

Eric and Melissa



*"Before you were conceived, I wanted you... Before you were born I
loved you.... Before you were here an hour I would die for you... This is
the miracle of love."*

a favorite verse of ours by Maureen Hawkins

We Are Eric and Melissa -

Thank you for considering us as loving parents for your child and for taking the time to get to know us. We know this decision is the hardest thing you have ever done. We want you to know that you are in our hearts and we are praying for you and your baby. Thank you for making the decision to give life to your child. Choosing an adoption plan is a very brave, loving and selfless act. It takes a very special person to consider helping another couple make their dreams come true. We believe that God's will is to build our family through adoption and we would be so honored should you choose to give us this incredible gift. We ask that you put God first and He will bless you.

We started trying to have children about one year after we got married and were unsuccessful. We consulted with specialists and after several tests, learned that our chances of conceiving and then carrying a child to term safely were extremely low. Since we have always been open to building a family through adoption, and our dream is to be parents to a child, not necessarily to give birth to a child, we turned our focus to building our family through adoption. We have several friends and family members who have adopted and we love their children as we would any others in the family. My younger brother is adopted from Korea and is a wonderful brother and blessing to our family. Eric's cousin has also adopted a little girl and we are her god-parents. The more we prayed and considered our options the more adoption came to the front of our minds and hearts. Eric and I both feel adoption is a wonderful way to grow our family and to give all of the love we have to a baby. We look forward to God blessing us with a child as well.



Our Lives Together -

We initially met while working for the same company. At the time, we worked in different divisions and actually didn't know we worked for the same company until a mutual colleague formally introduced us. We went on a lunch, then a dinner date, and our friendship and courtship progressed from there. Because we were both focused on our careers at the time, we started out as friends prior to official "courtship" and dated for four years prior to getting engaged.

Eric selected Valentine's Day to make his marriage proposal. We had already started shopping for rings and making plans. At the time, I didn't realize that Eric had already purchased the ring that I had been leaning toward and was planning a special surprise for Valentine's Day! Eric planned a touching and romantic Valentine's dinner date and after desert, he got on one knee, presented the ring, and proceeded to tell me that I was not only the love of his life but also his best friend and he wanted me at his side to walk through life together.

Our wedding was probably the best day of our lives. We were surrounded by the love and support of all of our close friends and family. We are fortunate to have very close family members and friends, and they wanted to help with and participate in the wedding with things like photography, invitations, flowers, decorations, etc. Their participation, support and love enriched our wedding and made it truly memorable. One of our good friends, who is also a pastor, officiated at the wedding, which again made it extra special. It was an exciting and fulfilling day. We have a tradition of watching our wedding video and dancing together to our wedding music each anniversary.

Eric and I are truly best friends and are able to count on each other no matter what. Our communication, trust, love, friendship, and dedication to each other is what has made our marriage successful. Our mutual faith in God has also helped us through the challenges every couple faces. We enjoy being together and are grateful for the experiences we have had.

We also enjoy getting together with family and friends and like to stay active. We like to go hiking, swimming, biking, camping, and fishing. We especially like to travel, both as a couple and also on "family trips" with other family members like our parents, aunts and cousins. Taking vacations is one of our favorite things to do and we take them as often as possible. We like visiting fun locations like the beach and mountains and enjoy getting out in nature. We also enjoy seeing sights, historical locations, and learning new things about our country's history and also about other countries. We also enjoy caroling with our extended family at Christmas, and doing more relaxing, creative things together like playing piano and guitar, doing crafts and reading.





My Wife,
Melissa -

I am so happy that Melissa is my wife because of the many wonderful traits she brings to our marriage. Melissa is an extremely thoughtful person and has a deep and genuine love for people and for family. She is genuine in character and very loving, caring and friendly. She is very considerate of other's needs and feelings constantly thinking of things to help others, like offering to help at her mother's or my mother's house or a friend in need. She will actually get excited about offering her help. She is also very intelligent and loves to learn new things. She enjoys being around others and loves to laugh. She's really made our house into a home and has made it very comfortable and welcoming for us and visitors. She has a very deep spiritual connection with God and regularly reads her Bible and other spiritual books to enrich her faith. She is very hard working and organized and will stick to a goal until she reaches it. She is well loved by her friends, family, and most of all me.

