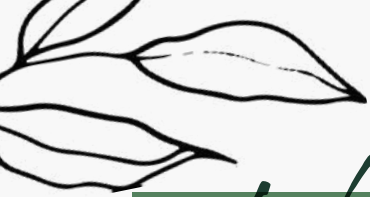




ZACH *and*

SHAWNA

2095848



Hello!

OUR NAMES ARE
ZACH AND SHAWNA,

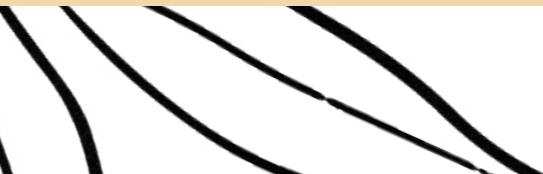
and we are thankful to have the
chance to introduce ourselves to
you and share a little about us.



Coaching swim together

**We both love children, in fact
it was our love for coaching
and mentoring youth that
led us to begin dating!**

Although we haven't been able to have any of our own, we have so much love to give and are very excited and hopeful that we might be able to provide that to a child through adoption. We understand the importance of the decision you are considering, and want to express our deepest respect for you, your courage, strength, and obvious love for your child.





Taking in the beauty of Mammoth



A COUPLE FUN FACTS ABOUT US:

our home is filled with laughter, dog kisses, lots of comfortable blankets for cuddling on the couch, and the smell of fresh baked chocolate chip cookies!



Our favorite place to be, in blankets on the couch with our dogs!

We enjoy the thrill and adventure of escape rooms!

If you select us, your child will be surrounded by a loving and supportive community. They will be loved, cared for, and encouraged to play, explore, learn, and grow! Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and we look forward to the possibility of creating a beautiful and loving future for your child.






OUR

Love STORY

We first met back in high school and were both on the swim team, but it wasn't quite love at first sight like the movies! We were just friends back then and little did we know that our paths would cross again after college, after we both had done a little maturing and growing. We began coaching together at our old high school for the same team we used to swim on, and as we spent time coaching and getting to know each other we quickly discovered that our personalities and sense of humor were a perfect match! Plus, we both shared a deep love for Jesus and held the same values close to our hearts.

Flash forward 11 years and here we are, still coaching together, happily married for almost 8 years, and we're on this exciting journey of expanding our family through adoption. **We both work from home so we are together all of the time and because of our years of coaching together, we work together as a team so well.** We have an incredible community and loving support system. We are the last of our friends to have children so when we welcome a child into our family, they will have tons of friends and built in aunts and uncles to love on them!



We love coaching swim together. Here we are celebrating both our teams getting first place in League. Our kids get to push us in the pool in our clothes if they win!



We live close to the beach and we love it!



Enjoying a date night seeing a play at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts

"Snuba" diving in Maui



We love Disneyland during the Fall



Hobbies

We both love water – swimming as a workout, hanging out at the beach, floating down a river, and soaking in the jacuzzi! We are both swim coaches for our high school and absolutely love getting to mentor and coach our athletes. We love to go see plays and musicals at the local big theaters near us. We enjoy a night in, binge watching our favorite shows or having a game night with friends on our back patio. We absolutely love Disneyland – it’s where we had our first date, celebrated anniversaries, and it’s where we got engaged! Zach loves playing basketball with friends and enjoys reading. He is a big Star Wars fan too! Shawna loves being creative, doing photography as a side job/hobby, and training/competing in sprint triathlons.

If we had a “bucket list”, one thing we’d love to do is travel!

We’d love to explore different parts of the world, and know we’d have a great time taking our children to go visit new and exciting places. Some destinations might include Italy, Australia, Kenya, Japan, and Greece!



Zach

BY SHAWNA



Zach is one of the most genuine, passionate, and loving people I've ever met. He is the perfect combination of serious and goofy! He is supportive and an amazing husband. He is attentive and aware of emotions and he's a great communicator! He is always first to apologize and very self reflective which is an amazing quality in a husband and a father. I feel so lucky to get to call him my husband!

