

Benjamin & Meghan

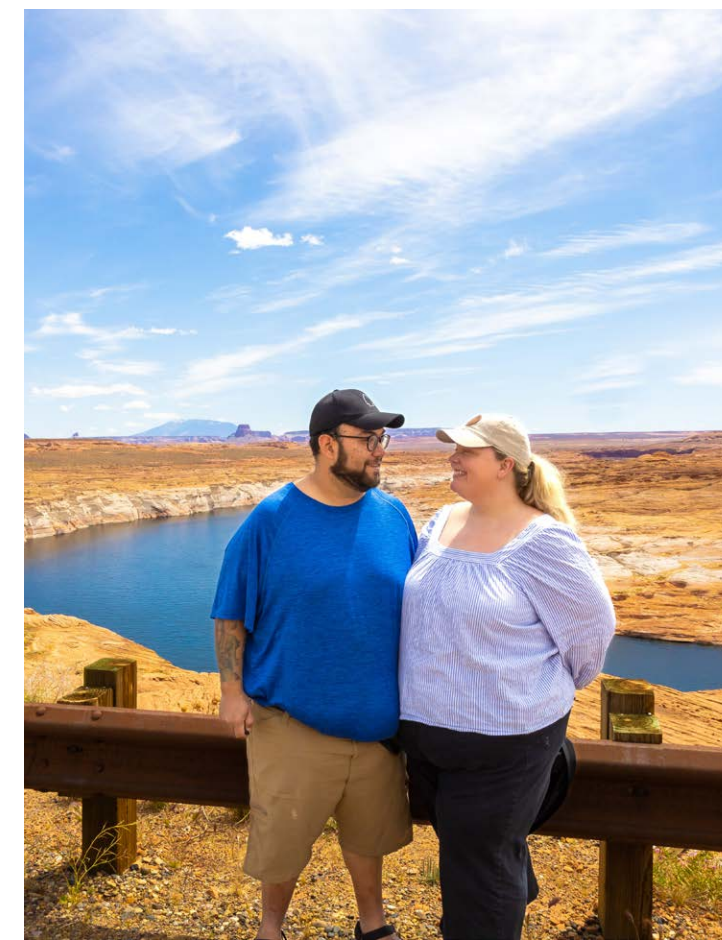


How Our Story Began

We are grateful for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. We are Ben and Meg - best friends, avid gardeners, followers of Christ, and partners who have been together for ten years and married for six years.

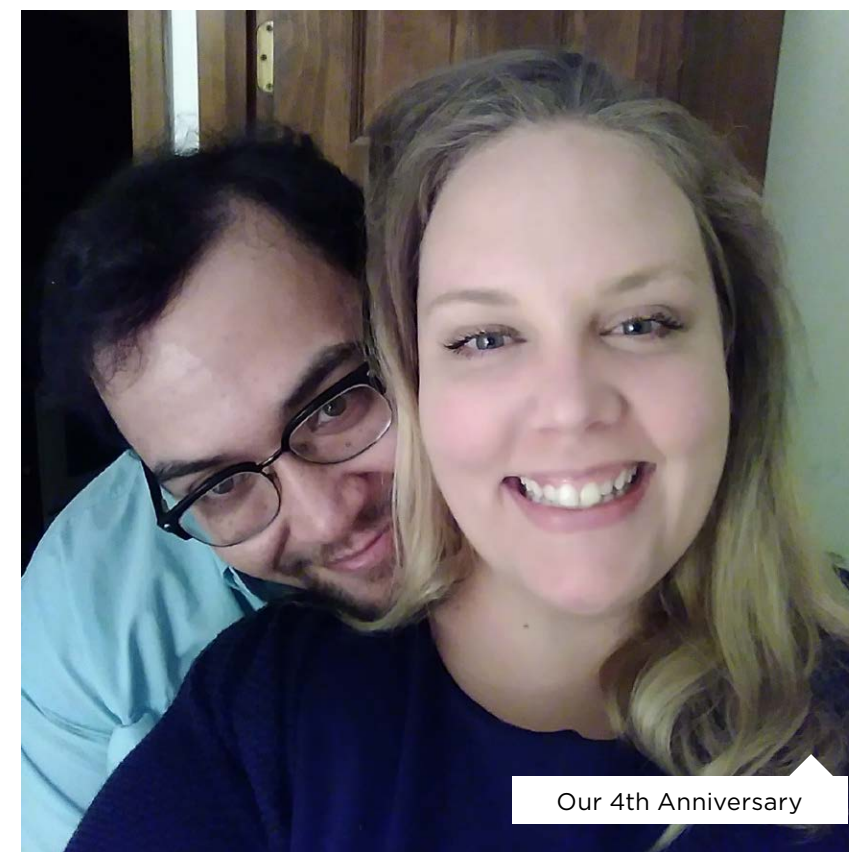
We desire to grow our family, and we believe adoption is a courageous and loving way to see this dream come true. We do not have any children yet, and we can't wait to begin having a family.

