



We are so excited to become parents. We promise you we are preparing our hearts and home to welcome this little one with open arms. He or she will be surrounded with love by us, our families and our friends. Thank you for taking this time to get to know us. Our thoughts are with you and we will continue to pray for you and your baby.

Our Strengths as Individuals

Mike is a hard-working and loyal person. He believes in giving his best to what he is doing – whether restoring his project car or completing a task at his job. He is committed to loving and caring for those who are important to him. As a new father, his love and loyalty will provide a stable and secure environment in which this child can grow and develop. He is also fun-loving and has a great child-like spirit. When spending time with nieces or nephews, he can often be found bouncing a child on his knee or wrestling on the floor with them. He loves children.

Rachael is a planner and a person who loves tradition. She enjoys creating an environment of warmth and joy in her home. She also finds much happiness in simple things – making a family meal, planning a weekend getaway, decorating the house for holidays... Rachael looks forward to relying on these strengths to help build loving and nurturing surroundings for this child.

Both of us believe that our most important strength does not come from ourselves at all, but instead from God. Our faith and trust in a personal and loving God is at the center of our lives. We feel sharing this faith is our most important privilege as parents.

We Have Close Relationships with Our Extended Family

Get-togethers with Mike's extended family always involve food! Coming from an Italian heritage, celebrating around a meal is always the norm. We remember a time when Rachael's parents joined us on a trip to Mike's hometown. His mom welcomed us into the house and straight to the dinner table. For this particular meal, it was just the five of us – but you would have thought she was feeding an army! She brought out a bowl of pasta so large it took both arms to carry it...and then said, "I'm just so worried this won't be enough!" Her favorite way to show love was through sharing wonderful meals, and the tradition has continued as we now share meals and fellowship with his siblings as often as we can.

Rachael's parents live nearby and many of our memories with them involve celebrating birthdays and holidays. One particular activity we all love is searching for a special gift that the receiver won't expect. These gifts don't have to be fancy or expensive - as a matter of fact, they are usually much better if they are not. Most often they just show the thought and love that the giver put into choosing it. This Christmas, Rachael's parents connected with the coach of Mike's favorite college basketball team and got tickets for an away game near our town. Mike was thrilled at the chance to see his team, but also to know his family cared enough to search out something that meant so much to him.

Our House and Neighborhood



Both Mike and Rachael grew up in small towns and want the same experience for this special child. Our community is in a beautiful rural part of Ohio. When we go to the grocery or out to dinner, we often see people that we know. Our community values its children and is supportive of our schools and families. Driving through town on a summer evening, you would see families cheering on local ball teams or perhaps grilling out and sharing a meal on a back deck.

Mike

Rachael

Job Description:

Lead Planner/Scheduler for the Maintenance Department in a Manufacturing Plant. He daily prepares plans for teams of technicians who maintain the plant's key machinery.

Academic Advisor for a Large Public University (Plan to Work Part-Time After Adoption)

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education & Master of Arts in Higher Education & Student Affairs

Favorites:

Hobby
Playing Guitar

Hobby
Camping

Quality About My Spouse

Down to Earth

Quality About My Spouse

Faith in God

Sport to Play
Softball

Sport to Play
Biking

Thing to Cook
Chicken Wings

Thing to Cook
Baked Goods

Type of Music
Progressive Rock

Type of Music
Contemporary Christian

Children:

None



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Washing Dishes After Christmas Dinner

When we chose to live in this area, we were drawn by many of the outdoor activities available nearby. We love to bike, and a beautiful bike path starts near our home. We also enjoy spending weekends camping and canoeing at one of several nearby parks.

We feel a home is a place where family should spend time together. We enjoy sitting on the front porch or back deck enjoying a warm evening. We love to talk over the day's events at the dinner table, or curl up on the sofa to watch a favorite show together. Our home is a haven for us, and we look forward to making it a special place for a child to grow.

