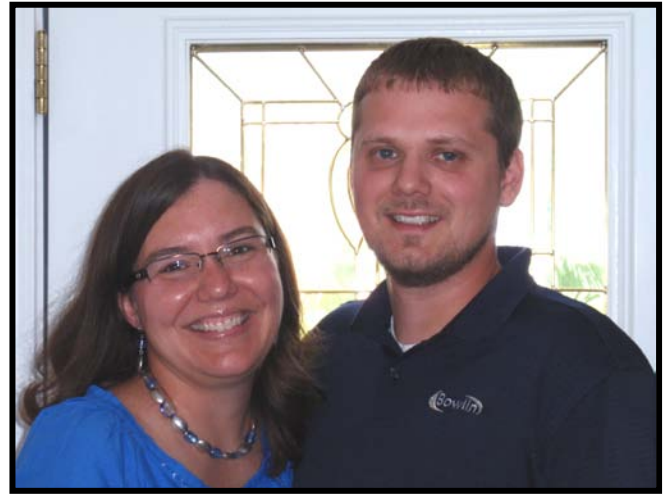


Dear Expectant Mother,

We are Jennifer and James. James is a sixth grade teacher at a local elementary school, and Jennifer was teacher at another local grade school until a couple of years ago. That was when Mary Elizabeth came into our lives. She is the little girl who we adopted with the blessing of Cleo, a wonderful and courageous birth mother, who only wanted the best for her daughter.



Now two years later, we are seeking to adopt again, to become a bigger family and shower our love on another child, perhaps the one that you will be bringing into this world



We have always loved kids. They were at the center of our lives as we built our teaching careers, and those experiences prepared us well to be parents. Mary is eager to welcome a sibling and so is our extended family. When we brought Mary home, it touched off a big celebration among our family members, most of whom live within a couple of miles of our home in a Midwestern city. Everyone instantly loved Mary, and we know that will be true for your child, as well.



We are grateful for your courageous decision to choose life for your baby. We are here to offer your child a lifetime of love, encouragement, and security. Perhaps the best way to start is to tell you stories about how we were raised. We had great parents, and they are our role models still today.

Jennifer: My younger sister, Heather, and I were so fortunate to have two parents who were so involved in our lives and gave us unconditional love. My dad began working as a salesman for an electric company and worked his way through the ranks to eventually becoming the CEO of another company. My dad's successful career allowed my mother to be what she wanted to be -- a stay-at-home mom. I loved having my mom home when I returned from school, or when I had to stay home sick. She helped



out in my classrooms and opened our home to all of my friends. Now, I'm a stay-at-home mom, too. I treasure the time that I have with Mary and the time I will have with another son or daughter hopefully soon.



As a child, I remember begging my parents for a lizard. When they finally gave in, and we got one, I loved showing Harry-the-lizard to guests. Once when my aunt and grandma were visiting, I insisted that my mom take Harry out of his cage for my aunt to pet. A tip for the wise: don't hold a lizard by its tail.

Harry shed his tail escaping from my mother's grasp, and we all screamed and jumped on chairs as he tore around the room — probably terrified by all the noise and excitement. My mom caught him, and we all laughed so hard we had tears in our eyes.

We spent a lot of time together as a family, hiking, playing golf and fishing. We went on lots of fishing trips — although I never remember catching any fish. And we had some great

family vacations. Whenever we were out together, my dad's favorite question was: "Are we having fun yet?" (You can imagine the rolling eyes that elicited from his teenage daughters.) I remember one year when my parents planned a trip to Washington, D.C. Heather and I were not happy because we thought it sounded way too educational, and we wanted to go to the beach. But, off to Washington we went, leaving the house at 5 a.m., my dad's favorite time of the day. We just ignored him when he called out, "Are we having fun yet?" as we pulled out of the driveway. But once we got there, we had to admit Washington was pretty fun. We couldn't get tickets to tour the White House, but as we stood outside on the side lawn, my dad came over to us to say he heard a guard say the President would be arriving soon. Shortly thereafter, dogs were brought out to sniff all the surrounding cars, and police officers positioned themselves among the bystanders. A big, black limo drove up to the White House, with the windows rolled down, and there was the President-- smiling and waving at us. We were thrilled, waving and smiling back. As the limo passed us, my father whooped: "Are we having fun yet?" and Heather, my mom, and I shouted: "Yes!"

