

# *Katie & Michael*



”

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it.

“

*Edith Warton*





# *Dear Expectant Mom,*

We hope this letter is the start of a story that will always connect us by a love for one very special child. We can't imagine the emotions you may be feeling right now. But we pray that, by reading a little bit about us and seeing some of our photos, you can feel the love the four of us have for one another. Know that this love will be extended and poured out to your baby, if you decide adoption is the best option. We also pray that whatever decision you make, you will feel at peace with it. We're praying for you and will always hold a special place in our hearts for you.

We're very excited about the possibility of having another child, and doing so through adoption. We talk often about what the future will look like if we are blessed with another child. We love taking road trips, exploring the outdoors, spending time at the beach, attending San Diego Padres games, and we've even taken our sons to music festivals and concerts (music is a huge part of our lives!). **We do as much as possible together as a family so we can instill lasting family values in our kids.** We will do our very best each and every day to show your child that they are loved unconditionally by us and always will be.

**We realize the road before you may look uncertain and decisions like this aren't made easily.** We thank you for your vulnerability, your bravery, and most of all, your love for your child. If it's God's plan and your desire to allow us to bring your child into our family, we promise to ensure that your child's history will always include you and that they will grow up knowing how special you are to us. You will be the reason we're able to grow our family, and the gratitude we feel because of that is immeasurable. **We pray that wherever life takes you after reading this letter, you feel love and support from those around you and those of us who haven't met you yet but are still praying for you and wishing you all the best.**

With love,

*Michael, Katie,  
Clark & Hayes*



# Our Story

Our story begins with Katie's mom and Michael's aunt. They were friends, and thought that Katie and Michael would be a great match...even though Katie lived in Texas and Michael lived in California.

Despite the distance, Michael sent Katie a friend request on Facebook and messaged for 5 months before meeting in person when Michael visited his family in Texas. They've been together ever since that first Facebook message, and got married almost exactly 2 years after the first time they met in Texas!