Zach has always loved mentoring kids and teenagers. He is the Youth and Young Adults Pastor at our church and he is so amazing at relating with them, mentoring them, and helping them handle the hard questions and tough parts of life. He is also a high school swim coach and has been for 14 years so he has extensive experience mentoring and encouraging teenagers in a non church environment as well. He is playful and loves kids! Our best friends all have little kids and he is a fun "Uncle Zach" to all of them. He loves them like his own and they all love and adore him. One of them even said "Zach" as his 2nd word!

He works from home so he is going to be very present and helpful when we welcome a child into our home. I can't wait to watch him become a father and play with and care for our future child.



Zach giving swim lessons to our "nephew" JJ



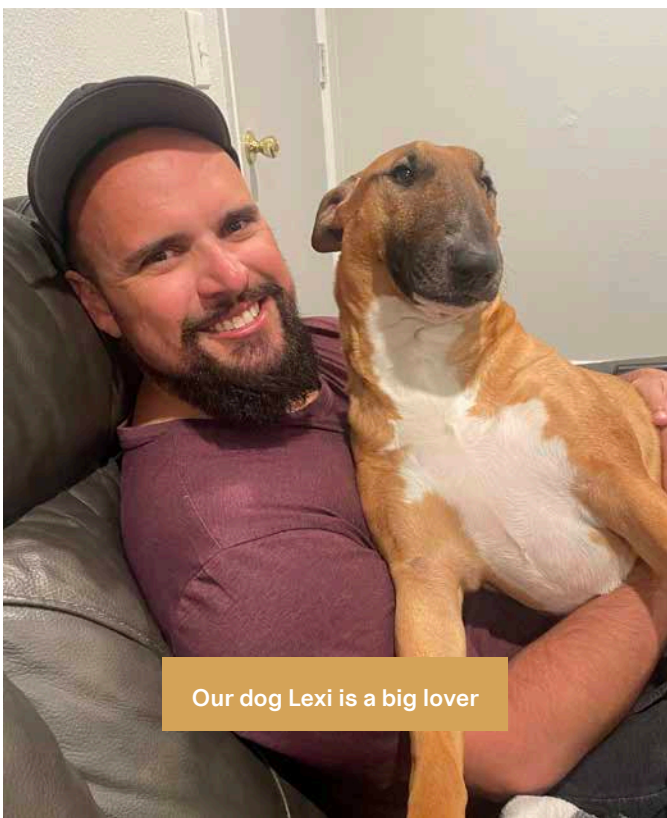
ZACH'S FUN FACTS *and* FAVORITES



Fishing on Crowley Lake



Zach and the boys doing what they love, shooting hoops



Our dog Lexi is a big lover

Vacation Spot:
Anywhere with water!
Beach, river, etc.

Seasonal Activity:
Carving Pumpkins

Historical Figure:
George Washington

Dessert:
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Sports Team:
Los Angeles Lakers
(Basketball)

Sport You Like to Play:
Swim and Basketball

Snack:
Pretzels

Author You Like to Read:
C.S. Lewis

Dream Job:
My current job! I love
working with youth,
mentoring them, and
teaching them about God
and His love for them.

Ice Cream Flavor:
Mint Chocolate Chip



Shawna

BY ZACH



Shawna is my best friend. I love getting to live my life with her, do all our favorite things together, and grow together! **She is selfless, hardworking, compassionate, creative, loving, and beautiful (both inside and out).** She is the person I can trust with everything, who understands me, and comforts me and talks through things with me when I'm stressed or need advice. She does marketing and graphic design for a small non-profit that helps women and orphaned children in Africa. While she had higher paying jobs in the past, she believes with this job she can (and is) truly making a difference by helping provide homes, jobs, and education for these women and children, as well as sharing God's love with them. Since she works from home there is a ton of flexibility in her schedule, this will be a huge help for raising a family, since both of us will be working from home with very flexible schedules. **Shawna is the go-to baby-sitter for all our friends' kids. The kids all love her so much, and the moms all know they can trust her to love their kids well and have a great time with them!**

Her dream all growing up was being able to be a mom, and based on how well she loves our friends' kids, how well she loves her family, and how well she loves me, I know she will be an amazing mom.



