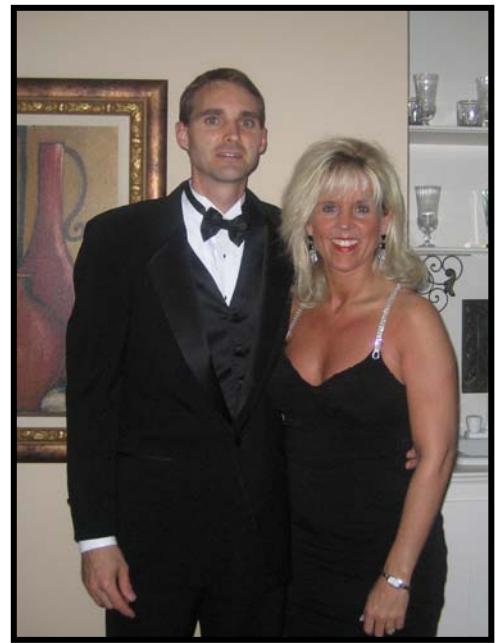


Dear Expectant Mother ~

Thank you for taking time to read our letter. We are so excited about the possibility of becoming parents to another child. A family with children has always been a dream for us. We would like to tell you a little bit about ourselves.

We are Joel and Michele. Our relationship began as a storybook romance. We were high school sweethearts. Joel was an outstanding ball player. I was the cheerleader and homecoming queen. We graduated and remained close as we attended the same college. Everyone would always ask, "When are you getting married?" Then one spring evening, Joel and I went to dinner. As we were leaving the restaurant, a white carriage and horses pulled up to the sidewalk. Joel asked if I wanted to ride. During our ride, he asked me to marry him. This is a memory that we will never forget. We were married the following summer in the presence of 400 of our friends and family members. We honeymooned in Bermuda. Life was great! We talked about having children but wanted to get established in our careers before we took on the responsibilities of parenthood. We wanted to be able to provide our children a world of opportunities and lots of our time, which we knew we could not do just starting out as a newly married couple. We both began new jobs the next fall. We excelled in our respective fields. We were strongly encouraged to pursue more challenging assignments. We began climbing the ladder of "success." We went through the struggles many newlyweds experience in trying to balance our personal lives and our careers. When we focused on our priorities, God, our marriage, family, and friends, everything fell into place.



We realized that true happiness does not come from fame or fortune but from the simple pleasures in life and the people you love. We achieved contentment with our lives and our relationship. Our hard work paid off: we achieved a degree of financial independence. We were ready to start our family. Unfortunately, each month brought disappointment. For a while we thought that "next month" we would be pregnant. After a number of "next months", we sought out medical professionals to help us get pregnant. We tried everything. Nothing worked. Finally, we realized that getting pregnant was not nearly as important as being parents. You cannot imagine our relief when we realized that adoption would allow us to realize our dream of being parents. On August 26, 2006 one of our most coveted dreams became a reality. God blessed us with our first child, Kaden Wade. We received the call early on a Saturday morning. We were so anxious about meeting our child and his birthmother. We spent two days in the hospital getting to know Kaden and his birthmother, Kathi. We shared our hopes, dreams and desires for our family as she shared her hopes,

dreams and desires for Kaden's life. We have the utmost love and respect for her and the selfless, courageous decision she made for Kaden. Being a parent has been the most rewarding experience of our lives. We pray every day that God will bless us with a second child to add to our family. That's why your reading our letter is so important to us. We know that there is a woman out there, maybe it's you, who will find a connection with us and choose us as parents of her precious child. Toward that end, please let us describe ourselves to you.

Joel is one of four children who grew up on a 700-acre farm. His parents and grandparents taught him the value of hard work at an early age. As a result, Joel has done well in his chosen field of accounting and finance. He currently serves as Controller and Vice-President of a healthcare company that has hospitals and nursing homes located throughout the United States. Although he enjoys his work, he loves recreational time and spending time at home. Joel is an excellent athlete. He values health and wellness. He works out on a regular basis and drinks his daily power shakes.

During the warm months, Joel, Kaden and I enjoy walks through our subdivision. Kaden loves to stop and feed pine cones to pretend alligators that live in the drainage ditches. He also loves visiting with all of our neighbors and their pets. Joel enjoys playing tennis, basketball, and golf. Joel is passing his love of sports on to Kaden. They spend lots of time shooting hoops, driving golf balls, and pitching softballs. Joel and Kaden also enjoy watching sports. We have season tickets for a local college basketball team. As much as we like watching the games, we enjoy Kaden's cheering for the team even more.

Joel has an incredibly compassionate heart. He is very caring and loving towards me and others. For several summers, Joel participated in mission trips to Honduras to build houses for the poor, distribute food and supplies, and care for the people of the country. Joel has spoken at our church about these experiences. There are not many dry eyes when Joel finishes sharing his memories. Joel makes many friends on these trips but one child in particular touched his heart. Lexi was a beautiful little girl who sat by him at church during Vacation Bible School and at Sunday morning services. She would continually try to get his attention while he was working. Joel knew that men and fathers were not present in many of the families in Honduras. He would always make a point to stop and play. After the last Vacation Bible School meeting, Joel felt a tug on his shirt. He turned around. It was Lexi. He bent down to talk to her. She immediately kissed him on the cheek then ran down the hill across the bridge and up the mountain to catch up with her mom. Weeks of hard work were worth every minute to receive that heartfelt and genuine kiss. Joel has also participated in humanitarian efforts in the United



States. He went to Mississippi to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. While he was there, he helped repair the tattered home of the Hill family. The Hills had suffered great loss. In addition to their roof being blown off their home, they had no power or electricity. Mr. Hill had passed away in May, and their son suffered from asthma, heart problems, and seizures. Although Joel was a great help to the family, he gained a great deal from them, too.