**We've been married since 2014, with a lifetime left to go.**

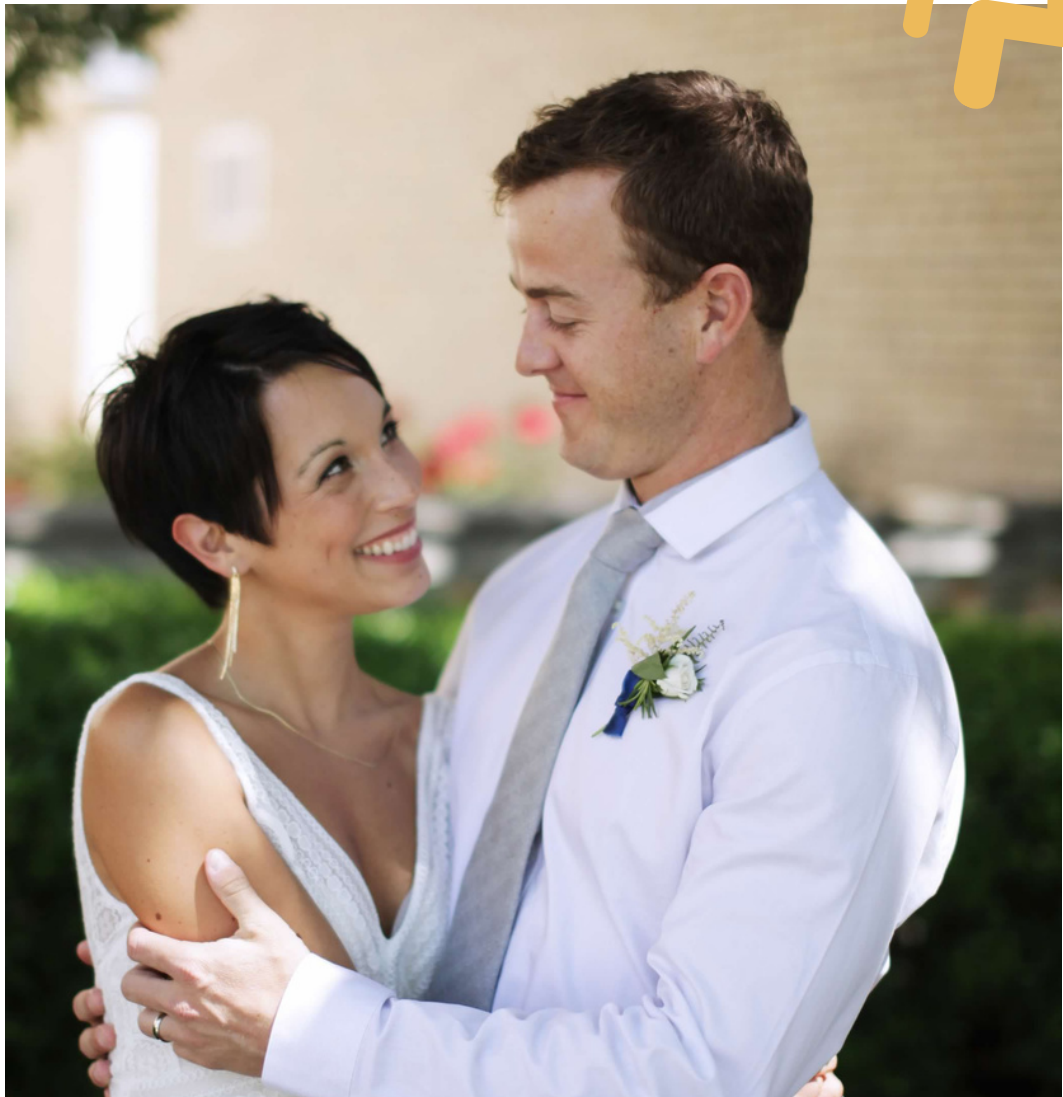
**Our first date was ...**

***lunch, ice cream, and antiquing!***

Our family grew with the births of our sons, Clark and Hayes. Whether we're spending the day at our local beach, or at home building Lego's, we love spending time together as a family. We've always made God and family our highest priorities, and we hope to pass those values along to our kids.



# OUR *Big Moments*



# *We love family road trips!*

We've been going on roadtrips since we started dating, and have tried to take at least 1 road trip each year since then. We've visited many parts of California, driven to Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and even drove to Yellowstone one year!

Our dream vacation would be to take another road trip up the west coast. We did a similar trip while we were dating, but we would love to take our kids and let them experience what we did. If we could make it all the way to Redwood National Park, that would be even better!

*The whole family on a hike to Green Sands Beach on the Big Island of Hawaii!*







# Meet Katie!

She is so generous with her time and our little boys. I rely on her for compassionate advice and moral support every day. She leads our family by example, and we admire her quiet confidence when dealing with life's struggles. Her commitment and determination to make this family the best it can be is awe-inspiring.

## AS TOLD BY MICHAEL

*Katie is one of the most selfless and humble people I have ever met. I love her.*

Katie is the youngest member of her family. She has an older brother. Her parents have been married over 42 years! Even though her family lives in Texas, her parents often come to California to visit, and we visit Texas once or twice a year to visit our families!





## KATIE'S

# favorites

*Katie's favorite hobby is running. She started out running 5k's, but eventually worked up to longer distances, and she just recently ran her 6th marathon!*

### **Favorite Restaurant**

*Winesellar and Brasserie*

### **Favorite Movie**

*The Count of Monte Cristo*

### **Favorite Song**

*"Moondance" by Van Morrison*

### **Favorite Book**

*The Grapes of Wrath*



# Meet Michael!

**Michael is the most loyal, trustworthy person.** His sense of humor keeps the whole family laughing constantly. He's a dedicated father who loves experiencing new adventures with his boys as much as he loves relaxing and reading with them on the sofa. Michael cares deeply for his family and friends; he's always ready to provide support, encouragement and honest advice when needed.

## AS TOLD BY KATIE

*He's my best friend, and I feel immensely blessed to have him by my side as we walk through life together.*

Michael's parents married in college, and he's the oldest of four siblings. They were all close friends growing up, and Michael grew up with awesome grandparents and a big extended family. They're separated by miles these days, but we spend several weeks every year spending quality time with our families.