Shawna and Belle are besties!

bestie



SHAWNA'S FUN FACTS *and* FAVORITES

Vacation Spot:
Maui

Place to Take a Child:
Disneyland

Ice Cream Flavor:
Half Baked Ben
& Jerry's

Thing to Bake:
Chocolate chip
cookies

Holiday:
Christmas

**Sport You Like to
Play:**
Swimming

Hobby:
Photography

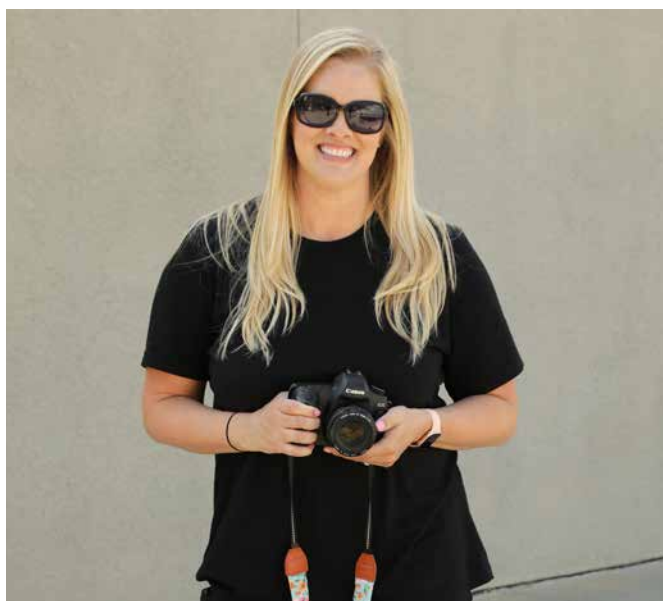
Snack:
Apples & Peanut
butter

Seasonal Activity:
Baking Christmas
Cookies

Can't Live Without:
Soft blankets to
cuddle in!



Getting ready to compete in a sprint triathlon



Taking team photos for the swim team



Shawna and "niece" Abby blowing bubbles



OUR *Home*

Our home



We are from Southern California and In-n-Out is our favorite after church lunch spot!



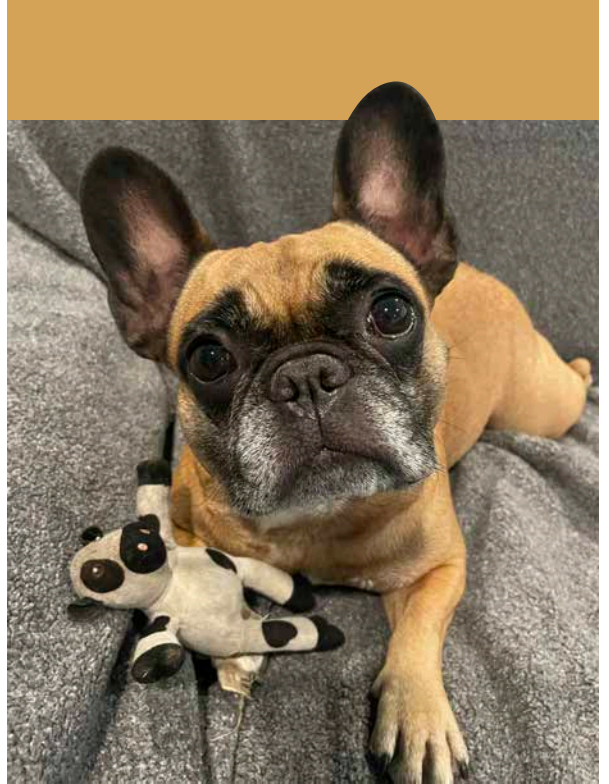
We live in a small town in Southern California.