An extended portion of our community is our church family. Our church home will provide this little one with a nurturing environment to learn about his or her faith and God's special love for all His children. Our church building is a short drive from our home and we love worshipping there on Sunday mornings and taking part in fellowship activities during the week.

Our Extended Families

Rachael was raised in a small family filled with love. She is an only child and has many wonderful memories of special times with her parents...family vacations to a small lake in Minnesota, Saturday morning errands with her dad, and being read to by her mom to name a few.

Rachael's parents have recently moved to a small community approximately 15 minutes from our home. It is wonderful to be able to easily share both special occasions and everyday events. We often share meals together, spend time boating on a nearby lake, or cheering together for Buckeye football games.

Rachael's parents are also excited to be able to assist with childcare when Rachael is working part time. It is a blessing for us to know her mom and dad will be sharing the same love and joy with this child as she enjoyed growing up.

Mike's family is as large as Rachael's is small. He grew up the youngest of five children in a home where friends and family were always stopping by. His father passed away when he was just seven, but left a strong legacy of love of family and pride in one's work. Mike's mom did an amazing job raising her children - teaching them to love each other and keep family ties strong. She passed away last spring, and we miss her a great deal.

Much of Mike's extended family live within several hours of us and we enjoy seeing them several times each year. Holiday gatherings always involve lots of laughter and good food. Siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews often gather together to share old memories and make new ones.

Both sides of our family are excited and supportive of our decision to adopt. Your child will enter a family filled with love and acceptance. You can feel sure that a warm and joy-filled environment will surround this little one.

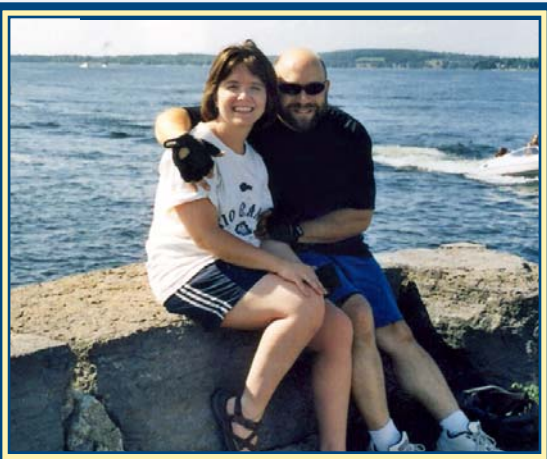


Dinner with Rachael's Parents



Celebrating Mike's Mom's 75th Birthday with All of the Family

What We Like to Do for Fun



Catching Our Breath on a Bike Ride Along the Lake Champlain Peninsula

Both Mike and Rachael love the outdoors. We have a small camper that we love to pull to one of several nearby campgrounds. There's no better way to spend a summer evening than making s'mores and listening to the crickets sing. We also enjoy canoeing and biking and are blessed to have several bike paths and small lakes nearby.

We also have a passion for traveling and seeing new things. We joke about the fact that we start planning for our summer vacation in the middle of winter. But planning is half the fun - and we love to look forward to exploring new places. We also enjoy short weekend getaways, finding fun places to visit in Ohio and our nearby states.

Mike and Rachael also have several individual interests that are important to them. Mike has loved to play the guitar since he was young, and continues to play often. He's turned a corner of our basement into a "studio" and enjoys playing in the evenings and preparing music for our Sunday morning worship team at church. Rachael loves to read and can often be found curled up with a book or magazine. Novels, travel books, history...if it has pages, she enjoys seeing what's inside.

