

## *A little background...*

Michael and Shannon met at a conference in May of 2016. Michael kept Shannon's number and called her in August that year. Two weeks after the call, he came by train for a visit. Five months later, they were engaged, and in April of 2017 they got married in a little schoolhouse in the country!

Michael is the youngest of three children. His parents are deceased, but the couple stays in touch with his siblings and see them once or twice a year. (They live so far away.)

Michael's adult children live about 5 hours away, but Shannon & Michael communicate with them at least weekly if not more often. They have accepted and embraced Shannon wholly, and she loves each of them. They are an incredible blessing and a "bonus" blessing to marrying Michael.

Shannon comes from a rather large family---she is the oldest of six---and most of her family lives within a 90-minute drive. Everyone gets together often to celebrate the holidays and special occasions. They are all close and each other's best friends. Shannon's father has pastored a church in northeast Kansas for the past 40 years. He and her mother stay busy ministering to the people of the church and community. They are in good health physically and spiritually. Though nearly all their children have moved away from their hometown, most of them are engaged in serving in music ministry vocally or instrumentally at their respective churches.

## *Michael & Shannon's work & fun...*

Michael owns his law firm and is a practicing attorney. Shannon has been a classroom teacher most recently, but presently assists her husband with his law practice. Additionally, she is a recruiter for an educational company, and a freelance writer, contributing articles regularly for a specialty magazine.

The couple lives in luxury apartments overlooking the river, in a very nice neighborhood. They have access to a secured swimming pool, and there's a nice park and trails for cycling and running within walking distance of their apartment. They access these areas when the weather is nice and often have picnics on the grass when Michael gets home from work.

Michael is very much an outdoorsman, while Shannon is much more of the writer/musical type. But with the recent purchase of a camper, Shannon is engaging the outdoors more and enjoying it!

Michael & Shannon each enjoy traveling. Their most recent trips include visits to Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, New York, Utah, Colorado and Idaho.

## *From each of us...*

Dear Expectant 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 in, is 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 investigated other options, including IVF, but received discouraging news about the odds.

But having a child through adoption is something I've planned on since my teen years. Although my parents did not adopt, growing up as the pastor'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 added more than 10 children to their family through adoption. Theirs was a beautiful patchwork quilt of ethnicities, laughter and a lot of love! In each family, I was a witness to the trials, but also to the strength and affirmative power love brings to both parents and children...and I want to participate in this exchange of life and 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 others; 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. Regardless of your decision, I want what is best for you and your baby. I also trust that God is looking out for the best interests of each of us and that your decision, whatever it is, will be the right one.

~Shannon

Dear Expectant Mother,

Logan, Macie, Alexis, Bryan, Angela, Sarah and Landon are my treasures. Being a father to these seven children (three 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 now adults, 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, kayaking, swimming and cycling, 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

*Dear Mother,*

*We wanted to reach out to you to let you know that we are praying for you. There are probably no adequate words we can give you, as we have not experienced what you are now walking through, but we pray for divine wisdom and peace for you.*

*While we are very eager to become parents together, we know that this must be the right decision for everyone involved. Should you choose us to raise your son, we will honor you and your son by giving the best of all we have, most of all, pointing him to, and modeling before him the love of Jesus.*

*We are both in full agreement and began preparing 6 months ago for Shannon to become a stay-at-home wife and mom, dedicating her energies and talents to creating a loving and nurturing home for a child. This is Shannon's life-long dream and the prayer of our hearts for our home.*

*~Michael & Shannon*



Michael & Shannon's Adoption Profile Photos

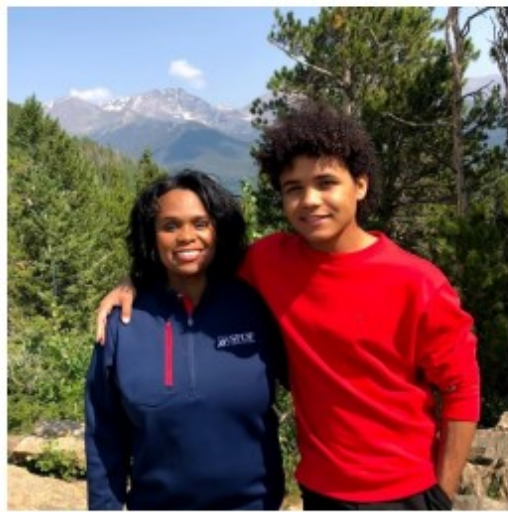


Shannon and some of her family were contestants on Family Feud in 2015!

Michael, looking good in the saddle.

Shannon enjoyed kayaking.







Shannon & niece

Michael fishing

Shannon with nephew

Michael with niece

"On Safari" at Bass Pro

Horseback on our  
Honeymoon



Michael with his children at our  
wedding.

~ April 2017





Michael, laughing it up  
with his two sons.



*Click to  
add photo*







Shannon has a large family!  
We ALL were able to get together last  
year for Mom & Dad's 50th Wedding  
Anniversary!

