

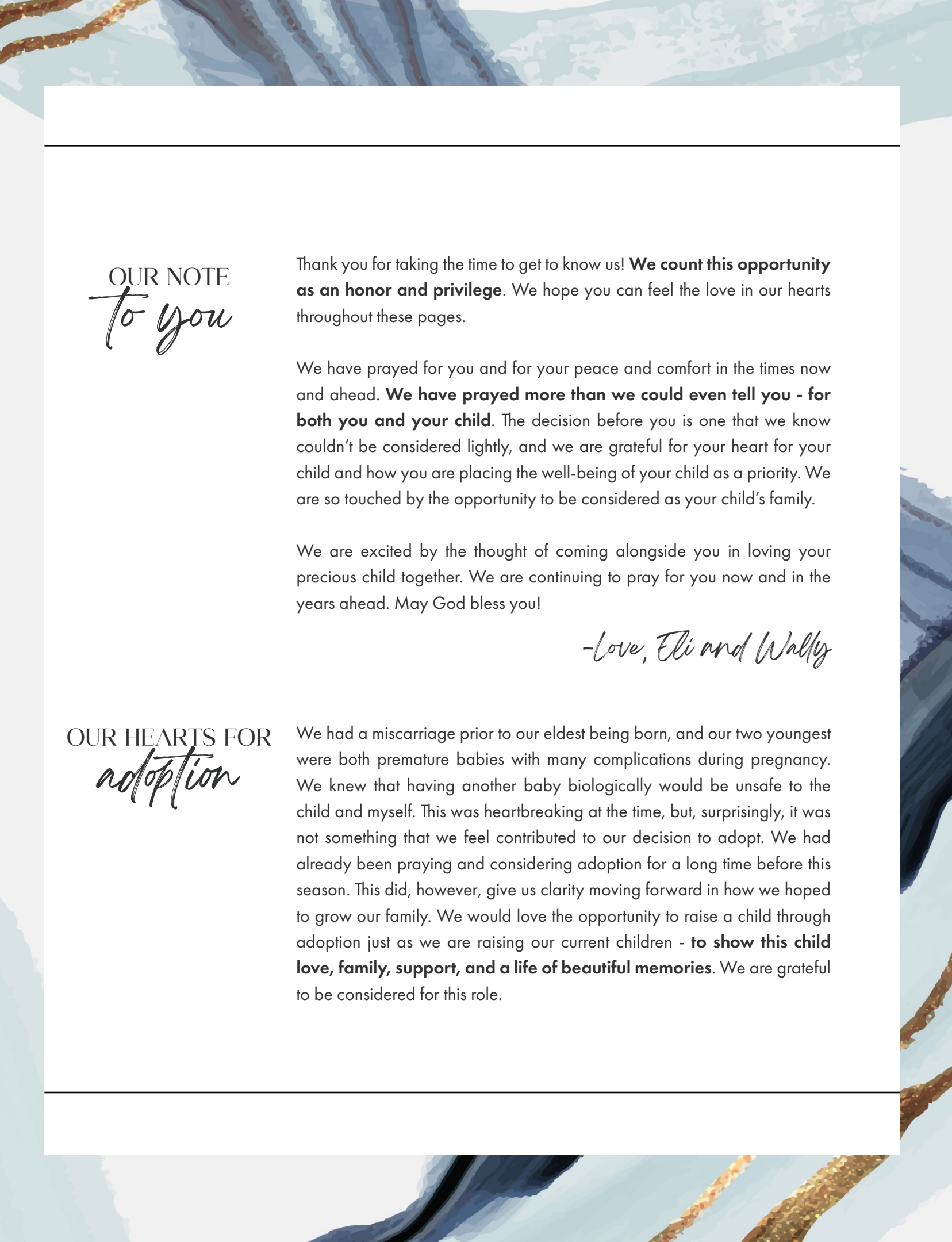


Eli & Wally

IT'S SO NICE TO
"MEET" YOU







OUR NOTE *To you*

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! **We count this opportunity as an honor and privilege.** We hope you can feel the love in our hearts throughout these pages.

