

Dear Friends,

In Monday's *Hartford Courant*, there was an article about two sisters in their mid-20's, who met each other **for the first time** on July 4. They were born in China just 14 months apart and were adopted separately from the same orphanage in China by American parents. Leah Boedigheimer was raised in Minnesota, and Ruby Hunter was raised in Connecticut. In December, they discovered each other through Facebook after each took the DNA test from 23 and Me.

The sisters have been overjoyed by their new relationship, and there have also been uncanny similarities. As the article stated, "... the two women met and realized they both have tattoos with the Julius Caesar quote 'Veni, Vidi, Vici,' which is Latin for 'I came, I saw, I conquered.' They both are pursuing careers in data analytics. They both were night owls. They had similar looks, mannerisms, opinions and tastes in food."

The delightful article reminded me of another recent story about sisters reuniting, but this time **the sisters hadn't seen each other for over 50 years**. A fall and a Covid-19 diagnosis led Doris Crippen, age 73, to convalesce at a rehabilitation center in Nebraska. There she reunited with 53-year-old Bev Boro, a medication aide at the center, who was stunned to see her sister's name on the patient list in May.

They had different mothers, but the same father. They lost touch when Bev was placed into foster care, and subsequently was adopted by a family. The sisters were aware of each other, but had no success finding each other over the decades.

The sisters are ecstatic about their reunion, and members of their families are now in contact with one another. Doris said that her difficult illness has proved to be a blessing as it brought the sisters together. Bev said that the experience has been life-changing as they have discovered "a very deep connection."

The article states, "The sisters' reunion has also brought much-needed hope and joy to the hospital staff during what has been a particularly dark period for health-care workers."

I love both reunion stories. They are reminders of the bonds we have, the bonds we discover, and sometimes the bonds many of us take for granted! On a personal note: I have one sister, and Sue is someone whom I have known my whole life – no dramatic reunion story for Sue and Jane! But Sue is currently away from her home in Ohio as she is taking care of our mother in Florida. So this is a "shout-out" and a "thank you" to Sue,

and ***a reminder to us all to cherish our sibling and family bonds and be grateful for one another.***

Your sibling in Christ,  
Jane