

Steve and Michelle





## Hello, We're Steve and Michelle



We are so blessed that you are taking a few moments to get to know our family as you make an adoption plan for your child. We are honored that you are considering us to parent your child, and we want you to know that we do not take this opportunity lightly. We are amazed by your love and sacrifice and we are praying for you.

We are a warm, loving, secure, large family who loves sharing life together. We home school, participate in 4H every year, participate in speech and debate teams, attend church, take camping trips, care for the livestock on our ranch, and grow a garden each year. We make almost weekly trips to the local library, cook together, and eat three meals a day sitting together at our table or out on a picnic with friends (Daddy is always home for at least one meal a day)!

Daddy likes to cook when he is home on the weekends, making a big breakfast for everyone. We also enjoy going to state parks, walking the trails, playing in the creek, and having a picnic with friends. We are a very close, solid family. We live on a 40 acre ranch with horses, sheep, goats, cattle, poultry, dogs and cats. There is never a dull moment in our house. Our older children like to sit with their younger siblings and read to them or look at pictures with them. They also enjoy teaching their younger siblings how to do things such as write letters, ride a bike, and show animals in 4H. Our younger children enjoy all the attention they get from Mom and Dad and their older siblings. They get to sit on Mommy or Daddy's lap as we read to them daily. They love to help Daddy in his workshop too.

When we were first married, we talked about wanting to adopt someday. Our family has grown, but the desire to open our home to a child through adoption hasn't left. We would love the chance to shower another child with love and the joy of being raised in a close family.



# Our Lives Together

We met through a mutual friend on a blind-date. Neither one of us had ever been on a blind-date, but our friend felt that we would be a perfect match for each other. She took us both out to lunch one day and the rest is history! We were married a little less than a year and a half later.

When Steve proposed, he took Michelle out to a fancy restaurant- the kind where the waiter places the napkin on your lap for you. Afterward, we went on a boat ride around the lake next to the restaurant. As we walked up the hill overlooking the lake, Steve took Michelle's hand and as he slipped the engagement ring on her finger, he asked her to marry him. She said YES!



We have been married 25 years this May 21. Our wedding took place in a small chapel, surrounded by our family and friends. Michelle wore a long, white gown with a long train and veil, and was escorted down the aisle by her father. Steve wore a white tuxedo. We celebrated afterward with a delicious meal, cake and lots of dancing.

