



Dan & Shannon



# Hello, We're Dan and Shannon



Thank you for considering us to become your child's family. We can only imagine the difficulty of the decision that you are making and we honor you for wanting to give your child the best possible life.

Even before we were married we talked about adopting. We have one biological child and have tried to have another but have had three miscarriages. We long to grow our family and adoption is the perfect fit! Adoption has been growing in our hearts for years and we are eager for the gift of another child in our lives. If you choose us to parent your child, please know that your child would be loved, valued and well taken care of.

Thank you for taking the next few moments to get to know our family. We pray that whatever your choice it would bring joy and healing to your heart.





# Our lives together

We met in college and began a friendship. Shannon's first impression of Dan was that he was a "teacher's pet" since he is incredibly smart and naturally does well at academics. Dan was first drawn to Shannon's sense of humor and that she was "cute." We didn't know until later that we would each go to "study" at the library secretly hoping to run into the other! Our friendship continued to grow over three years until we eventually started dating.

Dan was a tricky one with the proposal after several months of dating. The day before he proposed he took Shannon to a fancy restaurant. Since it was so nice and they were both dressed up, Shannon remembers thinking the whole time that Dan was going to propose. Dan even got down on one knee at one point (but not to propose)! The next day we went to the beach just to see the sunset and Shannon was in her sweats. Dan arranged to have the ring in a seashell that was on the beach. Dan asked Shannon if she wanted to see a "really cool shell." He then got down on one knee, handed it to Shannon, and asked her to marry him.



We were married on March 16th, 2002 in a church in California. It was a beautiful ceremony and we were attended by three bridesmaids and three groomsmen. Our colors were pale pink and white and we especially loved the beautiful columns in the church. During the ceremony we had a time of worship, communion, and candle lighting. We enjoyed our reception with the four-tiered cake, dancing, and our family and friends throwing bird seed at us as we left for our honeymoon in Tahiti.

We have been married 9 years now.



