

CRYSTAL *and* ALEX





hello!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LOOK AT OUR PROFILE.

There are no “right” words—something we’ve unfortunately learned on the receiving end of well-meaning statements during difficult times. That said, we just want to say how grateful we are for you taking the time to get to know us. You are so selfless and have so much love for your child to even consider adoption. If you are interested in meeting us, we would love to have a relationship with you!

We hope you know that we have prayed for you to come into our lives and hope, only if completely right for you, that we have the opportunity to be a blessing to you as well.

It’s an incredible relief to be at this point: having our book completed, anxiously waiting to expand our family. We have a cute little redheaded son who is now a two year old and our lives “clicked” when he came into it. We

immediately wanted to expand our family further and sadly, have had several failed pregnancies despite fertility treatments. After lots of options were thrown our way, we entered into a chapter full of soul searching, (Graeter’s ice cream and pizza), and prayer. The only thing that “clicked” yet again, was the peace and joy we found in the decision to adopt. We hope you can find similar peace and joy in the decisions you have ahead.

We hope for the opportunity to meet you. We were very intentional in our decision to adopt, and were very intentional in every decision afterward. We want a relationship with you, but only if that feels comfortable to you. We believe that every child is a blessing, as are you in our lives, regardless of the duration and nature of our relationship, even if it’s just this for this minute.

our STORY



We met at Xavier University where we both attended college. We dated for four years (which Crystal's Dad thought was way too long!) and finally got married in Lexington, Kentucky. We had the big Southern wedding with all of our families having roles in the wedding--(think tons of ring bearers and flower girls and too many bridesmaids), and have been happily married ever since. That was seven years ago. Jobs, promotions, moves, new friends, old friends and a sweet two year old later, we are continuing to weave our story and look forward to the blessings of adoption.

We genuinely love each others' company and love family vacations where we can connect through new experiences and relaxation. We both like to read, with Alex starting tons and tons of books, and Crystal finishing them. Despite Alex's occasional mansplaining, we like to learn from each other and share ideas, opinions and dreams. We were both raised with a foundation of parents who prioritized their relationship, which in turn made the family strong, and we are consistently working to provide that to our family.





MEET *Crystal*

I was born in Lexington, Kentucky and am the youngest of five children. My closest sister in age is twelve years older, and my oldest sister is twenty years older! My parents were married for 50 years prior to my Dad's death from ALS four years ago. My parents had a beautiful marriage. There was always mutual respect, fun and kindness.

When I was in the sixth grade, my Dad retired from heart surgery to pursue a passion for cattle farming. Weekends were typically spent, sometimes (okay FREQUENTLY) begrudgingly, out working at the farm and summers were spent traveling. My parents were ready to see the world and since I was the only

one of my five siblings still at home, I got to tag along with them.

That has become the foundation for who I am: work hard, play hard, value diversity, and embrace new experiences. My parents gave me the greatest gift of a loving home, an opportunity to explore the world, and strong family values.

These days, I love to read and write creatively, and use my home as a creative outlet. I have a slightly unhealthy obsession with paint colors, (Repose Gray, anyone?) and interesting (Alex would say "weird") antiques. I love Target and Joseph Beth, Pinterest, and a great Netflix show.



AGE: 32
EDUCATION: MASTER OF
SOCIAL WORK
CAREER: CLINICAL THERAPIST
RELIGION: CATHOLIC

WHAT ALEX LOVES BEST

My wife is the most compassionate and loving person I know... that's why I married her. She always thinks of others first and this is apparent in her mothering and her love of me. I love watching her with our son Henry, and spending time with her. She always makes everyone feel special and makes a big deal of birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. She's the heart of our family, and is a great Mother to a (hopefully) growing family.