We have prayed for you and for your peace and comfort in the times now and ahead. **We have prayed more than we could even tell you - for both you and your child.** The decision before you is one that we know couldn't be considered lightly, and we are grateful for your heart for your child and how you are placing the well-being of your child as a priority. We are so touched by the opportunity to be considered as your child's family.

We are excited by the thought of coming alongside you in loving your precious child together. We are continuing to pray for you now and in the years ahead. May God bless you!

-Love, Eli and Wally

OUR HEARTS FOR *adoption*

We had a miscarriage prior to our eldest being born, and our two youngest were both premature babies with many complications during pregnancy. We knew that having another baby biologically would be unsafe to the child and myself. This was heartbreaking at the time, but, surprisingly, it was not something that we feel contributed to our decision to adopt. We had already been praying and considering adoption for a long time before this season. This did, however, give us clarity moving forward in how we hoped to grow our family. We would love the opportunity to raise a child through adoption just as we are raising our current children - **to show this child love, family, support, and a life of beautiful memories.** We are grateful to be considered for this role.



OUR EARLY DAYS

We met at Wally's sister's birthday party, as she and I were friends in high school. When we met, we both stopped in our tracks and had what we still call **a fairytale meeting** - the world seemed to stop for us both! We danced that night, so many times. We dated for about 3 years and we had a beautiful wedding and honeymoon to follow at one of our still favorite vacation places, Panama City Beach. Our time dating was longer only because of our age difference and shows how patient he was while waiting for my hand in marriage. We truly have had a beautiful life together.



THE PROPOSAL

I proposed to Eli by taking her back to the place we first met - the venue of my sister's birthday party. It was just the two of us, and I promised her forever. **It was important to me that I asked for her hand in marriage from her father, and I know that meant a lot to her too.** After she said 'yes', we went to see her family and share the exciting news!



THE WEDDING

We were to be married and stuck to the tradition of not seeing one another before the wedding on the wedding day, but we wanted to do something special. We both had a gift and a note for one another that was delivered by our matron of honor and best man. That moment brought calm for the busy day as we were anxiously waiting to say 'I Do'. **Our day was special because it was our day, and we were able to become one.** There are many things that made the day what it was, but ultimately our favorite part is that at the end of the day we were husband and wife.



MORE ABOUT US

- Married for 16 years
- A mutual desire for continual growth as a couple
- Dates to bond and just be close to one another.
- We enjoy laughing and playing together
- Watching shows
- We are committed to resolving any conflict, and we hope to learn selflessness toward one another



HI, I'M

Eli

My wife is truly the best person I know. Her personality is fun and playful. She has such a talent for working with children and for setting up events like church activities and birthday parties.

What makes her the best is her loving heart. She loves deeply, whether it be me, our kids, or friends. When she gives her heart, she gives her whole heart, and she cares so deeply about others.

My wife is wonderful with children. She will play games with them, dance with them, or answer endless questions from them. She loves children so much. **She is the greatest mother I've ever seen.** She is so looking forward to loving our adopted child to pieces.



I do not work outside the home. When our eldest was born I was employed at a bank, and I loved my job, but **I never went back after she was born!** We homeschool our children. Because Wally is off on Fridays, we love the flexibility that homeschooling offers us! I also do **photography** as a hobby, and on the side, I am the **church treasurer**. I also coordinate for a local Good News Club, so needless to say, I stay busy, but I love every minute of it and it fits our family schedule well. **Everything I do can be worked in and around life as a mom and as a homeschool teacher.** Our plan is to continue as we are, and I will continue to homeschool and be the caregiver for the children.