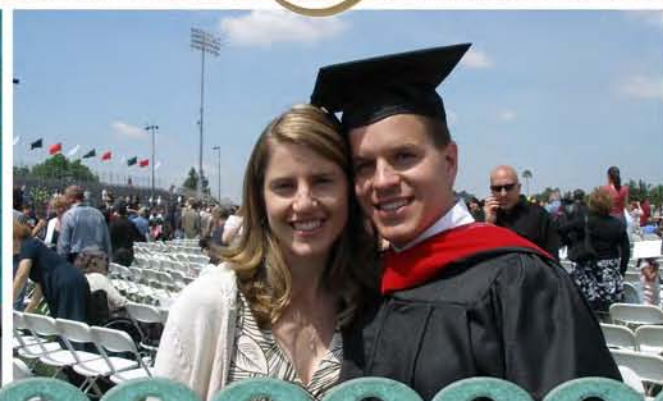
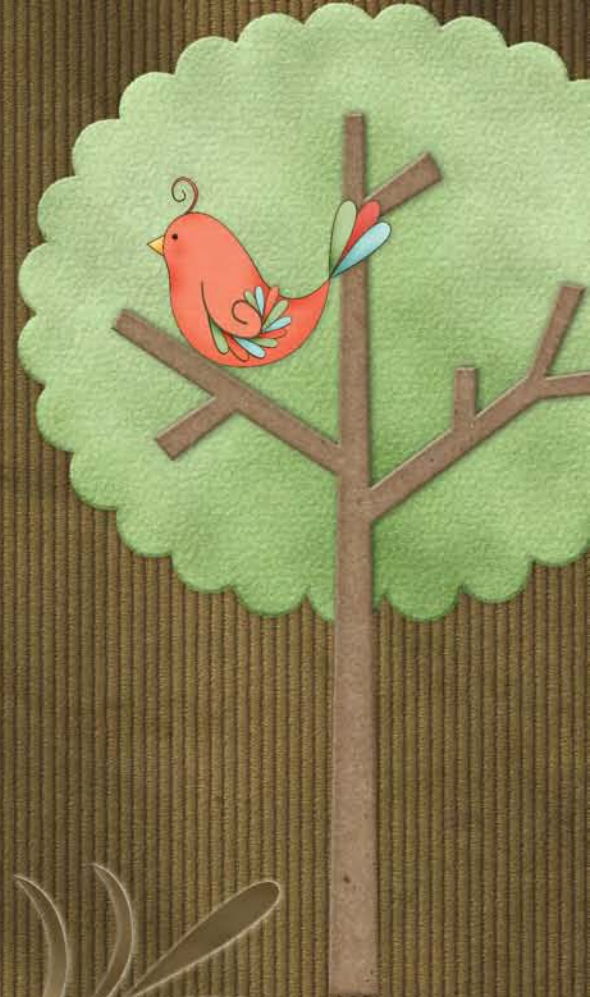
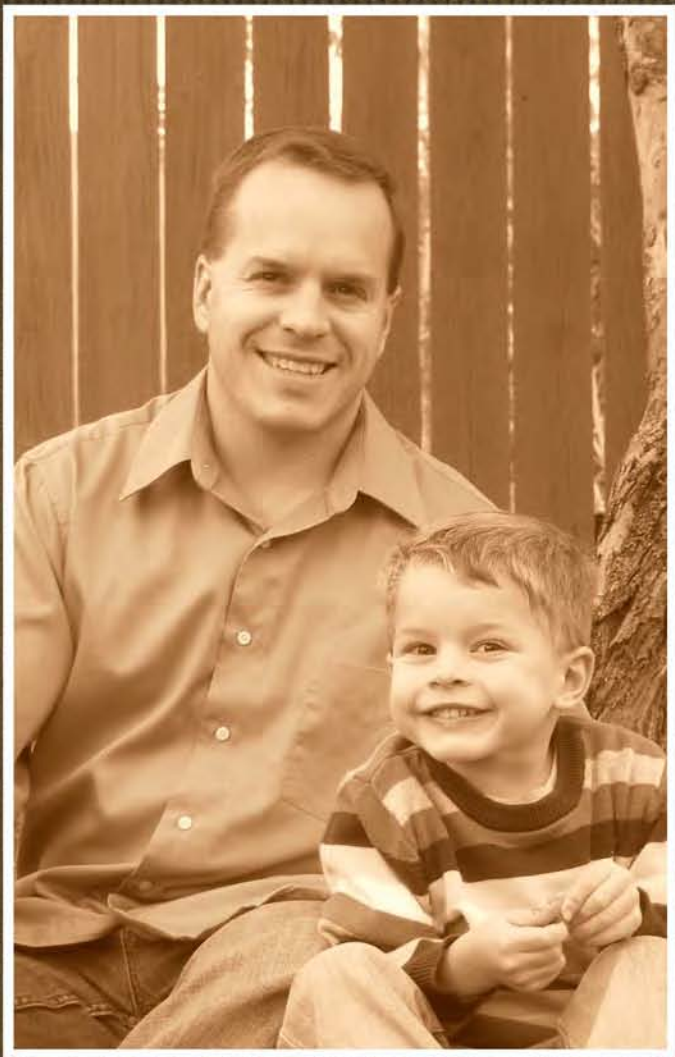


# My husband, Dan



My husband is a humble man. Dan is not weak but he puts others above himself and does the right thing, even when it is personally not easy for him. He is a man who honors others despite the way the world might treat that person. He is a thinker, researcher, and planner. I especially appreciate his willingness to grow and become a better man, husband, and father. Dan works as a pastor and at an outdoors retail store.

Dan loves children and loves playing with them! I often find him sitting on the floor playing cars with Micah. He is a wonderful story teller and Micah always wants Daddy to tell him a story at bed time. He is good at focusing on kids' identities and drawing that out of them. There are some boys at church that do not have a strong dad figure in their life and Dan always makes it a point to give them lots of love and attention.



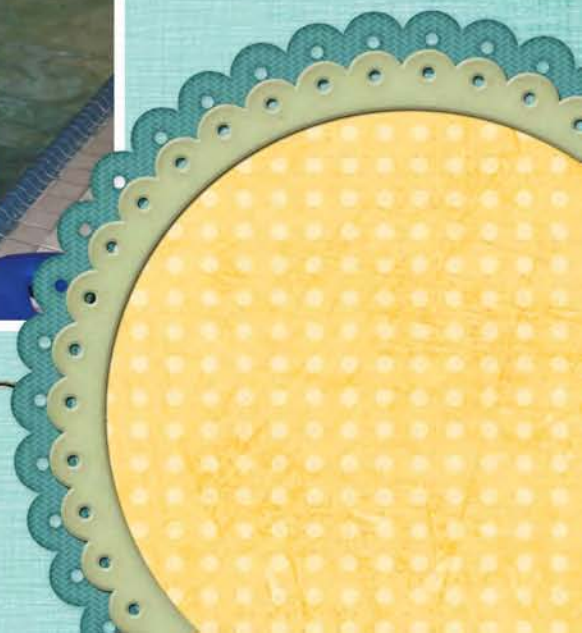


## My Wife, Shannon

Shannon is fun-loving and laughs a lot. She loves to be organized and have things clean. She's outgoing and people (including myself) enjoy being around her. She's optimistic about life and our responsibilities, and she likes to get out and try new things. Shannon is a stay at home mom and also teaches swim lessons for the city.