AGE: 34
**EDUCATION: MASTER
OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**
**CAREER: INVESTMENT
MANAGER**
RELIGION: CATHOLIC

WHAT CRYSTAL LOVES BEST

I can get a little too serious at times and Alex is ALWAYS making me laugh, from putting my underwear on his head while folding laundry (true story), to teaching Henry how to sing “chicken wing, chicken wing, hot dog and bologna.” But the coolest part about him is that even though he can be extremely goofy, he’s also extremely smart. He is fascinated by everything and knows enough to be dangerous. He lives for documentaries, articles online, and informative podcasts. He’s had the same friends since Pampers, literally, and is extremely loyal to his friends. When they get together they tell stories about going through peoples’ backyards with a remote and changing the channel on TVs (you can’t make this stuff up). He’s uniquely great--the best man I’ve ever met and I get to be married to him.



— meet ALEX —

I was born in New Bremen, Ohio and am the youngest of two children. New Bremen is a small town where family and friends are very important. I’m still very close with all the guys I grew up with. They are like family, and it’s fun now that all our families are close. Professionally, I’m an Investment Manager and blessed with a wonderful family that we are looking to grow.

I am passionate about being active so running, hiking and spending time with my family are things I really enjoy. I really enjoy taking Henry to parks and new adventures, showing him new things. It brings me great joy to do activities and show him things he’s never seen before. I’m excited to do this with our next baby as well.

I also believe in being a lifelong learner, so I love to read and listen to books and interesting podcasts. I think laughing is nature’s best medicine, so I am always looking for ways to joke around with my wife and son.





HENRY

2 YEARS OLD



We've talked to Henry about adoption, a lot! Even though his understanding is limited at this age, we want it to be a normal, but also very special part of his life. We have purchased several books about adoption so that he understands from a young age about the special relationship our family will have with another family.

DREAMS OF BEING: "Blue?" "Rawr!" Clearly he's confused..

FAVORITE SONG: Elmo song, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Happy Birthday.

LOVES TO: Read, specifically "No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed," art projects, any type of sport, walking around our neighborhood looking for deer and navigating a love/hate relationship with our dog Sadie characterized by "Come on, Sadie" shortly followed by "No Sadie!"



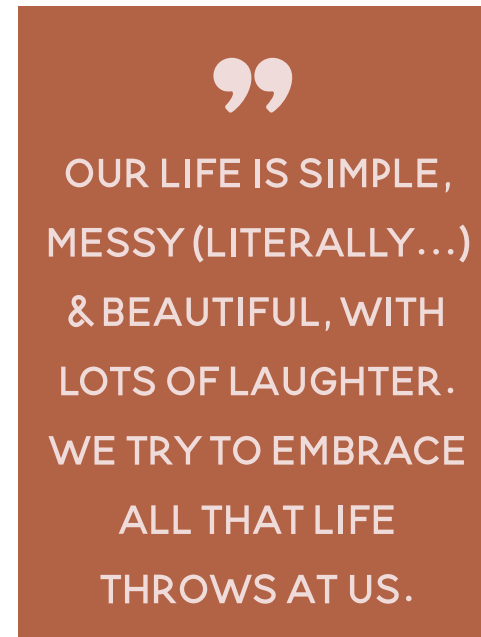
We have similar interests (tv shows, food, outdoor activities, what else is there?) and balance each other out well! We are lake people which is all very fun except that we are a family of sunburners. Sunscreen abound. We love to boat, eat too many brats when grilling out, and generally spend time with friends and family by the water.

When we can't be by the water, Alex is in Finance and Crystal is in Social Work. Alex is able to work inside the home and Crystal has a very flexible work schedule with lots of vacation time has Monday's off. This allows for lots of fun and family time!

A typical evening at home will find us grilling out, eating too many tacos or pizza, taking a walk, playing "ball" in the backyard or heading to the pool. We are very active and love to be busy with toddler-centric activities. We also love those wonderful moments after bedtime where we can crash on the couch and watch a good tv show or read a great book.

Our life is simple, messy (literally..) and beautiful, with lots of laughter. We try to embrace all that life throws at us.

how we fill **OUR DAYS**



family TRADITIONS

Since our son is still young, we are developing family traditions based on what he likes (which is ever evolving!).

CHRISTMAS—We like to celebrate Christmas with our respective families, but we also love to do something special with just the three of us. We put on Christmas carols, read the nativity story and let Henry play with a wooden nativity we have in our home. Santa comes and Alex makes a special dinner. It doesn't sound like much but it's magical.