MY HOBBIES

- Photography
- Crafts, being creative, and doing things with my hands
- Planning events and decorating for parties
- Writing and I enjoy being able to find new ways to express emotion and feeling in words and on paper
- Playing games as a family
- Family dance parties
- Watching the kids play from our front tree swing- the sound of their laughter and the sight of them smiling and playing is so peaceful



My greatest accomplishment is being a mother. **The amazing people they are growing into, their caring hearts, the serving spirits they have, the loving personalities, the hard workers they are... that is what I find to be my greatest accomplishment.**

While I won't be a first time parent, the joy is no less than it was that first time we found out we were expecting. **I am so overjoyed at the prospect of being able to have the blessing of raising another child.** I find myself in tears of joy just thinking of the day I can hold this child. Being a mother is my favorite responsibility. The children we have and our future child are all such amazing miracles, and they are unique in so many ways. I am grateful for the blessing to be their mom.

My greatest wish and prayer for my children is that they will want to follow Jesus, and that throughout their life they will keep God first. I pray that they have happy marriages and families and that they always know they can come to me, always! I pray that they always know they are loved by me, and most of all, by God.

Hi, I'M

Wally

What I admire most about Wally is his service to God - watching him preach, sing or teach at church is one of my absolute favorite things, and it brings me so much joy thinking about those things because I know how much he loves God and wants to serve Him. Wally is funny, and he makes me laugh every day. **He is my best friend and there is a sense of home when I look into his eyes.** I love him because when the Bible says you become one flesh in marriage, I truly feel he is my "other half". We support, love, help, and encourage one another to be the best we can be. Loving him is easy, even on the hard days. When I think about Wally I think about devotion, about my future, about time together, and being excited for what our future holds.

Wally is an amazing father, always wanting to involve the kids in every moment. **The kids love his "dad jokes", and he makes them laugh all the time!** Watching Wally become a father was one of the most special moments I have ever experienced. He teaches our boys what a man of God should be and he shows our daughter what kind of man to marry. When we talk about the adoption, he is so excited, and he tells me frequently how he is looking forward to holding our baby in his rocking chair at night like he would our others. We talk about sharing life with this child, and how we feel they are already a part of our lives.



The kids look up to Wally so much and **admire him as a father, a man, a leader in our church and home.** Wally loves and cares for our children so deeply, and I love that he will spend time bonding with them, talking to them and hearing what they have to say. He listens, he cares, and he loves them and makes them know they are heard, loved, and cared for.

MY HOBBIES

- Outdoor activities like fishing and hiking
- Our church's youth leader
- Building things out of wood
- Spending free time with my wife and kids



My greatest accomplishment is marrying my wife.

Virtually everything else that makes my life great is a direct result of being with her!

I am a manager of implementation for a project's group. Usually, I work Monday to Thursday, and I am off for three day weekends. Having this time off makes my job very family friendly! **It is a blessing to have three days each week to spend time with my kids and wife.** My workplace is supportive of giving time off to those who need it.



I look forward to adding the baby to our family because they already feel like a missing part of us. **My wife, kids, and I already love this child dearly and can't wait to meet them and give them the best life we possibly can!**



My greatest wish for my children is that they will follow God wherever He leads and that they will find purpose, meaning, and happiness in what Jesus has in store for their lives.

MEET OUR KIDS



Annabelle

Our eldest, Annabelle is about to be 13 years old, and she is such a **sweet hearted, prayer warrior** who loves people so much, and God even more. She dreams of owning a restaurant one day and loves to cook supper or bake and create her own recipes. As she has grown up she has always been a child who learns new things easily. She is a **hard worker, a willing helper, an amazing sister and darling daughter**. Annabelle is truly a precious child with an **amazing heart for others**, confident and sure of herself, honest and kind, always looking for ways to lend a hand or show kindness to others.

Cayden

Our middle child is our son Cayden. He is about to be 12, and he is one of **the funniest, soft hearted** children we have ever met. He loves so deeply, can **always make us laugh**, loves **pranks and jokes and magic tricks**, as well as **gaming**. He is a child who has always had a **heart of gold** and **loves to help others**. He is energetic and loves to play and be active all the time, enjoys martial arts, and is getting an interest in trying to start small weight lifting/working out as a morning routine. Cayden is a real encourager and friend. His joy is truly something magical that lifts up those around him.

