a challenge. Most importantly, identify which culture(s) you can imagine embracing and incorporating into your family for the rest of your lives. You will want to determine if there are children placed for adoption from those countries and if so, are they a good fit with your family. Your age and health, as well as the child’s age and potential health risks, are important factors to consider. Your counselor can explore these issues with you.

One of the best resources is the United States Department of State at http://adoption.state.gov/. It provides extensive information on the processes and profiles for each country as well as the numbers of annual adoptions from each country. Intercountry adoption is governed by both the laws of the country in which the child lives and the country in which the adoptive parents live. Certain countries, including the U.S., are parties to The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention). It is an international agreement which establishes safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child. Even if the country is not a party to the Hague Convention, all adoptions must conform to the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 (UAA).

The Cradle can provide home studies and post-placement/post-adoption services for any country that allows international adoption, working in partnership with a placement agency that has a program in that country. The Cradle is Hague accredited to provide adoption services in connection with adoptions from Convention countries, and we have signed agreements on file with several placement agencies that confirm we can work together on behalf of mutual clients. Some of the agencies with which we work are:

- Americans for International Aid and Adoption www.aiaaadopt.org
- CCAI Adoption Services www.ccaifamily.org
- Children’s House International www.childrenshouseinternational.com
- Holt International www.holtinternational.org
- Family and Children’s Agency www.familyandchildrensagency.org
- Wide Horizons for Children www.whfc.org

These agencies have programs in a variety of countries, and you can learn more about wait times, program requirements, and fees on their websites or by phoning them. If you choose to use a different agency, please advise your counselor as soon as possible so that we may determine if we are able to work with that agency and, if necessary, complete the required documents between our two agencies.