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James and I met when we were in high school. We were friends long before we were romantically involved. We have always had fun together, and we still do. We went to the same college and married immediately after we both graduated.

James is patient, dependable, positive, and loving. He makes me laugh. When we first started dating, my dad sat him down to have a serious “dad speech” with him. Dad asked James what he expected to do with his life, and James deadpanned: “I think I’ll be a professional juggler.” There was a tense moment of silence, and then my mom almost fell off the couch, laughing. Even my dad had to smile.

That’s James. He is serious but always positive. He is kind and generous with his time. Once, a friend of ours bought a new computer so she could email with her husband who had just been sent to Iraq. When she got the computer home, she was overwhelmed with having to put it all together. James took care of it for her. When we visit my grandma, the first thing he asks is “What do you need?” And he spends the weekend fixing things around her house.



James works tirelessly with children with special needs. They feel safe with him. He puts them at ease as he patiently works with them to learn — and thrive.

When Mary was born, I was teaching fourth grade at a local elementary school. I took the remainder of the year off and have continued to stay at home. When Mary was an infant, we spent hours in the rocking chair reading books and singing songs. At age seven months, we began going to the library for story time. We usually begin our day cuddled upon the couch with a pile of books. James teases us all the time because every room has a bookshelf filled to capacity with books. My favorite time is just before bed. We snuggle up and read goodnight books and a Bible story. Mary also enjoys “reading” books on her own. I love to sneak into her bedroom where I find her acting out the parts in whatever book she is looking at.

During the first four months of Mary’s life, James came home for lunch every day. I always knew James would be a great father, but seeing him in action makes me love him more each day. Mary’s first word was DA-DA. Now when you ask her whose girl she is, she replies, “Daddy’s girl!” When James comes home from work, the first hour is uninterrupted play time in which Mary is the complete boss and they play whatever she wants. When a new baby arrives I can imagine the three of them doing just the same, though more than likely James will then have two bosses!”

After nine years of marriage, James still delights me with thoughtful surprises. He’ll send me an email just to say he



loves me. He'll call me to tell me to have a good day. One summer day, I went out to get the mail and found a package from James — dresses and flip flops that he had seen me admire in a magazine. He is my best friend and the love of my life.

James: When I was growing up, my dad was in the Air Force, so my family traveled a lot. I was born in Spain, and spent four years living in England. While living there, we often visited Spain and Germany. No matter where we traveled, my parents always made sure we sampled the local food and got to know the native culture. I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to meet so many people from different backgrounds and to experience life outside the U.S. When they are old enough, I am eager to take our children back to many of the places I visited. I want our children to have the chance to see — and experience — the world.



My dad entered the military when he was 19 years old. The military gave my dad an education, and he credits his training in the armed services for his professional success. My mom, who was at home with us fulltime, got her GED when I was in sixth grade. They both stressed the importance of education to my brother and me. We understood that our studies were a high priority to them and were expected to be our priority, too.

I wish you could hear Jennifer read a book or tell a story. She transports Mary (and our nephew, Brandon) to a magical world of make-believe. She makes the characters come alive.



My dad can repair or build almost anything. Until I was in high school, I don't think a Saturday morning passed without my getting up early to "help" my dad on some project. He always took the time to teach me about what he was doing, whether it was building a doghouse, putting up a fence or changing a drive belt on a car. I learned a lot. But what really made me feel good was just being with my dad. As a father, that's what I will do with our children. Not because they need to learn how to adjust the timing on an old car, but because having that time together is priceless.

My early upbringing in caring for others was clearly a factor in my choosing to be an elementary school teacher. For the first nine years of my career, I was a special education teacher and just recently have accepted a position as a sixth grade teacher. It is so gratifying to work with kids. I get to watch their progress through the school year, seeing the difference I've made in their lives. What

could be more satisfying than to watch children make a breakthrough in reading or math — to see the sudden comprehension in their eyes and the smile on their faces?

