

MICHAEL
+ MICHAELA





IN THIS LIFE WE HAVE LEARNED TO BE GRATEFUL FOR THE
SMALL THINGS, BIG THINGS, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.

Hello! It's so nice to "meet" you. We're Michael and Michaela - yes, you did read that right; our names are practically the same! As we think about the incredibly big decision you're trying to make, we feel incredibly humbled to be invited into this space. Even as we tell you our stories in the pages ahead, we hope you know this space is yours and your voice matters to us. Please know We stand behind you and are praying for you, no matter which path you choose.

OUR NOTE TO YOU



WE'RE SO HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU.

First and foremost, thank you for taking the time to meet us. We can only begin to imagine how monumental this task must be, and our respect for you runs deep as we think of how much strength, energy, and intention it takes to educate yourself on all of your options. To us, it already shows how much you love your child and want what is best for them - whether that is adoption or not - and we are grateful to share this space with you.

We are a Christian couple who love the Lord and are so excited to be parents. Our journey here, however, has been unique. We have never tried to do a fertility study or get pregnant. We love children and have always felt like our family would be bigger than DNA. That's not to say we will ever try to take the place of our child's birth parent but rather make the space for whatever our "family" might look like. Our greatest desire is to provide a loving and stable home where a child will feel safe and secure, and we have no doubt that more love and support they have, the better off they will be!

Thank you again for opening our book and looking through these pages. We can't wait for you to get to know us, and we would love the opportunity to get to know you more, too.

Michael and Michaela

A QUICK LOOK AT WHO WE ARE

WE ARE A PASSIONATE, SUPPORTIVE FAMILY WHO
LOVES DEEPLY AND VALUES QUALITY TIME TOGETHER.

Some of our favorite hobbies include: Playing with our dogs // Eating good food (Michael is an amazing cook!) // Watching college football on Saturdays and NFL on Sundays and Mondays. // Hiking // Playing video games together (Borderlands is a particular favorite at the moment!)

WE VALUE CULTURE AND LOVE TO TRAVEL

We have a deep appreciation for beautiful scenery, good food, and new experiences, and we love getting to explore new parts of the world. We also love exploring the city where we live, which is rich in Hispanic culture. Michaela's family is from Mexico, and we love enjoying her Hispanic roots.

WE HAVE A STRONG SUPPORT NETWORK

We both have big extended families who are a huge part of our lives. We celebrate birthdays, holidays, and random days together! Both of our parents live within 15 minutes of our home and cannot wait to be involved in the life of our child. We also have a great group of friends we share life with.

WE HAVE JOBS THAT WE LOVE

Not only are we passionate about what we do, but both of our jobs allow us to maintain a great balance between our work and home life. Michael works from home and Michaela works three 12-hour shifts a week which allows her to be home the other 4 days. This leaves a ton of room for connection!

WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A DOG IN OUR HOME!

We both love dogs and currently have two! Elsa (our white pup) is 10 and Purdy (our black pup) is 7. They are both lab mixes and love attention. Elsa is particularly good with kids and is the first to cuddle up with our nieces, nephews, and friends' children whenever they're nearby.



HI, I'M MICHAELA!

SMART — DETERMINED — KIND



THE BASICS:

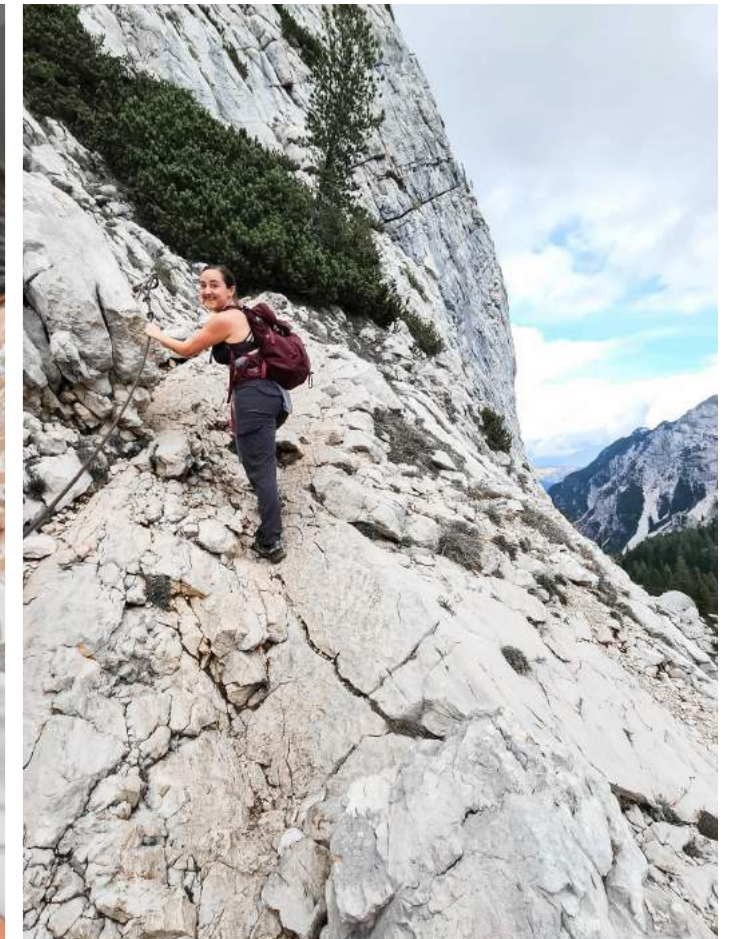
I'm 30 years old, have a Bachelor's degree in nursing, and work as a pediatric ICU nurse. While some days can be painful, I love working with kids and experiencing their innate desire to live - and not just staying alive but *really* living. They have a capacity for healing, and it's such an honor to do what I get to do.

MY FAVORITE THINGS:

Dancing // Chocolate // Spending time with Michael // Being on the beach // Reading // Painting // Traveling // Being outside

A BIT ABOUT ME:

At my core, I am a people pleaser. While this can sometimes cause me to put too much weight on what people think, it's also one of my biggest strengths. I care deeply and have big emotions. I can get along with almost anyone and can also connect with a lot of different people. For example, in high school, I was in the marching band and captain of the cheer team. I meet people where they are and truly care about their stories.



MICHAELA IN MICHAEL'S WORDS:

"MICHAELA DOESN'T DO ANYTHING HALF WAY. SHE HAS A PASSION AND A JOY THAT TOUCHES EVERYONE SHE MEETS." *-Michael*

"From the moment I met Michaela, I knew she was someone who would give all of herself to the people she loves. Not only is she friendly and fun with a beautiful smile, but she's loyal, protective, and smart, as well. Michaela is passionate about her job - and kids in general - and babies/toddlers are immediately drawn to her. They light up when she holds them, and I have to believe it's because she instantly makes them feel safe. Michaela also possesses tremendous empathy, which she uses to be an amazing friend, wife, daughter, and (hopefully soon) mother. I love my wife so much and am grateful for every opportunity we have to do life together."

AND I'M MICHAEL!

DRIVEN — CONFIDENT — PASSIONATE



THE BASICS:

I'm 31 years old, have a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering, and work as a mechanical engineer. I love finding creative solutions to problems and the challenge that comes with every new project.

MY FAVORITE THINGS:

Investing in my relationship with friends and family members // Self-improvement // Our dogs // Tasty food // Being in the mountains

A BIT ABOUT ME:

I'm dependable and disciplined, and I devote wholehearted focus toward the things I consider important in life, such as relationships with friends and family, my career, and taking care of my spiritual, emotional, and physical health. This has led to long-lasting relationships, good health, and a career I love. You should also know that I enjoy the company of dogs more than people, I love bluegrass music (I play the banjo), and I am truly an old soul.



MICHAEL IN MICHAELA'S WORDS:

"MICHAEL WANTS NOTHING BUT GOOD THINGS FOR THE PEOPLE IN HIS CIRCLE, AND IT'S A GIFT TO BE LOVED BY HIM." *-Michaela*

"Michael is truly amazing. After 9 years of being together, I still get butterflies when I'm with him. He is one of the most intelligent people I have ever met, and I love the confidence he carries. He doesn't let what other people think about him get him down. He knows who he is and is comfortable in his skin. He's passionate about everything he does and dives head-first into every hobby he tries out. While Michael had a very difficult childhood, it developed in him a deep desire to love well and keep working at being the best version of himself. He has seen me at my worst but always chosen to love me and love me well. He's my best friend, and I'm grateful for life with him."

June 2014

We met each other through a Bible study and went out on our first date!

Nov 2015

We got engaged at one of our favorite spots in San Antonio.

June 2021

We moved into our second home and entered a hard season of growth. We battled through a medical flare-up and some mental health, but came out stronger in the end.

Dec 2014

We made it official and started dating seriously. We dated long-distance for a year while Michael attended school in Tennessee.

