

# JESS *and* BRANDON

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DEAR  
EXPECTANT  
*Momma.*

through the view of our kitchen window, we catch glimpses of a magnificent 14,000ft mountain off in the distant Rocky Mountains. The view is awe-inspiring, but also a place of difficulty for many who attempt to summit the peak. You may be in one of the “rough spots” of a hard climb—with many difficult decisions in front of you. Yet we also believe that in the place of greatest difficulty can come the greatest triumph and beauty.

*-Brandon and Jess*





We have seen this ourselves as we lost 3 children through miscarriage, yet were given 2 biologically and have gained a heart for adopting in the midst of that journey. Though we have never met, we have been praying for you.

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**WE *honor* YOU AS SOMEONE TRYING TO CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION FOR YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ONE.**

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**PLEASE KNOW, WHATEVER YOUR DECISION, YOU ARE VALUED AND LOVED BY THE *One* WHO CREATED YOU.**

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# Our Story



GETTING READY TO TEACH A SIMPLE WALTZ LESSON AT THE DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE



We met near the foothills of the beautiful Rocky Mountains at a discipleship school. When we first started our relationship, Brandon (who had never dated before) thought it'd be quite sweet to get Jess a flower. But when he took the carnation out of the car to hand it to her, the heavy flower head fell off! Not quite the impression he was hoping for, but despite the "flower that flopped", the relationship did not, and we joyfully were married less than a year later.

After 8 years of marriage, we still enjoy laughing together at life's quirky happenings and dreaming big about the future. **We love and follow Jesus Christ. Because of that reality, our home is filled with peace, joy (and so much of it!), love, laughter, giggles, excitement, hope ... the list could go on and on!**



TO SUM IT UP, OUR HOME AND  
OUR FAMILY IS A PLACE WHERE  
*Light and Life*  
ARE FOUND.

ENJOYING THE SEA SPRAY ON THE OREGON COAST.  
WE HOPE TO TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO THE OCEAN  
THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES

## Places

WE'RE EXCITED  
TO VISIT SOME  
DAY:

1

NIAGARA FALLS

2

THE ARK ENCOUNTER

3

FRIENDS IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST

4

KAYAKING THE "PICTURED  
ROCKS" IN MICHIGAN

5

EXPLORING A FAMILY-  
BUILT CASTLE HERE  
IN COLORADO



EVERY YEAR THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT BIKING  
TO THE LOCAL PARK AT SUNRISE TO WATCH 20+ BALLOONS  
LAUNCH INTO THE BIG BLUE COLORADO SKY



# ALL ABOUT *Jess*



*I thrive* IN THE SIMPLE  
EVERYDAY HAPPENINGS  
OF OUR HOME:

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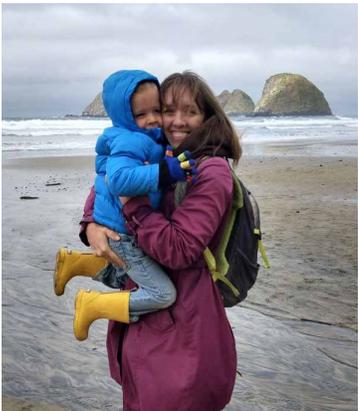
setting traditions, cultivating beauty, making meals for my little family, tending to the garden.

We've affectionately named our property "the littlest orchard" because of how many fruit trees I'm trying to squeeze in! I've come to the happy realization that I'm pretty crazy about fruit trees. **My passion though is to create an environment where childhood wonder can flourish.** This sometimes means creatively constructing a giant castle out of cardboard and other times trying to visit all the public playgrounds in our town (over 24 we discovered!)