Jennifer more than matches me in her passion for learning and teaching. I wish you could hear Jennifer read a book or tell a story. She transports Mary (and our nephew, Brandon) to a magical world of make-believe. She makes the characters come alive.

It seems like Jennifer is always able to come up with something fun to do with Mary. Just the other day, while at the lake in the state park near our home, she found a little creek to go play in with Mary. With Jennifer's prompting, and before I knew it, we had our socks off and were walking through the creek looking for crawdads.

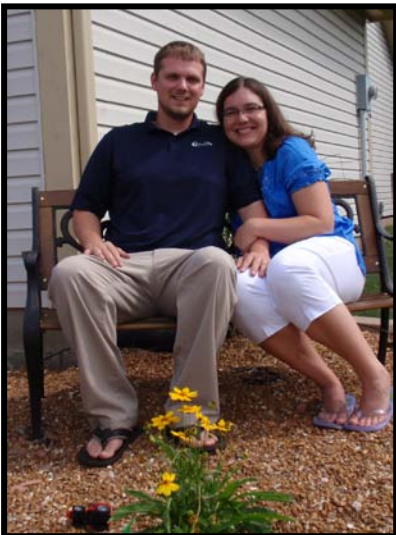


Everyone in our extended family adores Mary, and I know the same will be true for your child. Mary sees her grandparents almost daily. We enjoy walking across the cul-de-sac to Grammy and Poppa's house. Mary enjoys checking on the garden she and Poppa put out and swinging on the tree swing.

Jennifer and James: Our faith is very important to us. We are dedicated to raising our child with the same Christian values with which we were raised. We believe that raising a child in a church gives the child a solid foundation throughout life. We attend a very diverse church that is full of children Mary's age. We look forward to

We love to cook as a family. This past winter we got on a kick of making friendship bread. We took a loaf to almost every neighbor and all of our family. We did have to caution people to watch for eggshells. Mary's favorite part was cracking the eggs!

having our children involved in this church as they growing and see what the Lord has for them.



We hope that anyone who walks through our door feels at home. It's a three-bedroom house with a spacious family room with a vaulted ceiling and fireplace. The family room opens into to kitchen and dining room. There's a big picture window in the living room and French doors in the dining room, so we get a lot of sunlight. We love to curl up with one of grandma's handmade afghans to read in front of the fireplace. When we have family get-togethers, we hook up the karaoke machine in the family room and get quite carried away singing.

Recently, Mary moved into her big girl room. We asked Mary what color she would like to paint the room, and purple was the color she picked. She made all the artwork for the walls and picked out Dora sheets. Now the nursery is ready and waiting for Mary's sister or brother. It is painted a soft green so it can be accented with either pink or blue.

Our community and our neighborhood are filled with children. The community center has lots of programs for families such as KinderMusic, hiking trips, pottery and art classes. There is a very active Boys and Girls Club with sports teams. A lot of our students play on these teams, and we try to make it to the games they play in. We have a large little league park, which is extremely popular. As mentioned, a state park is very close by. We like to go hiking, fishing, and boating there. We enjoy the outdoors, working in the yard, riding bikes, or playing Frisbee with Winston, our dog, who is great with children. Through our experience of adopting Mary and developing a relationship with Mary's birth mom through letters and pictures, we know that adoption is what the Lord has for us.



We continue to tell Mary her "story." Mary has a picture of her birth mom and sister in her bedroom. Each night we pray for them. Mary also has a binder with the letters we have sent to her birth mom and the correspondence she has sent to us.



We are excited and humbled that we have been entrusted with our precious child. We truly are thankful for the gift that Mary's birth mom has given us. We look forward to the possibility of adding a new member to our family through you and to correspond with you in any way that you wish.

If you have any questions, or want to know more about us, please call our attorneys, Steve and Joel Kirsh, at 800-333-5736.

Fondly,