

Hello we are...

Jennifer and Art



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Our Hopes and Dreams...

As I type this letter I can't help but wonder about the person who will read it. I try to visualize your face, your story, and your feelings. I try to imagine what it is you are thinking as you read these words that I write. My heart aches for any part of the pain of fear, sorrow, disappointment and uncertainty you may be facing. I want you to know that it is for the purpose of a genuine love of others that I am writing this letter to you. Pregnancy is never easy, even under the best of circumstance. You have given life to your child and now you are faced with the task of choosing a life for your child; endless demonstrations of your love. I am so thankful for the blessing of answered prayer that has allowed our paths as two mothers to intersect at this moment of time.

Thank you so much for caring to view our profile and read about our family. We are full of love and we are so excited about the future expansion of our family. I have felt a calling to adopt for as long as I can remember. As a little girl I remember learning of adoption and feeling that God had placed in my heart a desire to help those who were in need of a stable home. As a youth I knew that I wanted to work with children. It was my love of children and a desire to help children that led me to choose the field of School Psychology as my profession. As an adult, working with many children who were part of the foster system, my love and interest in adoption was reignited. I genuinely loved the children with whom I worked and I knew that when I finally had my home established I wanted to be part of adopting. My husband also experienced a similar calling. Prior to our marriage, my husband worked as a foster parent giving countless hours and attention to children who were in need of a home. It is such a blessing that we found in each other a partner for life who shares our love of children and desire for a thriving family. We are so thankful that we are finally able to grow our family further through adoption. We recognize that all children are of the same origin -- whether a child is biologically ours or adopted ours they are ours from God.

I do believe that God plays an integral part in answering prayers and I hope that we can be that answered prayer for you. I pray that you will be guided by your motherly intuition and that you will get the feeling of a clear direction as you make your way to your choice in your baby's direction in life.

In love and support,

Jennifer and Art


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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Our love of God and Christ has shaped every facet of who we are as a family and who we are as individuals. It is our love of God that helps us in everything we do. Sometimes this working of Christ is shown in something as simple as letting someone take our place in the cashier line at the grocery store or holding the door for the person behind us. We plan on sharing our love of God with our family by keeping a positive and uplifting attitude in our home. We want our home to be full of love, peace, joy, gentleness and kindness. And so we always first live by example, showing our children what it is to be loving, peaceful, gentle and kind.



Choosing to be honest with others shows a love for others. We value our integrity and strive every day to be truthful in what we say and what we do. Honesty keeps us accountable with our behaviors. It allows us to acknowledge our faults and work to do better in the future. We show honesty in making sure a lost credit card is returned to its rightful owner. We show honesty in speaking with each other as a couple about what our needs are in our relationship. Honesty is a valuable part of communication and building positive relationships together as a family. We want our children to learn that being honest, while not always the easiest path, is the path that will lead to a stronger character.



Establishing quality work habits and pride in a job well done is an essential building block to a child's sense of self-worth. Life is not about how much we are given but what we do with what we are given. We want our children to make the most of what they have, to take advantage of every opportunity, and to one day be successful participants in society. Arthur and I strive to show a positive effort in our daily tasks, doing all work to the best of our ability. As our children age we will have positive reinforcements available for showing responsibility, following through with household chores, or making a good effort on their academic studies.



The value of family is understanding that our household is not just those who share our DNA or blood, but it is those who by mutual care, love, service, and commitment will always be there to share in our life. Our work as a family is seen in everything we do. Our commitment to providing a consistent and stable environment, making hot meals and making sure the clothes and linens are clean are all part of the ways we care for each other as a family. Family should be a demonstration of unconditional love for another person and a willingness to support each other through good moments and bad. We are committed to being that family for those who we love so dear.

We know that knowledge is the key to opportunity and success. For us, education is not constricted to a single direction based on our preference. Rather, education is a process of working with our child's strengths and preferences and choosing a path that helps them maximize their potential for success in this world. Deciding on which will be best suited for our children largely depends on their ability to thrive in any given environment. We are just thrilled that there are so many excellent choices in our local community. Beyond the grade school years, Art and I are committed to our children acquiring a higher education of their choosing. We want our children to have every advantage in this world and we know that a complete education is the best way to achieve this.

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Our home...

It was not until the fall of 2009, when I met my future husband, that I was introduced to the charm and beauty of the Tennessean life. As a first-time visitor I was mesmerized by the mountainous ledges that decorated the highways with a canvas of browns and grays and greens, the trees that climbed endlessly to the heavens, and the stacks of steam that rose like puffs of smoke out of the dense mountain forest. The people gathered for fairs and festivals. They celebrated with bluegrass music and corndogs while select brave couples danced in the street. The children watched movies in the outdoor amphitheater, fished at the local lake, and played in the water of the downtown fountain park. To me, Tennessee was perfect. . Boutique-shopping, cow-grazing, rose-sniffing, funnel-cake-eating, church-steeple perfect. A wonderful man in a beautiful, family-friendly setting; I knew I'd found everything I ever wanted for my home and family.