HAVING FUN AT THE OREGON COAST

MAKING A BOUQUET FROM THE MEADOW FLOWERS



# 6 THINGS THAT MAKE ME *smile:*

1  
**LONG WALKS AS A FAMILY IN THE EVENINGS**

2  
**LEARNING OLD-FASHIONED LIFE SKILLS (SEWING, POTTERY, ETC.)**

3  
**BALLROOM/ SWING DANCING WITH MY GUY!**

4  
**COLLECTING MULTI-COLORED EGGS FROM OUR HAPPY LITTLE BACKYARD CHICKEN FLOCK**

5  
**DREAMING UP ADVENTURES FOR MY LITTLE FAMILY.**

6  
**DRINKING HOMEMADE BUBBLY WATER**

WE JOKE THAT JESS WANTED CHICKENS FOR THE COMPOST THEY GIVE FOR HER FRUIT TREES, AND THAT THE EGGS ARE JUST A NICE SIDE BONUS

Growing up, my parents (now lovingly called “Grandma” and “Grand-daddy”) were purposeful in cultivating a peaceful, fun-loving home that we kids flourished in. Their modeling of how parenting works has been the biggest influence in how I want to raise my own children.

**I LOVE THAT NOW I GET TO BE A MOMMA, AND AM CONTINUALLY EXCITED THINKING OF NEW WAYS TO ADD *“sparkle”* TO OUR LIVES.**





# ALL ABOUT *Brandon*



*"Can we play some volleyball?"*

**IS A PHRASE I OFTEN SAY TO JESS, WHO GENERALLY IS HAPPY TO OBLIGE.**

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**I really enjoy the mental and physical challenge of improving, working as a team, and being able to spike on an 8' net while I'm only 5'6" feels awesome!**

I work as a networking engineer, but am steadily working on my web-development side-business so **I can work full time from home someday and be present in my family's day-to-day life.** I don't want to miss these precious years while children are in the home! I was a bit more of a "hermit" in my teen years, but God radically got a hold of my life in my 20s and now I love to laugh, be a daddy (I just can't get enough of those sweet baby cuddles!), and tease Jess about her wonderful garden obsession.

