



Kaelin & Carl

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Hello!

We are Kaelin & Carlton. We cannot begin to imagine what you're walking through, but we know that you love this baby unconditionally and our prayer for you is that you know you are loved and supported as you navigate this journey. We want to thank you for loving this child so well and taking the time to get to know us through this book. We are in awe of your love and compassion as you explore the next steps in your journey. We adopted our son, Campbell, four and a half years ago and have learned a lot about adoption. We want you to know that we have the greatest respect for you and confidence in your decisions.

Thank you for taking the time to read our profile. We feel honored to introduce ourselves to you and that you have taken the time to get to know us. Our hope is that through this book, you can feel loved and supported. We are praying for you throughout all of this; for peace, for clarity, and for happiness. We know that whatever decision you make will be the right one. We also want to thank you for being who you are, we are with you every step of the way as you navigate this process.

Kaelin & Carl





Our Story

We met in 9th grade biology class when Kaelin was brand new to the small Christian school Carlton had attended since kindergarten. We became instant best friends once Carlton finally learned Kaelin's name. Finally in the 10th grade after realizing feelings weren't going away, we decided to start dating. We dated for 8 years, through the rest of high school and into college - where we both attended Clemson University. We were married in December after graduating and were lucky to have our wedding in our favorite place, the mountains. It was a chilly day, but our guests humored us for an outdoor winter wedding, and everyone had the best time eating, laughing, and dancing. We were honored to have Carlton's dad officiate the wedding. One thing you'll quickly learn about Carlton is he has a deep love for Dave Matthews Band. A love so strong that one of his lyrics was incorporated into our wedding vows to each other. We bought our first house right out of college as a foreclosure. It was the cutest starter home with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. We always say we wish we could have picked up that house and moved it with us when we moved. We often talked about our house as a little oasis that we loved coming to at the end of the day. A couple years after moving into that house, Carlton started working at his current job 30 minutes away. We would often spend date nights, and eventually fell in love with the city. We bought our fixer upper that we live in now and have been working on project after project to make it our own!

Meet Kaelin

Hi, I'm Kaelin! I was born and raised in Columbia, SC with my one younger brother, Hunter, who still lives there, just down the street from my parents. I grew up traveling, competitively ice skating, and spending time with my family. Teaching is a lot of my life, but I also love spending time with my family and friends, exploring new places in the city where we live, and being in the mountains. In 2020, we were chosen by Campbell's sweet birth mother to parent him. This has become the greatest blessing in my life. I love snuggling up and reading with him, going on walks or bike rides on the trail by our house, and watching him grow into the person God has crafted him to be. Nothing is better to me than spending time with my family and friends and trying new things.





Kaelin's ability to put others before herself is one of her most inspiring attributes. She sets a high bar and has the ability to elevate people around her by being thoughtful, selfless, and intentional in the way she cares about others. She shows up and shows up with a plan and probably a gift, which is one of the many things I love about her. She's organized and deliberate and prioritizes relationships with family members and friends. She dives in and fully commits to everything & everyone in her life. She is the most loving, kind, and patient mom. You can hear how much she loves Campbell in the tone of her voice. She puts a huge emphasis on being present when we are together as a family and I look forward to coming home every day to have dinner together. She does it all and she does it with a full heart, never complaining, and always thinking about others before herself.

- Carlton -



Meet Carlton

Hello there! I'm Carlton. Yes, like the popular character from Fresh Prince and yes, I can do the dance (Although Kaelin says not very well). I grew up in Irmo, SC with an older sister and two younger brothers. There was always something to do and an impressionable little brother who was willing to do it with you. I love riding my bike, trail running, swimming, kayaking, backpacking, and anything that gets me outside and active. I also happen to have the most beautiful family anyone could ask for. Being Campbell's dad changed my life in ways I never imagined. I still love being out on the bike but now-a-days, my rides consist of taking Campbell to the playground, or to see the ducks, or to get snacks from the cafe he likes. He loves riding on the top tube all over our city exploring new trails and finding new playgrounds. My goal is to instill a love for nature and being active in him the same way my dad did for me.