William

Our youngest son is a **ball full of energy, love, and hard work**. His name is William, and he is about to be 8 years old. He loves cuddles with mom in the morning, and he loves to help dad with building or yard work and anything with his hands. He is **very creative**. He has a **strong heart for others** and wants to help. He loves construction vehicles, loves tools, and can fix more things than some adults because he is so talented and smart with those types of things. This child is full of energy but he uses that energy in the best ways and makes all of our lives so much better by having him in our lives.



OUR HEARTS IN PARENTING

While it may not be a philosophy, **our approach to parenting is to be steady and consistent with instruction and with how we teach, how we parent, and how we discipline.** Inconsistency creates confusion in a child, so we strive for consistent parenting. Of course, we are imperfect people. With that in mind, we are intentional to apologize to our children when we've made wrong choices ourselves.

Mostly, as parents we are relaxed and fun. We love to play and just enjoy the kids being who they are. We aim to be the best that we can be for our children and to teach them the ways God wants us to teach them. **We love being parents, and we feel it is such an honor, and we are grateful for it.** Watching them play and laugh is our favorite, but we truly love watching them grow and seeing them develop their own personalities.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING *Together*

AS A FAMILY

- Vacationing to Panama City Beach
- Walking on the beach, hunting for crabs, cooking a lot of good food, and playing games in the condo
- Weekend getaways, and sometimes even day getaways to mountain towns in NC and TN

- Weekends around home usually involve errands
- and housework, playing outside, playing and relaxing around the house, and movie time

- At bedtime, whether at home or at a hotel, we enjoy doing our happy thoughts and devotions.

The happy thoughts are a time for each of us to say something from the day that made us happy. This shows the kids that even on hard days, God gives us good things.

- Attending church and serving God is a big part of our lives

Whether it is organizing the church barn and event supplies, prepping for an event, having youth night services, or regular church time... it is all such a big, important part of our lives.



HOLIDAYS



VALENTINES: Annual family fun night consisting of “junk food” followed by desserts, all enjoyed on a table decorated with hearts. Concluded with a family game or movie.



EASTER: Eli's favorite! We attend sunrise service at church. Followed by breakfast at church, wearing matching Easter outfits, family photos, and meals with the grandparents. Enjoying Easter egg hunting, egg dying, Easter baskets, and celebrating the true reason for the season, Jesus!



END OF SCHOOL YEAR: Summer party with cousins and friends.



HALLOWEEN: Trick or treat around town, visit grandparents and great grandparents. Annabelle usually performs at the town's mainstreet event.



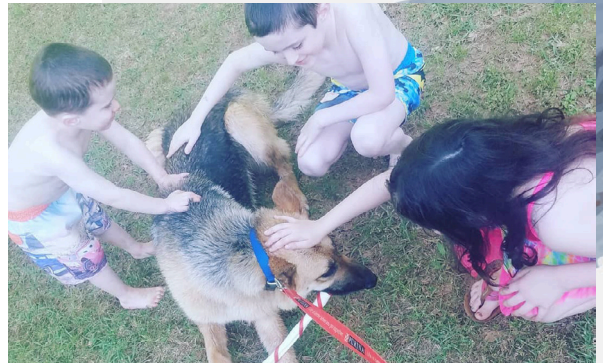
THANKSGIVING: Wednesday meal at church. Enjoy a meal at great grandmother's (maternal side), and a big meal with the grandparents and cousins (paternal side).



CHRISTMAS: A season full of festivities, and a day full of celebrations with both sides of family including a family breakfast and reading of the Christmas story, gifts to follow. Then visiting grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles over lots of yummy food, gifts and love!



BIRTHDAYS: The kids get to pick each meal that day, and mom makes the cake of their choice. The birthday child wakes up to a decorated party room and gifts! Birthday parties are so much fun! They choose the activity (within reason), like sleepovers, trips, bounce houses, and more!



