



If you are reading our profile and decide that our family is the right one for you, then we want you to know that we have been praying for you and your baby for many months now. We have prayed that God would keep you both safe and well and would continue to bless you and give you peace about your decision. If our family is not the right one for you, then we still thank God for giving you the courage and love for your baby to seek what is best for them. Your legacy for your child will be one of unselfish love.

Wynn

Janel

Job Description:

History Teacher/Basketball Coach

Physical Therapist, Part-Time

Education:

B.A. History & M.A. Education

B.S. Biology, M.A. Teaching & M.S. Physical Therapy

Favorites:

Hero
Spiderman

Hero
Wonder Woman

Memory with Child
Playing Football in the Snow with My Son

Memory with Child
Reading at Bedtime

Quality About My Spouse
Patience

Quality About My Spouse
Humor

Type of Music
Pop

Type of Music
Country or Contemporary Christian

Family Activity
Swimming at the Pool

Children:
Caleb (5) & Emma (4)

What We'll Tell Your Child About Their Adoption

We have always talked openly to both of our children about Caleb's adoption story and as our children mature, and can better understand, we will explain to them why we chose adoption to complete our family. Even though Janel's belly could only carry one baby, our greatest desire was to have more children so we turned to adoption to add to our family. We can't imagine our family being completed any other way. We have received more joy (and sleepless nights) from the addition of our two children than we could have imagined just a few years prior to their arrival. Being parents is truly a blessing, regardless of how that was achieved.

Caleb has a very special scrapbook that we created chronicling his adoption journey. It contains every e-mail we sent to family/friends, and every memento and picture we took of his birth country during the five weeks we were in the Ukraine. Caleb was raised in an orphanage for the first fifteen months of his life, so we tried to capture as much as we could about his life prior to us adopting him. Our children also love to look at Emma's baby book and see the pictures of "Emma in mama's belly". We keep both of these books on a low shelf where our kids can pick them up and look at them anytime. This has led to our discussing how Caleb also grew in his first mama's (this is how we explain his birth mama to them in simple terms) belly, but she loves him so much that she gave him to us because she knew we would be able to love and care for him.

We would also openly discuss your child's adoption story by creating a life book for them. We want them to know about their first mama and how much she loves them. Our goal is for them to be proud of their own adoption journey and to feel that adoption is very natural and precious and to realize they are cherished by many people.

A Recent Story About Our Children

Every night since our children were very small our bedtime rituals have been bath, brush teeth and then we cuddle in bed to read books that everyone has chosen. After our bedtime stories we take turns saying our prayers. Since we began to consider adopting again, we have been praying each night for the baby that God has for our family. Our children have now added prayer for the "new baby" to their prayers. However, we were touched the other night when our daughter prayed the following, "God, I pray for Caleb's mama who carried him in her belly that you would give her enough money to have everything she needs. Amen." It was a humble reminder to us that we need to pray not only for the baby that God has to join our family, but also for that baby's mama too.

Our House and Neighborhood — KENTUCKY

Our home is located in a subdivision directly across the road from our local elementary school, with the fairgrounds and little league soccer and football fields directly beside it. Every home is located on one acre lots so there is lots of space for the kids to play. We have four spacious bedrooms with two bathrooms in our home. We also have a large eat-in kitchen with an island where the kids can sit on their stools to eat snacks or help cook. Our family room is large enough for all of us to gather and have friends and family over. We really enjoy the covered deck in the back. That is where we grill out almost every night when the weather is warm and have many "picnics" with our neighbors.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Sam, Bella & Pumpkin in Our Yard

Our Extended Families



Janel's Extended Family



Wynn's Extended Family

Janel: I loved growing up with three older brothers. They did not always like me tagging along wanting to play whiffle ball, football or basketball with them. In fact, my youngest brother, Christan, and I teased my older brothers, Brent and Mark, unmercifully when they started dating and bringing girls home. Of course, they all got even with me. When I went on my first date at age 16, my brothers were all at my parent's house when my date brought me home. They were peeking out the window and after a few minutes began flicking the outside lights on and off. That was a very embarrassing and quick good night. We all continue to be close and can count on each other even though we all have families ourselves. They are all married. Brent has one child and Mark and Christan each have three children. We all live within two hours of each other and my parents except for my oldest brother. His family visits for at least a week every year and we try to do as many family activities as we can while they are home.

My parents owned and operated two feed and hardware stores for over 30 years. They have both retired and my mother has returned to work part-time for the Census Bureau. They stay very busy with church, volunteer activities and attending their grandchildren's activities.

My family uses every excuse to have a family gathering. We always all pitch in and bring enough food to feed an army. We have New Year's celebrations and Easter egg hunts at my Aunt Jane's house. We have cookouts for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day at our home and my brother's homes. Thanksgiving dinner is usually held at Aunt Pamela's and Christmas at my cousin, Michelle's. When the weather is nice we usually play outdoor games like volleyball, badminton, bocce ball or croquet. When the weather keeps us inside we play card games, especially euchre tournaments for the adults. Our gatherings are always informal with a lot of noise or "controlled chaos" because we have lots of young children.

