



Dear Mother,

There are no adequate words to describe a mother's selflessness in choosing adoption. We can only imagine that it is both a bitter and sweet decision; one that will be remember for a lifetime.

Should you choose us to raise your child, we will honor you and your child by giving the best of all we have to your child. Your child will be our focus.

We both are in full agreement, that Shannon will become a stay-at-home wife and mom, dedicating her energies and talents to creating a loving and nurturing home for our son. This is Shannon's life-long dream and her husband's daily prayer for our home.

Michael & Shannon

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Dear Mother,

For as long as I can remember, my greatest hope has been to be a mother. However, having been single for most of my adult years, I made the decision to save intimacy for marriage, believing that the best environment to raise a child is in a loving two-parent home with a father and mother. So, once I met and married my husband, we agreed to start trying to have a family of our own right away. I did get pregnant 4 months into our marriage, but sadly miscarried around 7 weeks. Since then, we have been unable to conceive. We have looked into other options, including IVF, but were

discouraged by the odds.

But having a child through adoption is something I've planned on since my teen years. Although my immediate family did not adopt (my own parents had their hands full with six children), growing up as the preacher's kid, I witnessed adoption through some of our church family friends. Though our church was a small congregation of about 30 families, at least 5 of those families were adoptive families. One of the families, the Koellikers, in addition to having 4 biological children, added more than 10 children to their family through adoption, their ages ranging from 0 to 17 years. Their family was a beautiful patchwork quilt of ethnicities, laughter and a lot of love. In all the families, I witnessed the struggles and the heartaches, but also the strength and affirmative power love brings to both parents and children...and I want to participate in this exchange of love.

I long to bring a child into our home, to do the work of giving love, comfort and joy to him; to watch him grow and develop; to introduce him to a family heritage of faith, love for God and each other; a love for music and the great outdoors; to help him discover his own talents, and support his academic, social and most importantly, spiritual growth.

I love you and am praying for you as you make this most important decision.

~Shannon

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Dear Mother,

Logan, Macie, Alexis, Bryan, Angela, Sarah and Landon are my treasures. Being a father to these seven children (two were guardianships) has taught me so much about life and about myself. From homeschooling to tea parties with my girls, to doing guy things with my sons, seven good memories come to mind and remind me of why I want to and should be a father again.

Each of my children are adults now, all with lives, and some with families of their own. As my children have matured, my role in their lives has naturally changed. I have become a counselor and friend to my children as they seek to navigate the challenges of life. And while I truly enjoy this new role, a part of me still misses the active parenting role I've played.

I enjoy camping, fishing, boating, swimming and riding bikes, and I look forward to teaching a new son to explore and embrace these things too.

Instilling within a child the self-reliance necessary to succeed in life is a joy. Imparting to my son lessons I have learned is the fulfillment of every man's duty.

~Michael