Melissa has a very special connection with children. I noticed right away at the first family reunion that I took her to (while we were still dating) that she was immediately drawn to some of the little cousins and they were drawn to her. The greatest thing that I saw was Melissa walking by with five little girls following her around like little goslings. It was very cute and I immediately began to truly notice her interactions with children. She can connect very quickly to a child that she has never met before because she talks to them and asks them questions about what they enjoy. She doesn't talk down to them, she just has a conversation and the children really enjoy her. Once, an old friend of mine whom I hadn't seen in years invited us to his house for dinner. As the evening went on, he and I were catching up on old times. I began to look for Melissa and we finally found her working a puzzle with my friend's four year old son. That was where she wanted to be and this child did not want her to leave that night. I truly love watching Melissa interact with our god-daughter and I cannot wait to see her interact with our child.

"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord"
(Proverbs 18:22, NIV)

Melissa and her Matron of Honor



Having fun at a family party



Hiking with friends



Doing crafts with our god daughter

My Husband, Eric -

Eric is both my best friend and love of my life. He has so many good qualities that I admire and that enrich our marriage. He is very patient and considerate and is always looking out for the best for me as his wife and for us as a couple. He is very focused on building and keeping strong family ties and is a favorite at family gatherings. He also has a wonderful sense of humor and is very smart and creative. He compliments me in that while we often have the same opinion on things, he sometimes thinks through things differently and this brings a different perspective to issues and ideas. He is very kind and hard working. He would never hesitate to help a friend in need and would, if they needed it, literally give them the shirt off his back, to help them. He is also very honest and loyal. His friends and family know they can count on him.

Eric has two nephews, one niece, and many cousins as well as our god-daughter. I think it's a tribute to him that we were chosen as godparents and legal guardians. His kindness, humor, and patience are evident to family and friends alike. He does his best to relate to kids and discover their interests so that everyone has a good time together. He is very patient when teaching or showing them new things. He also loves to have fun which is contagious. He is very careful with people's feelings and is responsible, which sets everyone (parents and children) at ease. Eric has so much to offer a child and would be a very loving, kind, patient father who would lead by example and try to build character and confidence in a child.



*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her"
(Ephesians 5:25, NIV)*

Eric with our god daughter



Eric dancing with his mother



Eric with one of our
cousins and nephew



Carving a turkey for a
family Thanksgiving dinner



At the top of the lighthouse - family vacation

We were both fortunate enough to be raised by loving and supportive Christian parents and always had a lot of family and friends to care, guide and encourage us growing up. We have a very large and diverse extended family on both sides. Eric has two brothers, five aunts and uncles, over fifteen cousins (many of them with spouses), and several nephews and nieces. Most of Eric's family lives in and around our immediate area which makes family get-togethers easier and more frequent. We are also fortunate to have Eric's mother, father, and step-mother living close-by and we get together with them on a very regular basis. I have two brothers and one sister. We were very close growing up but my older brother and sister now live far away in other states and so we don't get to see each other as frequently, although we do try to stay in touch and keep up with each other as we can. My mother lives close to us and we get together all the time- she, as well as Eric's parents, are very excited to become grandparents to a new baby and family member! My youngest brother was adopted from Korea and the adoption experience was wonderful for our family. He is such a blessing to us and I can't imagine our family without him.

We have many family get-togethers throughout the year. Whenever we can, as a larger (extended) family, we celebrate birthdays, holidays and special events together like weddings and bridal and baby showers. We like to take vacations together and also get together casually for things like going to the park, Aquarium, and long walks. One of Eric's cousins and her husband live in the neighborhood next to us and so we all meet to go walking together on a weekly basis. Family is very important to us, and our biggest tradition is that each Christmas the extended family has a Christmas gathering/reunion. We usually rent a lodge in the mountains for the weekend and get together to catch up, play games, enjoy the snow and (this last time we rented a lodge on a beautiful lake) go canoeing. This is a fun time where we get to see and catch up with family members that live farther away, that we don't get to see during the year.

