



Hello! Our names are Kara and Dale and we have one son, Nathaniel. We adopted him in August of 2008 and are now praying for the miracle of a second child to join our family soon. We've always had dreams of a home filled with precious children to love, but won't be able to conceive those children ourselves because of various medical complications. Thank you for looking at our photos and letter! Although we tried to address questions that we might have if we were in your same shoes, we'd be happy to meet with you to answer anything else.

**Dale**

**Kara**

**Job Description:**

Bio-medical Statistician

Stay-at-Home Mom

**Education:**

College Major: Math  
Masters Degrees in Statistics, Engineering & Public Policy  
Currently Finishing a PhD in Public Health

College Major: English & German  
Masters in Business

**Favorites:**

**Way to Spend a Saturday Morning**

Hunting for rare butterflies around Ohio

**Way to Spend a Saturday Morning**

Sleep in, then go out for pancakes & coffee

**Childhood Memory**

Camping in the Maine woods

**Childhood Memory**

Family canoe trip in Yellowstone Park

**Children's Book**

Charlotte's Web

**Children's Book**

The Black Stallion or any horse book

**Food I Love**

Hawaiian pizza with pineapple/ham

**Food I Love**

Burritos from Chipotle

**Food I Love to Hate**

Cabbage

**Food I Love to Hate**

Hawaiian pizza with pineapple/ham

**Children:**

Nathaniel (1)

**What Adoption Means to Us**

Our first adoption experience was wonderful. Nathaniel was adopted into our family when he was five days old - it was the happiest day of our lives! Nathaniel is a dog-loving, Cheerio-devouring, happy little boy who brings us great joy. He fits perfectly into our family.

Although his birthparents initially wanted no contact, a few months later they came to our home for a visit. They have thanked us many times for the regular letters and photos we send them, and we can't thank them enough for the gift of our son. Sharing Nathaniel's adoption story with him will be natural for us; we are saving the letters and e-mails to and from his birth parents so that he can read them some day, too. (We want him to learn as much as possible about the special couple who gave him life.) We would love to have ongoing contact with birth parents in our second adoption, too, but we are open to whatever arrangement is best for you. Adoption has already been a beautiful miracle in our life - we can't wait to experience it again!

**Our Interests**

**Dale:** I have always liked the outdoors and nature fascinates me. I have been especially interested in butterflies for quite a few years. I love to go on field trips on sunny days to identify butterflies, moths, dragonflies, damselflies, birds, and wildflowers. (And ferns, too. Do you have any idea how many different kinds of ferns there are?! ) I also like to cook; to bake, especially. Homemade breads and chocolate desserts are my specialties.

**Kara:** I love having people over for a dinner party - the more the merrier! I like feeding people, and I like all the story-telling and the laughter and the friendship all gathered under our roof. Dale and I team up in the kitchen before these gatherings and take turns being assistant and head chef. Besides dinners, I also like to host Bible study groups and a neighborhood book club each month. At church, I serve as a peer counselor to other women. Together, Dale and I volunteer by delivering cribs and baby clothes to new moms who need them.

**Our House and Neighborhood**



We sure do love our 4-bedroom home and neighborhood here in suburban central Ohio. Here are the "Top 10 Cool Things" about our neighborhood:

**#1:** Friendly neighbors, including families with young kids (several are adopted). The friendliness extends to block parties and even sleeping over at the neighbors' house when the power went out for a few days.

**#2:** Friendly dogs. (Side note: we plan to have pets when our kids start asking for them, as kids inevitably do! Growing up, Dale had some tropical fish as well as curious cats named Smokey Joe, Speedy Joe, and Taco Joe. Kara grew up with Cassie the short-lived hamster, Kiddo the horse, and Squeak the cat.)



**Our Home**

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued

#3 - #7: a park with ducks, a community swimming pool, an ice cream shop, a library with a wonderful kids' section (we're there every other day), and a scenic river.

#8: The best thing is a bike path right at the end of our street; we spend lots of time taking walks, and we look forward to bike rides there when the kids are sporting their own two wheels. (OK, turns out it was 8 Cool Things!)



Butterfly Hunting By the River

## Our Extended Families



Dale's Extended Family

**Dale:** My siblings and cousins have 24 children between them, which makes for lively family get-togethers. Some of my special memories include picking blackberries in my grandmother's berry patch; hunting, fishing, and mountain-climbing with Dad and brothers & cousins in the Maine woods; exploring Maine's rocky coastline and eating lobster; playing board games at the kitchen table; attending Boy Scout camp in the summertime; visiting my uncle's farm during the potato harvest; and learning to drive our family pickup on dirt roads in the woods. My parents are retired science and math teachers. Dad is an outdoorsman who loves to take his grandkids fishing or berry picking. Mom is more likely to do indoor activities like reading books, playing board games, or making cookies, all of which the grandkids love to do with her.