When we first met, Meg worked at the restaurant where Ben was the Executive Chef. From the beginning, we shared a lot of similar interests.



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Our wedding day



Our 4th Anniversary

We spent time with Meg's dogs, taking long nature walks together.

Our date nights mainly consisted of going to great restaurants and critiquing food since we are both highly opinionated chefs!

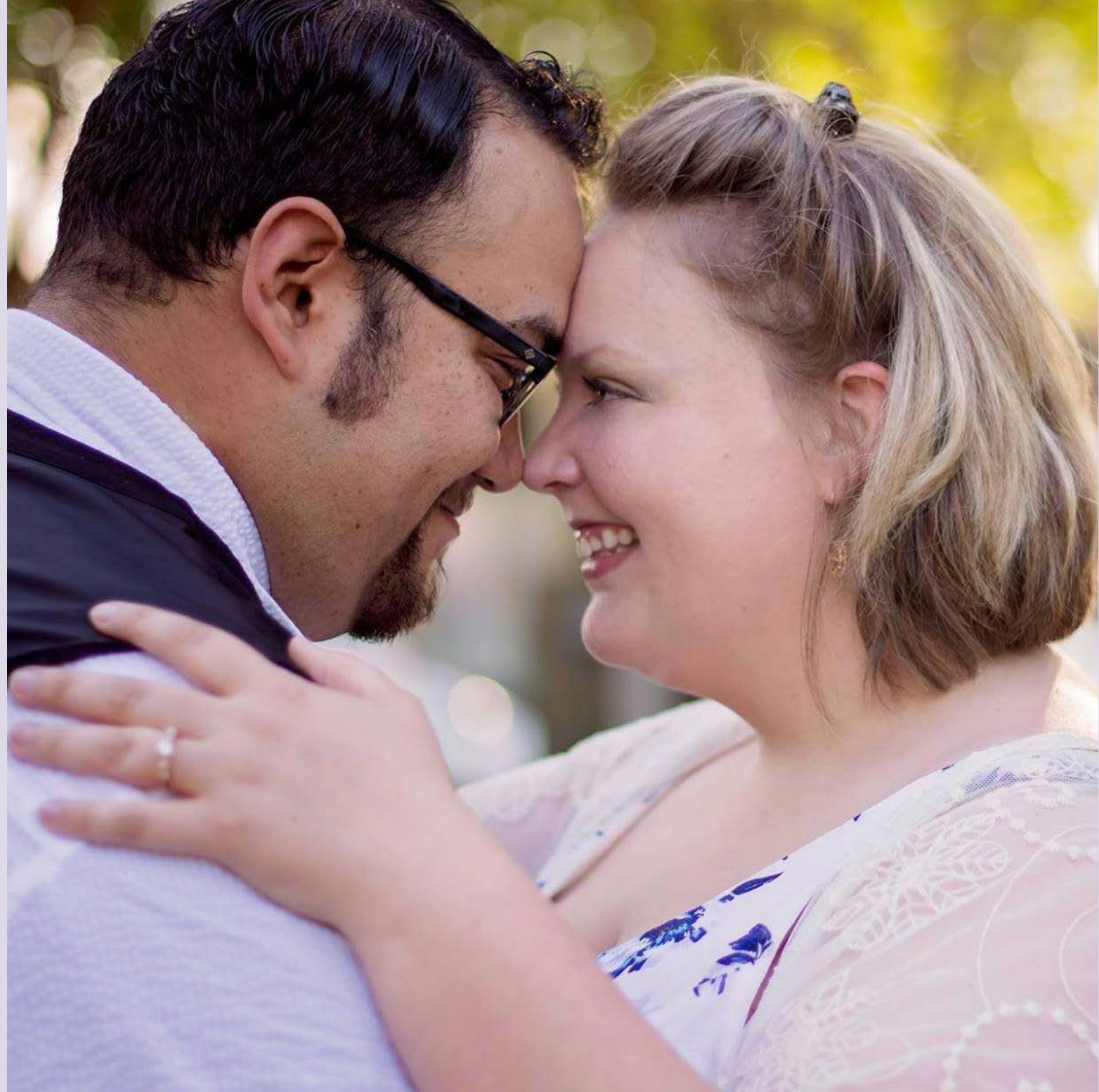
Occasionally, we enjoyed watching movies and television together, but mostly we spent a good amount of time talking, making plans, and dreaming of our future together.