We both grew up here and have loved it our whole lives! We have an adorable downtown that has fun events throughout the year like the annual “Holiday Stroll” that includes a tree lighting ceremony, or a fun “Trick-or-treat” event for Halloween where elementary schools nearby walk the kids over and trick or treat at all the shops during the day. The whole community gathers for each event! We can go to breakfast downtown on a Saturday morning and see at least 4 people we know each time. It’s quiet, safe, and beautiful!

Our town is tucked right up against the mountains and has incredible hiking trails, and it’s only about a 30-minute drive to the beach. Our home is on a quiet cul-de-sac and is walking distance to a few parks. We bought it as a fixer upper and we have worked hard at turning it into a home that we love. Our backyard has lots of grass for playing and we have a jacuzzi that we soak in almost every night. **We have wonderful neighbors with young children and it’s a great neighborhood to raise a family!**



Lexi enjoying the California sunshine



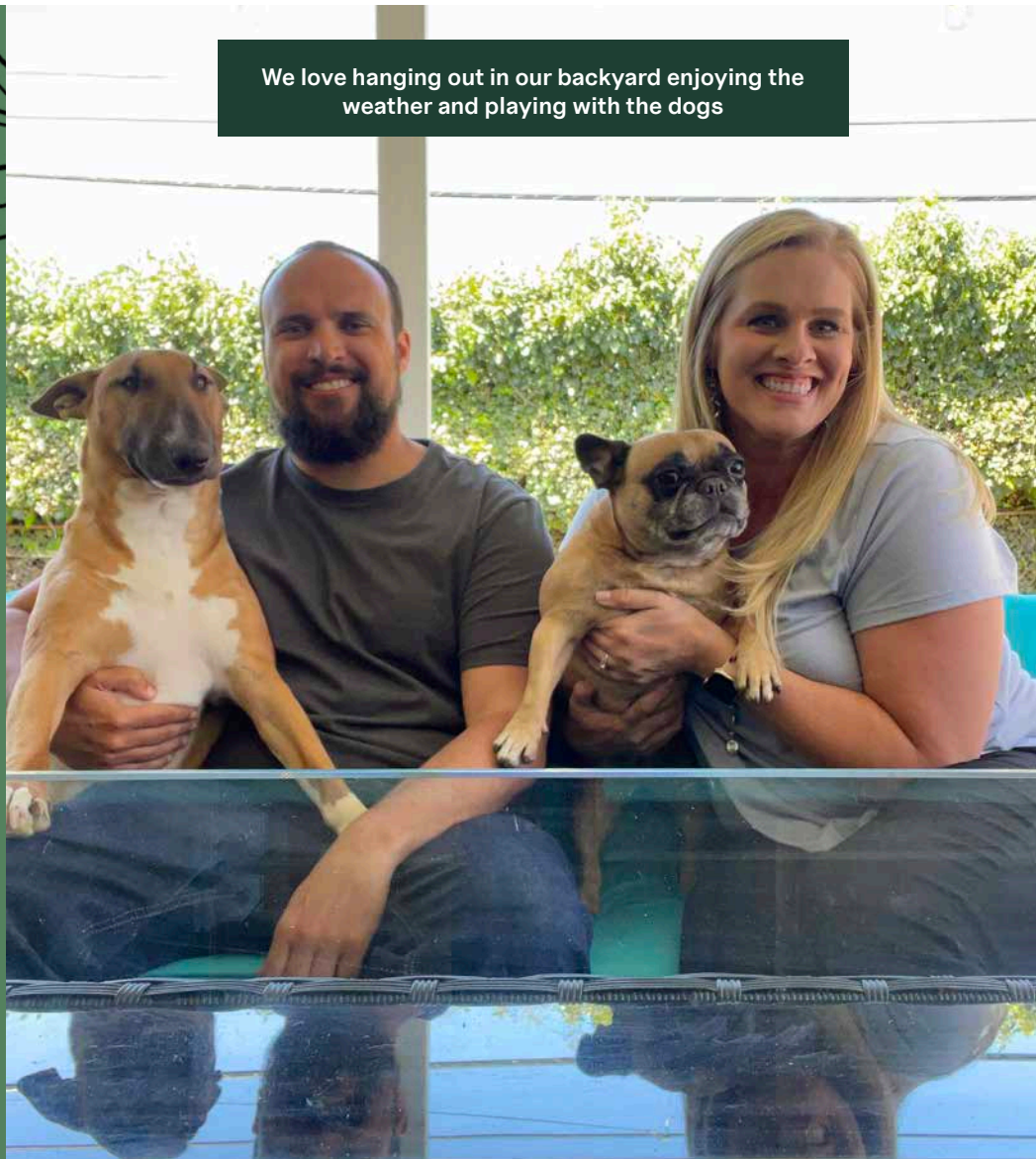
Belle with her favorite toy, a little Chick-Fil-A cow

