



DYLAN *and* GRACIE

2082457



# HELLO

*it's so nice to "meet" you*

Thank you for taking the time to get to know a piece of our family. We know you are faced with many decisions and a lot of them aren't easy. Just know we are praying for you and that God has the perfect plan for you.

Dylan and I met seven years ago while I was on a church trip in Idaho. There was no spark between us at the beginning, although he would tell you otherwise. That didn't come until a year later at the end of my second year of Bible college. We dated for a short six months and by then I knew this was the person, my other half, my helpmate, for the rest of my life. Dylan and I got married in November, and this year we will have been married six years.

With Dylan being a worship pastor at our church, we are very big music people at home. In our down time you can always count on Dylan recording a couple of songs and me sitting on the couch next to him catching up on my devotional or like now, writing you this letter. We also enjoy game nights with friends, hosting potlucks, bingeing a good show on Netflix, and of course my favorite, taking that nice trip to Disneyland (pre-covid days).

From the beginning of our relationship, we knew we wanted a family. Both of us come from rather large families. Dylan always wanted at least two children, I wanted four children, and we agreed on four! Little did we know, God had other plans. After five years of trying to get pregnant and never really understanding why we haven't been able to, the doors to adopting opened and we felt God lead us in this direction. We know He has the perfect plan for our lives. We have always felt called to adoption, and let me tell you, God knows what He is doing even if at the time we don't see how things will work out. Even in uncertainty, He is still moving and weaving a perfect plan for us, and we just need to let Him guide us.

Our support system during this time is massive. Our church family and biological family have stepped up and expressed their excitement and support through us finding our missing piece. We cannot wait to have our child learn their adoption story and to be able to embrace their heritage while growing up.

Just know, we are praying for you daily and I hope this letter brings you some comfort knowing that there are people who will be supporting you on any decision you make. We are excited to open our hearts to you and build a friendly relationship throughout and even after this process, whatever you may choose. We love the thought of being able to add you to our circle and are open to sending monthly updates and even holiday visits. Be blessed.

**WITH LOVE & APPRECIATION**

*Dylan & Grace*



## OUR STORY

Dylan and I met in 2014. I went on a missions trip with my church, and met Dylan along the way at one of our acquainted churches in Idaho where he was working at the time for a radio station. The next couple months he just so happened to drop what he was doing and decided to attend the same Bible college I was attending. Throughout that year, Dylan and I became familiar with each other around church and the college. Towards the end of the school year he became very persistent on us going on a date, well let me tell you, his persistence worked in his favor. We went on a couple of very awkward dates, but the love between us grew. Five months after us dating we got engaged and a month later married.

The start of our life together was such a journey, one I love to look back on. From where we started as a young married couple, living in the dorms, to our small apartment along a golf course, to purchasing our first home, and eventually buying our dream home that has a great view of the mountains and a park right across the street.

Our love story shows a couple growing together, learning from each other, and carrying each other when the weight of the world is just too heavy to move. Our relationship is Christ centered, and filled with worship and prayer. Our home is filled with music, a messy kitchen from food experiments, friends on games nights, family gatherings on holidays, and just a whole lotta Jesus, DAILY.



## WHY WE ARE ADOPTING

The Lord placed adoption on our hearts in our early years of marriage. We had been trying to have a baby for approximately a year, when I felt this urging and interest in adopting. I shared with Dylan the interest I had been feeling and he felt it too. It's funny how God places little longings in your heart, and how He gives little snippets of our callings. We are over the moon excited!

We had a long, impatient, emotional wait to get where we are currently. After four years of trying to have a baby, there was definitely a time where we just wanted to give up. We watched our friends start families, we watched our siblings start families, and I'm not going to lie, there was and is, at times, jealousy in the midst. I believe God put us on this path to strengthen our relationship in Him and also our relationship as a couple. I am excited for this journey that Dylan and I are taking and can't wait for the many people we get to meet along the way, to bring into our circle.

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**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD. PLANS FOR GOOD AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."-JEREMIAH 29:11**



## MEET *Gracie*

I am 29 years old and the oldest of seven sisters. I enjoyed my childhood in Idaho and experienced my growing up years in central California. In my early 20's I moved away from home to attend Bible college and my life changed for the better. I was able to work within the ministry which then led to working for the church. I met my husband at Bible college shortly after and have been happily married for five and a half years.

