



Hello We Are...



Jared & Makennah

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Our Hopes & Dreams

We see your unconditional love and the courage it takes to simply be in this process and will be praying for you every step of the way. Our hope and dream is to come alongside you on this journey and help provide a flourishing life full of hope, love, and laughter for this sweet baby.

Adoption was laid on our hearts years before we knew what our future together as a family would look like. I, Makannah, am an elementary school teacher and have loved kids since my earliest memories. Jared shares this passion, and together we knew we would make a great team in raising a family that loves Jesus and others well. We often talked about the possibility of adoption and how blessed we would be, as adoptive parents, to be entrusted to raise a child that would be a part of our family. The thought gives me goosebumps because I know the Lord already has a perfect plan to weave our family together with a prospective birth mother and future child. We hope to support you and the baby in any way we can, with both empathy and grace.

We currently have two daughters who are thrilled at the thought of expanding our family and gaining a sibling to join their "sibling club." If we are blessed through adoption, our baby will be welcomed with open arms, loved unconditionally, and cared for securely by our family. We believe our child should grow up in a household where they know they are secure being themselves, regardless of what this looks like. Our sweet baby will have the chance to make mistakes and be given opportunities to learn and grow alongside two parents who will always guide them to be the best version of themselves. We want our adoptive child to chase after big dreams, knowing that they have the best support system encouraging their journey and holding them up when they may fall.

Our child will fit right into a family that laughs and cries together through all stages of life. This includes big family Christmases, backyard picnics with cousins, birthday parties with church family and friends, and long summer nights in the pool catching fireflies together as a family. We have an incredible support system that loves others with open arms and takes their roles as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins seriously. We all look forward to bike rides, swim lessons, park playdates, movie nights, vacations, and extracurricular activities with the newest member of our family.

Regardless of who you choose to be the parents of your child, we pray that you have undeniable peace.

With gratitude,

Jared & Makannah

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - Our faith guides our values and beliefs and is the compass of our family. As Christians, we deeply value our relationship with Jesus and pursue Christ in everything we do. We have a tightly knit church community and enjoy doing life with other families in the same season of life as we are. This results in lots of gatherings, block parties, and potlucks. Our children will often spend time with their church friends, and we will attend church parties and events together as a family. Jared serves as a deacon and is the 7th and 8th grade boys' Sunday School teacher. He loves getting the opportunity to help lead and guide boys in this age range. I teach preschool class which will allow me to be present with the baby during service times. Jared and I look to the Lord in all we do and pray over our children daily.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS - Providing a community that our children can be a part of is of the utmost importance to us. We are extremely blessed to live very close to all of our family, both immediate and extended. Jared and I also both grew up in this town and have had some of the same friends since childhood. We know this is rare, and we cherish friends who are more like family. We gather weekly with family and friends to celebrate life's milestones. This includes family pizza nights with grandparents, playdates with cousins, and cookouts with old friends. We want to raise our children to know they always have a village to back them up, family and friends to cheer them on, all while also supporting them in their endeavors. We believe we were created to experience life with others, and we are beyond grateful to live in a community that can provide this for our family.

EDUCATION - There is nothing I love more than teaching children. It is my true passion, and it brings me great joy. I thoroughly enjoy finding new activities, books, projects, and engaging ways to teach our children about the world around them. This includes creative play, reading aloud books of all genres, exploring outside, and getting to know others who are different from us. We value authenticity and learning about the various cultures that make up the world around us. We believe it's important that our children have life experiences that build their background knowledge of the world around them. Our goal is to give our children the tools they need to succeed in their education, as we know and expect this to look different for every child. We will support, encourage, engage, and explore as our children pursue their educational pathways and fuel their curiosity in every possible way.

KINDNESS - As parents, we want to nurture children who are empathetic, selfless, and giving in nature. We want to teach our children to celebrate the differences in others and highlight the uniqueness in how God created them. We value not just teaching our children kindness, but showing them through our everyday actions. We want our children to see us helping others, praying for those in hardship, coming alongside families who are different from our own, and encouraging each person we encounter to keep being the best person they can be each and every day. Kindness is a choice, and we feel our children can learn this best through the way Jared and I show up for others.

