'WE PRAYED FOR THE PERFECT FAMILY'

Ben and Tina Gibson used embryo donation to have children and learned true love is timeless.

When Tina and Ben Gibson wed in 2010 in Knoxville, Tenn., they knew having children would be difficult because of Ben's cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder affecting the lungs that can cause infertility. "We fostered children and explored adoption," says Tina, 29. "But nothing fell into place until we learned about embryo adoption. That was God saying, 'This is what you need to do.'"

Tina, a schoolteacher, and Ben, an IT specialist, began working with the National Embryo Donation Center, a faith-based nonprofit that offers adoption and implantation of unused embryos from in vitro fertilization (IVF) patients, and reviewed hundreds of profiles describing donors' hobbies, physical traits and medical information. It wasn't until minutes before the implantation procedure that they realized the five embryos they'd adopted were frozen in October 1992—a full 24 years earlier.

Although medical opinions vary, the Gibsons' doctor...
assured them the embryos' age wouldn't affect viability. In November 2017 Emma Ween Gibson was born, setting a record for oldest embryo to result in a live birth. The Gibsons beat that record themselves, when Emma's full biological sister Melsy Everett was born on Oct. 26, 2020, more than 27 years after the embryo was frozen. The whole experience only deepened their love, Tina says: "We were leaning on each other and sharing when we were struggling. And there's nothing greater than seeing the person you love love something as much as you do."

"You can't get any happier than this."


"I heard the news from thought I ought to see Don, 80, who lost his 2019. I called on Peg. Despite six decade contact—Peggy had a "

"It's not like a "

"I trusted her from the start," said a electronics operation Peggy's surprise, Don rejected him, support Zoom to improve his..."