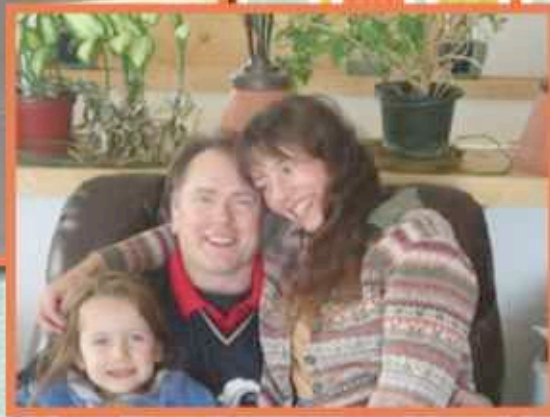
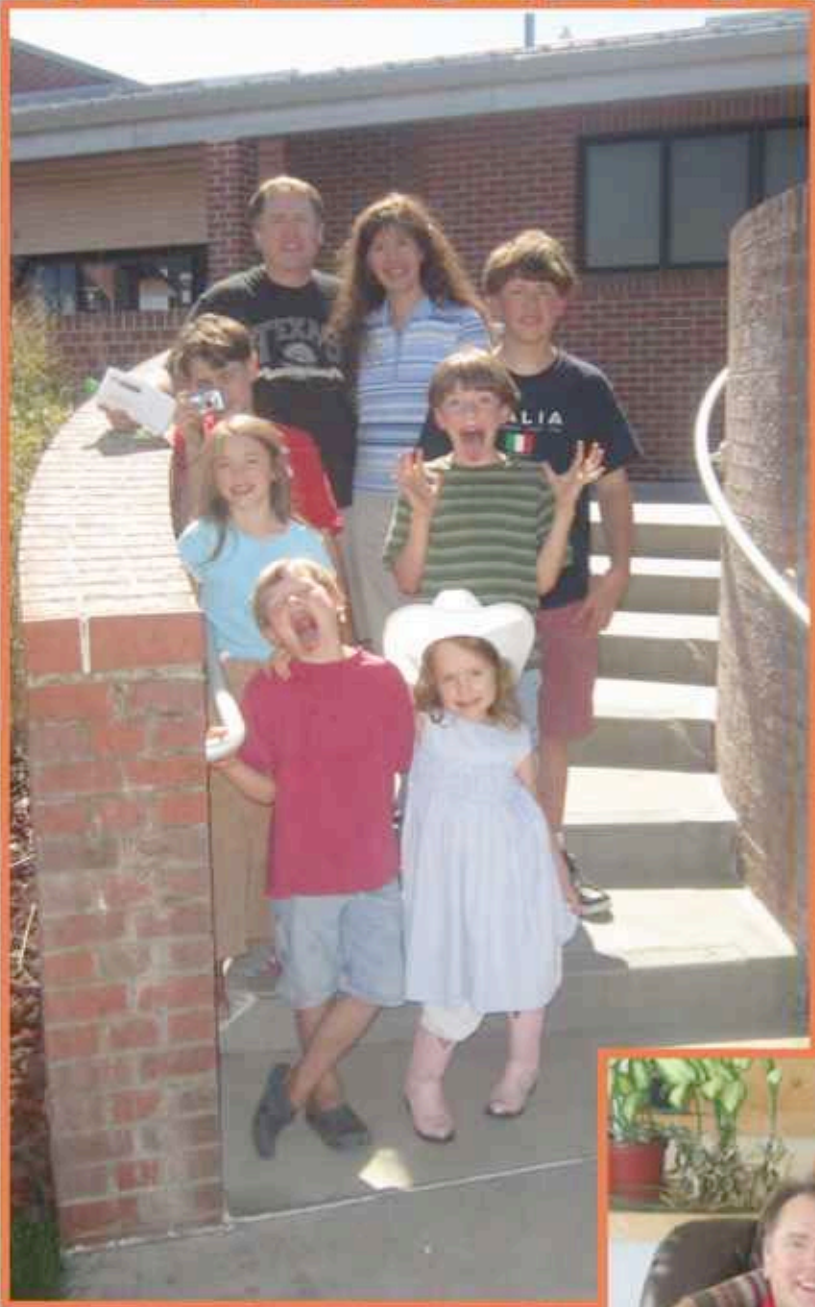
Our lives are rich in love and we are so blessed! We enjoy watching movies, going out on date nights, sitting on the porch watching the sun set while we talk about the day, and planning out projects around the ranch. Our children are the center of our lives, and we are so excited to finally realize our dream of adopting our next child.













## My Husband Steve



My husband Steve is faithful and honest. He is an amazing husband and father. I love his sense of humor and his sense of fun. He lives his life with a great deal of integrity, and I have so much respect for him.