I currently work for a sheriff's department as their office assistant and am extremely involved in our church. Sunday mornings are usually spent volunteering at the coffee shop in our church while my husband is leading worship for the congregation.

I enjoy baking delicious sweets, experimenting on some authentic home-made Mexican food, competitive game nights with friends, kayaking during the summer with my sisters, and crafting with my Cricut (although it always results with my husband taking over my projects).

In the spring, I get my urge of a green thumb, and love planting and decorating with succulents. Summer days are usually spent near lakes, fishing or BBQing, and the evenings are spent around a campfire enjoying either my husband's or our friend's company.



# WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Gracie*

WRITTEN BY DYLAN

The first thing I noticed about Gracie was her smile and her eyes. She is the kindest and sweetest person I've ever known and I recognized that immediately. She is gentle and caring, but will also hold nothing back in order to defend those she loves. Her selfless love is an inspiration to me daily and her love for Jesus shines in everything she does. I know that she is going to make an amazing mom and I can't wait to see that happen!



# WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Dylan*

WRITTEN BY GRACIE

Dylan is wildly talented, and I am envious of how easy he makes everything look. From decorating our home, all the way to singing and playing music, he never breaks a sweat. My favorite thing about him is his heart for worship. I, as his wife, get to watch him lead me and a congregation into the most beautiful state of worship. I get to watch God use him in the most beautiful way, doing what he loves.



I am 29 years old, and am the worship pastor for our church and oversee the audio/video ministry. I also teach Praise Band, the music class for jr high and high school at our K-12 school. In addition to my job at the church, I am a partner in a business that creates and sells worship tech tools that help churches improve the technical aspects of their services.

I enjoy everything that music is involved in, I play the guitar, bass, and I sing. I play bits and pieces of the piano and drums, and am self-taught. I also have a recording studio where I am able to record different bands and artists, and in our free time my wife and I have been building a worship portfolio.

During my free time, I enjoy fishing, having bonfires, BBQs, and just enjoy the time with my family and friends.

