



*Mike & Jen*

# 2104116

# Hello!

Our names are Mike and Jen and we are so honored that you have opened our book and want to know more about us as you think about your future plans. We know we have never met you, but we just want you to know that you are our hero. We can't imagine what you are going through or the circumstances that brought you to this moment, but please know that when we think about you, we are overwhelmed with gratitude; gratitude for your courage, for the love that brought this little one into the world, and for the care you're taking in choosing the life you want for him or her.

We have always wanted to be parents, but the road to becoming parents has had many twists and turns. In God's wisdom, He always knew adoption was going to be a part of our story. Our home is cozy and full of laughter. It will be a place where bedtime stories are a cherished ritual, where scrapped knees get kisses, where laughter is loud and tears are met with hugs. We invite you to learn more about us and the supportive community that surrounds us. We pray continually for the child God will entrust to us and for the woman who will give that child life. The prospect of becoming parents and possibly meeting you fills us with excitement. Once again, thank you for your immense courage.

## Mike & Jen





## Mike & Jen's Story

While neither of us remembers our very first meeting, it must have been in 2014 at our church, since we became Facebook friends in January 2015. At the time, we barely interacted beyond polite hellos, despite having many mutual friends. I admired Jen's warm, sarcastic, and disarming way with people from a distance, while she only knew me as "the frisbee guy" and assumed I worked for the church because I was always volunteering somewhere. For years, our paths crossed only occasionally until 2019, when we joined the same ministry group and had our first real conversations. Jen was surprised to learn I was actually an engineer and didn't work for the church—I simply loved serving.

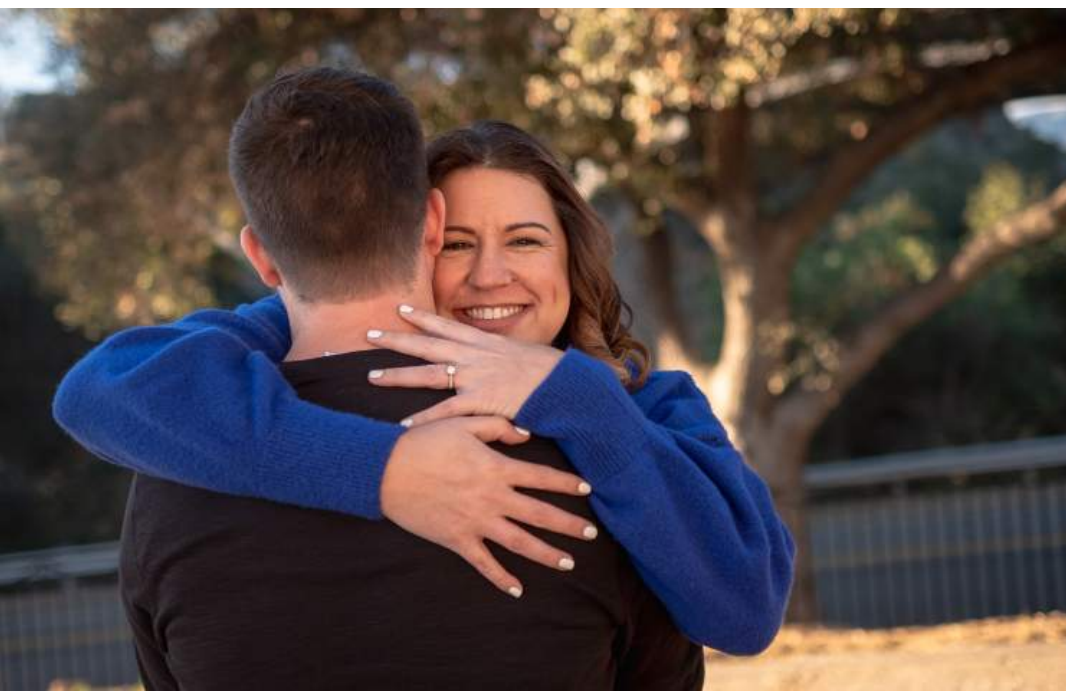
After the pandemic limited in-person contact in 2020, Jen reached out to me on Facebook, and we began messaging regularly. Over the next two months, our conversations deepened as we discovered how much shared history and common interests we had. When I realized things were moving quickly, I pulled back because I had recently come out of a relationship and wasn't ready to begin another. About a year later, we went to a Dodgers game with mutual friends, and by the end of the night, each of us quietly felt there was a strong possibility we might end up married. In October 2021, I finally asked Jen out; two months later, I proposed, and we were married in May 2022.