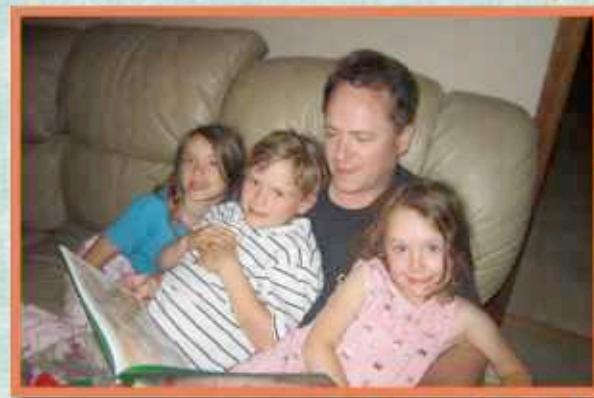
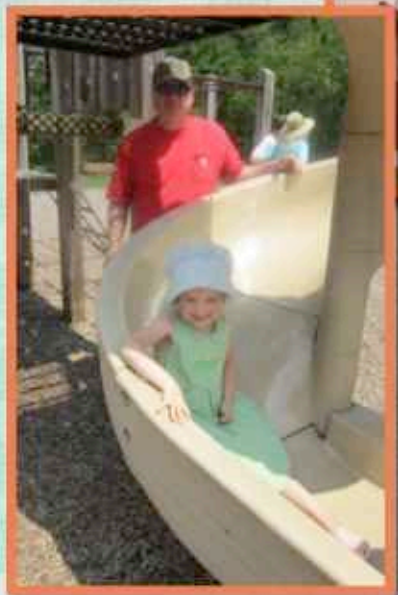
His family is his crown and joy. He provides for us and meets all of our needs, both physically and emotionally. He cares deeply for me and for all of our children. I am so blessed.

Steve is the Director of Manufacturing Operations for a medical device company. His job provides well for our family, but also allows him to devote so much time to our family. He is home for dinner every night and actively involved in our children's lives.

My husband is the most awesome Dad any child could ever want. He comes home from work and immediately picks up the little ones, hugs them, and talks with the older children. He helps our children with their schoolwork when they need it, cooks, takes them to 4H meetings (sometimes almost every night during the week), reads the Bible to them, reads stories before bedtime, and prays over each one before bedtime. He is always there for their special shows and presentations.

When our children were babies, he was always there to change a diaper, hold them, and snuggle them. One of my favorite things to watch is my husband napping with a baby asleep on his chest. He is so excited to welcome another little one into our family.







## My Wife Michelle



My wife is simply amazing! Michelle is one of the most self confident and yet humble people I've ever known. She is full of kindness, humility, strength, intelligence, and fun loving ways.

She is always looking for ways to bless and serve others. She has always been kind to people and finds the good in everyone. Michelle is a "people person" and loves to meet, converse, and interact with new people. She has a warm and friendly smile and everyone that sees her knows she has a joyful spirit! Michelle is a strong person in her faith and convictions. She stands-up for what is right and just and will not allow people to mistreat and abuse others.

Michelle has a Master's degree in elementary education administration. (She also has a gifted and talented teaching endorsement and is a certified Orton-Gillingham tutor). Michelle taught elementary school for nine years after we were married and before we had children. Michelle's current "occupation" is mother, homemaker, and teacher to our own children. She has all of the administrative responsibilities associated with home schooling, and the day-to-day responsibilities associated with raising six children. Although Michelle doesn't work outside the home, or receive a paycheck, she works very hard and keeps a busy schedule. As a teaching professional, Michelle was always recognized as one of the "best and brightest" in the field! Our children yield the benefit everyday from her experience and expertise.

Michelle is a faithful, devoted mother. Her kindness is poured out on our children every day! She is affectionate and is so in tune to our children's hearts. Michelle reads to them and spends a lot of time everyday just listening and talking with them. She patiently deals with correcting behaviors, and sibling disputes making sure the children always reconcile with one another. Our children benefit from the continuous interaction with their mother, from the time they wake up until the time I get home from work. (I try to make sure mom gets to take a break at that point in the day). Michelle is very organized in managing the events of the day. Each child has a daily routine schedule and general time guidelines for the completion of all daily activities (schooling, chores, play time, and so forth).

Michelle has dreamed of adopting a child for years, and I am so grateful that we now have the opportunity to see that dream come true. It will be a sweet moment indeed the day I see Michelle with a baby in her arms again.