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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Planning outings and activities for the family, reading, watching shows, making new friendships, scrapbooking, mini golf, shopping and spending time with family, church family and friends

Adoptive Father: Relaxing days with family, golfing, playing basketball, watching sports, movies, and shows, participating in church

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Teacher and Author of a children's book

Adoptive Father: Lead Physical Therapist

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Doctoral Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

Our Home

Our home is our safe place, and that was always our dream. We knew we wanted a home in the hometown that we both grew up in. We bought five acres of land down the road from our parents and planted our roots.

We live just on the outskirts of town in a rural wooded subdivision. On a typical afternoon, you will see kids riding bikes, families walking their dogs, and neighbors having friendly conversations. It is quaint, quiet, and family-oriented. Residents throw Christmas parties for the neighborhood, and a sweet girl down the road grows fresh veggies for the subdivision. It is everything we ever wanted.

We live in an open-concept home with a full basement. Our girls share a room, and a nursery awaits a sweet baby whenever the time comes. The bedrooms are all close to ours, so we are there for any middle-of-the-night needs. We let our children help design their rooms and make it feel like a space of their own. We love seeing our kiddos' personalities come out through their bedding, wall decor, and more.

Our house is very open, cozy, and inviting. Our living room, kitchen, and dining room are all one space. We built it this way because we wanted to host holiday parties and gatherings where everyone could be in one room and celebrate at the same time. Our dining room table is scuffed and worn, but that is a success in my eyes. We eat dinner every night together as a family, and one of our traditions each night is to go around the table and name our "peak" and "pit" of the day. High and low, if you will. This has become a trademark of our family and the time we look forward to most each week. There is a space at our table that we pray one day will be filled by the final piece of our family. We are so eagerly awaiting that "peak"!

Our home is full of love and lots of giggles. With a full bounce house in our basement, a trampoline outside, and a playset that we named "The Johnston Park", we often have other children over to play. We host a kids' Halloween party every year (with a glow-in-the-dark "egg-haunt" in the yard), and we let each child choose their birthday party theme and how it is rolled out in our home. The Toy Story birthday with hobby horse races in the front yard has been my favorite thus far! With 5 acres, we have plenty of room to explore, play catch, run, and ride on toddler cars. We bike down the road to Grandma's and Grandpa's for an afternoon snack, and we can lie on our trampoline at night to stargaze.

We will live in this home forever. We have enjoyed every first in this home and are eagerly awaiting more. First words, first steps, first day of school, yearly heights on the wall- we want it all. We have so many great memories here thus far and look forward to a lifetime more.



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Our Family

We are best friends and have been since we were 15 years old. We fell in love as teenagers and have never looked back. We knew within weeks of dating that this was it. We can't explain it, but we just knew we had something different and special within each other. We dated all through high school, attended every dance together, and shared the same friend group. He was a three-sport athlete, and I, Makennah was the competitive cheerleader. I cheered him on in every sport he played, and he was at all my competitions he could attend.

We knew we wanted to get married, but wanted to wait until we were both out of college and had stable jobs. Jared went to college 1.5 hours away from Makennah, and bless his soul, he came home every single weekend. We spent the weekends having movie nights, attending sporting events, hanging out with mutual friends, eating pizza, and playing too many holes of mini golf.

Jared spent more than six years in college to earn his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, and we were married two months after graduation. We have now been married for over seven years and we could not be happier. Of course, life is hard, and marriage is work. But when we wake up every day knowing that we are going to choose the person next to us no matter what, it makes all the hard worth it. We have truly grown up together, and we do not take that for granted. We hope to show our children what a marriage built upon Christ and unconditional love looks like through our daily lives.

A few years after we were married, we built a home and had our first baby daughter, Jovi. Jovi is an old soul. She is kind, very motherly, and well-witted. She takes every situation in, analyzes those around her, and soaks up each moment of life. 19 months later, we had our second daughter Jubilee. She is our spunky firecracker that lights up a room. She attacks each day and lives her life to the fullest, knowing she is exactly where she needs to be. My girls are best friends and have so long awaited a 3rd sibling to add to their "club". They are the happiest when they are together playing with each other and friends.

Jared and I live right down the road from our immediate family, and we have all of our extended family within a short radius. This means Christmas morning breakfast in our PJs at Grandma's and Grandpa's house, golf cart rides, and long summer nights playing outside with cousins and family. We are both very close with our families, as our adoptive baby will have three grandmas, three great-grandmas, three grandpas, two great-grandpas, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Our birthday parties are filled with people who love our family. Being around family and making memories means the world to us, and we do whatever we can to keep cultivating this environment. Our hearts are full, but not complete. We pray for the day we can add a little one to our family.



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