

## **About the Author -- John M. Simmons**

An adoption advocate and “Papa” to nine children—three biological and six adopted—John M. Simmons is the author of *To Sing Frogs*, a memoir that details the Simmons family’s quest to adopt five children from rural Russian orphanages. The moving story captures the family’s overwhelming joy in meeting the children, their frustrating struggle to overcome significant obstacles to give them a second chance at life and the heartbreak of leaving so many other orphans behind. The memoir concludes with an incredible, emotional reunion of best friends from the orphanage and their families in a beautiful Spanish villa.

Through his first-hand account and insight into the challenges and life-affirming rewards of international adoption, Simmons hopes to inspire others to open their hearts and their homes to children around the world in need of a family.

His previous award-winning novel, *The Marvelous Journey Home*, chronicles his family’s journey of love, laughter and discovery of what it means to be a family through international adoption. *The Marvelous Journey Home* earned Book of the Month status from Audio Book News Service and BookReview.com and made the Top Ten Reads Lists for MyShelf.com. The novel earned Best of State for fiction in the Utah Best of State Awards for 2008.

In addition to juggling the demands of multi-cultural fatherhood, Simmons is the full-time chairman of Ele Lembra, the 501(c)3 public charity he launched to help give children without parents a better chance at a more successful life. Formerly the CEO of White Knight Fluid Handling, Inc., a fluid pump manufacturer serving the semiconductor, solar and LED industries, Simmons stepped down in May 2013 to focus his efforts on Ele Lebmra. Co-owner of fourteen U.S. patents, Simmons has received several manufacturing industry awards, including the international DuPont Plunkett award, given bi-annually for the best new Teflon-based product designs.

Simmons appears frequently as an adoption advocate and to share his experience with international adoption in television, radio and newspaper interviews. He makes regular book club appearances and is a frequent guest speaker for various civic and other groups to increase awareness about international adoption. Simmons lives with his wife, Amy, and their children in Kamas, Utah.