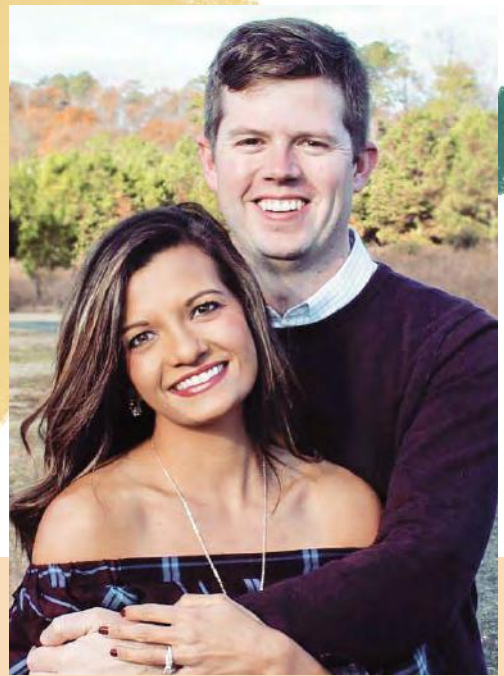


CHRIS & MARA



*Hi!*

We are so grateful you have taken the time to get to know us by looking through our profile book! We are excited to be on this adoption journey, but before we tell you about ourselves, we want to make sure you know how incredibly thankful we are for you and the choice you have made. We admire you - your bravery, strength, and selflessness - in this decision. We want you to know that if you choose us to be a part of your story, we will honor you from the very first day we bring your child home. You will become part of our family through shared conversations and stories, and we will celebrate the qualities we see in this child that they have because of you.

We feel it's important you know we have not reached the decision to adopt because we are unable to have biological children. We have been married for 5 years, and knew early on, even before getting married, that we hoped to grow our family. We have one biological daughter and look forward to adding to our family through adoption. Adoption is something that has been on our hearts for years, and we are so excited to be walking down this path.

Although we are still at the beginning of our journey as parents, we realize that parenthood and trans-racial adoption require a humble spirit and a lifetime of learning and relearning. We are not perfect, but we are committed to each other and our family, and with the support of our community, cannot wait to give your child a life full of unconditional love.

We are grateful for this opportunity and humbled that you would consider us. We will honor you the rest of our lives for this precious gift!

*with love, Chris and Mara*



# OUR STORY

We met in 2013 while collaborating on the same team at work. One afternoon at a team social event, Chris and I spent hours getting to know one another. Little did we know it would turn into a lifetime together! The next day, Chris asked me on our first official date.

We dated for one year prior to engagement. Chris planned the most wonderful day that included a multitude of fun activities to try to catch me off guard. The evening of his proposal, he took me back to the park we walked around on our first date, where he had a beautiful table setup. A wine bottle that read 'Open when we get engaged' was the only thing on the table that was different than the day of our first date. Chris got down on one knee, said a lot of sweet things that I cannot remember, and asked me to spend forever with him. I didn't pause for a second with my YES! We ended the night with a surprise engagement party, celebrating with family and friends!

Chris and I got married one year after our engagement. It was a beautiful day in April at an old train depot. Our ceremony was filled with tears of joy and laughter. After the ceremony, we took tons of pictures with our wedding party and danced the night away.

In our five years of marriage we have made some amazing memories. We love looking back on our anniversary book and remembering the joy and the times of heartache. We believe the times of trial have made us stronger, more dependent on God, and are a wonderful reminder that we chose one another. Our largest mountain we have climbed has been our journey towards building our family, as we were diagnosed as infertile early on in our marriage. During these past five years, God has taught us to trust in His timing and purpose. He's enabled us to be content in our circumstances. Even though our hearts ached from loss, they now beat strongly for the daughter we have and our the baby we hope to adopt.

# Chris

IN MARA'S WORDS

## A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Chris is a confident, yet humble leader in our home.

Chris is calm and steady. He is trusting in Jesus and that plays out when we are making big and small decisions.

Chris is lighthearted and spontaneous. He lives for a day free of plans, where we have the flexibility to change course at anytime.

Chris loves to have a good time and he approaches each new day with an expectation for great things to happen. It is this joy and perspective that make him the best husband, father, and friend.