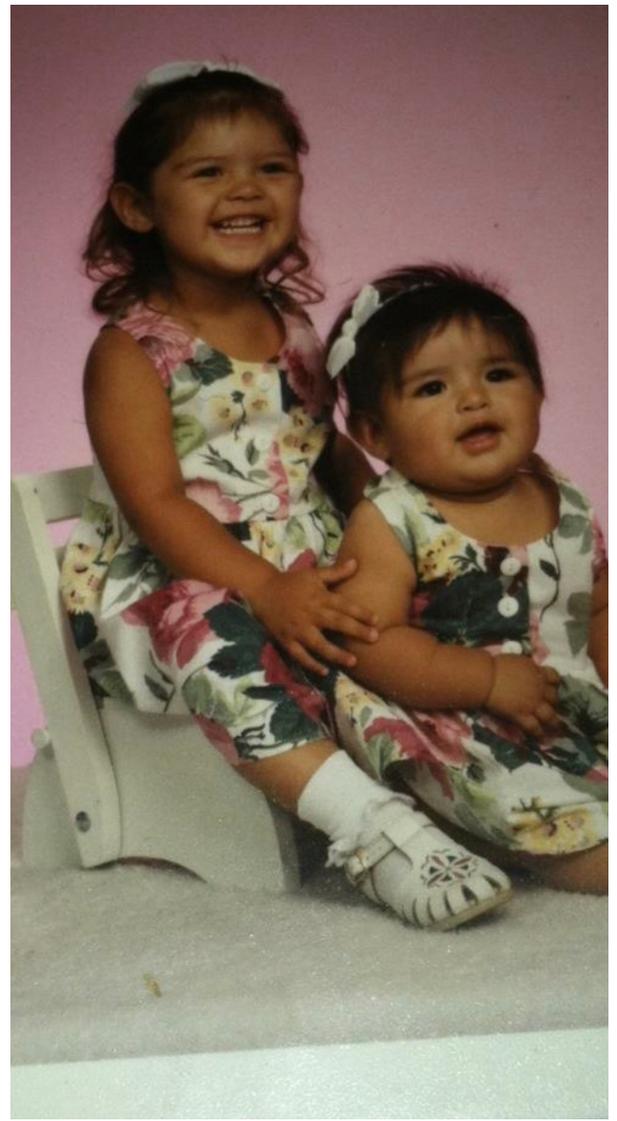
MEET *Dylan*



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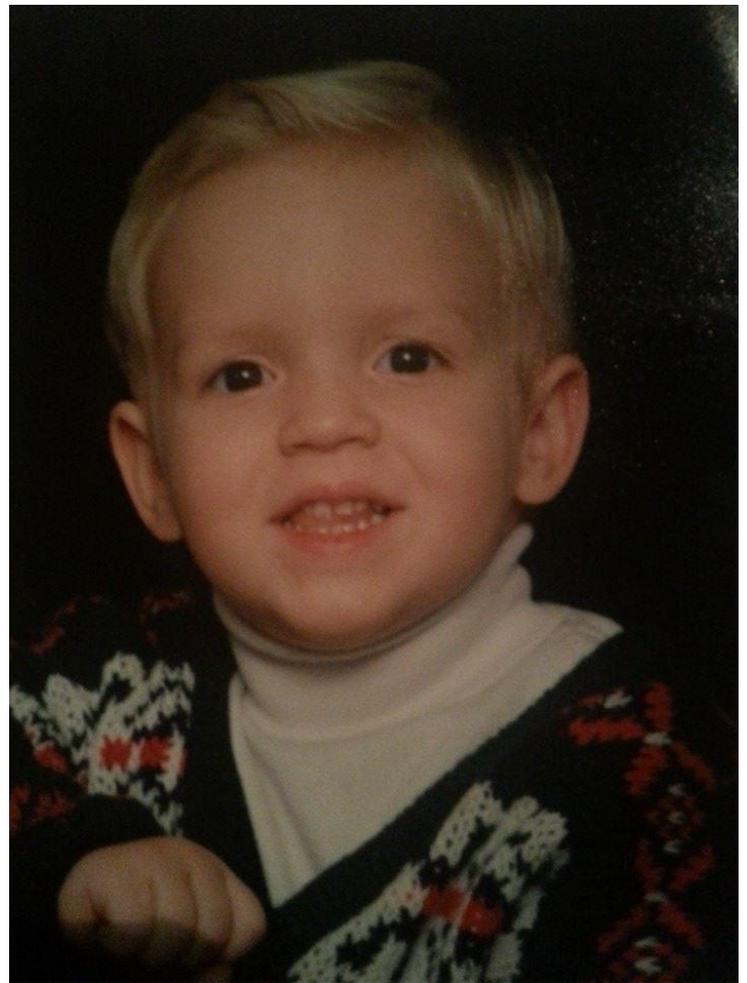
SOME DAYS I WISH I COULD GO  
BACK IN LIFE. NOT TO CHANGE  
ANYTHING, BUT TO FEEL A FEW  
THINGS TWICE.

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## GRACIE'S CHILDHOOD

The majority of my childhood was spent in Twin Falls, Idaho. I grew up with two loving parents who worked extremely hard for what they have today. My father owns his own flooring business and my mother was a stay at home wife and helped my father with his business. My parents made my childhood enjoyable. My dad taught my sisters and I how to snowboard during the winter. In the summer you could always catch us out on the lake, boating, tubing, or camping. My parents were very big on involving us in sports, so we were always signed up for soccer in the fall, softball in the spring, and the occasional basketball season if we had time.



## DYLAN'S CHILDHOOD

I grew up in a loving home, raised by my mom and my stepdad. We were in church every Sunday as my mom was on the worship team and my dad led the prayer team. Music and theater were a big part of my childhood and my parents were always supportive of my artistic endeavors. I was in community theater when I was young and started playing guitar when I was ten. My parents taught us to be respectful, loving, and kind. My sisters and I weren't extremely close, but we got along pretty well. My dad taught me how to fish at the park down the street from our house and I loved to go with him or on my own when I was old enough. Some activities we all enjoyed together included watching movies, bowling, and going miniature golfing.



DRESSED AS CARL AND ELLIE  
FROM "UP" FOR HALLOWEEN.