Knowing Carlton since 2006, I have come to know him well and love so many things about him. He is able to make just about anyone laugh and has really begun to perfect his dad jokes. Everyone loves to be around him and he has done a great job creating personal relationships. He is able to do anything he sets his mind to and each event he completes leaves me in awe. He has completed a full Ironman with his dad, as well as a half Ironman alongside our son's birth mom. One of the things I love most about Carlton is his loyalty and trustworthiness. When we are hanging out with family and friends, he is always the first to grab the newest baby for some snuggles or bring over a new toy and run up and down the halls playing nerf battles with the older kids. He is Campbell's favorite toy, biggest cheerleader, and partner in crime. No matter how busy he is at work, he makes sure to be home before dinner time, puts his phone on silent, and spends quality time with Campbell and with me.

- Kaelin -



Campbell, who we loving refer to as “King Campbell”, is our four and a half year old son who keeps us busy and laughing! He loves being outside, listening to music, building train tracks, and having all of his people together. He lights up any room he walks into and has an uncanny ability to love people already (he gets that from his birth mom). He enjoys exploring our town and doing all the activities we can. He is now the proud owner of 11 chickens and 2 ducks which he lovingly named Stinky and Gordon. Along with the mini farm Campbell started, we have 2 dogs, Cooper “Coopsy” & Kona “NaNa”, who love Campbell and have adjusted well to someone new ruling the roost. They love playing fetch and Campbell also enjoys racing them and seeing how fast he can go. We all love spending time outside together.





We have a cozy home that we have worked incredibly hard to remodel ourselves starting back in 2018, with lots of help from Kaelins' dad. Our favorite, and most used, part of the house would have to be our open concept living room/kitchen/dining room area. It is easy to hear Campbell playing in his playroom or entertain our big family when they come to visit. We are only a 10-minute drive from downtown and it gives us the best of both worlds. We feel like we live in the country surrounded by trees but have the convenience of downtown restaurants, parks, and fun activities to keep us well entertained. We have lots of space, surrounded by woods, and only about 100 yards from a biking and walking greenway trail that goes all the way downtown. We often ride our bikes down the trail to explore different playgrounds or play at a café that has the best stecca bread! We are also lucky to be just 20 minutes from NC where we love to hike and visit Carlton's family mountain cabin.

We have a wonderful downtown that offers so many diverse restaurants, fun parks, greenways, and community events. One of the parks we frequent has riverside gardens, a suspension bridge, and waterfall views. About 10 minutes from our house is another park that has multi-use trails that wind through stunning lakes and hills. The trail that runs right behind our house, is an amazing greenway path that runs for 40+ miles leading to all the restaurants, parks, and playgrounds that we love. It is also perfect because we can easily hop on it for a quick trip to the farmer's market or a bike ride downtown for a family lunch. We are a short 40 minute drive from Clemson and love to go to games or events when we can or just to enjoy the campus. Our city also has a great zoo Campbell loves to visit. We've often been known to explore our communities events, festivals, and attend hockey games. Although it is a fast growing city it still feels like a tight community, small enough so that you always see people you know out & about but big enough so there is always something new to do.



Carlton's family



Thanksgiving Extended Family



All the cousins



Campbell's birthmom's wedding with our parents



Campbell's birth mom's family



Playing in the playroom



Cousin birthday breakfast



Kaelin's family



Easter



Campbell with both sets of grandparents at grandparents day



Family bike ride

Family Traditions

Thanksgiving is spent in Georgia with Carlton's extended family playing games, eating delicious food, and dressing up for the local 5K Turkey Trot.

The grandmas started taking some of the older cousins to NC to ride on the Polar Express before Christmas.

Christmas morning is spent with Kaelin's family opening presents at our house and incorporating traditions from both sides as well as Campbells birth family (watching movies, making cinnamon rolls, and having pigs in a blanket).

We always try to find local activities like Boo in the Zoo, Valentine's Day play and dance sessions, and shows to attend.

Each summer Campbell's birth mom and grandma come from Texas to visit and explore our city.