Pets

We have 2 sweet dogs that we love very much!

Belle is a 6-year-old French bulldog with tons of energy and loves to give kisses and play. Lexi is a 4-year-old bull terrier who thinks she's a small little lap dog and is the biggest cuddler. They are both a huge part of our family and bring so much joy and laughter to our lives!

We love hanging out in our backyard enjoying the weather and playing with the dogs





OUR Family

Celebrating the real super heroes in our lives, our super moms



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
SUPER MOM!




Shawna, her mom, aunt, and cousins



Shawna and her family fishing in Crowley

We are so lucky to have amazing families on both of our sides that are a regular part of our lives! We believe family isn't just who we're related to; it's about the people who fill our lives with love, laughter, and endless joy.

We are so blessed to have most of our family living within a half-hour of us. We both have very supportive parents who can't wait to be grandparents and siblings who love kids and will love our kids just like their own! Our future child will be incredibly loved by amazing grandparents who have loved and raised us well. Zach's sister is a nurse and only lives one city over, so we are together often! Shawna's brother is a Fishing Guide a few hours away so we go visit him and fish and enjoy the mountains and fresh air and beautiful scenery! Shawna has 2 cousins who are basically like her sisters, who both live at the beach and they are a huge part of our family.





Annual Crawford Family Lake Havasu Trip



Baking Christmas cookies with the girls

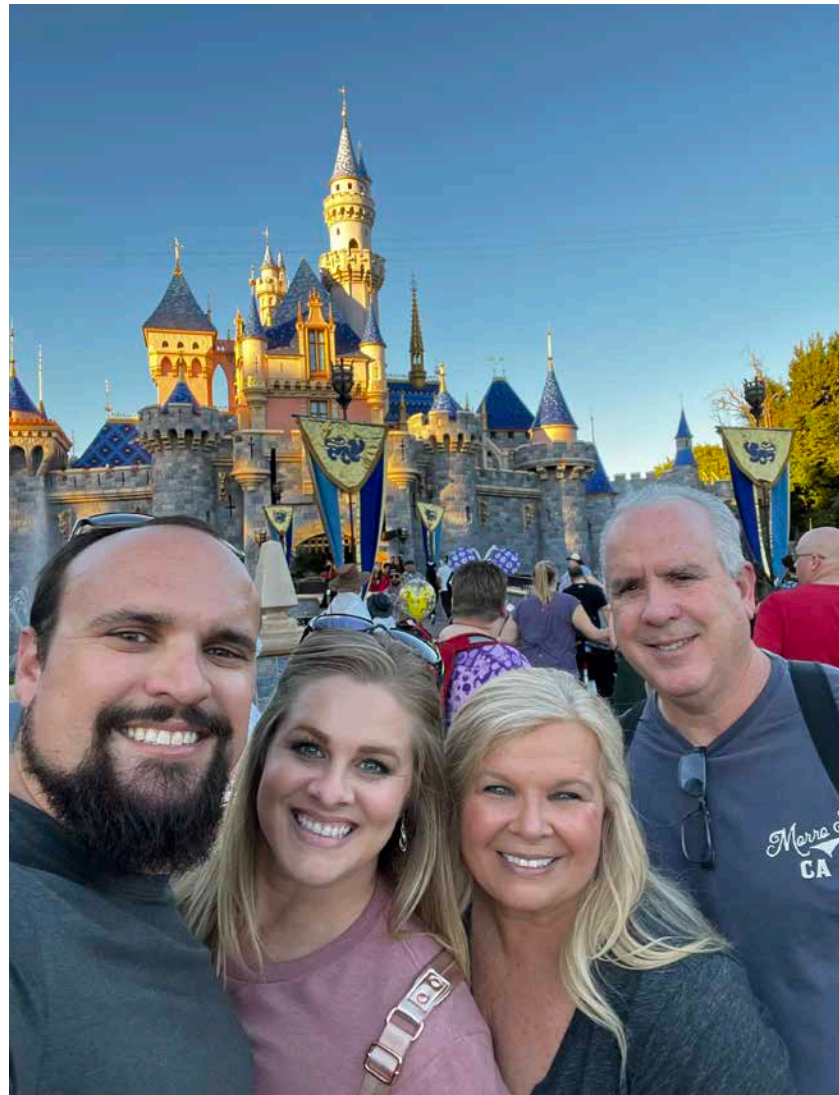
We go on family vacations with both sides of our family to the river or the beach, we go on Disneyland trips, and share fun holiday traditions like baking cookies together and enjoying Christmas Eve Game Nights! We are all very close.