June 2016

We said "I do" with a small, intimate wedding and bought our first home together.

June 2023

We celebrate 7 years together and decide to pursue adoption for our family.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

When we first met, I was drawn to Michael's humor and intelligence, and he was drawn to my friendly and passionate personality. While a lot has changed over the past 7 years, what we saw in and loved about each other has stayed the same. It only grows deeper with our time together.

OUR STORY IN BULLETS:

- After a month of getting to know each other, Michael asked me out on our first date. We played putt-putt and had ice cream. Michael also shared he was going back to TN in four days, but his confidence made me want to make a long-distance relationship work.
- We bonded over long Skype sessions and frequent texts
- Michael proposed with my mom and sister hiding in the bushes! We celebrated and went to Spurs game.
- We had a small wedding so we could have a bigger honeymoon! It was beautiful and everything we wanted... including the best getaway to follow!



In our life together, we have learned how to rely on God, fight for each other, and love each other even at our worst. We truly are best friends who love each other deeply and believe our marriage is one of a kind.





FAMILY VALUES WE SHARE

COMING TO ADOPTION

Early in our relationship, we decided that when we were ready to grow our family we would actively pursue adoption rather than attempting to conceive a child biologically. We both have a strong desire to help children, and we wanted to be available to offer a stable, loving environment to a child in need. There have been experiences in our lives that have shown us just how unpredictable life can be and how important it is to have people who support you. We believe we can be this for a child as well as his or her birth family if given the opportunity.

We know that parenthood will not always be easy and that a child who joins our family will ultimately experience a loss; we know that we cannot change that, but we can do our best to love him or her through it. Whatever comes, we will be committed to each other, to them, and to their first family - whatever it may look like.

1. We value our faith and a life lived generously. We do everything we can to love like Jesus and strive to put God above all else.
2. We value open communication and are intentional about discussing the hard things we are experiencing as much as the good things we are enjoying. We believe that finding a safe place in each other can only make us stronger as a couple and as a family.
3. We inspire each other to be the best version of ourselves. We never want to see the other get complacent or stop believing big things are possible. When things are good, we celebrate each other! And when things are hard, we challenge each other to grow.
4. We value culture and having a strong sense of identity. We love immersing ourselves in the food, language, and music of different cultures and we are committed to learning even more about and surrounding our family with the culture of our child.
5. We believe kindness is one of the most important attributes we can carry. We strive to be generous with our time, our resources, and our attention. We show up for our people and seek out opportunities to help those around us.
6. We strive to live a holistically healthy life. Physical fitness, in particular, is very important to us and we both work out regularly. We also love to cook healthy meals together at home and value our emotional and mental health.

WE LOVE FINDING A GOOD ADVENTURE

MORE THAN ANY OTHER HOBBY, WE LOVE TO TRAVEL TOGETHER!

Over the past 7 years, we have been to California, Hawaii, Tennessee, Spain, Italy, and Greece. We've also spent a ton of time in Colorado, which is easily one of our favorites! Michael loves the mountains and definitely misses them since leaving school in Tennessee. So wherever we are, we almost always find a place to hike that is known for its beautiful scenery and great views. Hiking in the Dolomites (a mountain range in northeastern Italy) was one of the best experiences of our lives.

ONE BIG TRIP EACH
YEAR IS OUR GOAL.

Whether it's across the ocean or in the next state over, we always make time to get away together. We love to immerse ourselves in the culture, eat good food, and check out local favorites.

WE ENJOY TRAVELING
WITH OUR FAMILIES.

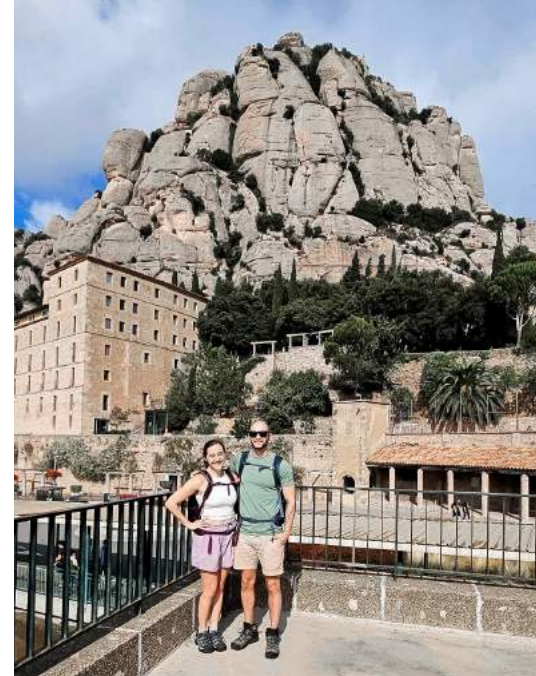
While many of our trips have been just the two of us, we've also had the delight of traveling with family! So far, we have gone skiing and taken cruises with Michael's side of the family.