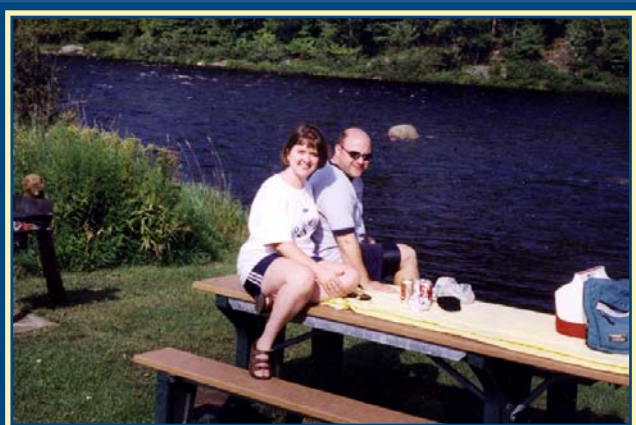


Celebrating Rachael's Graduation
from Graduate School

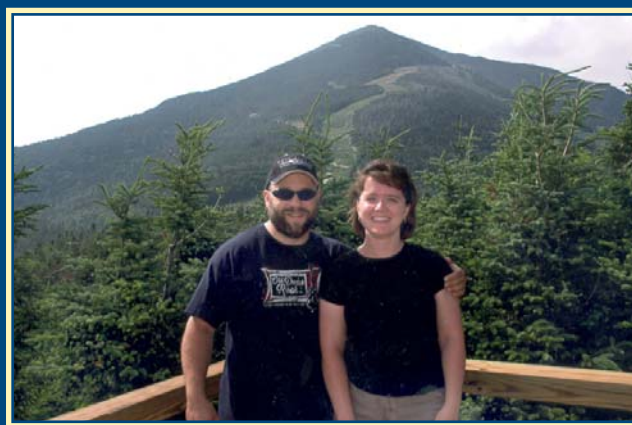


Attending a Basketball Game

Mike & Rachael



A Picnic by the River



Our Favorite Vacation Place - The
Adirondack Mountains in New York



Mike Playing Guitar with Our
Church Worship Team



Rachael Taking in the Scenery on a
Bike Ride

Dear Birthparent(s),

As we write this letter, we are thinking back on the many times we have already prayed for you and your baby. Although we do not know you, God knows you and cares about you and your child so very much. This knowledge brings us both peace and hope as we start down this path, and we pray it will be a comfort to you as well.

There are so many things we'd like to tell you. It is our hope that this letter and our profile can give you a picture of who we are and what is important to us. We have been married for eight years and truly have a wonderful time enjoying life as each other's best friend. As we've waited for God to grow our family, we've had time to let our lives come to a peaceful and stable place. Our marriage is a friendship and we are ready to open our hearts to a child. We have worked hard over the past years to come to a place financially where Rachael will be able to work only part-time, allowing more precious time at home with a child. Rachael's parents live nearby and are excited to help us as well.

We'd like to share with you some of the things that would be important to us as parents. Both of us have special memories of growing up in families that were very active and involved in our lives. Rachael remembers her dad getting down on the floor next to the Christmas tree with her and playing with a special new toy. Mike thinks back on his mom making their family's basement a place where he and his friends could get together to play pool or listen to music. Following these examples, we also want to be parents that are actively involved in our child's life. As we think toward the future, we imagine family vacations, school plays, and homework at the dining room table.

We feel our community is a special one and much of our decision to move here was based on the type of environment in which we hoped to raise a family. Both Mike and Rachael grew up in small towns where people knew each other and relationships were valued. We love being in a similar environment now. This is a community that values families, children and education and we would feel blessed to raise a family here.

We also want to provide a home in which a child will feel secure and cherished. We want our child to know through our words and actions that he or she is loved unconditionally. We will hold and hug this child and tell him or her that we love them each day. We also feel it will be an amazing privilege to teach a child that he or she is loved by God. It will be our most important responsibility as parents to introduce a new little life to a relationship of faith that will be important for a lifetime.

Please know that we will tell this child of your precious gift of life. He or she will know of your amazing love. We feel it is so important that our family treasures the wonderful blessing of adoption and openly celebrates this special heritage. We hope that the pictures and letters we provide will be a comfort and blessing to you.

We are so excited to become parents. We promise you we are preparing our hearts and home to welcome this little one with open arms. He or she will be surrounded with love by us, our families and our friends. Thank you again for taking this time to get to know us. Our thoughts are with you and we will continue to pray for you and your baby.

Sincerely,

Mike and Rachael