OUR TIME AT A PLANE  
MUSEUM



TOGETHER SUPPORTING A  
FAMILY FUNDRAISER

# MEET *Bailey & Baxter*



Bailey and Baxter are two very friendly and well taken care of dogs. Both are very loving and enjoy having the ball thrown around to be chased. Even with a head start Baxter still comes in last place, every time. Bailey is a four year old German Shepherd mix. She loves to smile, lay her head on our chest, and give ginormous hugs. Baxter is a three year old German Shepherd. He loves to follow Bailey around the yard, does an adorable slow run, and enjoys walks around the neighborhood.

# HOME

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**HOME: A PLACE WHERE YOU ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME AND SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO LOVE  
YOU.**

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Our home is in the beautiful desert of Southern California, where the weather is great all year long. We get the occasional snow twice a year, which is the perfect amount to see it drop and melt within a couple hours. The fall is perfect, and our personal favorite time of year. You can start and go throughout the day without a coat, but come night time you'll need some sort of covering. Summers are hot but manageable, it's the summer nights that are the best. Dylan and I love ending our day with a bonfire, roasting s'mores or hotdogs among the flames and watching the sun go down as the stars become visible, lighting up the sky.

Our home has a gorgeous view of the mountains, and when the sun is rising you'll get that glimpse of the "purple mountain majesties." We live in a nice, quiet, neighborhood and our church is visible from the front door as is the park across the street.



PIRATE'S DINNER  
ADVENTURE WITH FAMILY.



A MARRIAGE  
CONFERENCE WITH  
OUR FRIENDS  
CHEYENNE AND RAY



MEDIEVAL TIMES WITH FRIENDS



PIRATE'S DINNER  
ADVENTURE  
Buena Park, CA





## MEET OUR FAMILIES

### GRACIE'S FAMILY

There is a whole lot of laughter, crying, bickering, affection, chaos, and love. Lots and lots of love between sisters. I am the oldest of seven girls, and daughter to two loving parents that raised us to be a close knit family and to grow in our faith in God.

My dad-Gilbert and mom-Patty, reside near central California, very close to the beach which is always nice to visit since they are not far. My dad owns his own business as a contractor and is very good at what he does, he also makes sure there is always time for his girls! My mama is a Sunday school coordinator for their church and is my sole inspiration and vision of what I want to be when I become a mother. God molded her to handle seven of us, and she radiates Jesus throughout her being.

My sisters, so much to say but not enough room. Each of us are close to each other in our own different ways. I honestly believe that the older you get the more precious the sister relationship is!

Dylan and I have seven nieces and two nephews, various ages. We love watching them grow and develop their own little personalities. All are in different states, but that makes for a fun visit to travel to them.



## DYLAN'S FAMILY

I grew up with my mother Lori and step-dad John, my sister Megan, and my step-sister Tracie. My parents currently live in Colorado, which is exciting to explore a new city and state. My sisters and two beautiful nieces all live relatively close in the area near my parents. My nieces are Charlotte, who is seven, and Morgan who is two, and one baby girl who is soon to join our family.



The other side of my family, my dad Chuck and step mom Dawn live in Idaho, along with my step siblings. I have three half brothers, two are older and one younger, and a younger half sister. I have another three nieces from my older brothers and a nephew, who are between the ages of nine and seventeen.



Having a large family who all live in different parts of the U.S. gives us a to travel which we enjoy. As crazy and chaotic as my family may seem at times, I love them all and wouldn't change a thing.





DYLAN AND OUR NIECE  
MORGAN



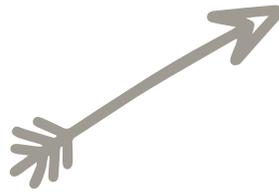
HAVING FUN AT UNIVERSAL  
STUDIOS IN THE WIZARD'S  
UNIVERSE, ENJOYING SOME  
TASTY BUTTERBEER. YUMMMM!