FAMILY PETS

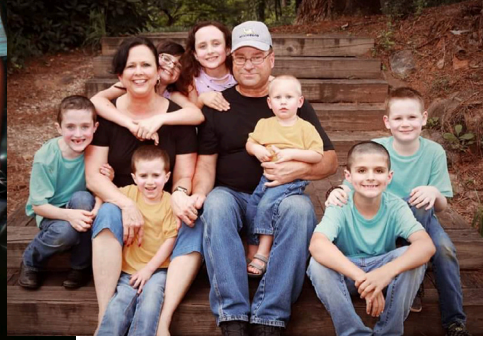
We have an **outdoor dog**, a German Shepherd. He is about 7 years old, and he is a sweetheart who loves to play with the kids.

We have an **indoor cat** who is super sweet and great with the kids. She loves to “stretch” like no other cat I've ever seen. She will lay all the way back across our arms.

We also have an **outdoor cat** (that occasionally comes inside), and she is such a loving cat that wants to cuddle all the time. She loves to come lay with us on the couch, or if we are outside, she always tries to get next to us so we will pet her.



MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Eli's side

Parents: George & Crystal "Gigi & Papa G"

Jonathan & Marjorie

Kids: Julia, Luke, Cael & Jack

Wally's side

Parents: Terry & Susan "Papa & Grandma"

Kayla & Errand

Kids: Malina, Merinda, Zariah & Nicholas

My family dynamic is **relaxed, faith-focused, loving, and fun**. We enjoy hanging out at my parent's house, playing games, and grilling out. They are always there for us and are some of the first people (along with Wally's parents) that we would turn to in any time of celebration or need! My parents are excitedly awaiting the arrival of our adopted child.

My brother and I were very close growing up. As we became adults, that closeness became different due to differing life choices and priorities, but I have been encouraged by some of the strides I have made with him and his wife in recent years! We still spend time with them at family get togethers and events. They have been nothing but positive about our adopted child's arrival. **All of our nieces and nephews are super excited.**

My family dynamic is **loving, faith focused, and values family time**. We enjoy a trip with my parents at least once a year, and this is quality time that I believe the kids will treasure for their entire lives. **We can always rely on them, and we share our lives with them closely in all celebrations.** We **attend church together** as well, and this is something that we value, the ability to worship alongside one another. They are already counting our adopted child as their grandchild and adding them on to all their grandkid things. They are so very excited.

My sister and I are close, attend church together, and are always there for one another. Our relationship with our niece and nephews on this side are also wonderful, and we spend as much time as we can with all of them. Everyone is so excited and positive about the arrival of our adopted child.



OUR HOME

Our home is a **5 bedroom/2 bath home**. The 5th bedroom is currently a playroom and will be converted into the adopted child's room. We are excitedly starting this process already! The yard is really nice, the front yard is relaxing, and we have a metal tree swing which is really lovely to sit on while the kids play in the yard. The backyard has a **swingset** with a clubhouse that we built. Our backyard has a small porch we are currently building. We plan to set up a table and chairs for meals outside, as well as a fire pit during cooler months to roast marshmallows over. **We enjoy sitting outside while the kids play**, especially in the early evening as the sun goes down. We live across the cul-de-sac from cousins, and they often play together outside. We enjoy playing games, watching shows and movies together, playing outside (especially in the early evening hours), having craft time, dance parties, and we truly value our time of devotions and "happy thoughts" every night before bedtime.

We homeschool, so we have a lot of time together in our home. We are able to spend a lot of time bonding and enjoying time with one another. Our dance parties come in the evenings or when we are all bogged down with school and need a minute to de-stress. We have a whole closet dedicated to crafts. Mom and Annabelle are also learning the piano, so **there is often music playing from the piano** in the living room.



