**POSTSCRIPT**

**SO WHAT** are the adult adoptees of *In Their Own Voices* whose parents did not appear in this book doing now?

Ronald Wilson, who used the pseudonym Taalib in the first volume, has decided to make his identity known. He is the presiding judge of a municipal court in southern Arizona—the youngest presiding judge in Arizona and the first African American to serve as chief justice in that state. He recently was named Man of the Year by the *Tucson Business Edge*, and he is the proud recipient of a 2006 Community Service Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 2006 he was also honored to receive the Rosa Parks Living History Makers Award from the NAACP.

He is an active volunteer and a member of, among other organizations, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. He also is taking classes to become a foster parent. Wilson works hard to decrease the recidivism rate among people who commit low-level misdemeanors and works with juveniles in the foster care system. He strongly believes that quality foster care and adoptive placements can reduce the number of young people who come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

Aaliyah (pseudonym) is still struggling to find her identity and a healthier sense of self-esteem. After living on her own for a short time she moved back home to live with her parents in western Michigan so she could save money and plan her future. With good counsel from her father, she is saving for a downpayment on a Habitat for Humanity house. Aaliyah now has two children, a 2-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter, and is raising them as a single parent. Her life consists, she says, primarily of caring for her kids and transporting them to and from day care. She is employed at a rehabilitation hospital, where she does medical billing and is responsible for discharging patients.
When she was 24, she was reunited with her birth mother and not long after that was able to contact her birth father. Aaliyah visited with her birth parents many times until her birth father died in 2000. At his funeral she was able to meet many of her biological relatives. Aaliyah maintains a relationship with her adoptive parents and her adoptive siblings, who take an interest in her children. That, she says, is very helpful to her and makes her happy.

Asked to articulate how she is feeling today, Aaliyah said, “I am stressed, sad, angry, and lonely. I don’t have any friends or a social life. I am now 35 years old and have children, but I am still answering to my parents.” Aaliyah hopes that once she moves out on her own, she will gain more confidence and that it will help her to establish a more adult relationship with her parents.

We were unable to reach Donna Francis (pseudonym), Lester Smith Sr., and Chip. Also, Iris (pseudonym) declined to be interviewed because of pressing personal and professional obligations. We also were unable to reach Olympic decathlete Dan O’Brien, but we learned from the New York Times that in December 2006, he was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.