## Our Children

Blake (15) plans to be a medical doctor. He is extremely intelligent, and can do mental math in his head faster than any of us! He shows in 4H each year, is in charge of several of the livestock on our ranch. He loves dogs, loves to talk, plays tennis, enjoys riding his bike, and running. He loves learning and is very inquisitive. He recently attended a co-op class with his brother Colton. It was a "Mock Trial". They spent the whole semester preparing their case as if they were the prosecutors. They did an amazing job and won their "case"!

Colton (13) plans to be president of the United States. He currently knows one of our state representatives who has promised to save his seat for Colton when he retires! He has gotten to know a few state reps and councilmen personally. He has his whole future mapped out! Colton keeps a close eye on the news and likes to make graphs that show how people are voting in the different states and what they are voting on. He loves his chickens, guineas, and ducks, playing tennis, and riding bikes. He also loves playing with his youngest siblings.

Tristan (11) is our artist. He is very gifted; he can paint, sculpt, cartoon, play-act, write plays, draw, you name it. He has a rabbit named Lola. He loves to hold her and helps his little siblings hold her as well. He enjoys riding bikes, going to the library, getting together with friends, putting on plays when we have company, legos, holding his lamb named Ferdinand and caring for baby birds that fall out of nests. He has studied Beatrix Potter and is able to draw Peter Rabbit just like she did! He is currently studying Walt Disney and loving every minute of it. He is also very good at cooking and baking. He will be showing in 4H this year as well.

Faith (9) loves horses, reading books, riding bikes, tea parties, playing dolls, playing legos, rock hunting with her little brother Samuel, caring for hurt chickens and kitties, and spending lots of time in the wildflower pasture with her brothers. She and her little sister Charity love having tea parties in their room. She enjoys knitting, sewing, making crafts, cooking and baking. She is a girly girl, but has the strength of some of her brothers and can certainly hold her own with them. She will be showing in 4H this year as well.

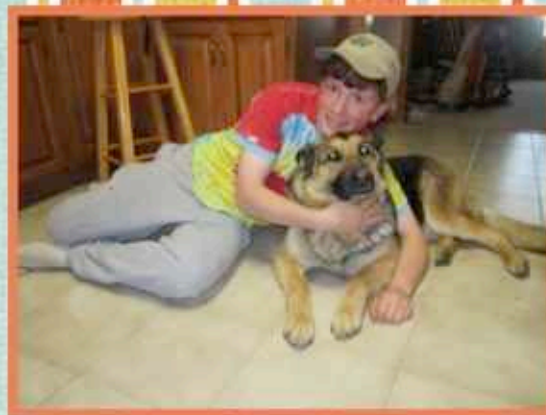
Samuel (7) is a strong, little guy. He enjoys helping his big brothers and Daddy with the hay bales, feeding the livestock, and collecting chicken eggs each day. He also loves legos, looking at books, and writing stories. Samuel is a walking miracle. He spent the first 6 months of his life deaf. He did not respond to any sounds, and was lagging behind in his verbal skills. Today you would never know that as he talks a mile a minute and hears quite well! This is just one of many stories we could tell of God's greatness in our lives. He continues to amaze us!

Charity (5) loves horses, writing (She's been "writing" since she was 18mths. old when Mommy gave her a pen and paper), tea parties, little books and organizing things. She loves legos, playing with her dolls and dressing them up, play-acting with Tristan, holding kittens, loving on our dogs, swinging, and singing. She is the youngest princess of our home and enjoys dressing the part.

Our family's favorite activities are getting together with friends at a state park for a day of picnicking, playing in the creek, playing on the playground, and walking the trails. We also enjoy taking camping trips to different state parks. We enjoy family nights on Fridays where we have a special movie to watch and eat popcorn.









## Our Family



We have a very small extended family, so we treasure those close to us even more.

We are so blessed that Grandma is a big part of our lives and we see her weekly, if not more. We are very grateful that she has just recently moved much closer to us. She too, is a former teacher, and she is fabulous with the kids. She enjoys staying with the children when we go out on date nights, she takes long walks with them, plays games, talks, teaches them how to do different things (such as knitting), and reads to them. She always makes it to their special presentations, 4H shows, and anything else big in their lives.

