

Adoption Story

By: Ben and Sam Olsen



Five years ago, we sat in church and listened to a fellow congregation member talk about their adoption experience. Throughout the entire talk, there was an overwhelming feeling that adoption was the path we were supposed to take. God was talking to us, but we didn't listen. We would argue that our adoption journey started at that moment in church. This is despite the fact that we didn't actually start the process of adoption until years later, after numerous medical appointments, tests and failed infertility treatments.

Once we found an adoption agency that was the right fit, the home study process took about a year to complete. We were devastated to learn that it could take anywhere from 1 to 4+ years for our family of 2 to become a family of 3. We had already been waiting to start our family for 4 years, we didn't want to wait another potential 4 years.

We made the choice to fill our time with travel, time at the lake and going on adventures with family and friends; and the time seemed to fly by.

After only 4 months of being a family "in waiting", on a beautiful summer day, driving home from work, we unexpectedly had an incoming phone call from our social worker. The conversation that followed is one that will never be forgotten—an expectant mom wanted to meet with us.

The two weeks leading up to our meeting were filled with anxiety and unknowns—what should we say?, would she like us?, what would she want to ask us? We had no idea that the day we met and the moment we hugged would change *all* of our lives forever. We were forever tied together by a bond not many understand. We left the meeting humbled, honored and in disbelief that we would be bringing home our precious daughter in less than a month.

We stayed in constant contact over the next 3 weeks as we all (quickly) prepared for the birth of our daughter. Our beautiful daughter came into the world very quickly two days after her due date. We were incredibly honored to be part of the hospital experience. Our daughter's birth mom, family and friends were able to spend 2 hours with her before we arrived and we are so grateful that they had those moments with her to make their own memories.

We spent the next day in the hospital, going back and forth to one another's rooms and spending precious time together. While we felt overwhelming feelings of happiness and gratitude, our heart ached for the upcoming hospital discharge and good-bye. We hoped and prayed that we would stay in contact with our daughter's birth mom, but prepared our hearts for a closed adoption at her request.

As always, God has a plan and our closed adoption very quickly became an open adoption. We communicate regularly with text messages, pictures, videos, gifts in the mail and visits. She was invited to our daughter's first birthday party and we celebrated her and the journey that we are all on together, surrounded by our family and friends.



As the years pass, our journey will change and look different than it does today, but one thing remains true, we are family, tied together by an amazing, beautiful bond.

Sometimes we kick ourselves for not listening when God was talking to us on that day. But then we remember, that journey wasn't ours, because it would not have led us to our beautiful daughter and her amazing birthmom. That experience taught us one of life's most important lessons, God always has a plan.