6 THINGS I'M  
*passionate*  
ABOUT:

1

HAVING PEOPLE  
OVER FOR  
DINNER

2

DEBATING  
THEOLOGY WITH  
A GROUP OF GUY  
FRIENDS

3

EATING  
SCRAMBLED  
EGGS FOR  
DINNER

4

PRACTICING  
MY SPIKES FOR  
VOLLEYBALL

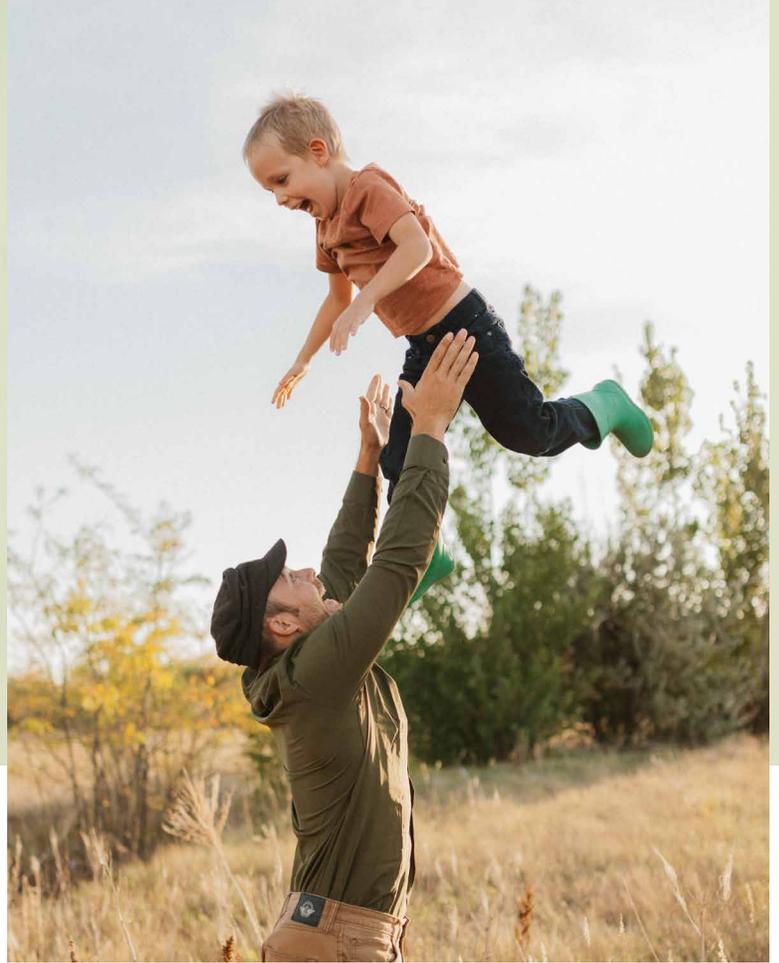
5

PLAYING  
STRATEGY  
BOARD GAMES  
WITH FRIENDS.  
(IT'S EXTRA  
FUN NOW THAT  
CASPER CAN  
JOIN IN—HE  
KEEPS US ON  
OUR TOES  
WITH HIS  
UNPREDICTABLE  
MOVES!)

6

TELLING JESS,  
"I LOVE YOU"  
EVERYDAY

EXPLORING THE GREAT ROCKY MOUNTAINS JUST AN  
HOUR FROM OUR HOME



LOOKING INTO A CHRISTMAS  
TREE FORT AT OUR TOWN'S  
MAGICAL FOREST EVENT WHERE  
NEIGHBORS TURN CHRISTMAS  
TREES INTO FORTS

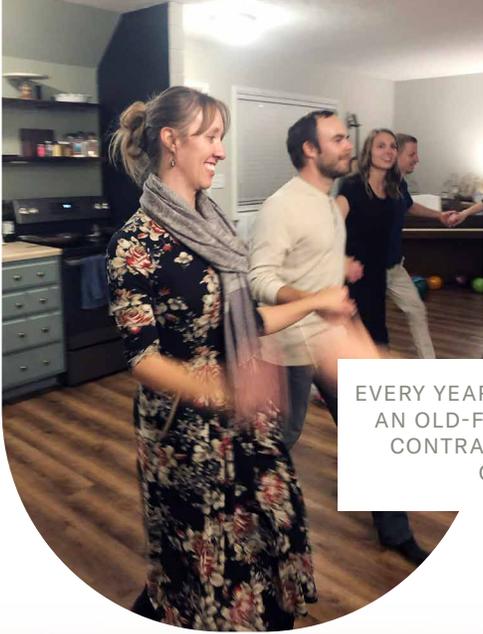


INSTALLING A SATALITE ON  
TOP OF A WATER TOWER  
FEELS LIKE BEING AT THE TOP  
OF THE WORLD

This year has been extra special in being able to read aloud some of my favorite children's books to Casper and experience the wonder of those stories afresh.

TO SUM ME UP MY VISION IN A SHORT SENTENCE, "I WANT MY LIFE TO SHOW THE WORLD WHO *Jesus is.*"





EVERY YEAR WE HOST AN OLD-FASHIONED CONTRA DANCE IN OUR HOME

# Our Home

WE LIVE IN VERY SUNNY NORTHERN COLORADO. THOUGH OUR VIBRANT LITTLE CITY ISN'T IN THE MOUNTAINS, WE SURE CAN SEE THEIR *majesty!*



SETTING OUT FOR ANOTHER FAMILY ADVENTURE ON THE BIKE. ATTACH A TRAILER AND THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR MORE, RIGHT!

BUILDING A CHICKEN CHATEAU IN OUR BACKYARD. CAN'T WAIT FOR FRESH BACKYARD EGGS



The physical setting of where we live allows space to both find beauty in the everyday home happenings as well as leave the door open for many “adventures”—thus threading our lives with sparkle. Whether it be simple things like finding puddles to splash in with a new pair of rainboots, or bigger things like venturing with a group of friends to a big cabin in the Rockies for a whole weekend of all the mountainy things, we enjoy this life we have been given.