Wynn: I am the youngest of three children. I have a brother and sister who are ten years older than me; both have two children each. Even though there is a large age gap we continue to have the same close relationship we shared growing up. I was always very close to my parents. We took many trips together, including a three week car trip across the United States when I was a teenager and a trip to Europe with my mom. My mom was a retired social worker and my dad is a retired chef. Although my dad had to go in early to prepare the kitchen for the day, he was always there when I came home from school in the afternoon. My parents have always been very supportive and traveled to attend almost all of the basketball games to watch me coach until my mom passed away in 2004. My father still comes to watch me coach as often as he can and we talk on the phone almost daily. My father is very supportive and excited about the idea of us adopting another child. He bonded very quickly with Caleb and expects to do the same when another baby joins our family.

My two favorite family traditions were trick or treating through our neighborhood at Halloween and family vacations at Gatlinburg TN. We have continued these traditions with our family by taking our children to my dad's house for trick or treating at Halloween and then visiting with my family afterwards over hot chocolate. Yearly vacations at Gatlinburg TN have now become a favorite with our children. Janel's parents go with us so our children are able to spend time with them as well as enjoy activities like playing and wading in the creek like I remember fondly from my childhood.

Fun Games, Events and Hobbies We Look Forward to Sharing with a Child



Playing in the Snow

We love the simple things in life to share with our children. Tickle sessions on the floor, board games on a rainy day, "horsey" rides in the yard, picnics in the park and feeding the ducks at the pond, and evening walks with our dogs are just some of the simple activities we share with our children. We also enjoy playing sports together like basketball, soccer, waffle ball or football. Of course, we don't always play according to the rules, but to learn the skills of the game and to have fun. We have a membership at our local pool and spend many days of the week there during the summertime. We also have memberships to our local zoo and enjoy spending the day at the zoo several times throughout the year as well.



Vacation at Gatlinburg, TN



Ralaxing During the Holidays

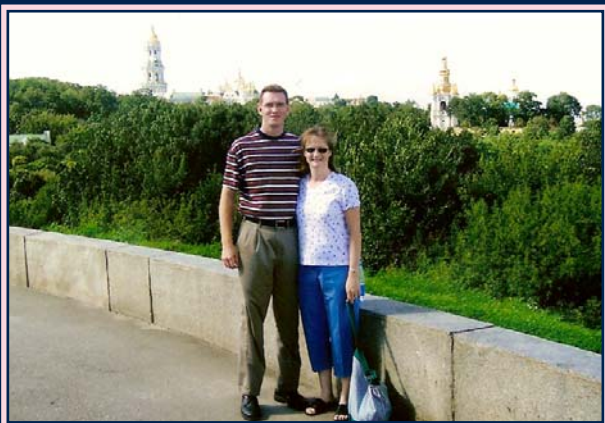


Holiday Party Time

Wynn & Janel



Out for a Boat Ride



Sightseeing in Kiev, Ukraine



Fun Day at the Zoo

Dear Birthparent(s),

Our names are Wynn and Janel. For almost twelve years we have been married and continue to be each other's best friend. Our family has grown and been blessed by the adoption of our son, Caleb, in 2004, and the birth of our daughter, Emma, the same year. Our family also consists of three daschunds (hot dogs) named Sam, Bella, and Pumpkin and two stray cats we have adopted named Mayer and Austin. Our son, Caleb, is so excited about having a new baby in our family and our daughter, Emma, just wants to be a big sister. Another child in our family would be a long awaited answer to prayer.

Deciding what is best for our children has been our greatest challenge as parents. Our hope is that we can nurture our children to become confident, mature, and happy. We are honored to take on this responsibility of molding these young individuals. In considering adoption for your child, you are making one of your first important decisions as a parent. We hope that what you learn about our family makes this decision easier for you. You are nothing short of incredible and strong, courageous and selfless, more than we could ever express in words. Your child will know this about you and all you choose to share. We embrace the opportunity to share your child's tears and triumphs with you as they grow into a happy individual.

As long distance runners, we have always been very active individuals. Wynn played basketball, football and continues to be an avid golfer. Janel played volleyball and softball and now spends more time running around with the kids than running in races. We desire for all of our children to have the same opportunities that we did to explore many different interests to enable them to discover their own passions. We try to guide our children to help them make good choices, but allow them an appropriate amount of independence for their ages so they can become confident individuals.

We believe in reading to our children at a very young age to inspire them to become lifelong learners and to enjoy education. We want our children to recognize the importance of education to allow them to achieve their own dreams. We will assist them by encouraging these values, but also by investing for them in college funds so they will have more freedom to choose their educational goals when they graduate from high school.

The most important investment we can make in our children is by giving them our time. Children learn so much more by example than by simply telling them something. We feel if we want to have the most influence in our children's lives then we need to be teaching them daily by playing and doing things with them. Our kids love to bake in the kitchen with mom or play football in the snow with dad. They also love Saturday mornings when they get to go to the donut shop with dad as a special treat for the week. These are the moments when we get to have simple conversations that can be teachable moments or simply show them how much we love spending time with them. We look forward to doing these things with another child. It's funny that no matter how much you love one child, it never seems to diminish the love you have for your other children. Every child has so many unique talents and qualities for us to explore.

If you are reading our letter and decide that our family is the right one for you, then we want you to know that we have been praying for you and your baby for many months now. We have prayed that God would keep you both safe and well and would continue to bless you and give you peace about your decision. If our family is not the right one for you, then we still thank God for giving you the courage and love for your baby to seek what is best for them. Your legacy for your child will be one of unselfish love.

Sincerely,

Wynn and Janel