We also have lots of close friends who have turned into family so our future children will have tons of bonus "aunties" and "uncles" too! Since most of those friends already have children, our future child will have lots of little best friends that become family too.

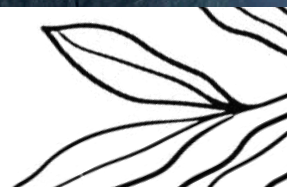


FAMILY TRADITIONS:

We love carving pumpkins every fall, going to Disneyland during Christmas, baking cookies during Christmas, coloring eggs for Easter, doing backyard bbqs for the 4th of July, and having big birthday celebrations with family where we all share what we love about the birthday girl/boy!



Fun week day trip to the happiest place on Earth with Zach's parents





OUR THOUGHTS *on* PARENTING

Diversity and OPEN ADOPTION

In considering transracial adoption, we are committed to honoring and celebrating our future child's heritage. We recognize the importance of incorporating their cultural identity into our lives and are eager to learn, embrace, and celebrate their background. We are open to the idea of an open adoption as well! From the very beginning, we envision a relationship built on trust, communication, and shared love for the child. **We understand the significance of the role you play in your child's life, and we desire to maintain a relationship that feels right for all involved.** Whether it's through letters, photos, phone calls, or visits, we are open to exploring the communication methods that best serve the well-being of the child. We are committed to active listening, open communication, and mutual respect in order to build a positive and supportive relationship. We imagine a future where your child grows up surrounded by love, not only from us but also from you. We envision a relationship that allows your child to know their story and heritage, fostering a sense of identity and connection. **Our goal is to be sure that everyone involved feels secure and supported!**

From the beginning we envision being a united front when it comes to parenting. We want our children to feel loved and cherished and understand their value. We believe our identity is in Christ, so we will make sure that our child knows how much they are loved not only by us and by their birth parents, but by their Creator. **Family values and traditions hold a special place in our hearts and we can't wait to start new traditions as a family!** We are passionate about sharing our interests and hobbies with our future child - teaching them to swim and love water early, watching movies as a family, playing games, reading, exploring and hiking, and of course, learning to bake chocolate chip cookies! We also can't wait to see their little personality and share in their love for their own unique hobbies too! Our home will be filled with creativity and laughter and endless opportunities for growth. **We plan to home school our child at least for their younger years, and then we will consider private school as the child grows depending on how they are doing and how its working for everyone involved.**

FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's name: Zach	Mother's name: Shawna
Occupation: Youth & Young Adults Pastor	Occupation: Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Education: Master's Degree	Education: Bachelor's Degree
Religion: Christian	Religion: Christian
Date of birth: 07-23-1991	Date of birth: 01-06-1990
Hair color: Brown	Hair color: Blonde
Eye color: Hazel	Eye color: Green
Height: 5'9"	Height: 5'7"



Hanging out at the Annual Holiday Stroll in our cute downtown

Date of marriage: June 5th, 2016

Children: N/A

Interests and hobbies: **Shawna** – Swimming, photography, coaching swim, triathlons, baking, going to Disneyland, game nights, going to the movies, and seeing plays/musicals.
Zach – Swimming, playing basketball, reading, Star Wars, going to Disneyland, game nights, movies, seeing plays/musicals, and playing video games.

Home: We own and live in a one-story house on a cute little cul-de-sac in a small town in Southern California. Our street is quiet, safe, beautiful, walking distance from a few parks, and we have wonderful neighbors with little kids so it's a perfect place to raise a family! Our town is tucked right up against the mountains and has incredible hiking trails, and it's only about a 30-minute drive to the beach. Our back yard has lots of grass for playing and we have a jacuzzi that we soak in almost every night.

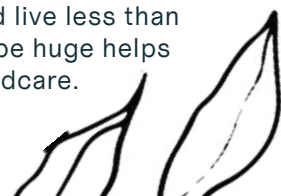
Pets: We have 2 dogs that bring us so much joy and laughter! Belle is a French bull dog and Lexi is a Bull Terrier. They are both big cuddlers and such sweet girls that love giving kisses!

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption? The decision to adopt was not made lightly and we have spent a lot of time in prayer, talking with each other, and in self-

reflection to get to the place we are now. Our hearts have been drawn to the idea of creating a loving home for a child and we are so excited about the opportunity to share our lives and love with a little one. We recognize the incredible privilege it is to be entrusted with the care and nurturing of a child. Adoption, for us, is a beautiful way to expand our family and offer a warm, supportive environment for a child to thrive.

Openness to birthparent(s): We are open to the idea of an open adoption! We have read a lot and understand that open adoption is best for the child and for both the birth parents and adoptive parents. From the very beginning, we envision a relationship built on trust, communication, and shared love for the child. We understand the significance of the role you play in your child's life, and we desire to maintain a relationship that feels right for all involved. Whether it's through letters, photos, phone calls, or visits, we are open to exploring the communication methods that best serve the well-being of the child. We are committed to active listening, open communication, and mutual respect in order to build a positive and supportive relationship. We imagine a future where your child grows up surrounded by love, not only from us but also from you. We envision a relationship that allows your child to know their story and heritage, fostering a sense of identity and connection. Our goal is to be sure that everyone involved feels secure and supported!