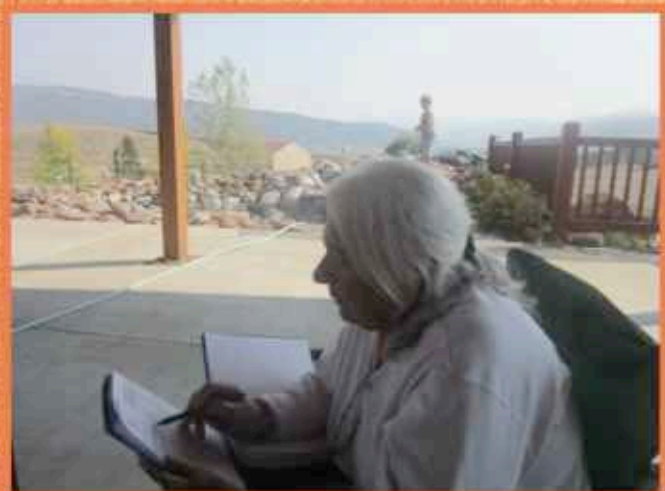
We also have an aunt and cousins that live out of state. One of the cousins was adopted and is a grown man now. He is a doctor, and is married with his own family.

Christmas is very important to our family. We love the fun of doing a Secret Angel gift exchange for three weeks before Christmas. On each Friday, we sneak a gift, card, or handmade treasure to our Secret Angel and on Christmas we find out who our Secret Angel was. Every year we look forward to going to a Christmas tree farm to cut down our own tree and bring home to decorate. We always choose a family mission project as well, like Samaritan's Purse. And every year choose a family in our community who is in need to bless. We also read through one of the Gospels and light Advent candles.

Every Easter we have family meal midday and then have an egg hunt. We keep our hearts focused on the blessing of Christ in our lives. For Fourth of July, we either go and watch fireworks somewhere or put on a display at our own home. We also go to Grandma's for dinner.

Our Thanksgiving Day is a day for celebrating and giving thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. Our table is full of tasty food, much of it bounty from our own farm and garden!







## Our Home

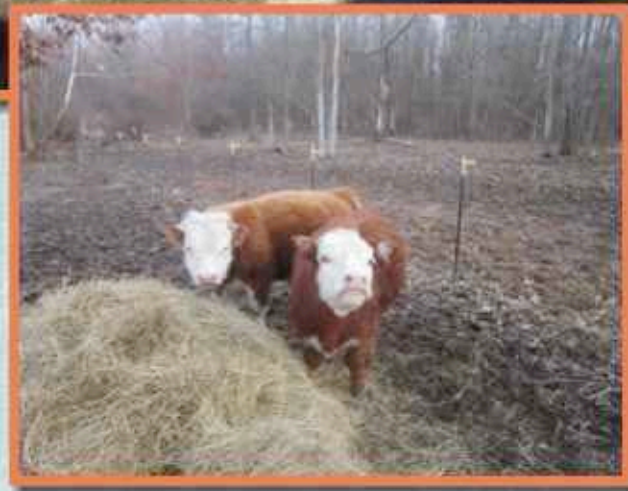
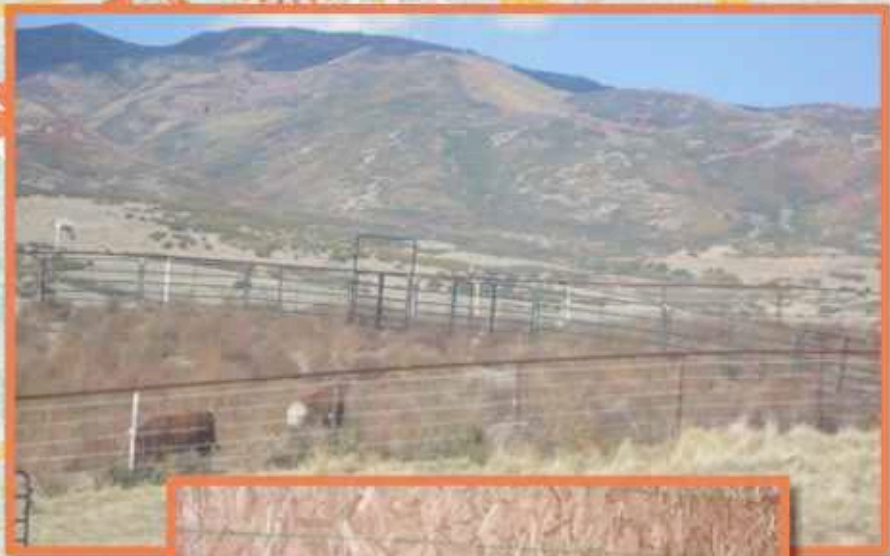