WE ALSO GO ON AN
ANNUAL BEACH TRIP.

Beach/lake trips have always been a highlight for us. The dogs love the water, and we have often talked about how much fun it will be when we can bring our kids as well.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE THE THRILL OF AN ADVENTURE WITH OUR CHILD.

No matter where we are, we're always dreaming of what it will look like to do this with children! Of course, we know it will look different, but we cannot wait to share the beauty of the world with a child. We are already planning a Canadian trip for next year and are hoping for an Alaskan cruise in the near future. We have learned that a trip doesn't have to be perfect to be memorable, but doing something big and intentional together always makes room for memories that won't be forgotten.





BUT THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

While we live in a big city in Texas, our home is part of a suburban neighborhood where kids ride their bikes and families are always out walking their dogs. It's safe, active, and close to everything we could hope for. There are multiple malls nearby, an amusement park 5 minutes away, a movie theater, playgrounds, and a ton of local family-friendly activities.

Our home has an open-concept and is warmly decorated. We have big windows that let in a ton of natural light and, during the winter, Michael loves to get the fireplace going. We don't have a lot of decorations or knick-knacks, but we do almost always have a vase of fresh flowers that Michael has randomly brought home. We also have an amazing backyard with a big deck and plenty of space for the dogs (and kids!) to run around.



We have always been very intentional about making it a space where others feel invited, seen, and safe, and we're eager to share the same with a child.



What
I look
forward
to most
about
being a
mom:

I started volunteering in Sunday school when I was 13 because I loved working with littles. It was the same passion for kids that led me to a career in nursing.

When I think about being a mom, I can't wait to give my heart fully to a child. I know motherhood will be difficult at times, but I just can't wait to LOVE this baby without any hesitation or reservation.

What
I look
forward
to most
about
being a
dad:

The anticipation of fatherhood has been growing in me for many years now.

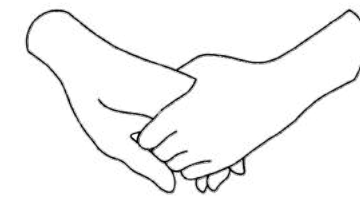
I can't wait to truly and selflessly love a child with no expectation of anything in return. I am also excited to watch that child develop into an adult and be able to play a part in his or her journey, whatever that might look like.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As we think about the future, we are just as excited for the little day-to-day moments as we are for the big traditions we hope to share. We especially can't wait for...

- **Birthdays.** One thing we know for sure: our child's birthday will be celebrated with A LOT of family! Growing up, Michaela always had a pinata (that she picked out) and a cake on her birthday; it's a tradition she looks forward to continuing with our children.
- **Holidays.** Holidays are also spent with a TON of family. Michaela's family has a tradition of eating tamales and staying up until midnight to open presents on Christmas Eve. Michael's family meets on the Riverwalk every year for dinner and Christmas lights.
- **Football season.** Michael is a huge Tennessee football fan, so football season is big in our house! A great Saturday looks like football all day with wings or pizza delivered for dinner.
- **Walks with the dogs, outdoor adventures, and days at home.** These are already part of our day-to-day life, and we simply can't wait to share them with a child.





IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO JOIN YOU IN
LOVING THIS CHILD, WE PROMISE TO...

01 Love your child unconditionally, regardless of health, behavior, or circumstances. We will make sure they know our love is unwavering.

04 Celebrate their culture, share our own, and learn about new ones together as we travel, read, watch, taste, and explore as a family.

02 Raise your child in a warm and caring household where they can grow, thrive, and explore the world around them.

05 Speak of you with love and respect and walk with you as we navigate a relationship you are also comfortable with.

03 Surround them with a huge extended family who will love them, honor them, embrace them, and spoil the heck out of them!

06 Be present and active parents who are there for their child no matter what. On the good days, hard days, and every day in between

We cannot fathom the sacrifice that you are making, but we promise to do our absolute best to love your child and raise them in a way that you would be proud of. All our love and respect is yours. May you find the peace and the confidence you need.



fastauschild
ADoption PROFILE BOOKS