The Proposal

Meg said early on in our relationship that she prized several rings that had been passed down to her from her great-grandmother to her grandmother, to her mother, and then to her. When Ben asked Meg's father, Jeff, for Meg's hand in marriage, he told him his plans to take the stones from her heirloom rings and make a new ring in a setting of his design. Jeff thought it was a great idea and gave his blessing for the marriage. The ring was ready in mid-December, and Ben proposed to Meg in front of our families on Christmas Eve at our family gathering. Things went off without a hitch, and the best part is that she said "yes"!

We live in the Metro Atlanta area with our two dogs, Bella and Sassafra.

We have been married for six years and have been unable to become pregnant. We've explored all our different options in-depth, sought out a therapist specializing in infertility, and we can firmly say that we are immensely looking forward to growing our family through adoption. Meg was adopted, so we know that her connection with the adoption experience will create a special bond and understanding with the child we adopt.



Meet Meg

Age: 36 years-old
Occupation: Marketing
Hobbies: Cooking, swimming, playing water volleyball, growing house plants, trying new restaurants and shops, and enjoying a day out on the boat.

I had always planned to adopt regardless of whether or not I had biological children. Having been raised as an adopted child places me in a unique position. I gained knowledge and empathy from my own journey as an adopted child. Adoptive children need a safe space in which to grow and prosper. Feeling safe and loved is paramount in any home, especially those that include adopted children.



About Meg by Ben:

“Meg is a kind and loving woman who is the heart and soul of our home; her compassion for others is a quality that immediately strikes you upon meeting her. She has been consistently faithful in all areas of our life together. She’s also incredibly driven--initiating, owning, and sustaining her own successful marketing firm. She loves deeply, has a sweet and confident demeanor, cares for others selflessly, and picks others up when they fall - she possesses all the essential qualities that any child would want from a mom. Adoptees face unique challenges; Meg has dealt with those challenges throughout her life. As an adult, Meg can say, “I know what you are going through” because she has been there and has firsthand knowledge.” - **Ben**



As an only child, I enjoyed being with my friends whenever I could. With my father’s help, we would plan weekend getaways, visiting small parks, hiking, walking in streams, or going to bowling alleys. I took an interest in painting pottery at a local ceramic hobby shop. As I got older I played softball and was quite good at it, often playing positions that no one else could play and hitting as the clean-up batter. I was active in the church choir, took mission trips to Appalachia to help work on other’s homes, traveled around the South on choir tours, and participated in the school band. I tried to be everyone’s best friend and really enjoyed weekend sleepovers.

After high school and a short season in college, I spent some time in the food and hospitality industry and turned that experience into a marketing business I own and continue to grow. I have become an expert in social media marketing and search engine optimization. I manage a thriving social media business and have become a key player in a local women’s technology business organization.

Meet Ben

Age: 40 years-old

Occupation: Executive Chef

Hobbies: Reading, training in martial arts, gardening, working out, cooking, trying new restaurants, and pursuing his love of history.



We're on the yellow brick road



Enjoying a local garden

I attended college at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in New York. Aside from my culinary focus, I also took hotel and restaurant management classes. I enjoy cooking all types of cuisine, including European, Asian, Latin, Southern, and Modern American.

On our vacations and when local events occur, I enjoy historical sightseeing, going to museums, and witnessing reenactments.

I've also conducted a great deal of research into Native American history since half of my roots began there.