Our home is a rambling ranch located on 40 acres of ranch land. We have 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and a fully finished basement. On the main floor we have a family room, living room, laundry room, dining room and eat-in kitchen. Downstairs we have a large recreation area, a library, and a family room. We have a four-car attached garage with a workshop and attached mud room leading into the house.

We have 3 barns for our livestock and horses. Our 40 acres is located at 6500 ft. elevation, and was part of a very large ranch that has historic ties to the Old Stage Coach routes and the Pony Express. We have a fenced backyard overlooking beautiful mountains.

We are located just 10 minutes from a very diverse full-service community with libraries, parks, live entertainment, restaurants, tennis, fishing, skating, and shopping.







# Our Future





We are so blessed as a family and look forward to a beautiful future together, watching our children grow and become all that God created them to be. Steve has been blessed with a great job, we love our ranch and we are grateful that Michelle can stay home with our children. We want to continue to provide opportunities for the children to raise and show livestock. It has been such a great part of growing and learning for them.

Our faith is at the center of our lives. It shapes the way we love and care for each other and for those around us. We cannot imagine walking through the joys and trials of life without the strength of our faith in God and the assurance of His love for us.

With Michelle as a highly trained educator, seeing our children learn and grow into all that God has designed for them is a priority to us. We believe that God has a special plan for each of our children, and as parents we are committed to helping them achieve those goals. If our children choose to attend college as a way to achieve their goals, we are 100% behind them. If there is another path to help them reach their goals, we will wholeheartedly support that as well.

We realize we are possibly considered "older" parents and we do have a large family already. However, being "older" only means we are more mature and experienced at being Mom and Dad and the newlywed days of trying to figure it all out are over. We plan to live a long, long time, Lord willing. Our health is very important to us and we have made a conscious effort to maintain a healthy lifestyle. It is our prayer and our hearts desire that we would remain on this earth long enough to see our children raised and their families growing.

Having a large family means that each of our children have many friends before they even leave the house each day. They always have someone to talk to, play with, read with, ride bikes with, and enjoy life with. They love one another immensely. They stand up for each other, they write love notes on birthdays and other special days, and buy or make each other presents at Christmas and birthdays. They love to share jokes, study together, take classes together, compete in 4H together, time each other in running competitions, and so much more. Our children do not have to look far to find one of his/her brothers or sisters standing nearby ready for fun, help, racing, playing, or work at a moment's notice. All of our children would love to have another baby in the house, especially our youngest who has never been a big sister. They are also planning out gifts to make for our new baby that we will bring home, and they talk about having a little brother or sister constantly.

We have already been praying for you and your baby- for your health, for your safety, for the decisions that you will have to face- for months now. Even though we don't know you, you are already very special to us. We know that God will give you wisdom to choose a family for your child. Whether you decide we are that family or not, we want you to know that at this very moment we are praying for you. We are asking that God would show you His love and give you strength.

God Bless You,

*Steven and Michelle*

'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.' Proverbs 3: 5

