

NATHAN *and* JOANNA





HELLO!

THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR TAKING THE TIME TO
OPEN OUR PROFILE AND
GET TO KNOW US! WE
ARE SO THANKFUL FOR
YOU AND WOULD LOVE
TO GET TO KNOW YOU!



THIS IS US



OUR NOTE TO YOU

Hi! We are so grateful for the opportunity to meet you. We have been praying for you for years and are so proud of you for considering this important and hard decision. Your choice to choose life, and be courageous to carry your baby will produce life and abundant lives for generations to come. We recognize this must be so hard for you. Being parents of five children, we understand the bonding that takes place, especially as a mother feeling your baby moving inside of you. **We are not only committed to raising your child, but want to be sure we support you through this process. We would love to have an open adoption, and invite you to continue to be a part of not only your child's life, but the life of our family as well. Our hope is to continue to build a relationship with you over the years, if you are open to that.**

It would be our honor to raise your son. He would be welcomed into a loving family who loves to have fun, loves to serve, and loves others. We enjoy being adventurous and exploring the world and we are ready to welcome your son to join the fun. We believe and know that our family is ready and has room for one more special one. We hope you enjoy getting to know us and we would love to answer any questions you might have.

Nathan + Joanna

One day when our third baby was in my arms, the song "Oceans" came on in the movie "Breakthrough." In that movie, the young man was adopted. I knew at that moment we would adopt a son. We always knew when the time would be right. We had two more children after Ellianna. When Malachi was born, we knew it was time to complete our family and welcome in one more. This has led us to this point in meeting you. Our family is full of love and life and it would be our honor to raise your child to love the Lord and love others. - *Joanna*



OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION



Adoption has always been special to us as a family. I was adopted by my dad. My biological father did not want my mom to have me. He and her mother both wanted her to abort me. I am so grateful my mom chose to carry me! She chose the hard road, got kicked out of her home, and had to do it alone. But because she chose to be brave, bold, and courageous, I have been blessed with a great life and have been blessed with five children who would not exist if it weren't for my brave mom. By the way, both my grandparents loved me and we had a great relationship until they passed. I even have a relationship with my biological father now! When I came across my adoption paperwork, I realized the value of adoption and decided that one day I'd love to adopt and be part of someone's story, a story like I have— a life given because of a mom who was strong and courageous. - *Nathan*



We have five biological children and we could have more, but we really feel strongly that we are to open our home to a child through adoption. We felt called to adopt when we were volunteering on the mission field in Guatemala twelve years ago. Each time we got pregnant, we always knew we'd have at least one more because we would be adopting.





OUR STORY

We have been married for 15 years. We met through our church where we were both involved in various ministries. Nathan had interest in me for a long time before I had any interest. But, we always found ourselves in the same activities with the same group of friends. Nathan professed his undying love to me on the beautiful sandy beach of Cuba when we were there on a mission trip but we remained just friends. Years later, I really felt the Lord tell me that Nathan would be my husband. We started to hang out more and more and my feelings started to grow. Nathan asked me on a date and we were engaged six months later and married six months after that! - Joanna

--- Our Milestones ---

-Summer 2004-
First Met

-April 2009-
Started Dating

-September 2009-
Got Engaged

-January 2010-
Got Married

Faith is a critical part of our family culture and strength. We submit ourselves to the Word of God (the Bible) and we each have pastoral people who speak into our lives. We teach our kids the Bible, usually through stories and songs, and Nathan loves to use accents and theater to express the stories of the Bible! We value attending church and it is a regular part of our routine, even when we travel. We love to worship together with our kids.



OUR FAMILY VALUES

FAITH

Our connection with God is of very high importance and it impacts every other aspect of our lives. We love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

FAMILY

We don't just love each other, we LIKE each other too! We can't wait to hang out with our family. This includes holiday traditions, game or movie nights, or travel adventures together!

INTEGRITY

We tell the truth, and do what we say we will do!

HARD WORK

Life requires hard work and we are here for it. This may be relational work, or the hard work of taking care of our home, or building a business that we are proud of.

ADVENTURE

We don't just work hard, we play hard! Life is meant to be lived, and we LOVE to take new adventures. We like to have fun together!



**EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT TO US
AND WE LOVE TO LEARN AND APPLY
THAT KNOWLEDGE TO OUR LIVES.**

We currently homeschool our kids and we plan to continue to do that at this point. We are not opposed to sending our kids to private school, or utilizing private tutors when extra support is needed. Sending our kids to public education would be a last resort for us. The quality and results of the schools around us are pretty low, so we will continue to educate our kids through curriculum of our choosing and life experiences. We studied National Parks systems and then went to ten national parks together, which expanded our study to geography, geology, biology, astronomy, and more.