Family and Friends



(Part of) Our big family

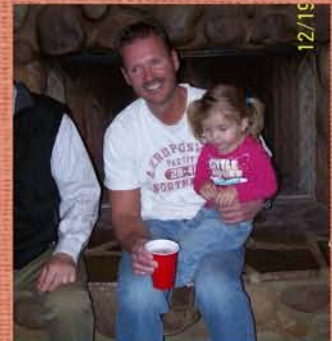
We love music



Aunts, nieces, nephews and the latest addition



Visiting with cousins and nieces at family get-togethers



Our mothers spending time together



Fun at Family Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Hop Race

Our Home and Community -

We live in a quiet, established, safe neighborhood. We specifically chose our house location because the neighborhood has fairly big yards, rolling hills, nice homes and is very safe and family-oriented. We live in a two-story home with a basement. It has three bedrooms, two and a half baths with a bonus room that is will make the perfect playroom. Our kitchen and family room are large and open and where we spend most of our time together. Both Eric and I enjoy cooking and hope our new little one will enjoy baking cookies with me and learning to grill-out with Eric. We have a large deck off the kitchen and fenced backyard and love entertaining and spending time there with friends and family. A swing set is already in the plans for a special spot in the back yard close to the deck where we can play and have fun. Our home is a place we have tried to make feel warm and welcoming, and we can't wait to hear the pitter-patter of our child's little feet running on the hardwood floors. We look forward to birthday parties, Christmas mornings, Easter egg hunts and many family gatherings. We can't wait to be participating in these events as "Mommy" and "Daddy" and are so ready and excited to be parents! We've already created a baby's room and have started purchasing toys, clothing, books and stuffed animals and stocking it with everything a child could need. We are well prepared and ready for our new baby boy or girl!

Our neighborhood itself is very family-friendly and also diverse and there are several families with small and older children, as well as single and retired people. We know many of our neighbors and it is the type of neighborhood where people stop and talk to each other and if you need a cup of milk, you can go next door and ask. There is a children's park in the neighborhood for playing, and we also have several larger parks, with soccer and baseball fields, swimming pool, and nature and bike trails in and around our immediate area. While we live in a very quiet and safe community where crime is very low, we are also close to every convenience. There are several educational and historic places in the area to visit, close-by award-winning schools and medical centers, a local library and many different children's venues. It's a great area to raise kids. We love it here and can't wait to raise our children here.





Our garden house - soon to be the perfect playhouse!



Our Future -

We feel that we have been blessed with a loving, strong marriage built on mutual respect, faith in God and love for each other. We both grew up attending church and growing in the Christian faith and intend to raise our children with these same values and beliefs. We believe that God has a plan for us to share this love with a child. Eric and I want our child to know God loves them unconditionally and has a special purpose for their life. We feel that one of our roles as parents is to help our child grow in their love for God and to find their purpose. Our prayer is that our relationship with our children will be strong, loving and open and that they will always feel comfortable coming to us with any questions, problems or cares that they have. Eric and I will always be there for them no matter what, and always give them our unconditional love and support. We look forward to raising our child with these values and are very excited about our future with our little one. We look forward to welcoming them into our home with great excitement and joy!

Receiving a good, quality education is very important to both of us. We live in an area with several excellent, award-winning public and private schools. We plan to send our children to private school, as there are several outstanding private Christian schools near our home and we would our child to not only receive a quality education, but also grow in knowledge and faith in God. We have already researched a few schools in the area and are leaning toward one that has many wonderful programs for kids. There are many activities outside the classroom for children including sports, music, art and drama.

Eric and I both have college educations and degrees and this has been a valuable asset to us. While we understand that every child is different and we will support our child with an education and life that helps them build character and become financially, emotionally and mentally independent and happy, we want our child to have the option of college available to them. We will establish a college savings account right away so that the opportunity and means are present when they reach college age.

We feel that we have a wealth of good life experiences, family love and support, and a stable and fun home to offer a child. We have a large network of close friends and family with positive influences that the child would be surrounded by. We also know what a blessing family is and so we always try to give it the priority and attention that family deserves. We also feel that the love and respect we have for each other would be a great example for a child. We are looking forward to teaching and bringing as many positive, educational, and happy experiences into the child's life as possible.

Although we don't know you, we hope this has helped you to have learned a little more about us. We have truly been blessed in so many ways and we hope we will soon be blessed with a child to love and cherish as our own. Please know that if you choose us for your child, we promise to always strive to provide a loving, stable home with lots of family and friends to surround and love him or her. Please know that we will be praying for you and your baby during this time. Thank you for taking the time to learn about us...our life, our love and our deep desire to have a baby to love and cherish for the rest of our lives.



*God Bless You,
Eric and Melissa*