Some of our favorite things about our town is that it is small enough to feel close-knit (we run into friends all the time when out and about!), but large enough to offer many different cultural activities.



TWO PRECIOUS KIDDOS



ONE OF OUR FIRST HIKES IN THE MOUNTAINS AS A FAMILY OF 4



# MEET OUR *Children*



**INTRODUCING** *Casper* Our dear boy's name was inspired by a Dutch man who gave his life rescuing Jews in WWII. Our Casper loves to imagine grand stories in his head of his own rescues and adventures. What a blessing this buddy boy is to us. **He's creative, adventurous, and oh so very funny.** We have a long list of chuckle-worthy "Casper quotes", such as his statement on eating holiday treats, "Momma, here we are making poor life decisions!"

**OUR DEAR** *Flora* Florence was an unexpected surprise when we first started to pursue adoption after a few years of infertility. This girl loves to fill our home with joyful squealing. **She's in the age of baby-to-toddlerhood where everything is new and exciting.** Her favorite activity is to grab our hands and walk us wherever her heart decides throughout the house. We love to hear her happy babbles all day long.





OUT HIKING THE MOUNTAINS A FEW YEARS AGO WITH BRANDON'S BROTHER



IT'S ALWAYS A TREAT TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY IN MICHIGAN



# Our Family

WE LOVE VISITING OUR *family!*

**Jess's family all hails from Michigan and each year there is a big family get-together at a cabin in the woods.** Paddle-boarding on the lake, sand volleyball, roasting marshmallows (or apples) while swatting mosquitoes, and just enjoying cousin playtime together is a highlight for us all. As our children grow up, we are grateful that on these visits there will be cousins that may match their skin color.



WE HAD A FAMILY TRADITION OF DOING AN AFRICAN PRAISE DANCE AT THE SIBLING'S WEDDINGS. HERE'S JESS'S MOM LEADING THE CHARGE AT OUR WEDDING





THANKSGIVING WITH CHURCH FRIENDS!

# Church Family

**Our local church family is just as close as our biological family.** We love those people! And they, in turn, love us. We are blessed to have many people in the church who have adopted children—which we believe will help our children to feel that being adopted is a normal thing.



Growing up, Jess's mom was often cooking up creative challenges for the family (anyone up for a 70-mile bike ride on an old railway trail?). We are certainly embracing that family legacy. With younger children, the adventures are smaller, but still filled with wonder. To give you a taste of what this could look like, last Autumn we stayed up past bedtime, walked to an open field near our house, and watched a glorious harvest + super moon rise up from the east. Wow!



THE FAMILY IS GROWING AND GROWING. PRETTY SOON WE'LL NEED A LARGER BRIDGE!

**WE ARE EXPECTANT FOR MANY MORE TIMES OF WONDERMENT AND BEAUTY FILLING OUR LIVES AS WE GROW AS A *family*.**

# ON PARENTING

**WE *love* BEING PARENTS OF  
OUR BOY AND TODDLER GIRL  
AND ARE SO EXCITED TO BE  
ADOPTING ANOTHER LITTLE ONE.**

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As our children grow up, we look forward to providing plenty of opportunities for creativity, growth, fun, and exploration. As our children grow and learn, we are passionate about soaking up as much time with them as we can and saturating them with love. **In light of that, we will be bringing them along with us on our homeschooling journey.** We're excited how this will give ample opportunity to read boatloads of uplifting books, cultivate strong family bonds, and have the freedom to explore many different cultural activities. We have a big vision for what parenting and raising children can look like and are often seeking out wisdom from families a little further on in their journey than us, as well as reading books by wise men and women whose children have grown up to flourish.



# OPEN ADOPTION

While we don't know exactly what our open adoption will look like, we are eager to see how the Lord builds and grows the relationship. We are hopeful that our future little one will be able to grow up knowing his/her birth family and understand the brave choices that were made that led to being placed in our home.

