

Hello we are...

*Steven & Kristin*



*Graceful*  
**adoptions**<sup>TM</sup>



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

Adoption has always been at the core of our story. Both of Kristin's parents were adopted. Kristin grew up knowing her grandparents were adoptive parents and understood the blessing of adoption at a very early age. Steven found his heart for adoption early in life through volunteering in the church nursery and helping raise his nephew. We both always hoped that God would one day grant us the opportunity to grow our family through adoption.

After we were married we tried to conceive a child. For whatever reason, this did not happen for us. Being so passionate about adoption and God's lessons of how He takes us in and loves us as His own children no matter what, we began preparing for adoption rather than pursuing any infertility treatments. Since then, God blessed us with two daughters who we adopted in 2013.

We have been enjoying our family of four and the many blessings that God has given us. Yet, we feel led to adopt again. Our hopes and dreams for our next child are no different than those for our daughters. We will offer a child a stable loving home full of unconditional love, fun, spontaneity, Christian principles, and overall encouragement to reach their God-given potential. We will build their self-confidence, assist in their education, and teach them that they can do anything that they set their mind to.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about and consider our family. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayerful consideration. As a family that has already been blessed in many ways by adoption, we understand how much of a sacrifice and an act of love that placing a child for adoption is. Your sacrifice will never be taken for granted or discredited. Please know that we have been and will continue to pray for you to be surrounded by God's peace as He guides you to make this heartfelt decision. We find inspiration in Jeremiah 29:11 and hope that it will bring you comfort as well. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

With love and prayer,

*Steven & Kristin*

  
Graceful  
adoptions™

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

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## Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith** - We believe having faith can help you through anything in this life. Through faith in God, we experience a joy that is unaffected by our current situation and a peace that doesn't depend on circumstances. It helps us to prioritize with purpose, do our best, keep things in perspective, and avoid worrying about things that are beyond our control. We look forward to our child attending church services, faith-based events such as concerts and church camp, Bible studies, volunteering at church, and participating in family prayers.



**Family** - Our family is very close. We are so much more than just a group of people that simply call themselves a family. We also see family as a bond that is deep within our heart and lasts a lifetime. We share the good, the bad, the struggles, the victories, and we always know that our family is there supporting and wanting the best for us in the end. We spend a great deal of time together, we support, encourage, and pray for each other. We are easy going and enjoy a lot of laughter and humor. We play family games, dance and sing, relax and swim at the lake, and play fashion show with the girls. We can always find a way to have fun together and can't wait to have another family member that we can all embrace.



**Education** - Our approach to education is one of encouragement, enticement, and empowerment. We believe that learning is vital to success and removes limitations. Knowledge creates opportunities and overcomes adversity. Being educated is a key to unlocking potential and thriving. It has great personal value through building self-esteem. We have found that education is something that can be adapted and built upon at any level throughout all of life. Titles and levels are less important than the character that it builds. We look forward to having fun with another child through personalizing their learning experiences to include games, hands-on activities, individual goals, and celebrating achievements.



**Have Fun!** - Some things in life cannot be changed, but a person can choose to make the most of every situation by finding and creating ways to make life fun. Fun, to us, is a perspective. The best kind of fun is simple, has a positive impact, and considers others. Rainy Saturdays may change outdoor plans, but we will still have fun inside playing board games, watching movies together, making hot chocolate or cider, building a couch fort, having an indoor picnic, creating artwork, reading books, or even putting on our rain gear and going out to stomp in the puddles and look for worms. We can't wait to add another child to our fun!

**Travel** - Traveling helps us to become cultured, experienced and refreshed. We often take trips within an hour's drive to water parks or state parks, and also enjoy annual trips to the ocean. One of our favorite destinations is to see Steven's family in Oklahoma, where he's from. Occasionally we meet them in the middle as well and rent a cabin. In addition to making at least one big trip each year to the beach, we often break away for spontaneous weekend getaways as well. We venture into metropolitan areas or also well off the beaten path. Our children travel with us and provide reasons to explore new destinations as we bond along the way.

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# Our home...

We have lived in our home for just over 2 years. We were able to custom build our house so it really reflects our style and goals for a warm and inviting space. Our neighborhood is very family friendly as most families are attracted to our county's consistently top-ranked school system.

Our subdivision is filled with LOTS of kids of all ages. After school there are almost always kids playing together. They play in the connecting yard spaces, on the hiking trail, or at the neighborhood church's property which has a playground and areas for sports. We have enjoyed getting to know our neighbors through school, walking around the neighborhood, and through home Bible studies. Common seasonal activities include having water balloon fights in the summer, building snowmen in the winter, jumping in leaves in the fall, and searching for four-leafed-clovers in the spring.