# Meet Jen

Paralegal

The place I call home today is the same suburban area of Southern California where I was raised. I grew up with an older sister, who loved telling me what to do, and two step-brothers who were always up for an adventure. Our family loved to take trips and I played just about every sport growing up and incurred several injuries due to my competitive nature. I love the Lord, I adore my husband, I have zero sense of direction, I cry at Hallmark commercials, I can't keep plants alive, I love traveling and taking pictures, I like to cook, but I cannot bake. My family has actually discouraged me from baking ever since the brownie incident of 2016. When I am not setting brownies on fire I like to serve in our church. We help in the nursery and also welcome new families who are visiting. Before I was a paralegal I was an assistant teacher for a Christian school. I love being around kids and the church affords so many opportunities to still engage with children. My heart has always been to be a mom, but like many things in life, it has not happened how I imagined. God's ways are always better and I feel like my entire life is a testimony to that truth.





It's hard to put into words what I love about Jen. To start with, she's disarming. It's really easy to be myself around her because she's kind, empathetic, she assumes the best, she doesn't take herself too seriously and she's quick to laugh at herself. So I never feel like I need to be someone I'm not around her; I can just be me.

Secondly, she helps me be a better man. Because I'm an imperfect sinner, there are plenty of areas where I shouldn't "just be me"; I need to grow. Because of Jen's disarming nature, I know I can open up and be honest with her and she won't belittle or criticize me. Instead she reminds me of Biblical truth, confronts and supports me in a way that helps me grow.

Thirdly, Jen is intuitive and wise. Due to a difficult childhood and a desire for the people she loves to not be in conflict, she tends to be a frequent peacemaker. This often involves being honest and unafraid to say what needs to be said, even if it hurts. But because of her disarming nature, she comes across in a very winsome way and I can tell she just wants the best for me.

That's just a few things about Jen. There are so many other characteristics I could talk about whether it's how she managed to develop and maintain such deep friendships or how she always seems to have the best ideas or how fun she is to go on adventures with or how cute she is or how contagious her smile is or how she's my favorite person to do nothing with. Even though we've only been married 3 years, I can't imagine doing life without her! I thank God every day that I get to be her husband!

- Mike -

# Meet Mike

I have lived within the same 20 mile radius my whole life. I live about 20 minutes from my parents and I have one sister who lives down in San Diego with her family. My extended family has over 40 people in it so I grew up going to large family gatherings. Though I grew up in the church I attend now, I didn't give my life to God until I was 16. I've been working for the same company for the last 14+ years. I played the clarinet in grades 7th thru college which gave me a love for orchestral music. In fact there's always some tune playing in my head that I'm humming or whistling or drumming to.

I love fixing things, making spreadsheets, learning how things work and solving puzzles like Rubik's cubes, and I love building things with Legos, especially with my nephews. I love playing soccer, throwing frisbees, lifting weights and going on walks or hikes with Jen. Frankly I love doing anything with Jen! I also love tweaking a recipe in my never-ending quest to make the perfect steak. I love volunteering at our church and I'm obsessed with studying the book of Hebrews in the Bible.

I'm an introvert who has learned how to behave like an extrovert. I have very little intuition so I'm a slow learner and I need things spelled out for me. I love efficiency and I'm a very detail-oriented thinker. I'm a completionist so I find it hard NOT to finish what I start. I try to always follow through with my commitments and I love being dependable. That said, I love to relax and do nothing, I love cancelled plans and I try to find humor in whatever is going on.





I fell in love with Mike even before we started dating. I was drawn in instantly by his kind nature and selflessness. When we did start dating he was so patient with me as I worked through my trust issues. He was encouraging and supportive. He always made sure I felt safe and loved. I can always be myself around him. All the things that I think are weird about myself he finds endearing. I could fill a book with all the things I love about Mike, but here is just a few:



Mike is devoted to the Lord, always striving to deepen his faith. He is a loyal friend, and he loves to make me laugh. He has an incredible work ethic and is a bit of a perfectionist, with a love for efficiency and understanding how things work. He's close with his whole family, but has an especially unique bond with his mom. He loves playing Legos and wrestling with his nephews. He was immediately beloved by my family, quickly becoming the "favorite." One nickname I have for Mike is "Parrot", as he loves to mimic every sound he hears—a habit I've even picked up! He has the memory of a goldfish, but never forgets to tell me how beautiful I am. Because he can't cook very many things, he insists on cleaning every dish after any meal I make as a way to say thank you. He may have absolutely no rhythm, but he will always slow dance with me in our living room. He will do almost anything for a sweet treat and only needs five hours of sleep to feel fully rested.



