

Dear Expectant Parent,

We are Brian and Lauren, and we have been married for 13 years. Before we were ever married, we agreed we would like to adopt children one day. We knew then, as we do now, that we were both raised in wonderful families - families who loved us, encouraged us, disciplined us, and raised us in the way we ought to go. We both knew that one day we would want children, both biological ones and ones who we chose specifically to bring into our family.

Infertility was a curveball we didn't expect. Our years since then have been filled with joy, heartache, confusion, and thankfulness. It was hard initially to reconcile what that meant for us, but we came to a place of peace before completing our first home study to adopt. Our son, Alexander, has been the biggest surprise and joy of our lives. Every day we learn more about the big, unconditional love God has for us as we think about Alexander's adoption and the natural, perfect way he fits into our family. It teaches us about how God has promised, too, to adopt us into His eternal family. What a gift it is to experience this truth more fully firsthand!

Our faith is a huge part of who we are. God has also been doing a unique work on our hearts and marriage over the last ten years as it pertains to our understanding of racial diversity. Since becoming a teacher thirteen years ago, Lauren has grown to love and better understand children from all races and backgrounds, and then almost ten years ago, she really dug into the work and learning of racial equity. We both not only talk about diversity in our home every day but also help lead equity initiatives both personally and professionally. Brian works as a digital strategist at a technology company and is part of a diversity team, and Lauren co-teaches a class at school on race and culture and works as a diversity consultant in her spare time. We also lead a monthly dialogue on race at our church. We believe strongly that the Lord ignited this passion within us partially as a way to prepare us to welcome our African-American son into our family and to be a transracial family for more kids. We understand now, more than ever, why we needed to wait for our first child. We not only have a unique perspective and thankfulness to be parents, even in the hardest moments, but we also know much better how to raise our children in a way that constantly celebrates their ethnic heritage and validates their beauty and worth.

As we think about growing our family again, we are so excited to see our son as a big brother and fill our house with more kids to love. One of the amazing things about the house we bought in 2015 is that it serves as a legacy of adoption. The big, bustling family before us had six children through adoption! We promise to be a home full of faith, love, laughter, openness, and safety. If you are willing, we also desire to have you be a part of that family - to stay in contact with your child and with us - and to decide together how that might look. We talk openly with our son about his adoption and desire an open relationship with his birth family and with the families of future children we might have. We want our

children to always know how very loved they are, by the Lord, by us, and by you. We also know that choosing adoption and finding the right family for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make, and for that reason we have been praying for you. We pray that the Lord would be with you and comfort you. We pray that His presence would give you peace beyond understanding. And we pray that God would make it abundantly clear to you which family is the right fit for your precious baby. We are honored that you would consider us.

With love,

Brian and Lauren