**WE COMMIT TO *Honor*  
THAT FIRST FAMILY  
WITH OUR WORDS AND  
HOPE THAT OUR CHILD'S  
ADOPTION STORY WILL  
BE SOMETHING HE/SHE  
VIEWS AS PRECIOUS.**

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# Family INFORMATION



**FATHER'S  
NAME:**  
Brandon

**RELIGION:**  
Christian -  
Follower of  
Jesus!

**DATE OF  
BIRTH:**  
11.17.1989

**OCCUPATION:**  
Web Developer  
and Networking  
Engineer

**HAIR COLOR:**  
Brown

**EDUCATION:**  
Highschool  
diploma +  
self taught  
developer

**EYE COLOR:**  
Green

**HEIGHT:**  
5'6"

**MOTHER'S  
NAME:**  
Jessica



**OCCUPATION:**  
Stay-at-home  
Momma (former  
graphic design)

**DATE OF  
BIRTH:**  
2.26.1987

**EDUCATION:**  
Bachelor's  
Degree

**HAIR COLOR:**  
Light brown

**RELIGION:**  
Christian -  
Follower of  
Jesus!

**EYE COLOR:**  
Hazel

**HEIGHT:**  
5'7"

**DATE OF MARRIAGE:** 05.13.2017

**CHILDREN:**

**Casper, 1.19.2019, biological**

Funny, cuddly, creative, and adventurous. Casper loves to dream up adventures for his friends to go on.

**Florence, 2.16.2024, biological**

This girl was the best kind of surprise. She's giggly and loves to squeal. She enjoys practicing walking and being pushed on little riding toys.

**INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:** Volleyball, evening walks, bike riding, reading, gardening, strategy games, ballroom dancing

**HOME:** Located 30 minutes from the foothills of the majestic Colorado Rocky Mountains in a mid-sized town (suburban area). Home is cozy and beautiful. The backyard is small and peaceful, with enough space to play and garden

**WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION?** We have always dreamed of a larger family and all the laughter and life children bring. We believe this desire was given to us by God and when we were facing infertility we believe He led us to grow our family through adoption.

**OPENNESS TO BIRTHPARENT(S):** Yes! To start, there would be a lot of photo sharing, but we desire a solid relationship to be built over time where we share in-person meetings and birth parents are invited to meaningful celebrations.

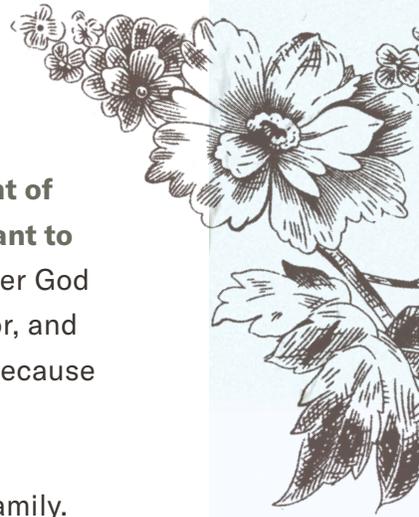
**CHILDCARE PLANS:** Jess will be a stay-at-home mom. When we want to go out on a date, close friends (or Jess's parents when we are visiting Michigan), will be asked to watch the children.



# *In Closing*

As we look ahead to our future with the hope and excitement of adding more precious little feet into our lives + hearts, we want to thank you for considering us. We are committed to loving whoever God places in our home. That child will be treated with love and honor, and we hope will thrive in the family environment we have cultivated because of God's work in our own lives.

We hope you were encouraged as you caught a glimpse at our family. Whether you choose us, or go some other direction, please know that you are valued and honored as someone making brave choices for your child.



WE'D *love* TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NIGHTLIGHT CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS  
(502) 423-5780 | [IMPREGNANT@NIGHTLIGHT.ORG](mailto:IMPREGNANT@NIGHTLIGHT.ORG)