If we are blessed with a son someday, I know Mike will guide him to become an honorable man, leading not only with instruction but by his own unwavering example.. For a potential daughter, my greatest wish is that she marries a man who cherishes her as deeply as Mike cherishes me.



welcome to



# Our Little World



Neighborhood pond



Legos with his nephews



Neighborhood Park



Hayride with our Bible study



Pizza with church friends

We live in southern California, about 20-30 miles north of Los Angeles in a city called Santa Clarita. Both of us have grown up here in Santa Clarita and both of our immediate families still live here too so we see them quite often. We love our neighborhood! It has quick access to over a hundred miles of bike trails and paseos which we take advantage of, weekly. We don't have a backyard, but there's a city park with a playground, tennis courts and two soccer fields about a block away.

At night, everything shuts down by 10pm; it's a very quiet neighborhood. It's also very safe as Santa Clarita typically ranks among the safest cities, not only in California but also in America. Santa Clarita also has a huge selection of shops, restaurants and healthy grocery stores like Trader Joe's, Sprouts and Whole Foods. We've got theaters, a big selection of great schools including a well-connected community college which we both attended. We even have a theme park called Six Flags Magic Mountain. There's also a little man-made lake in our neighborhood which we take walks around and there's even a boardwalk area to feed the ducks. The lake area is so picturesque, we often see wedding parties taking pictures there, and it's even the place we got engaged.



Serving at church



Attending our friend's kid's football game



Bible Study friends at Disneyland



Dodger's game with famly



Mike's Large Extended Family



Mike with Jen's Nephew



Jen with church friend's kids



Mike & Jen with Mike's family



Jen's mom, sister and nephews



Jen with her sister



Jen's nephew's gender reveal party



Mike with his Mom

# Family + Faith

We have a large support group, filled with family and friends from church that we know we can count on for help. Both of our immediate families live within 10-20 minutes of our house and they're all excited to help out if needed. Also, there are many families with new babies in our Bible study as well as in our wider church, so if we adopt a child, they will have no shortage of little friends to play with. Our church has a huge children's ministry containing hundreds of kids of all ages on any given Sunday. On a personal note, as we are in our 40s, many of our oldest friends from church have already had kids a while ago, so not only are they excited for us to finally start our journey, they're full of parenting wisdom and resources to help us along the way.

Our faith in God is easily the most important thing about us. We have different but very similar stories. We used to live our lives for ourselves, thus offending the holy God who gave us life. But in His infinite love, God became a man so that He could take our place and die on the cross and pay for those sins. So we repented of our sins, gave our lives to God and now we live in gratefulness to our loving Father who has graciously adopted us as His children. So as Christians, we have many values and traditions that flow out of that identity, things like going to church, repenting when we sin, spending time with God in the Bible, prayer and serving others in our community. Also since the theme of adoption runs deep in Christianity, we're eager to imitate God by adopting children of our own, not only as a way to understand God more deeply, but also to teach this little one all about the God we love in the hopes that one day they'll give their lives to Him just like we did!



Jen's immediate family



Our Bible Study Group

Hiking in Carmel



# Hobbies

We both love being outdoors, especially around lakes and mountains. We even honeymooned in Montana where we rode horses, practiced archery, and learned how to start a fire with just a stick and some string. We like to take hikes in beautiful places and observe God's glory in His creation. We both were very active kids. Mike played soccer and Jen played everything but soccer. We both grew up with parents who loved baseball, namely the Dodgers (please don't hold it against us if you hate the Dodgers. They were a terrible team for the majority of our lives). We both love going to games with friends and family.

Jen enjoys reading books about theology, history, and classic literature. Mike likes to watch engineering videos on how things work. We both love classical and instrumental music. Going to the Hollywood Bowl in the summer is a fun tradition. We go with a group of friends or family and picnic before the concert or movie. We also love hosting Bible study friends and family often for dinner. We will talk over tea and dessert or play a virtual reality game called "Beat Saber." Our favorite trip we make every year is to a small town in Northern California called Twain Harte. We go to the local lake, go hiking, attend the local concert in the park, play minigolf (Jen is undefeated), and eat amazing food from a local restaurant which our friends own. Mike loves road trips and this last year we visited the Grand Canyon. Unfortunately, we won't be able to go on a road trip to get to our next travel destination: England. We are going there to attend a friend's wedding and then spending some time in London and Belgium (mostly for the chocolate).