We believe in helping our kids discover their unique strengths and giftings. For some of them this may include college, for others it may be technical or vocational school, and for others it may be business ownership. Our financial goals include providing financial support for each child for whatever they may want to do or pursue, we will help guide and support them in that goal.



NATHAN

IN JOANNA'S WORDS

I admire Nathan for how hard he works to provide for and protect us. I admire him for the amazing dad he is to our kids. His commitment to our values and faith make me so proud to be his wife. I was originally attracted to him because he was a man committed to growth and to God, and I knew he would live a life full of adventure. Nathan is a man who loves to have fun! He loves new things and seeing new places. He leads our family with strength, but reminds us all to not be too serious and to have fun in the middle of our hard work. He makes us laugh all the time and is always ready for a good time. Our third born daughter, Ellianna, calls him "Party Pants!"

Nathan is a good friend to many. He has a heart for people and loves to serve others. He is committed and dedicated. He loves me so well, is patient with me and serves our family selflessly putting aside his desires and needs. He is a very involved and committed dad, teaching and training our children daily. I can't imagine my life without him. It would be boring! He is a man full of vision for the future and is always coming up with ideas of what to do and where to go next. He even bought us a RV so we could travel the states together and see all the National Parks as a family. We are creating memories our kids will never forget! He shows Christ's love on a daily basis to us, in his gentleness and kindness. He prefers his family over all other things. He patiently teaches his kids tasks. He disciplines with love and grace.



GET TO KNOW NATHAN

My friends say I am fun, curious, and spontaneous

MY OCCUPATION

I am a realtor, real estate investor, property manager, and small business owner. I love that working for myself allows me to be 100% flexible with my work that allows me to work from wherever.

IN MY FREE TIME

I love to surf, play music on the guitar or piano, read, write, and travel! Once upon a time I would go dirt biking all over the place, but I don't do that now. Secretly, I'm hoping my kids will have an interest in this so I can explore it more!

I love kids in general! They are full of so much life and potential. I believe that God has made each one of us uniquely with our own personality, desires, hopes, and dreams. I believe it is our job to help our kids discover who God made them to be! I love to experience life with a new child as everything they see is new and exciting. It makes the whole experience so wonderful. When I was a kid, camping and dirt bike riding was a big part of my experience, and I love to take our kids on camping adventures too! I am also excited to see our kids love and care for their new sibling...this child will be so loved in our home!

LOVING AND LEADING MY FAMILY

My greatest hope for my kids is that they will know God, and enjoy the world God created for them. My hope is that I am able to love each one of our kids in the way they need to be loved. Some prefer nice words, others prefer to spend one on one time, and others prefer a back scratch before bed. I learn and adapt to the various needs of each one. When it comes to Joanna, I love her by spending quality time with her, asking how I can help and then getting it done, and by respecting that she needs her own space from time to time. I like to give her time to herself so she can recharge and refocus.



JOANNA

IN NATHAN'S WORDS

Joanna is one of the most hard working and caring people I have ever met. She is driven by excellence and a love for our family. Joanna loves the truth and doing what is right, and she will fight for that. She is one of the most forgiving people I have ever met. As a wife, she is a great support to me and provides me with much needed wisdom and perspective in our lives. We love to go to new places together and explore. We have met some amazing people, and have seen some amazing things off the beaten path. Joanna and I like to be active together, eat good food, and hang out with fun people!

Joanna is always thinking of things for our kids to do and ways to give them new experiences. It may be a craft today, or baking something delicious tomorrow, or a day at the zoo, Sea World, or some other fun place. Joanna is a great mom, and she corrects gently and to the point, without anger or frustration. Joanna is very aware of the unique needs of each of our kids and goes out of her way to help meet those needs. As a mother, Joanna balances different ages and personalities very well. She is the primary educator of our kids and I love to see that way she organizes our kids' education. Joanna loves to have fun and go see the world! So I am thankful that I get to be married to a woman who loves to live life to the fullest!



GET TO KNOW JOANNA

My friends say I am fun, outgoing, and adventurous

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE BEING A MOM

I ran a landscaping business for twenty-two years and stepped down when our third was born. It was the best decision I ever made. Focusing on raising my children and being home with them has shown me that this is my most important work I will ever do. I love the newborn season and nurturing and caring for babies as they grow. I love having FUN with my kids. I homeschool our kids and we have so much fun learning together as well as doing lots of field trips learning hands on by seeing and touching things rather than just reading a book about them. I love supporting each child in their different desires and skills. We love experiencing new things and traveling together.