BEDTIME—Because Crystal's a Therapist, we like to format our lives around open communication. We started asking our

son every night after two books, two songs, and night prayers, "Is there anything you want to talk about?" This was initially during his babbling stage. Now that he's talking, it's typically lamentations about having to share.. "Michael, truck, mine.." It's wonderful, funny and fun, but I hope it fosters a strong foundation for inevitable childhood challenges ahead.

SUNDAYS—Sundays are routinely family days. We go to Church and then plan something family oriented. It might be going to the park for a picnic, walking downtown, working in the yard or connecting with friends for a meal.



OUR DOG, SADIE

We have a wonderful, sweet, child-friendly labradoodle, Sadie, who is 7 years old. Our son calls her "Dee," short for Sadie. She has black curly hair, gets horribly car sick and loves to play fetch. She's appropriately protective of our family (she sat by Henry's bassinet constantly when he was a baby), but loves everyone. When she goes to the dog park, she's more interested in the other people than playing with the other dogs. We love her and are so happy she's a part of our family!





Crystal's FAMILY

I have thirteen nieces and nephews on my side of the family, and they all LOVE Henry. Some are pretty close in age to me.. Only 8 years difference with the oldest! Two of my sisters live in Lexington, while my other sister lives in Austin, TX and my brother is in Ocala, FL. We all get together at least once a year and all the girls get together every year for my Mom's birthday.

We also have an annual Farm Camp with all the young grandchildren at my parents' farm in Kentucky. They get to explore the farm, play outside, sleep in a tent, and learn about our family commitment to working hard and playing hard. I look forward to Henry being old enough to participate. There's even a song (cheesy, obviously.. but fun!) "we're country cousins, from Kentucky, and a happy, happy group are we...." My mom was an elementary school teacher so she loves this stuff.



Alex's FAMILY

My biggest support system outside of my wife is my family. I have a really great relationship with my sister and father and would consider my Dad my best friend. My Mom was a wonderful woman and taught me to have a great sense of humor. She was really funny, but also very nurturing and supportive. She died this year, which, although it's been very hard, has only brought our family closer.

My sister lives in Cincinnati with her husband and two children. My wife and I are the Godparents of our two wonderful nieces. They are so fun to hang out with. I think family is the most important thing in life, so having strong bonds with both of them is really important to me.



OUR HOME

We live in a very active, friendly neighborhood, walking distance to restaurants and urban parks so there are always fun things to do! We love to take advantage of all our city has to offer and like to go to museums (okay this has been twice but we want to do more!), going to the zoo, aquarium, walking downtown, attending local farmers markets and checking out local festivals.

Our house was built in 1928. It definitely has old house charm (and quirks!) but the previous owner did a lot of updating so it has old house charm with modern light fixtures, vanities, paint colors, etc. It's kind of the best of both worlds. We have a finished basement and a large backyard that backs up to a wooded area. We spend TONS of time outside when weather permits, but the basement also offers a large, fun play area when the weather is chilly or rainy.



AT OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME - THE LAKE HOUSE!

Our Promise

Our family is built on unconditional love and we communicate that through kisses, hugs, and always remembering to say "I love you!"

We will travel the world with our family and embrace diverse cultures and experiences.

Life-long support and guidance from our parents have made us who we are and is how our family functions.

We would love for you to be a part of our family in whatever way feels comfortable and we promise to honor the selfless choice you've made.

Our family knows and loves Jesus, and church is the cornerstone of our lives.



A full-page photograph of a family of three walking on a paved path in a park during autumn. The mother, on the left, has long blonde hair and is wearing a mustard yellow bell-sleeved top and dark blue jeans. The father, on the right, has a beard and is wearing a grey zip-up sweater and blue jeans. A young child in a green and white plaid shirt is being held up by both parents, jumping in the air. The background is filled with trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves.

WE HAVE THIS

hope

AS AN

anchor

FOR THE

soul,

FIRM & SECURE.

HEBREWS 6:19