



## Jeff

## Laryssa

### Job Description:

Technical Director for a church of 2000+ members      Adjunct instructor for adult students (which will allow me to be a stay-at-home mom)

### Education:

B.S. in mass communications, and pursuing an M. Div. in pastoral studies      B.A. in Sociology and an M.S. in Management

### Favorites:

**Nursery Rhyme**  
Mary Had a Little Lamb

**Nursery Rhyme**  
This Little Piggy

**Hobby**  
Making Gifts

**Hobby**  
Singing

**Children's Book**  
Green Eggs and Ham

**Children's Book**  
The Secret Garden

**Thing to Cook**  
Macaroni and Cheese

**Thing to Cook**  
Stir Fry

**T.V. Show**  
Numbers

**T.V. Show**  
NCIS

### Children:

None

Your child will always know that he or she was cherished and we will be supportive when they have questions about you and why they were adopted. Our greatest desire is for them to grow up healthy and happy and secure in knowing that they are loved.

## What It Means To Be Parents and Our Strengths

To us the idea of parenting is molding and shaping a life that is created and treasured by God. Stewardship is the best analogy to understand parenting. A steward does not own those things for which he or she is to care. However, a steward is responsible to his or her Master for the care of those things. We are entrusted by God with the care of children. We don't own them, but we are responsible to God for their loving care. We are given the privilege of raising them to be responsible, caring, loving adults who will someday have the same privilege of raising their own children. What we will leave behind in our children is a legacy of our stewardship.

We feel that the strengths we will bring to the role of parenting are love, care, a strong heritage, and (most of all) our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. We will love and care for our child with the love that has been shown to us by our parents, each other, and by God. We will be privileged to raise a child in a home where he or she will know that they are cared for by multiple generations and a loving heavenly Father. We believe there can be no better environment for a child.

## Qualities We Love, Admire and Respect in Each Other

**Jeff's Answer** - The quality I love most in my wife is her heart for others, especially children. She has a sincere and deep desire to care for the needs (both physically and spiritually) of those around her. I admire her intellect and her straightforward manner of dealing with the difficulties that arise in our path together. I always wanted a friend and wife who would help me see the blind spots in my own way of thinking, and Laryssa does so with much tenderness and care. I respect her for her heritage. Her upbringing was in a loving Christian home and based on solid Biblical principles.

**Laryssa's Answer** - One of the things I love the most about Jeff is that he is so kind and loving. Everyone responds to him and he has a gift of putting people at ease. He has a true shepherd's heart and his love for others, children and adults alike, is very evident. He goes out of his way to serve others but he isn't always serious. Jeff's sense of humor is what first drew me to him, and we laugh together every day. He is a wonderful partner, and I am certain that he is going to be a fantastic father.

## Our House and Neighborhood



We live on a lovely, tree-lined street in Ohio within walking distance of the local elementary school where neighborhood families can take their children to play on the playground. We also have lots of walking paths through the woods and by a river where we can go to ride bikes, fish or picnic in warm weather. The trees are gorgeous in the fall and we often take car rides just to look at the leaves.

This house has four bedrooms and a beautiful great room with a stone fireplace at one end. We love to have friends over for Bible studies, game nights, and dinners and they all say how much they feel at home here. It isn't huge, but we fell in love with it the first time we walked in and work hard to make it a welcoming place.



Our Home

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued

We have a small garden in our backyard where we grow lots of vegetables and flowers. There are deer and rabbits that can make gardening a challenge, but we think it is well worth the trouble to have fresh veggies in the summer to eat as well as share with our neighbors.

Our street has a great mixture of families - some with grandchildren and great-grandchildren to other families with young children. It is a wonderful variety and we think it will be an ideal place to raise a child.



Our Street in the Fall

## Our Extended Families



Laryssa, Jeff, and Alex at a Restaurant in Colorado Springs

Most of Jeff's family lives out West in Colorado and he also has family in Texas and New Mexico. When we all get together with them, there are no holds barred game nights that can get pretty animated! On our last visit, we went back to Jeff's hometown with the whole family to watch the local Pioneer Days Parade and later descended upon a local restaurant to share a meal. It was pretty loud but also a wonderful time to reconnect with them face to face. We talk to Jeff's siblings on the phone often, but it isn't the same as a visit.

Laryssa's family lives closer: her parents and one sister's family live in Indiana while the other sister's family resides in a suburb of Chicago. Laryssa has been very close to her sisters all her life and has also played a huge role in the lives of her nieces, Brittany and Bethany. Both girls married recently and insisted on Laryssa being part of the wedding party. We look forward to the girls and their husbands visiting often - we are a Spring Break destination! Facebook and phone calls keep us close, but we visit as often as Jeff's job will allow.