## MICHAEL'S *favorites*

*Michael's favorite hobby is surfing. but he also loves biking, hiking, and camping.*

### **Favorite Restaurant**

*Claire's on Cedros  
(our go-to breakfast spot!)*

### **Favorite Movie**

*Dumb and Dumber*

### **Favorite Song**

*"Banana Pancakes"  
by Jack Johnson*

### **Favorite Book**

*One Hundred Years of Solitude*

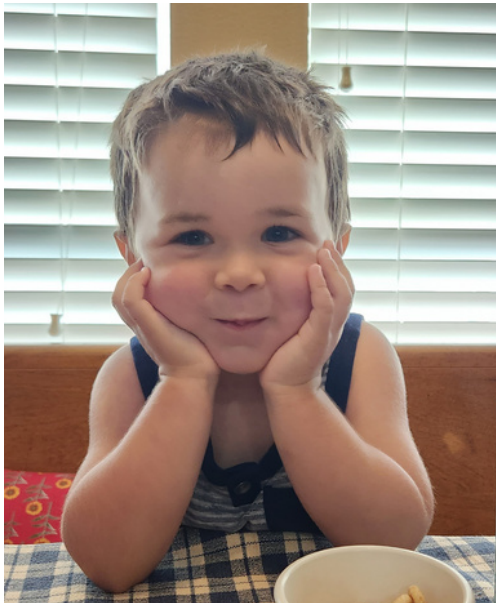


## Meet Our Boys!

# Clark & Hayes

Our journey to having Clark and Hayes was not an easy one, but we are so blessed to have our boys. Clark is 6 and Hayes is 2, and we love getting to experience life through their eyes. We love spending the day at the beach, or at home building legos, or catching a baseball game (Go Padres!). We prioritize spending time together as a family...and ice cream dates. Those are important, too!

Clark and Hayes are very excited about the possibility of another sibling joining our family and pray about it every night.





# Why adoption?

**OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN, OUR HOME IS READY, AND OUR BOYS ARE EAGER FOR A SIBLING!**

Adoption has always been on our hearts and minds since we married. We always felt it would be a beautiful way to grow our family. While we are very blessed to have our 2 sons, we endured several miscarriages on our journey. Not only did these experiences bring us closer together as a couple, they also made us abundantly aware that bringing life into this world is truly a miraculous thing. When we discussed and prayed about having another child, we felt adoption was the path God was leading us on this time.

To us, adoption means love. We feel every aspect of adoption involves love. We recognize that, for an expectant mom to make a decision such as this, you are doing so out of love and selflessness. As hopeful adoptive parents, we are excited to fill our home with more love when we welcome another child into our home. And we are excited to see this love grow every day.



*Our boys favorite room in the house is the playroom!*

If we're not outside, you'll most likely find us in the playroom!

# Our home *Sweet home*

**OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS THE BEST FUNKY,  
LITTLE BEACH TOWN.**

We are very fortunate to live in such a great community. We have many young families in our neighborhood and on our street. There are several parks near by and we're only a 10 minute drive to the beach! We've been in this community for 10 years now, and we hope to stay here for many more years to come!

Our favorite place in our house is the kitchen. Michael loves to cook, Katie loves to bake, and we all love to eat!

We love relaxing at home on Sundays after Mass. We usually FaceTime with our families in Texas, and spend some time outside in the yard, riding bikes, or at the beach.



# *The Holidays!*

## *Katie's favorite: Christmas*

I love all the traditions, holiday music, family time, and holiday baking! Christmas Eve Mass is also one of my favorites to attend each year.

## *Michael's favorite: Thanksgiving*

Nothing beats a holiday that's centered around family and food!





# Meet Our families'









We love...  
BEING  
with  
OUR SONS  
and  
SPENDING TIME  
IN NATURE





Neighbor

KATIE IS A

## Neighbor

The Neighbor is the friend you want. Seeks connections and belonging. Supportive, faithful and down-to-earth. Can talk to anyone—one of their most distinct qualities. Neighbors are rooted in an underlying value that everyone matters. They are the building blocks of the world who restore our faith in humanity.

MICHAEL IS A

## Caregiver

The Caregiver oozes compassion, generosity, and a desire to help. Protects and cares for others, with unparalleled selflessness. Caregivers exhibit exponential concern and attention, willing to help the people they come in contact with, be it friends, family, strangers, or even foes. Their generosity inspires everyone around them and fills receivers with an immense amount of gratitude.



Caregiver



*Before you go,*

*We want you to know...*



We are here to support whatever type of relationship you desire to have with your child in the future.



Just as we've been praying for our future child and will continue to pray for them, you are also in our prayers and always will be.



We will always discuss you and your story in a positive light.



We promise to nurture and support your child's hopes, dreams, and interests. Our 2 sons are very different in many ways, so we know the importance of celebrating and appreciating the qualities that makes each of us unique.



Faith is a huge part of our lives, but we realize everyone has a unique faith journey. We pray our children will always want a relationship with God, but we will stand by them no matter what their faith walk looks like.

*Katie & Michael*



# This is Us





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