# Mara

## IN CHRIS'S WORDS

### A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Mara is confident and driven. She has a trust in Jesus that is evident in the way she carries out her life.

Mara is the best example when it comes to servant leadership. She is always looking for ways to put others before herself.

Mara is gracious. She is quick to forgive and seeks to believe the best in every situation.

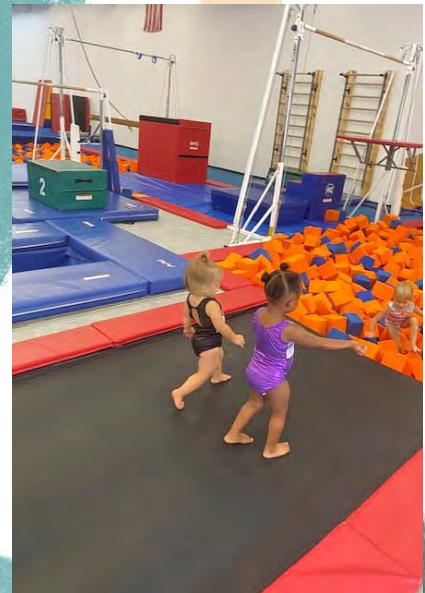
Mara thrives on planning for our family. If it were not for her, we would likely eat a lot more takeout pizza. She keeps our family functioning, from meal plans to play dates.

Mara loves to be active. She loves hiking and running. She has a goal to run a ½marathon in all 50 states by the time she is 50!



MEET

*Holland*



Holland is our 1.5 year old daughter. She is a wonderful example of God bringing beauty from ashes as she is our only child from infertility treatment.

She is a joyful, sweet child. She loves interacting with other children. We enjoy taking her to parks, to swim, and to spend time with her cousins. She keeps us constantly laughing with new words, dance moves, and mannerisms.

We are excited for Holland to be close in age with her brother. We ask her everyday if she is excited to meet him and her response is a rapid head nod. She practices pushing her babies in a kid stroller, stopping every 5 feet to kiss them on the head.

Holland is enrolled in the accredited child-care facility on our work campus. It is a wonderful environment for her as she interacts with many different types of children. We are excited to share this same experience with our son.



# OUR FAMILY

## 1. OUR FAITH

The values we want to teach our children include being honest, generous, courageous, loving, dependable, and being a servant-leader. As their parents, we will commit to modeling what it looks like to live these values out daily. We want them to see us being these things to one another, in our home, and outside of our home. We will raise them in our church and will encourage them to serve and utilize their gifts.

## 2. EDUCATION

We plan to send our children to public school in the future. Public schools in our area are very strong academically, and offer a variety of extracurricular activities. In addition to trusting the public schools in our neighborhood, we also believe this is a great avenue for our children to be exposed to different types of people, both culturally and racially. Because education is something we both value, we will encourage our children to attend a 4-year university. We have started college funds and we plan to continue to set money aside for them in this way as they grow up. However, if college is not the route that our children decide to go, we will love and support them in whichever avenue they choose.







### 3. STRONG FAMILY

We want to create a family where our children want to be with us even when they don't have to be. We are incredibly intentional about our family time. We always sit together at the table for dinner, without any distractions. Even though Holland is young, we believe we are creating a strong environment and routine for our family. We love watching movies, playing games, hiking, and cooking new recipes together.

### 4. CREATING MEMORIES

Memories are such a beautiful gift that we hold dear to remember moments in our lives. We are big believers in living our days like they're our last. We love hard and well. We value experiences over gifts, and we love to travel to new locations. There is something about seeing and learning a new culture, cuisine, and lifestyle that excites us. We have always dreamed of traveling with our children and letting them experience the world through their own eyes.

# VALUES



# HOME SWEET HOME





# THANK YOU

We are excited to grow our family through this beautiful journey of adoption. We want you to know that we commit to raising your child to know and trust Jesus, love others well, and live a life that is full of adventure. We cannot wait to make you part of our story. You are brave, selfless, and loving to have made an adoption plan for your baby. We are thankful you took the time to get to know us by viewing our profile book. We are praying for you as you make this decision.