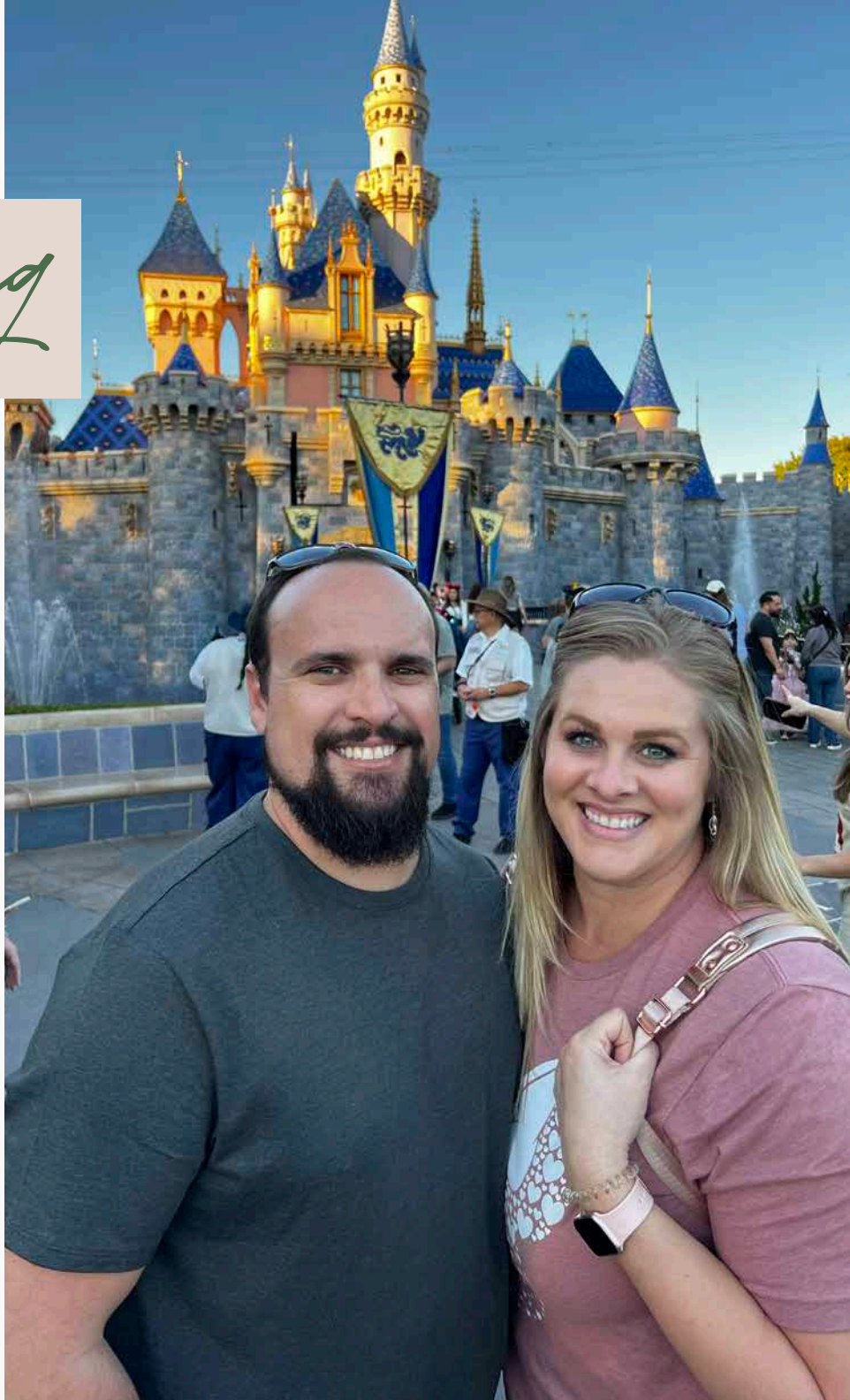
Childcare plans: We both work from home and we have flexible work schedules, which is going to be such a blessing as we welcome a child into our home. We also have 2 sets of loving parents who can't wait to be grandparents and help care for a child. Both of our moms are retired and live less than 10 minutes away from us, so they will be huge helps during those times where we need childcare.





IN Closing

The decision to adopt was not made lightly and we have spent a lot of time in prayer, talking with each other, and in self-reflection to get to the place we are now. We love the idea of creating a loving home for a child and we are so excited about the opportunity to share our lives and love with a little one. We recognize the incredible privilege it is to be entrusted with the care and nurturing of a child. **Adoption, for us, is a beautiful way to expand our family and offer a warm, supportive environment for a child to thrive.** Thank you for taking the time to get to know us more, and if you choose us, we hope you know that we will love your child unconditionally, make them feel safe, comfortable, supported, and cared for. **We are committed to staying in touch, sharing updates, and creating a supportive and respectful relationship that benefits everyone involved.** Your selflessness and love in considering adoption for your child are truly admirable, and we are humbled by the opportunity to be considered as potential parents. **We promise to cherish, love, pray for, and support your child with every fiber of our beings, creating a home filled with love, laughter, and endless possibilities.**



NIGHTLIGHT CHRISTIAN
ADOPTIONS

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