Karl and Abigail

Hello!

Thank you for taking the time to read our story. We know it is difficult to get to know us in just a few short pages, but we will do our best to give you a glimpse into our lives.

We have always felt called to grow our family through adoption. Our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of all we seek to do in life, in the "big things" as well as in the "little." And in the way we see it, life is a long string of "little things". Having four children and enjoying them to the fullest excites us even more about the prospect of adoption! Ten years ago, before we married, we talked about our desires for our family. We always knew we wanted a large family, and the Lord has continued to lead us on this adventure we call parenting. Our family is already a colorful one. Karl is Chinese and Abigail is Caucasian, and our girls are a lovely mix of both. We are open to adopting from any and all ethnicities and backgrounds. Adoption is something we care deeply about and consider it a beautiful illustration of what God does for His children.

We love to hike, find deals at garage sales and flea markets, spend time with our kids, go out for ice cream and watch Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune as a family. Karl is training his girls to watch football and they are training him to paint their nails.

Karl is a physical therapist and Abigail is a stay-at-home mom. We and our four precious daughters are thrilled at the prospect of welcoming another precious little daughter or son, another sweet little sibling and future family member into our home. Thank you for considering us.

Karl and Abigail

About Us

Technically we have known each other since childhood. We grew up in the same church for most of our lives. We became friends as we grew older. We had a long distance relationship for five years, during which we exchanged many emails and old fashioned letters, phone calls…..and IM-ing (remember that?) We were best friends by the time we were married in 2006.

During our courtship, walking was likely our number one pastime. We trekked all throughout downtown Chicago during Abigail's college years. On Karl's visits to the city, we walked in sun and rain and snow and sleet (and a good deal of Chicago wind!) After we married we continued our treks throughout our neighborhood. Since then we have added lots of gear and strollers, but our treks continue!

We also enjoy visiting a variety of restaurants in the area and gathering for game nights in the homes of friends. And then there's our yearly family pajama party with all of Karls extended family!

Our commitment to Jesus Christ is the driving force of our lives. We seek to honor Him in everything. We are blessed to be a part of the same church family in which both of us grew up. The people there are as much a part of our lives as our own families. We attend (and sometimes host) a Bible study in which we eat plenty of snacks, interact with plenty of kids, and enjoy a sometimes-chaotic-but-always-delightful group of people with which to do real life.

Abigail is an avid reader and enjoys what quiet time she can steal during the day or week. She loves to sip coffee with a good book and her favorite corner of the couch. The rest of the time she thrives on being a busy mom and homemaker. She homeschools the girls and teaches them essential life skills such as cooking, cleaning, and nibbling chocolate chip cookie dough. Karl is a physical therapist who has been blessed with a very stable job. At the end of each day he enjoys coming home and bringing treats to his family. He works with patients recovering from surgery or injury by day and pushes a stroller by night. He also rescues his girls from spiders.

About Karl by Abigail

Karl is a stable, dependable, faithful guy. Everyone who knows him says so, and I heartily agree. He's very funny. And he likes to eat! Our friends know him as the man who ate ten hot dogs on "dollar dog night" at the ball game (and then he was ashamed of himself that it was only ten!) One thing he delights in is rice…he has been known to panic when it runs out and keeps an emergency stash. There is no end to those pranks of his that I have affectionately dubbed "antics." (For example, he delights in setting off all the noisemaking toys in Walmart and promptly running away.) He is the steady, kind and fun-loving anchor of our home. Our four daughters and I are delighted every evening when he arrives home from work. (There is usually something of a stampede.) He is a wonderful husband and father, and Lord willing we look forward to the privilege and responsibility of continuing to raise our children, present and future, together to the glory of God.

About Abigail by Karl

Abigail and I have known each other over 15 years before we were married. I am glad that God was gracious to me and blessed me with such a treasure. She loves the Lord and her life shows it as a person, as a wife, and also as a mom to our four lovely girls. She is a great cook (a blessing to me because I love to eat)! I like her beautiful smile (as you can see in the pictures) and how she loves to laugh at my jokes – the good and the bad. Abigail is quite creative and a fantastic interior designer. She loves to change small things around the house every season so as to not get monotonous. One of the things she likes to do also is paint! In the ten years we have been married, she has painted almost every wall in the house 3 times each! I joke by saying that our house is getting smaller because of the layers of paint we have put on the walls. Needless to say, the "honey-do" list is never ending. She is a great mother and teacher to our children. Needless to say, I have been blessed to have such a wonderful young lady as part of my life!

Our Family & Friends

A hot day at the splash pad

Our family consists of us, Karl and Abigail, and our four young daughters. Gracie is seven, twins Lily and Clara are four, and Hope is just under two. Gracie is a fun-loving, vivacious little girl with a contagiously rolling giggle. She loves crafts and enjoys playing the piano, and enjoys regular "giggle parties." Lily is quiet and reserved, with an artistic flair and a compassionate heart. She is determined. She is always looking for ways to share with and help her sisters. Clara is a dimple-smiled little girl with a decided passion for dressing up. She enjoys drawing little stick-figure pictures and labeling them "Clara" and "Mama." Hope is a bundle of fun energy. She laughs at nothing and everything. She is the family clown. She is known to often break out in silly toddler dance just for her own personal satisfaction. She is adored by her older sisters and is the subject of much of their artwork.

Both Karl and I have great relationships with our extended families as well. Karl has three siblings with whom we often share meals, hilarious family stories and unending gag gifts. No family gathering is ever complete without loads of food and voluminous amounts of rice! Abigail's parents live very close to us—within the same neighborhood. We see them routinely at church, on neighborhood walks, and during Wednesday visits to Grandma's house. Abigail's two brothers also live in the area and are the types of uncles who play puppets and "monster chase" to the delight of four little nieces. From both sides of the family, our daughters enjoy playing with their six cousins (and that number is likely to keep growing!)

Karl's whole clan

Karl's Mom and Dad

Abigail's brother and family

Abigail and her family

Gracie and her BFF cousin Ethan

Gracie and Ethan with their Daddies

Abigail, brother Jacob and mom sporting their "mustaches"

Our Home & Community

We live in a two-story, three bedroom house in the suburbs. Both of us grew up in this community and both attended the schools here. Abigail lived very near—in a neighborhood just around the corner. We have a grassy yard, perfect for front-yard picnics. There's a deliciously inviting hammock in the back, as well as a rustic wooden swing that our children love. Our front porch has seen its share of outdoor meals as well. The side of the house sports a tiny but well-loved attempt at a garden, which produces just enough cherry tomatoes to delight little people before being promptly gobbled up.

Our family room has a cozy fireplace and our living room is furnished with both a piano and a guitar for those who are musically inclined (and even those who are not). We are a short drive from libraries, zoos, shopping centers, restaurants and anything else of interest.

A trip to the pumpkin patch

Hope loves accessories

Daddy's girls

Abigail and her buddy Gracie

Sledding in the backyard

Messy fun

Clara enjoying a melty treat!

The reason Gracie likes to help with baking

Clara and Lily on our trip to Virginia Beach

Hope's first birthday