Shannon is a wonderful mom. She taught first grade for four years and through it has come to be very effective in teaching kids (including Micah) life lessons and how to make good choices. Shannon is very patient with children and has a great way of making learning fun for kids. Shannon is always looking for fun things to do with Micah and takes him often to the library and to a mommy's play group. Personally, I think Shannon is amazing with kids, and I try to learn from her in interacting with our own son as well as other kids.



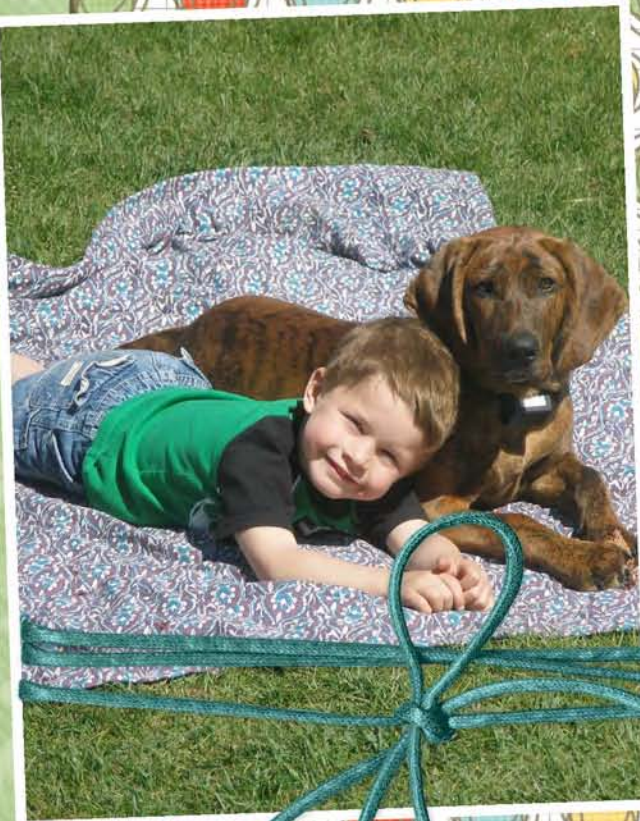


# Our son, Micah



We have one son, Micah, who is four years old. He has a personality much like Shannon's; he is decisive and knows what he wants. He is funny and likes to dance and laugh and be silly. His all time favorite thing to do is play cars; he loves his cars and knows each one. He also plays soccer and is quite athletic. He is in swim lessons and really enjoys that. Micah is a typical boy and is outside whenever he gets a chance running and playing in his sand box.

As a family, we enjoy a lot of different activities: bike riding , playing games, watching movies. One of our favorite things to do as a family is geocoaching: when we take a GPS and find caches (little boxes) that others have hidden. It involves hiking and "searching for treasure" as Micah would call it. All of us truly enjoy geocoaching and this summer we are planning on taking our new puppy with us as well.



# The Gift of Family

This new baby will be blessed with both sets of grandparents , four uncles, four aunts, fifteen cousins and a wonderful big brother!

Holidays are always big family events. We are blessed to have extended family live nearby to celebrate with. We usually trade off every other holiday between Dan's family and Shannon's Family. In the fall Shannon's parents host a "pumpkin carve off." We all get together and carve pumpkins on a long table outside by the fire pit then cast our votes for our favorites. Afterwards we have a great meal and then when it gets dark we go out and light all the Jack-o-lanterns.

At Christmas we attend a candle light service at church afterwards come home and make cookies for Santa and watch a Christmas movie. After Micah is in bed, Dan and Shannon dance to Christmas music in the living room. Christmas morning we celebrate with just our family: we open stockings, a few gifts and have breakfast. We then go to extended family for the rest of the day and continue with gifts and eating good food. All of our holidays are filled with fun traditions and creating memories.