**Kara:** I grew up in a fun-loving, Jesus-loving, kid-loving home with terrific parents and one younger brother (yes, he's great too!). My parents are young at heart and get an A+ in grandparenting. Their favorite things are creating adventures for their family, and traveling to other parts of the world. In fact, they often host vacations for the whole family in places like Alaska; we do things like hike or fish or kayak together, and then enjoy warming up by the fire and swapping stories at day's end. My parents' love for children extends to Africa, where they sponsor and visit AIDS orphans. Both sets of parents are thrilled that we are adopting again - they are saying prayers for their next grandchild already.



Kara's Extended Family

## What We Admire About Each Other



Autumn in Maine

**Dale:** I fell in love with Kara when we taught English together at a summer camp in the Czech Republic. I was impressed by her outgoing personality, her ability to encourage people who needed it, and her sense of fun. One minute she was putting a fake mouse in someone's backpack to give them a scare, and the next minute she was listening compassionately to another person's tearful life story. Kara is God's gift to me. She laughs at my jokes. She encourages me when I am sad. She loves me just the way I am and yet, she makes me want to be better.

Kara's faith in God is strong and we are learning together the lifelong lesson that we can trust Him no matter what happens. She is active...she grew up skiing and backpacking and loves being outdoors. She asks terrific questions and is not afraid to discuss difficult topics. Kara makes friends easily with people of all ages. She cooks a lot of healthy food...but...she also has an

occasional weakness for donuts and Cheetos. Kara is also a terrific mom! She gave up a successful corporate career to stay at home with Nathaniel. She loves hanging out with him, thinking up fun adventures for the day.

**Kara:** In eight years of marriage, I have come to love and admire a zillion things about Dale, but will list just a few of them here: 1. Dale is committed to his family, faith, and friends. He is always serving other people, for example: befriending international students, loaning his car out, or hosting a crowd for Easter dinner. Faith in God and commitment to family are his top priorities.

2. Dale is smart and curious. He is always reading, and this week his bedside table contains one book on pirates and four or five on bread-making.

3. Dale creates fun wherever he goes. Nieces and nephews compete to sit next to "Uncle Whale" at the dinner table, and beg him to read stories using silly voices. One of his favorite tricks is to hide rubber cockroaches where their unsuspecting mothers will find them, which makes the kids giggle to no end. Dale likes to take Nathaniel out to do "guys' errands" on Saturdays (I'm still not sure what those are); later I find out that they were at the aquarium store looking at all the fish they hope they can bring home one day when I'm not looking! I'm so blessed to be raising kids with one of the world's finest dads.



At a Family Wedding



Vacation in Hawaii



Nathaniel Learns  
We're Adopting Again

# Dale & Kara



Cooking Easter Dinner



Our First Christmas



Cousins Out for a Walk

## Dear Birthparent(s),

We have never met you, but you have certainly been on our minds a lot lately. We have been thinking about you and praying for you...that God will protect your health and the health of your baby, and that He will help you make the best plan for you both. Our names are Kara and Dale and we have a son, Nathaniel. We adopted him in August of 2008 and are now praying for the miracle of a second child to join our family soon. We've always had dreams of a home filled with precious children to love, but won't be able to conceive those children ourselves because of various medical complications. So, we are grateful for the opportunity to adopt and grateful that you have chosen to look at our photos and letter.

Here are the things that mean the most to us, the things that we promise to ourselves and to you that we will provide to our children:

\* **To have a close, stable family:** We love spending time with our extended families-hiking, playing cards, or just visiting over a big meal. We grew up in loving families with healthy marriages; our parents have been married for 40+ years and our grandparents were, as well. They are our role models!

\* **To just be kids:** It seems like many families are over-scheduled and constantly running from one place to the next. We want our children to have a chance to just be kids. Sure, they'll participate in activities and sports. Dale enjoyed Boy Scouts and little league baseball growing up, and Kara enjoyed gymnastics & piano lessons. But kids also need time to just hang out...to explore the outdoors, use their imaginations, or escape with a good book. We want our kids to be happy and exposed to different experiences, but not stressed out by their commitments.

\* **To get a quality education:** We both went to college and later went back for advanced degrees. Lifelong learning is our goal for ourselves and our children.

\* **To see the world:** Traveling overseas and hosting international students have given us new ideas about people and the world. Our children will travel widely and learn from a variety of people, places, ideas, and cultures.

\* **To know God's love:** Our Christian faith is important to us. Our children will grow up in a household of active faith and they will always know that God loves them very, very much.

\* **To know about YOUR love:** Your child will also know that you love them very much. That will be an important part of their adoption story, which we will tell them over and over again.

We love being parents. When we think that we can't possibly be filled with more love for little Nathaniel, he flashes a mischievous smile or does something silly to make us laugh, and all of a sudden our hearts grow three sizes in one day, like the Grinch Who Stole Christmas! We are eager to adopt again and to have our hearts continue to grow. We hope these pages give you a window into our lives and show you what sort of home and family we hope to provide.

Your decision to make an adoption plan for your baby is a brave, loving, life-giving step! Thank you for reading about us and thank you for considering the possibility of entrusting us with your child. We hope to hear from you soon.

Many blessings on you and your baby-

## Dale and Kara

P.S. For more photos of our family, you're welcome to visit our website at [www.daleandkara.net](http://www.daleandkara.net).