IN MY FREE TIME

I love to live life to the fullest! I really enjoy traveling and exploring new places. I love taking my kids for outings including the zoo, Seaworld, hikes, the beach, and theme parks. We love to camp and explore the outdoors. I also really enjoy being active and daily look for different ways to get exercise in. I love serving in my church where I run a ministry called Everyday Moms.



PRAYING FOR AND NURTURING MY KIDS

I love knowing my kids' love language. For example, our oldest daughter, Grace, loves to spend time together so I make sure to carve out special time for her. My second born, Caleb, loves gifts so I often try to get him something special. I pray over my kids every night that they would love the Lord their God with all their soul, strength, and mind, that they would never fall away from God, that they would hate what is evil, and love what is good all the days of their life. I pray that they would be close with their siblings, and that they would be prepared for their spouse. We pray for protection over their spouse and wisdom for their future spouses' parents in raising them.

Growing up in a big family made me really appreciate how much fun it was to always have siblings around. There was always someone to hangout with!

Hi! I'm Grace. I just turned eleven on February 8th. I like crafts, painting, origami, and dancing. I actually like doing my school work; it is fun! I like to make up little dance combos and I love Forrest Frank songs! I do not like getting up early, but I do like staying up late, so I am a night person! I am social and like to talk to people. I also like to listen to my parents' conversations. I love my family! I love my little siblings and I do not have a favorite! I love to wake up and do my devotions since it gets my heart set on the Lord.



Our adventurous boy, Caleb, is seven years old and will turn eight in August. He is incredibly kind to his sisters and younger brother and he loves to play outside. He loves dinosaurs and cars and has a wonderful imagination. Caleb also enjoys video games and movies. He plays soccer and really likes to watch basketball; he seems to have a natural athletic ability. Caleb also enjoys playing games and competing!

Ellianna is five years old and is our little DIVA. She loves the color purple and anything that sparkles. She is very into her purse collection and enjoys going anywhere with one of them. Ellianna enjoys make believe and playing "mamas" with her sisters and brother. She is a servant hearted little girl who likes to play "server" in a restaurant. Ellianna loves to pray and always requests to pray at meal time.



Callie is full of life and loves to be involved in everything. She is three years old and enjoys coloring, playing with sticker books, helping mommy, and playing with her little brother, Malachi. She likes to play "mamas" and tries hard to be like the big kids, keeping up with everyone!



Malachi is only eight months old as we write this, so his personality is developing. He is a gentle baby and very easy going. He just goes with the flow! He loves to observe his siblings and seems to really enjoy music. He does a cute little dance whenever music comes on!





FAMILY TIME

We all love hanging out together. We love to worship, pray, and learn about God's word together. We also love adventure and like to travel and explore new places. Weekends often include trips and activities around town. We have an RV and are working on visiting all 50 states. We have a little house in California right on the ocean and we go there often. Each of our kids have global entry/sentri and we love international travel! We both speak Spanish and want to teach our kids Spanish as well! We also love theme parks and have annual passes to Disney, The Zoo, Seaworld, Belmont Park, and currently to Disney World! When we go to the parks, we usually stay until they close!

When we are home, a typical weekend includes working on the house, gathering with friends and family, and church on Sunday morning. As a larger family, we work together to create order within the chaos! On a typical day we have checklists and morning and evening routines we all follow. Each child has small household chores and responsibilities and we help them develop skills for taking care of the house.

HOPES + DREAMS

Our dreams for the future are vast! We plan to buy a new home in the next few years; we prefer a ranch style with a west facing view for beautiful sunsets! We always love to travel and we have a current goal of visiting all fifty states and all seven continents with our kids! We do want to continue to grow our family through adoption, but like all of our kids, we take it one child at a time and see how it goes.





FAMILY TRADITIONS



Christmas is a really big holiday for us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have advent calendars with daily gifts and treats during the month of December. We decorate as a family every year and bake cookies and play Christmas music. We always have way too many presents and the kids really enjoy Christmas at our house! We do a lot of activities during the month of December including looking at Christmas lights, going to various church events, and getting together with family and friends.

Birthdays are also very important. We decorate the night before with lots of balloons and decorations so when the birthday person wakes up in the morning they are surprised and really feel celebrated. We always take the birthday child out for a special date with mom and dad and we do whatever they want to!

Thanksgiving is a great family holiday of eating and enjoying time with each other. We often go to a relative's house and this rotates by year. Depending on the year, it will be with one side of the family or the other and it's sometimes at our parents' homes or at another relatives' house.

As parents, we take turns taking our kids out for one on one time with us. We do fun, little things with them like roller skating, an ice cream outing, going to the San Diego Zoo or Sea World, or playing at the park and having lunch together.



