

The Long Goodbye

By Anna Mendoza

The long goodbye started when he walked through our door. Not understanding what he was brought here for. You reach out to hug him and he pulls away.

“It’s okay” you tell him “maybe another day”.

There’s a distance between you and you pray it would close. You get near, he moves away and round and round it goes. He is quiet and untrusting of you with his fears. And you get startled that he can cry without sound ...only tears.



Anna Mendoza with her husband Leo

So You treasure the little things; like his first belly laugh. And the fact that he can play forever in a bath. How he likes to sing and he’s pretty good at it. Or the first time he asked to cuddle on your lap. The joy he gets from going to the zoo. Or spending time with “grandma” and eating HER food. His love for tractors and all big things with wheels. Books with lift flaps, bugs and Happy Meals. And always asking “is it church time today?” And when you nod the smile that lights up his face!!

The first time he prayed aloud for his food. That look in his eyes when you say “you did good”. Singing to him at night in his room.

Even if it’s “Rudolph” and “Frosty” in June. The many prayers you prayed together day and night. All prepares you for the long goodbye. These things are the things that help build that bond. The “love” connection that help you both move on. These things matter and will live on in his heart. You loved him hard so this is the hard part. Because he grew to love back beyond the pain. Means the chance is greater he can do it again. So we thank God again for lending him to us. For helping us grow and learn more of HIS love. And we leave him in the best Hands of all. As we know once again we have answered HIS call!