Our neighborhood has started doing a block party 1-2 times a year and it is a fun time to get all of the little kids on the street together to eat and play.

We take the cousins on birthday breakfast trips which is a highlight for us as much as it is for the kids to have that one-on-one time. It is a tradition they look forward to where they get to pick the breakfast spot for us to go to around their birthday and is usually the topic of conversation for everyone for months!



Polar express ride



Playing in the background



Aquarium



Biking



Baseball game



Zoo

Hobbies
& Fun



Driving the boat



Helping build a shed



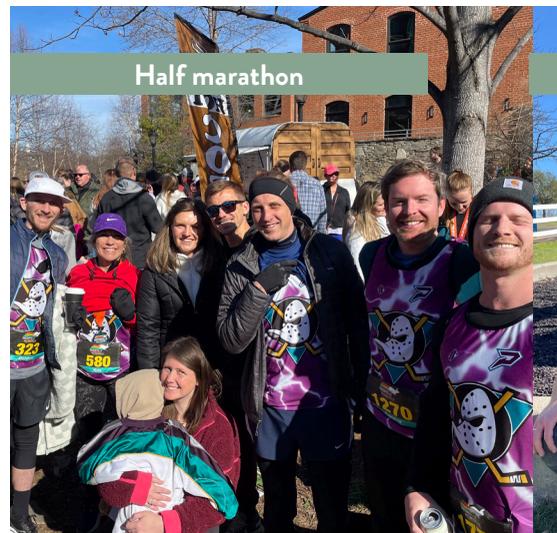
Hiking Blowing Rock



Family bike ride



Farm festival



Half marathon

Zoo



Hiking in Saluda



Indoor playplace



Our chickens



Thanksgiving Turkey Trot



Winter hiking



Kids theater



Birthfather playground visit



Riding with friends on their farm



Campbell's birth father visit



Snow Day





Family & Adoption Values

Our family values are to love hard and love well and we base our decisions on trusting God. We have seen first hand His miracles and how He has provided for us and blessed us in so many ways.

We have had hard times, but God always seems to show up when we need Him and provides us with people or resources to help us solve problems we encounter. We believe that our words are important, but our actions are what make the biggest impact as a witness of God's love to others. Faith is the center of our lives and we know that "every good and perfect gift comes from above". This means that we approach everyone we meet with kindness. We try to be intentional about how we spend our time with each other and make sure to spend family time together that is focused on each other and doing something that we love. Usually this looks like playing in Campbell's playroom, going out to eat together, or going to visit family and friends. We pride ourselves on showing up and being present in all aspects of our life. Though this isn't always easy, we prioritize family over anything. Honesty is huge in all situations, especially when it is hard. Now we are doing our best to model that for Campbell in our everyday lives. We are open with him about adoption. We are also modeling to him how to kindly educate others on adoption. Our goal is for him and any of our future children to not remember a specific day/time that they found out they were adopted. Instead, we want them to be proud and always know that their story is theirs. They have ownership of it and can choose what they share about their journey. We also want them to always know that their birth families are a part of them and their lives. We want a strong sense of belonging and security in knowing that there is room for everyone's love and presence.



Father's Name:
Carlton - "Carl"

Occupation:
Sales Rep

Education:
Bachelor's of Business

Religion:
Christian

Date of birth:
10/27/1990

Hair Color:
Blonde

Eye Color:
Blue

Height:
5' 9"



Mother's Name:
Kaelin

Occupation:
1st Grade Teacher

Education:
**Bachelor's of Education
Master in Literacy**

Religion:
Christian

Date of birth:
05/27/1991

Hair Color:
Brown

Eye Color:
Green

Height:
5' 6"

Family Information

Date of marriage: 12/07/2013

Children: Campbell joined our family through adoption in 2021, and has had us on our toes since coming into this world 2 weeks early. He lights up any room he walks in, loves people, and is currently in his dinosaur era. He will be starting 4K next year at Kaelin's school and has grown into such a sweet, fun, and loving boy.