About Ben by Meg:

"I knew Ben was the man for me the second day we met. He is incredibly loyal and always sticks up for the downtrodden. He has been working with kids through teaching martial arts most of his life and can't wait to pass this love (and many others) on to our children. He comes from a family of missionaries and has served in the field himself. He was in Haiti for six months after the 2010 earthquakes, working in an orphanage and rebuilding churches. Ben has been cooking professionally for twenty-four years and attended the prestigious Culinary Institute of America - needless to say, we are foodies. Ben truly desires to honor God by leading his family in faith and love." - **Meg**



When I was young, I watched my first documentary on World War 2. I was fascinated with the subject, and now I enjoy reading about a wide range of historically based topics. I still watch a lot of documentaries; my favorite series are produced by Ken Burns.

I enjoyed playing football and soccer in school, but my primary athletic love and endeavor is Taekwondo. Over the years, I earned a 3rd-degree black belt and will test for my 4th degree next year. My love of Taekwondo extends outwardly as an instructor. I've been teaching children, since my adolescence, by focusing on developing new martial arts techniques, instilling confidence, and encouraging personal discipline. I've worked with a wide range of kids, including those struggling with developmental disorders.

Family Dynamics



Wedding photo of Ben's extended family

Meg's cousins on her mother's side of the family are all adopted, and her cousin Alexis is adopted by her Uncle.

Meg was always interested in her extended family and regularly visited her mother's family, though her Mom has since passed away. She became very close to her Aunt, with whom she still has a close relationship. As her grandmother's health has declined, their relationship has become even more special. Meg is involved in her medical and home care. Her grandmother depends on her and treats her as the daughter she never had. Meg tries her best to figure out how best to take care of her and make her day-to-day living easier, as well as improve her quality of life.



Rare Georgia Snow Day with my lifelong best friend.

We have always aspired to adopt since it is already a significant part of Meg's story, having been adopted herself at birth. We have witnessed firsthand the joy and beauty of adoption; consequently, we feel uniquely suited to navigate the peaks and valleys that inevitably come from the adoption process. Further, we both have loving extended families who have also been a part of the adoption process and are enthusiastically ready to serve as support systems for us throughout this journey.



Our dad and Benjamin enjoying the beautiful Christmas Lights. It's a yearly tradition.



Meghan's extended family at a summer vacation on the lake.

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Family Traditions



As a couple, we enjoy spring and summer fish fries. Ben loves to fish and hopes to fish with our kids as well. His Grandma Horton would say, “once you catch ‘em, you gotta cook ‘em”...so we do. His mother, Daisy taught him how to clean and cook fish at a young age; he would cook and clean what his father and older brother would catch. Now, we enjoy time with extended family frying fish that Ben usually catches.

Meghan is obsessed with holidays; usually, Ben and her father, Jeff, are putting old decorations up in the attic and bringing new ones down for Meghan to put up. She loves to play host to extended family and neighborhood friends as much as she can. We plan elaborate meals for most every major holiday and Meghan treasures making her loved ones feel welcome and appreciated.



Family traditions vary from events that happen on a regular basis to those which are traditional, or holiday based. As a family, we celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter with extended family. We also have created events based upon our shared interests.

As a couple, we enjoy supporting our local Farmers’ Markets and usually spend our Saturday mornings at open-air markets. We began our Saturday tradition early in our relationship. Another event that we enjoy as a couple is enjoying evening meals together with family; sometimes, our table includes Meghan’s father or Ben’s mother. We look forward to evening meals that include our child and lead into nightly bath and bedtime routines.

Our family traditions are rooted in our family histories and our family is deeply rooted in the South, particularly South Georgia. Ben’s family history includes farmers who always celebrated planting and harvest seasons.



We live in the home that Meghan came home from the hospital and grew up in; she has very deep relationships with families that still live in our neighborhood. Each Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day, our neighborhood has a cookout and pool party. Since we have been together, we have gathered with neighborhood families in our cul-de-sac on Halloween to provide candy for the kids and present a potluck dinner for the parents.



Not only do traditions tell us where we come from and what we believe in, but they help shape our future as a family, a future where close relationships are central to who we are. Meaningful traditions help us during difficult times to remind us of better days and supportive family and close friends.

There are so many new things that we are looking forward to in this upcoming season of our life together. At the top of that list is establishing unique, meaningful family traditions which, we hope, will be passed onto future generations. That's what Tradition means to us - sharing our roots of love, faith and memories that will extend to the branches of our family tree.