Dodger's game



Annual Christmas duck hunt



Playing ultimate frisbee

At the Hollywood Bowl



Visiting the Grand Canyon



Cooking class



Putt-Putt



# Parenting + Adoption

Parenting is a tricky topic since our approach will need to be tailored to how each child responds. In general, we want to teach the principles of personal responsibility, selflessness, the value of hard work, respect and discipline. But at the same time, we also want to have fun, laugh as much as we can, find joy in the mundane things and remember to be grateful for everything we have. Basically we want to teach them Biblical principles about how to love God and how to serve others. Practically we want to teach them how to think for themselves because at some point, they'll be all grown up and on their own and we need to prepare them to survive in this world.

One of the reasons we wanted to use Nightlight for our adoption was for their emphasis of open adoptions. We feel it's in everyone's best interest, not only for the child to know where they came from, but also for you to have some level of involvement in their lives. The amount of your involvement is going to depend on a lot of things, but we want you to know that not only do we care about your child, we also care about you and we want you to be in our lives. We truly believe that family is more than blood, and we've been praying not only for your child but also for you in the midst of this challenging time. And even though we're a bit nervous, we can't wait to meet you!



Father's Name:  
**Mike**

Occupation:  
**Manufacturing Design Engineer**

Education:  
**Bachelor's of science,  
Mechanical Engineering**

Religion:  
**Christian**

Date of birth:  
**1984**

Hair Color:  
**Brown**

Eye Color:  
**Brown**

Height:  
**5' 7"**



Mother's Name:  
**Jen**

Occupation:  
**Paralegal**

Education:  
**Bachelor's of Arts,  
Liberal Studies**

Religion:  
**Christian**

Date of birth:  
**1981**

Hair Color:  
**Brown**

Eye Color:  
**Brown**

Height:  
**5' 6"**

# Family Information

**Date of marriage:** 05/14/2022

**Children:** None

**Interest and hobbies:** We both love the outdoors, especially lakes and mountains, and even honeymooned in Montana riding horses, practicing archery, and learning survival skills like starting a fire with simple tools. Being active has always been part of our lives—Mike played soccer and Jen played just about everything else—and we grew up cheering on the Dodgers and still love attending games with friends and family. At home, we enjoy reading, learning how things work, classical and instrumental music, and summer trips to the Hollywood Bowl with friends for picnics and concerts. We also love hosting dinners and Bible studies, traveling to our favorite Northern California town each year, and taking adventures together, from road trips like the Grand Canyon to upcoming travels to England and Belgium.

**Home:** We live in Santa Clarita, a city in Southern California about 20–30 miles north of Los Angeles, where we both grew up and where our immediate families still live, allowing us to spend a lot of time together. We love our quiet, safe neighborhood, which has access to over 100 miles of bike trails and paseos we use weekly, along with a city park just a block away that includes a playground, tennis courts, and soccer fields. Santa Clarita offers the best of both worlds: peaceful evenings where everything winds down by 10 p.m., along with plenty of shops, restaurants, theaters, excellent schools, and community amenities. One of our favorite spots is a nearby lake with walking paths and a boardwalk for feeding ducks—it's so beautiful that wedding photos are often taken there, and it even happens to be where we got engaged.

**Pets:** None

**Why are you interested in building your family through adoption:** Both of us have always wanted to be parents but that goal has been delayed by many years of singleness. By the time we met and got married, our chances of having our own children naturally were very low. We tried anyway, but after several years of unsuccessful attempts, we concluded God must be directing us toward alternative methods of building our family. We had always thought adoption might be in our future, even in our singleness, so after not being able to have our own children, it just seemed like adoption was the obvious next step for us. And the more we learned about it, the more it seemed right.

**Openness to birthparent(s):** It's important to us that the birth family feels valued and connected, so we hope to share updates about the child with whatever frequency and involvement we both feel would be best. We're open to photos, texts, phone calls, emails and in-person visits as the child grows. Our desire is to build a meaningful, respectful relationship that feels natural and supportive for everyone involved. We truly believe that openness can be a beautiful way to expand our family and give the child a deeper understanding of where they come from and how deeply they are loved by their family.

**Childcare plans:** We believe it is primarily our responsibility to raise whatever children God gives us. So even though we both work remote, we are committed to not allowing our jobs to get in the way of spending significant time with our children. So initially, we're going to see if we can both keep our jobs. But if it's too much, we'll re-evaluate our occupations in an effort to prioritize the family and make sure we're giving enough attention to our children. That said, we also have the tremendous safety net of both our extended families living locally who are more than willing to provide last minute child care as needed. Additionally we have many friends at church who can lend their support, expertise and advice.



Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about our family. We know this is a very challenging time for you and we honestly think that you're incredibly brave for taking the time to find a suitable home for your child rather than the alternative. Even if you don't end up picking us, we love and admire you for what you're doing. We pray that God blesses you with wisdom and energy to complete this grueling task and that you find what you're looking for.

*Mike & Jen*

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