OUR COMMUNITY

We live in the south, and we love it. We are in a small town, but we are really close to a college town (about 10 minutes). There seems to be a really even **cultural diversity** in the surrounding areas where we live. The school district in our area is phenomenal, though we homeschool; but if we were to ever switch the kids to public school, they would have a great environment to be in. There are **local parks, tennis courts, playgrounds and such** which are a benefit of our area. We love a **local ice cream shop** that is less than 5 minutes from our house, **the lake, local mini golf, the zoo, a local gardens** that we enjoy walking around, and our **library** that the kids enjoy visiting as much as possible and participating in their summer reading program. We also enjoy visiting **local antique shops** and driving around in the **mountains**, especially during fall when the leaves are changing. Our community in our small town often has **family events and festivals**, many of which we attend and sometimes even participate in.





OUR VALUES

FAITH / CHURCH

We value our faith and church because **we believe that without God, nothing would be possible; and with Him, all things are possible.** We want to teach the children, and lead by example, that in life, God is so important in everything. Life should be lived in appreciation and dedication to our God.

FAMILY TIME

We value time together as a family and being able to be close. We want the kids and one another to always feel at home in our presence, comfortable and at peace with one another. **Building bonds** between the children, with one another and with ourselves, and their grandparents/cousins is such an important thing to us. We believe it sets the children up for a life where they are not alone and feel love from many angles in life.

RESPECT / LOVING-KINDNESS

Respect for others, whether a child or an adult, is an important value to have in life. When we fail to respect others and show loving-kindness, then we are failing to show the love of God and respect that we believe He wants us to show to others. No matter what age we are, the grown ups or the children, **respect and loving-kindness are things that are valuable in all walks of life;** school, work, play time, church and all things.

EDUCATION

Making sure the children have a **well-rounded education is very important for their abilities and opportunities in life.** We also focus on a lot of real-life education as they help with Good News Club, church events, and planning such things. They have a solid curriculum, and we love how solid the curriculum is in teaching all the educational needs, but we do value the ability to add in a lot of things that we believe many children don't get to experience due to being in traditional school.

OUR future

Our family plans to stay in the home we are in, and we plan to retire here. We all love our area, we enjoy having our family all nearby, and we hope that we can continue this as the children grow up. **We plan to travel now and in the future.** We enjoy traveling, and, as we have mentioned before, we enjoy our yearly trip to the beach. We love to go to the mountains, and we take several trips a year with our daughters dance competition. We would love to go to Paris, Italy, and Ireland one day, and we all dream of going to Hawaii on vacation. Our travel dreams often change, and we just love to talk about new places and experiences we would like to try. As far as our family growing, at this time, **after the adoption we do not feel led to continue to grow our family, but will heed what we feel God is leading us to do.**







OUR FAITH

We have an amazing **church family**, and they are very excited for our adoption. They love and support our children and family so well, and we know they will do the same with our new addition as well. We will continue to remain faithful in church, working with our youth group, planning church events, and doing work with things like Good News Club. We will also continue our **nightly devotions** and look forward to teaching our adopted child the things of God, the Bible and about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. As we pray nightly for the children, we pray already for our adopted child, and we look forward to kneeling by their bed to pray beside them as they sleep. **Our lives very much involve a focus on God, prayer, the Bible and church**, and we plan to continue that and implement it in all the same ways with our new child.

EDUCATION PLANS

We plan to **continue homeschooling**, and we do not feel led to change that at this time. If we did ever decide to approach sending them to school, it would be public school, as we have a great public school system in our area, though we do not foresee that at this time.





BEFORE
you go

As we write this, there are so many emotions of gratitude and respect. **Your love, your sacrifice, and your willingness to consider this decision for your child is admirable.** We pray for you, even now as this is written, you are prayed for and you are loved by us. We pray for your peace, direction, and comfort in this time, and in the many years to come. **May God touch you and bless you!**

We have no plans of hiding the adoption from the child, and **want your child to know about your deep love for them.** What a blessing to know that your child is loved so much, by so many! Although we are not seeking an open adoption, we are open to sending updates periodically without identifying information, so that you may know your child is cared for, loved, and well. We thank you for reading this profile, for the decisions you are making, and for the time to consider our family. We know this must be a heavy decision, and we pray that God gives you peace as you make these choices.

We are humbled - Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

-Love, Eli and Wally

YOU ARE SO
loved