Our home is filled with pops of color and lots of natural light. Most views from our windows include the woods that trace the perimeter of our yard. We often have candles or scented burners going with warm smells. Our sectional couch is extra comfy with lots of pillows. We have uplifting scriptures and quotes as wall decals, pictures, and small decorative pieces. The kids' artwork and accomplishments are proudly displayed on the fridge, in the office, or on a special hanging display. Our basement recreational space has a ping pong table, dart board, Wii, and many kids' games and toys. Family and friends always feel welcome and often join our nightly prayer, watch movies with us, have coffee or just sit and talk.

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Photography, art, painting, drawing, scrapbooking, makeup artistry, hair styling

#### Adoptive Father:

Basketball, football, baseball, boating and kayaking, hiking, fishing, anything outdoors, bowling, ping pong, darts

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Nurse

Adoptive Father: University Professor

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

Steven and I both enjoy working from home, which gives us extra time with the kids every day. We always have family dinner together. It's our favorite time to share funny stories, laugh together, encourage one another, and enjoy quality time. After dinner we enjoy game nights, movie nights, craft nights, play time, playing outside with our dog Sampson, or visiting with extended family. We enjoy being outside any chance that we get. We like playing basketball in the driveway, blowing bubbles, riding bikes, going to a local park to play, fishing, hiking, or taking our boat out. We end every night with family prayer time, where everyone shares their prayer requests and/or praise reports.

Our nursery is complete with a crib, dresser, rocking chair and bookshelves. The shelves are filled with toys and books, many of which have been passed down through our family. The girls can't wait to read those books to their new sibling. We will add a blanket or framed artwork that includes the names of all of those who we have prayed for, supported, or helped in any way throughout our adoption process, including the names of our child's birth family, which we can't wait to share with him as he grows up. We look forward to spending time with our child, playing with toys, reading, and singing uplifting songs.

We are all thrilled to have another child. The girls have enjoyed getting updates and praying with us daily for their sibling and birth family.



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# Our family...

We have been together for nine years and have been married for seven years. We met online while we were at separate colleges in different states. We originally enjoyed a strong friendship sharing what God was doing in our lives and our testimonies. We did not know at the time, but God had bigger plans for our relationship.

We talked for six months before meeting in person. Steven came to Kristin's town for a job interview, so we decided to meet. Since our first date at a local restaurant we knew we were meant to be together. The next day we spent time driving on a scenic byway through Kristin's town and beyond. We visited beautiful outdoor parks, lookouts, and just enjoyed each other's company talking for hours and enjoying God's creation together. We spent the next year in a long distance relationship while Steven finished college. He then moved closer to Kristin after being blessed with a job opportunity near her while she finished college. We dated for a year before getting engaged in an amazing hot air balloon ride, and married a year later in a beautiful summer wedding.

We fit well together and have a very happy marriage. Steven does everything with 110% effort. Whether it is something as simple as doing the dishes or preaching a sermon to young people, he gives it his all. He is very caring and loves to invest in relationships beyond the surface. Kristin is compassionate and sees the positive in situations. She is also organized, creative and loves sharing her talents. As a couple we support each other very well in valuing relationships, maintaining a positive environment, and keeping grounded as we encourage each other with Scripture.

We have two girls. Emari is 8 years old and Arian is 4. We believe it is very important to spend time together as a family. Most nights and most weekends are spent with extended family as well. Kristin's parents and siblings live locally. We enjoy swimming in Mimi and Papaw's pool together in the summer. We like having family dinners with games or movies, going to the park or going bowling. We also see Steven's side of the family several times a year. We either meet in the middle at a cabin for lots of outdoor fun, visit them at their house, or they come to our house for a visit.

We enjoy many family traditions that we can't wait to experience with another child. Christmas is one of our family favorites. We attend Christmas Eve church service, bake together, spend the night at Kristin's parents' house on Christmas eve, and then wake up together on Christmas morning to open presents, spend the day together, and have Christmas dinner. We also take a vacation to the beach each year to enjoy the sun, sand and family fun. We hope to start more traditions around giving back and volunteering as a family. The girls have big hearts and love to serve and help others. We want to continue fostering this curiosity and love that they open their hearts towards others.

Our family feels blessed for the opportunity to have another child in our family and is looking forward to meeting the newest member. They have kept our adoption in their prayers and have enjoyed helping prepare the nursery, shop for baby essentials, as well as prepare their homes for our child to spend time with them.



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