favorite



faces

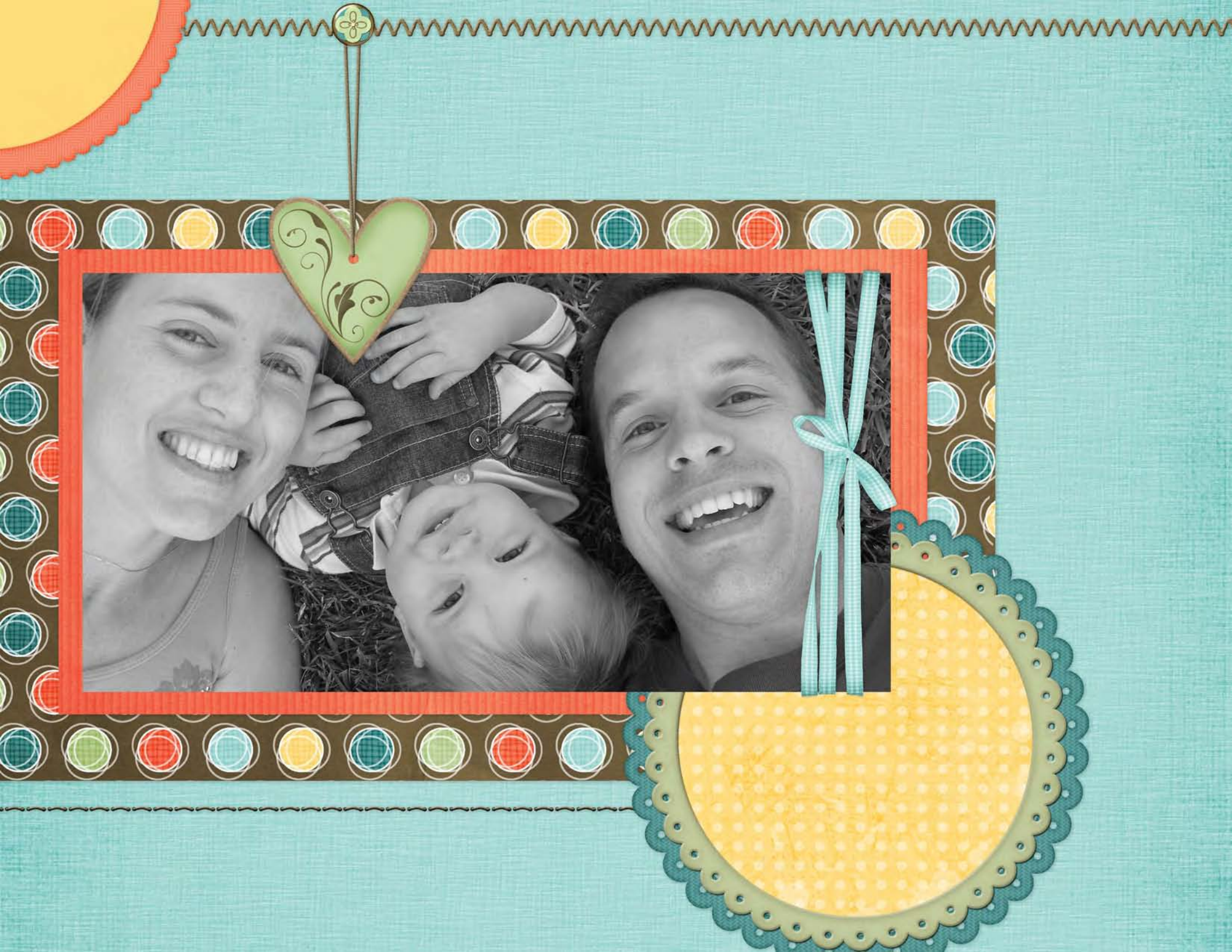
# Our Home and Community

We have a cozy home with a great fenced in backyard with fruit trees, a garden, and lots of room to run and play. Our house is within one of the best rated elementary schools in the state and a large playground and many grass fields where Micah plays soccer on a city league.

Our community is very family friendly; there are always events that are great opportunities for families to come together and have fun. There are frequent parades and we take advantage of living near many lakes and rivers to swim, fish and boat in.









As our family grows we would want to continue focusing on loving and enjoying each other. We plan to raise our children according to our Christian faith. With Micah we often pray together, talk about God frequently and what He is like, and tell him Bible stories. We try to show him from our own lives what it means to live out your faith day by day.

We want what's best for each of our children and want to see them each develop their own individual personalities and gifts. We highly value education and will encourage our children to thrive in what they enjoy, supporting their college education if that's what they choose.

Micah is very excited to have a younger sibling and we have been discussing things he is going to teach them. He said he is going to teach the baby how to count and the "ABC's," how to kick a soccer ball, pet our dog nice and how to do silly dances.

Thank you again for taking the time to get to know our family.

God Bless You,

*Dan & Shannon*