Our home is a two story house at the end of a cul-de-sac. The kids ride their bikes out front all the time and there are several neighborhood kids who our kids play with regularly. The house has four bedrooms and three bathrooms, a wonderful backyard including a heated pool (with a safety cover, of course), a hot tub, a large swingset, a trampoline, and a sandbox. We have a game room downstairs with a pool table and classic arcade games. Our kids and their friends love to hang out there. **That was always our goal; to be the house our kids' friends would want to be. But what makes our house a home is all the life that we live there.** We generally eat two meals a day all together, we educate our children here, we play and do chores here, we host friends and family here.



OUR COMMUNITY

We live in California. We love where we live because of everything there is to do and the community we have built in our church in the last twenty years. We go to the beach, go camping in the mountains, and eat sushi by the bay– and we could do all of this in the same week if we wanted to! We love the local parks, museums, beach culture, and activities that are never ending!



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Recently, we spent the last three months traveling from California, down to Florida, up to North Carolina, over to Tennessee, and then down to Louisiana.

We love to explore various educational sites that are geared toward what our kids are learning (National Parks, Civil/Revolutionary war sites, and more). We have a goal of visiting all 50 states and 7 continents with our kids during their childhood. So far we have visited 22 states. We love to take three to six week trips in our RV together!



MEET OUR FAMILY

Joanna's Family – My mom's name is Julie, but we also call her Mimi. She is an amazing woman who loves God and has more wisdom than I can imagine. She really enjoys spending time with our kids and they love to see her. We Facetime often when we travel or when we're home! She lives ten minutes from us and we see her often. My sister, Jenny, and her husband, Brian, have two kids and they live about thirty minutes from us. We see them monthly and I have a great relationship with Jenny! She is a wonderful aunt to our kids and Brian is a good friend to Nathan. My brother, David, and his wife, Bethany, have one baby girl and most recently moved to Tennessee so we don't see them too often, but we have a good relationship with them. My brother, Jeremy, and his wife, Connie, have two kids and another on the way. They live close to us and we love to hang out with them and enjoy doing life with them.

Nathan's Family – My parents are Dan and Betsy. They live in a little town in Louisiana. They moved there a few years ago to help care for my Granny who has since passed. They decided to stay and take over the farm. We see them one or two times each year and have a good relationship with them. My mom has a green thumb and loves to garden and care for animals. My dad is a highly technical guy who loves to tinker. Betsy has been in all of our births with us and is a great mother in law to Joanna. My dad adopted me when I was four and he is a major reason for desiring adoption as we grow our family. My brother, Jacob, and his wife, Katie, have four kids and live in Louisiana as well. We see them every few years and have limited relationships with them, primarily because of distance. My sister, Jesse, and her husband, Dustin, have two older kids. They live in San Diego but we don't see them often either, mostly because of seasons of life, since we have lots of small kids and they have two older kids.

We take family vacations with Joanna's family every couple of years. We often celebrate birthdays and holidays together and sometimes have family meals together, sometimes scheduled and sometimes just randomly after church. Our family is supportive of our desire and plan to adopt! They are all looking forward to meeting our future son and welcoming him into our home!

We also have some really great friends who we consider family. They all have kids our kids' ages and we do a lot of life with them. They are like our kids' uncles and aunts and we couldn't imagine life without them.





BEFORE YOU GO

FROM NATHAN

Your child is a gift from God, a light in a dark world. We love you already and your willingness to consider allowing us to raise your child, and to care for him and provide everything that he needs. So, thank you for considering adoption, thank you for considering our family to raise your child, and thank you for choosing selflessness as you carry your child to life! As his birth mother, you will be honored and cherished in our home. We would like to learn as much about you, your family, and story as you are willing to share, so we can share as much as we can with your child.

FROM JOANNA

I have the utmost respect for you and I thank you for choosing life for your son. Your decision to do so will result in many lives to come, lives that will change the world and make a difference here. I am so proud of you. I have prayed for you for years and sincerely love you. It will be my utmost honor to give my all to raising your son and to give him an abundant life full of adventure, fun, and lots of learning. Thank you for considering our family!

OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU



- ♥ We will always be honest with your child.
 - ♥ We will love your child in the same way we love all our children.
 - ♥ We will protect your child with everything we have.
 - ♥ We will provide for your child the exact same way we provide for all of our kids.
 - ♥ We will share their birth story with them and express our gratitude for your strength and goodness for sharing their life with us!
 - ♥ We will be available to you to share as much information about your child as you might want.
- We invite you to be a part of their lives, as much as you would like!

YOU ARE SO VERY LOVED!