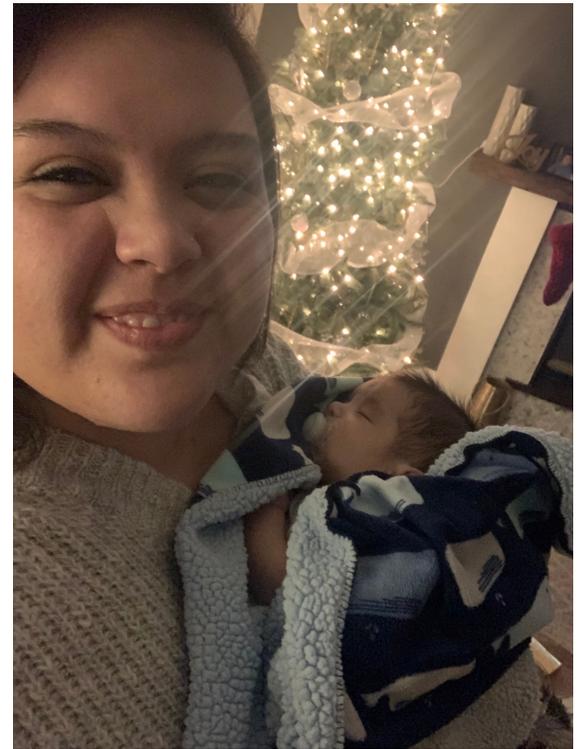
WHILE ON OUR CRUISE IN ENSENADA, WE WENT TO  
A CUB SHELTER AND WERE ABLE TO HOLD BABY  
CUBS! ONE OF OUR FAVORITE VACATIONS TO  
DATE!



DISNEYLAND, OUR  
FAVORITE MAGICAL  
PLACE!



THE FIRST MOMENT  
GRACIE WAS ABLE TO  
HOLD OUR NEPHEW ROGAN



MY SISTERS, MY VERY BEST  
FRIENDS!



## OUR COMMUNITY

Our community includes many people in various seasons of life. We are uplifted and encouraged by our pastors from church. We have a large group of friends who we play board games and enjoy dinners with. Friends with children, that Dylan and I both get to spoil and be involved with. We have the type of friendships where we pray together, celebrate each other's achievements, watch movies and hang out, and friendships that aren't afraid to call each other out on bad behaviors (mainly competitiveness).

Our friends are excited for this journey that Dylan and I are embarking on and have been giving new parenting advice along with words of encouragement and love!



OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: GAME NIGHT!



# Family INFORMATION PAGE

**Father's Name:** Dylan  
**Occupation:** Worship Pastor/ Praise Band Teacher  
**Education:** Bachelors in Theology  
**Religion:** Christian  
**Date of Birth:** 01/08/1992  
**Hair Color:** Brown  
**Eye Color:** Hazel  
**Height:** 5'9  
**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Mother's Name:** Gracie  
**Occupation:** Sheriff's Office Assistant  
**Education:** Associates in Theology  
**Religion:** Christian  
**Date of Birth:** 11/03/1991  
**Hair Color:** Brown  
**Eye Color:** Green  
**Height:** 5'5  
**Ethnicity:** Hispanic/ Native American

## A SNIPPET OF US:

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**Date of marriage:** November 21st, 2015

**Children:** No children, yet.

**Interests and hobbies:** We both enjoy fishing, listening to music, playing board games, and anything Disney.

Dylan enjoys playing guitar and making music during free time. Gracie enjoys crafting, planting succulents, and making homemade Mexican cuisine.

**Home:** We live in a quiet neighborhood with a gorgeous view of the mountains and are directly across the street from a park.

**Pets:** We have two friendly German Shepard dogs named Bailey and Baxter.

**Why are you interested in building your family through adoption?** We felt God opening up the doors through adoption, something we have always known we wanted to do. After years of trying to conceive we knew the time was now to adopt, and are beyond excited for this new season of our life.

**Openness to birthparent(s):** We are excited to be able to open our arms and hearts to the birth parents. We are willing to share photos, birthdays, some holidays, if the birthparents are open to the idea.

**Childcare plans:** Our schedules are flexible so we will be able to spend most of our time with our baby. On certain days when that's not possible, we plan on hiring close friends who are stay at home mothers to watch our baby. Once old enough they will be able to attend our church's pre-school, which is right down stairs from Dylan's office.



## ONE LAST THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to look at a piece of our lives. Our prayer for you and for us is that God will encourage us through this time or season. That we will place our hope in Him and be comforted by His love.

We are praying for you and are here for support if you should ever need it.

DYLAN *and* GRACIE

**"WE PUT OUR HOPE IN THE LORD. HE IS OUR HELP AND OUR SHIELD. IN HIM OUR HEARTS REJOICE, FOR WE TRUST IN HIS HOLY NAME. LET YOUR UNFAILING LOVE SURROUND US, LORD, FOR OUR HOPE IS IN YOU ALONE." -PSALM 33:20-22**