Shortly after we were married Art and I found fourteen acres of pastureland in a cozy neighborhood. On our first visit to the property, the knee-high grass that covered the open plain rolled in waves with the breeze. The expanse of yard was confined only by the hedge of trees that encompassed the property. We knew that this would make the perfect home for our house and family, with a lawn fit to host soccer or softball games and picnic nature hikes and a large tree with a strong, swooping branch fit precisely for a tire swing,

Our mornings are calm and easy. A cozy blanket, warm fire, and a much-needed, highly-caffeinated, cup of coffee offer us a gentle start for our morning. We usually eat breakfast as a family before setting out to tackle the day. Art works from home so his commute to the office is nothing more than a walk across to the adjacent room. It is such a blessing to have him always a few steps away. Throughout the day, he takes breaks and checks in with us for a quick lunch to the local Mexican restaurant or a run around the yard with the kids. It is wonderful to have dad so close all the time. I also have the luxury of staying home with my family, making our children the sole focus of my attention. I design our schedule around opportunities for learning and exploration. We take frequent trips to the library to join in on story time and check out a variety of books. This week's selections of good-reads are all about dinosaurs, bears and the letter B. We enjoy taking walks through town and playing at the local park, visiting the train museum or science museum, and we love trips to the zoo where we have a season pass. At home we keep learning fun by making our own play-dough and sidewalk chalk paint. This year I'm excited to have the children help me start our first vegetable garden.

A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Cooking, painting, gardening, sewing, and reading.

Adoptive Father:

Working around the house, football, video games, family vacations, and time spent with friends

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Stay at home Mom

Adoptive Father: Business Owner

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Some College

Living to serve others, we design our home around the comfort of company and fun of family. Burgers on the grill, children running with abandon through the yard, and adults playing games of corn-hole in the grass-- our home is the gathering spot for summer evening barbeques and games with friends. In the fall we invite friends over for pumpkin carving and painting while football plays on the television and hotdogs cook on the grill. Warm cider sprinkled with cinnamon is our beverage of choice and fire-plumped marshmallows the dessert. Our annual costume party at Halloween is the pinnacle of our fall fun with goofy costumes, sweet snacks, seasonal games, and trick-or-treat. At Christmas our own private family tradition is to canvass one of our unsuspecting friends with 12 days of presents delivered especially from their very own secret Santa.

We are so excited to add more children to our home. We have rooms and land and love in plenty. We feel so blessed that God has continued to give us not only the desire but the opportunity to grow as a family. In those fun, care-free moments of carousel rides or visits to the aquarium I can't help but know our third little person is missing from the fun and I can't wait to adopt our son or daughter into our world.



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Our family...

I quietly ponder my thoughts on family as I write, "Our family is our home; a refuge of love and relationships that give shelter from the strain and hardship of life."

Three-year-old Owen dances on the couch and begins to attempt somersaults off the edge. Owen proclaims, "I'm falling!" He kicks his feet and giggles as his body begins to tumble over the side. Sam is still asleep in his bed; the little guy must be going through a growth spurt. I continue writing, "Our family has grown within our hearts from even before God blessed us with a marriage of just the two of us. Our family is not just a memory of what was, or an enjoyment of what is, but a vision of what we know it will be in the future with the addition of each new family member. We carry our family with us in everything we do. It is our heart." Owen runs around to my legs and clasps them in a bear-hug grasp while proclaiming, "I LOVE YOU, MOMMY". It's clear that my work on this letter has stopped for the moment. Instead, I put away the computer, kiss my son good-morning and begin to roll out the biscuits onto a cookie sheet while asking Owen if he would like apple butter as his topping.



Five years ago Art and I began the process of making this family a reality. We were not completely sure what to expect or, to be more precise, of what God had planned for us. We knew what we wanted—a large family with lots of friends-- A couple dogs, a cat, children, and maybe even a picket fence. But we both knew that life didn't always work out the way we sometimes planned. We hoped, we prayed and we prepared for a world in which children would be an actuality and that large family would be a dream come true for us. God has truly answered our prayers and blessed us with a wonderful life together in this home.

We had prayed continuously for the opportunity to grow our family with the addition of children. And so it was when we discovered that we were having a boy that the name "Owen" meaning "Desire Born" seemed most fitting. Owen was a mover and a shaker since the day he opened his eyes. He was rolling over, crawling, walking, and running at the earliest moment possible. He was ready to scale the walls like Spider-Man if only the sticky residue of lollipop fingers would allow enough tack for the climb. Owen is fearless, fun, and a friend to everyone. He loves trains and cars, balls, and dinosaurs. Owen is all boy - a jumping, tumbling, toad-catching, spider-smashing boy.

A year and a half after Owen joined the family Sam followed. Samuel is observant and responsive. He is loveable and affectionate and thrives on hugs and Eskimo kisses. While he loves to run and explore, Sam especially is drawn to art projects and music. He loves to paint the sidewalk or color a sheet of paper. He sings along to the movie Frozen and carries songs with him home from bible class. He loves to be the family clown and to watch and imitate and follow in the big steps of his brother. And while Sam is very much an active boy who loves dirt and puddles, his sensitive, caring, gentle nature with others make us sure he'll one day be a heart-melt for the ladies.

It's another evening at our house. I settle in to the comfort of a recliner. It feels good to close my eyes and lay my head against the rest. I am tired. One kid down, one to go. My mind wanders back to the thoughts of the day, smiling as I think of Sam, Owen, and I running circles around the couch screeching with delight as the dog tried to nip at our heels. I smile again when I think of the vision of what we will be in the future with those we make our own. I type, "Like the anticipation of a Christmas morning gift, my heart swells at the hope of meeting the newest member of our family and finding out exactly who he or she will be." Owen comes to me and hands me a book all about the letter B. "Here, Momma" he says, "read the book". Owen is ready for bed and he has an entire stack of books in tow to show for it. I know it's time to close the computer once again and kiss this day, my son and this letter good-night.



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