All of our extended family is thrilled about our plan to adopt! Jeff's niece, a mother of four, noted that it was pretty funny to get another cousin at the age of 27; however she is very supportive as well. Our family members can't wait until we add a child to our family; some are already making plans to visit! Jeff's dad, Alex, lives with us and he cannot wait to hold his newest grandchild.

We also can't forget to mention our church friends as part of the extended family. We are surrounded by so many people who are offering advice, support, and prayers as we start this adventure. These people are as close as family and we are truly blessed.



Laryssa, Sisters Deborah & Leah, Mom Linda, and Niece Brittany

## Our Experience with Adoption

Laryssa's sister, Deborah, and her husband, Jeff, adopted their son, Elijah, ten years ago. They were unable to have children of their own and after several years of unsuccessful fertility treatments, they felt that adoption was the answer for them. It has been so helpful to have them to talk to about the struggles they faced since we also suffer from infertility.

It has been an awesome adoption experience for our entire family. Their son is a happy and funny fourth-grader who has added so much to all of our lives. His is an open adoption though they have limited contact with the birth mother (her choice) since they no longer live in the same state. They have been strong, positive role models for us as we prepare to adopt.



Our Dog Abby All Decked Out for Christmas.



Thanksgiving Dinner



Fun in Avonlea Village



Attending a Church Function

# Jeff & Laryssa



At the Wedding of Good Friends



On the Ferry to Prince Edward Island



In the garden of Green Gables, Prince Edward Island, Canada

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Thank you first of all for choosing to give your baby life. We would never pretend to understand the difficulties you have faced in your journey up to this point, but we think you are very brave to consider adoption for your child.

We were introduced by mutual friends and have been married since October of 2005. God brought us together and we are still amazed and grateful that He did because we complement each other so well. The only thing missing in our lives is a child to cherish and shower with love. God knew that we would be unable to have children of our own, so we are confident that His plan is for us to adopt - we are so excited at the thought of finally becoming parents!

If you do choose to make an adoption plan and choose us to parent your child, we want you to know that we will always speak of you with respect and admiration and will be more than pleased to share pictures and letters with you as your child grows up. Your child will always know that he or she was cherished and we will be supportive when they have questions about you and why they were adopted. Our greatest desire is for them to grow up healthy and happy and secure in knowing that they are loved.

Education is important to both of us and we will encourage a college education as well as experiencing other cultures through travel and missions trips. Our faith is the foundation of our lives, so we will be in church each Sunday and will strive to be the best models of ethical and moral behavior for the child God blesses us with no matter where we are.

We love to make each other laugh, and we both think that the sound of a child's laughter is one of the most beautiful sounds on earth. Jeff loves to make up silly, nonsensical songs - he even made one up for the dog! He sings it to her all the time and often will sing in a made-up language when happy and content - which is most of the time. Laryssa just loves to sing and has a whole bunch of lullabies just waiting to be sung to a baby who can't get to sleep. She is also an extrovert who loves acting and comic roles are her forte. She finds the humor in everyday life and has a knack for making Jeff crack up - not always at the most opportune times! Music and laughter will always be a big part of our home and are wonderful things to share with a child.

We like to go camping and exploring and also enjoy experiencing new things. Adventure is our aim, though at times we end up getting lost! We always manage to find our way home without too much trouble and take pleasure in the time that we get to spend together while doing it.

Holidays are special times for us. Jeff's favorite holiday is the Fourth of July; we will stake out our spot for fireworks for hours before dark, but it is worth it. Laryssa loves Christmas the best; a favorite activity is to drive around after dark looking for the best light displays. More than that, however, is reflecting on the true reason for Christmas - the birth of Jesus, our Savior - and how much God loves us to have sent us that Gift. We usually spend Christmas with Laryssa's family and her mom will make Eggs Benedict on Christmas morning with homemade Hollandaise sauce - it is worth the trip just for that! There is also time spent just catching up, playing games, visiting other extended family and watching "It's a Wonderful Life" - oh yes, and eating the Christmas cookies and candies that Laryssa's mom and sister make!

Our passion in life is to serve God in order to bring Him glory. Jeff has been called to preach, so he is currently pursuing a Master's of Divinity. We don't know exactly what God's plan is for us, but we are confident that He is watching over our every step. We strive to bless others and show them the love that God has for them as well.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read about us. We pray that God will give you comfort and hope during this entire process.

God bless you,

**Jeff and Laryssa**