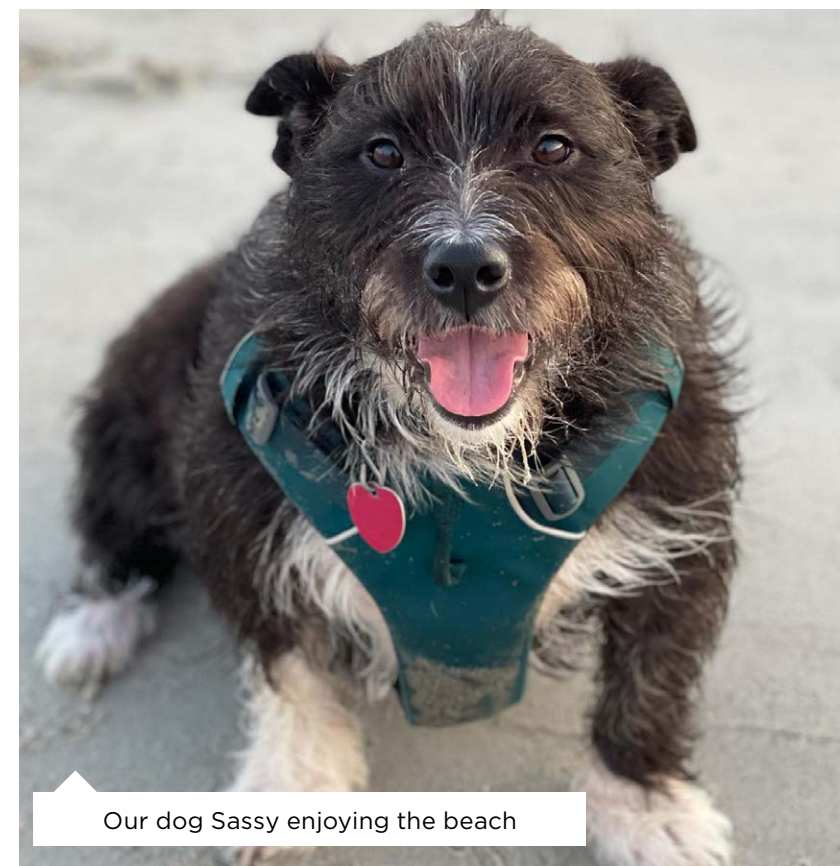
Activities and Interests

Weekly Activities: Our favorite weekend activity is to shop for groceries and to go to the farmers' market for fresh produce and specialty items. We love shopping together for plants and products that enhance our gardening hobby.

Travel: We like to plan yearly trips, and we would love to visit different regions of the United States as well as travel to Europe. Ben has family in Mexico and South Texas.

Traditions: We come from families that love individual and team sports. We believe that the structure that sports bring to children's lives is very important, including camaraderie and sportsmanship. Our family holiday traditions are a big part of our lives, from Easter Egg Hunts to our traditional Mexican Christmas Eve traditions.

Support: We attend a support group for adoptive parents. We love being able to talk to adoptive parents of young kids and share what Meg felt as a young kid now that she can articulate her emotions and feelings regarding the adoption experience. Meg hopes to help adoptive parents better understand their children as well as arm themselves with strategies for any issues that can arise. Our participation in this group has also put us in contact with other caring and like-minded people, who will help support us throughout the adoption process.



Our dog Sassy enjoying the beach



Beach Trip



A man and a woman are embracing each other. The man is on the left, wearing a light purple striped shirt, a blue tie, and glasses. The woman is on the right, wearing a bright pink jacket over a white lace top. They are standing in front of a large mural that features a portrait of a man and a woman. The background is a dark brick wall.

In Closing

Our lives could be fulfilling without children. But it is our deepest desire to parent, to love unconditionally, and to provide a legacy for generations to come.

We hope to provide a Christ-centered home that emphasizes good morals and virtues, valuing both kindness and respect. We plan to provide a safe, loving, and secure environment in which we lead by example. We want our home to be a place where a child can grow and flourish.

We want you to know that we see your selfless decision and deeply admire the strength and love you have shown simply by considering adoption. We hope that as you read our story, you were able to picture what life for your baby will look like if you choose to bless our family.

We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us. Providing your child with a loving, supportive home would be our immense privilege.

With Love,

Ben and Meg

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