Even though we have not participated in a mission trip recently, we believe strongly in helping others, giving back, and paying it forward. We often refer to the verse in the bible that states, "To those that have been given much, much is required." We have been so incredibly blessed in our lives. We look forward to



the time when our children become of an age that we can physically participate in more humanitarian efforts as a family.

On many Saturdays, you will find Joel and Kaden on Grandma Jean and Grandpa Marvin's farm. They love to help with the chores. Kaden is fascinated with the trucks, tractors, and farm animals. Joel has always loved to work outdoors and help his family. The farm visits often include our nephews, Jaden and Trale. Joel's brother Jess, his wife, Becky, and our

nephews live walking distance from the farm. Jaden is in fifth grade, and Trale is in first grade. Grandma Jean and the boys like to go mushroom hunting, "work" in the garden, walk the dogs, feed the baby calves, and wade in the creek. She always seems to find a new adventure for the kids. They love spending time with Grandpa Marvin and her.

Michele is one of three children. Her parents were educators and she followed suit. After spending four years in the classroom, Michele achieved one of her goals by becoming an elementary school principal. This work was incredibly rewarding but cut somewhat short. The Superintendent requested that Michele serve as a leader of leaders for all of the elementary schools as the Director of Elementary Education for the district. Michele's profession allows her many opportunities to help people, especially children. She is very caring and sensitive to the needs of others. Many nights, after getting Kaden to bed, she will spend hours writing cards to those with special occasions, going through tough times, or just needing some words of encouragement. Michele is respected in our community because of her character and integrity, and it's not unusual for her to receive phone calls each day from people needing advice or just someone to listen. Kids are drawn to Michele because she makes them feel important. Between Michele and Kaden many of our neighborhood walks take much longer than expected because of the many kids that come out and just want to talk.

Michele loves impacting the lives of others, especially kids. She is very committed to supporting schools, church and community to help others as they learn and grow.

Of course, the most important child in Michele's life is Kaden and she anxiously awaits our next child. Michele strongly believes that parents are the first and most important teachers a child ever has. She is passionate about being a great mother. Her favorite time of the day is in the evening immediately before bed. Following bath time, we crawl onto Kaden's bed to reflect on the day and share our best memories. We read the stories that Kaden has selected from his numerous shelves of books. We remind each other how blessed we are and the tremendous amount of love that we have for another baby. The day is complete once we have said our prayers and thanked God for bringing us together as a family.



Michele's other passions and interests include spending time with family and friends, attending church, teaching the preschool class with me at church, traveling, reading, shopping, watching sports with me, capturing memories in photographs, and scrapbooking. Michele cherishes time with family. She talks to her parents and siblings on a regular basis. She confides in them her dreams, concerns, and aspirations. They are a close family that provides much support to one another.



Kaden is a typical three-year old boy who loves life. His favorite place in the world is outdoors! He would stay outside 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He loves to swim, swing, climb trees and our rock wall, peer out over the neighborhood from the crows nest on the playground set, drive his dump trucks in the sandbox, hit golf balls, play basketball, ride his Gator, etc, etc, etc..... We love our time together at home.

We have recently had several awesome family outings. In January, we went to the Indianapolis Children's Museum. Kaden loved the dinosaur and train exhibits, race cars, blown glass activities and numerous interactive games.

In March we spent the week with Mickey and Minnie at Disney World. Kaden is quite the thrill seeker. His favorite ride was Test Track in Epcot. His favorite place to visit was any and every playground in the parks and at our hotel (as you can see in the pictures.) Kaden made lots of new friends in addition to Mickey and Minnie. He loves playing with other children. He attends pre-school three days per week for three hours each day. He will be a great big brother.



As a family, we love to travel and participate in new experiences. Our favorite vacations include the beach and lots of sunshine. Some of our all time memorable experiences include riding Thomas the Train; flying on the private jet that is owned by the company daddy works for; seeing the Wiggles, Sesame Street, and Playhouse Disney live on stage; visiting the Georgia Aquarium...just to name a few. We are looking forward to creating many more precious memories as we add another child to our family.

We feel that we have a lot to offer. We have a strong network of family and friends who live close by and will be elated for us to have a second child. We know our next child will be showered with much love and attention just as Kaden has been. We are incredibly blessed to have the resources to provide



many experiences for our children. We live in a community that offers endless opportunities to develop nearly any interest, skill, or talent. Our area has high caliber schools that have earned prestigious awards. With Michele's background in education, we will be very selective about educational programming.

One of our favorite books is entitled, A Treasury of Adoption Miracles by Karen Kingsbury. Reading this book was a very emotional experience. This book is a collection of true stories about birthmothers, adopted children, and

adoptive parents. This book illustrates the true miracle that takes place between a birthmother, an adopted child, and adoptive parents. We cannot begin to fully understand the incredibly selfless decision that you are attempting to make as a birthmother. We pray that you be given clarity and understanding as you consider all of the options. Our lives have not always gone exactly according to our plans. But our lives have been enriched, and we have grown because of our experiences. We pray the same for you.

Again, thank you for taking time to review our letter. We wish you the best. Please know that if you feel our family is the best placement, we would be glad to share letters and photographs with you letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish. Our highest priority in life is to be the very best parents we can possibly be.



Sincerely,

Joel and Michele

If you would like to know more about us, talk with us by phone, or meet us in person, please call Steve and Joel Kirsh at any time at 800-333-5736. We hope to hear from you soon.