Interest and hobbies: Carl is an avid bike rider and loves the outdoors. He is dedicated to his friends, family, and work. Kaelin loves to decorate, entertain, and be around family. We all value spending time together and trying new things. Being together is our favorite place to be.

Home: We live in the best place ever! We love our home and though we have neighbors, we are surrounded by woods to give privacy and a sense of tranquility. We are about 100 yards from the swamp rabbit trail, which is a 40 mile paved path that people love to bike, walk, run, and skate on. We live near a local university that has a beautiful pond and nice 2 mile walking loop. We also have gotten lucky to have great neighbors. We have several children on our street ranging from 1-5 years old and we will do street get togethers 2-3 times per year. We always call our house our "safe space" where we relax and unwind after the busy day.

Pets: Cooper and Kona are older, 12 and 10 but you wouldn't know it. They love to chase each other in the yard and Kona is the fetch queen. They are so sweet and loving and never more than a few feet away. They stay outside during the day while we are at work but are inside the rest of the evening and into the morning. Campbell loves to pet and play with them and they have grown to love him as well!

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption:

Adoption has been a part of our lives, even growing up. We had close family friends who adopted their three boys. We loved seeing how they navigated the different relationships with their sons' birth families and we knew that expanding our family in that way was what we wanted to do as well. Since dating, we knew that pursuing adoption would be a part of our story. In 2021, we decided we wanted to grow our family. We knew the end goal for us was parenthood and it didn't matter to us how we got there, we chose to trust God and His plan for our lives. He opened doors for us in so many incredible ways. Kaelin was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis around 2015 and worked for years to get it into remission. In the summer of 2020 we decided that we would begin the journey to parenthood. Little did we know, God was working in our lives and in the life of our son's birth mother to begin to prepare our hearts to join us as a family. We were blessed to be matched with an incredible birth mom, turned family, in September 2020. We would love to be able to invite someone else into our family because we know we have the space in our hearts and Campbell would love having a playmate. We are excited about all of the new ways adoption is being revealed to us and how it has changed all of our lives. We know that parenthood through adoption can be a truly beautiful avenue in which to grow our family. Walking first hand through this with our son's birth families has solidified that when thinking of adding to our family again and reinforced that adoption is our first choice.

Openness to birth parent(s):

Since first meeting our son's birth mom in 2020, we have worked together to continue a very open relationship with her and her family through a shared photo album, facetime calls, texts, and visits. We also have worked to create and foster an open relationship with Campbell's birth father. Through these relationships, we have experienced how adoption can be a way to multiply our family in ways we never imagined. Seeing both of our families embrace the adoption process and support us and our son's birth families during this process makes us want to begin this journey again. We have learned that hurt and joy can exist at the same time but the beauty of an open adoption and growing a family by many is why we have been placed on this earth. We saw how God could show up in situations that seemed impossible. We have seen how wonderful the openness can be for all sides of the triad and how healing it can be.

Childcare plans: We plan to have Campbell attend the 4K program at Kaelin's school. For a future baby, we would enroll them in the church childcare center down the street. Campbell attended there and we have a great relationship with everyone and had a wonderful experience with them. Though both sets of grandparents are 1.5-2 hours away, they come up often and are always willing to lend a helping hand in any gaps of childcare.



We want to start by saying thank you for making it to this part of our book. We can't imagine how overwhelming all of this is and want to end by sharing our promises with you. We are people of our word and pride ourselves in showing up for the people we love. We can't predict where life will take us all, but we can promise to love you, this child, and give all that we have in showing up for you. We wholeheartedly promise:

- To love you for who you are and foster a relationship with you outside of this child.
- To love this child unconditionally and teach them to love others.
- To share pictures, phone calls, and visits - if that is what you want.
- To have check-ins to ensure our words and actions are healing for you.
- That there is always room for you. We will always speak fondly of you and share how much you love this child.

Whether or not we become family through adoption, please know that we care for you and this child. We admire you for who you are and the love you are showing. We cannot begin to know what you are being faced with, but we promise that we are here and willing to walk with you through this life and all that comes with it. We are praying for you and are rooting for you!

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