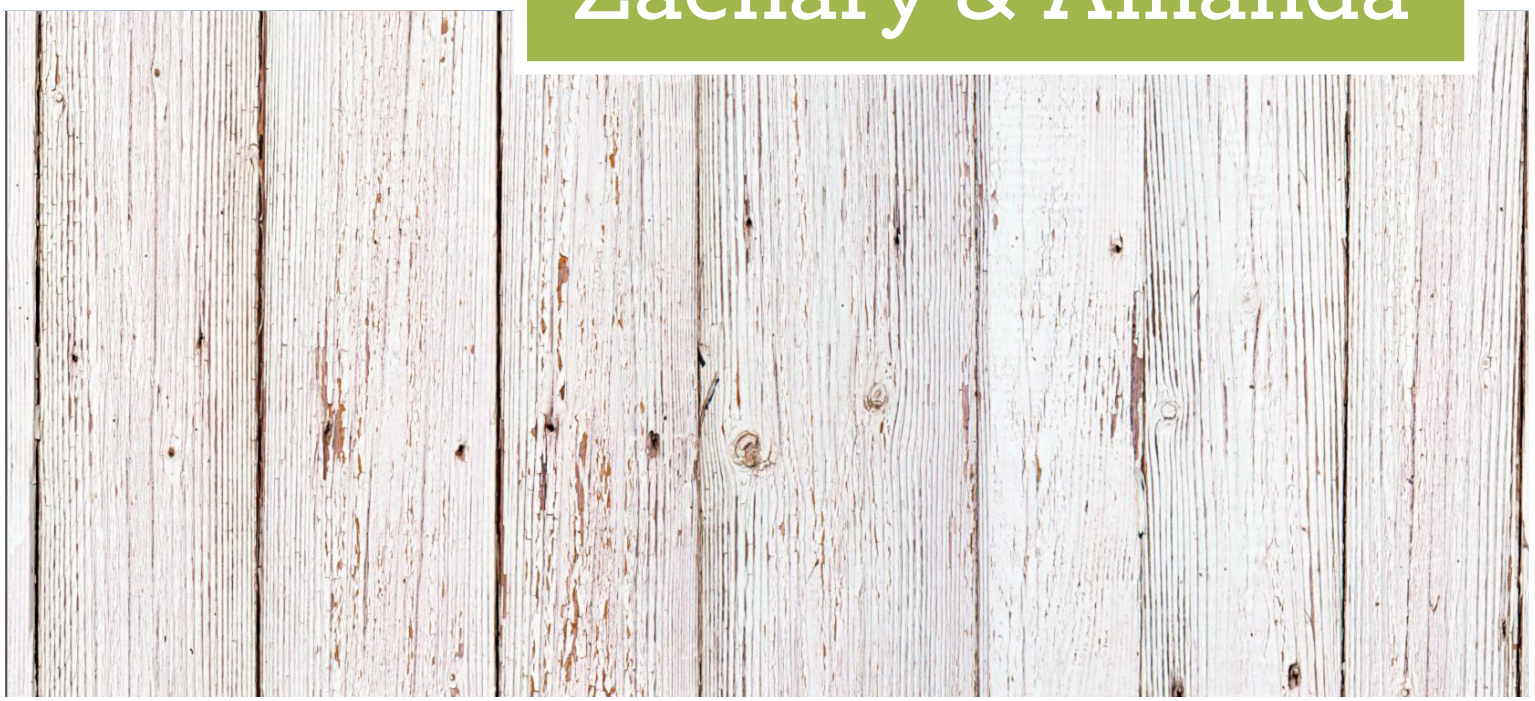
Zachary & Amanda



About Us:

We are blessed to have grown up in loving, Christian homes. While we were born and raised in the same city, our paths did not cross until our early college years. Each of us enjoyed an active lifestyle (Zach wrestled in high school while Amanda played volleyball and softball), and we met while playing Ultimate Frisbee with other college students from our church. It only took a few dates before we both knew we had found "the one". We spent three years dating....and becoming best of friends….before we were married in 2005. God is at the center of our marriage, and we are committed to seeking His will in everything we do. We are a laid back couple - we simply enjoy being outdoors, working on house projects, creating things with our hands and spending time with close friends and family. We don't need extravagant trips and expensive "stuff" to keep us happy. We prefer collecting memories through shared experiences. We spend our time doing things we love. As a Professional Engineer, Zach spends his days overseeing construction sites in an inspector role. He also enjoys woodworking and sells some of his products as a side business. Amanda graduated with a degree in Special Education. She spent 8 years serving children with disabilities before choosing to be a stay at home mom. She now spends her days at home, homeschooling our 3 biological children. We are active members of a local church that welcomes people of all backgrounds, races and cultures. It's a pleasure to be worshipping and serving the Lord with such a diverse group of people!

About Zachary (by Amanda)

Our close family and friends refer to Zach as the "Facilitator of Fun". He is, without a doubt, the most even-tempered, adventurous, fun-loving man I've ever met. He collects memories one adventure at a time. His friends value him for the Godly example he sets as a husband and father. Children know they can count on him to be a stable father figure and to create fun experiences. Zach's strong work ethic, creative problem solving skills and focus on efficiency make him a sought after employee. His faith keeps me grounded and his spirit keeps me young. Zach has a servants' heart. It is through my relationship with Zach that I have learned what it means to love selflessly. I truly believe that he wants more for me than he wants from me. I am forever thankful to be on this journey with him.

About Amanda (by Zachary)

I always tell people I am part of the "Married Up Club," Amanda is clearly out of my league! She is one of those people who could truly do anything she sets her mind to. Despite the success she found in her career, she put her own ambitions on pause to raise our children full time. It's no surprise that she is excelling in that, as well. Her devotion to family is unwavering. She is dedicated to providing our children with an environment filled with great literature, materials to create and spaces to explore. Amanda is a hard worker, and not afraid to get dirty (in fact, I think she enjoys it)! From home improvement projects to yard work, she is eager and willing to get involved. As a wife, she balances me perfectly. Compassion and mercy are some of Amanda's most prominent strengths. Amanda has always been passionate about growing our family through adoption. She has no barriers to her love for children; diversity is something she embraces. She is my best friend and I am so happy we get to do life together.

Fun Facts:

	Zachary	Amanda
Occupation	Professional Engineer	Stay at Home Mom
Education	Bachelor's in Engineering	Bachelor's in Education
Number of Siblings	2	1
Favorite Food	Steak and Potatoes	Spaghetti
Hobbies	Woodworking, Triathlons	Coaching Volleyball, Reading, Gardening
Ways to Relax	Nap, Cookouts	Being outdoors, Read, Time with Zach, Yoga
First Job	Greenhouse	Nanny

Our Family & Friends

We currently have three biological children. Our oldest daughter, age 7, loves nature, books and creating things with her hands. Our adventurous middle child, age 5, enjoys using her imagination and is full of spunk! The youngest, age 2.5, is a cuddly little boy who loves his sisters and already has a great sense of humor. We also have a little dog named Chloe and 5 chickens (crazy, we know!) that provide us with eggs and entertainment.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and we feel so blessed to have such a loving and supportive "village" surrounding our family. Our parents and siblings live close to us and we are so thankful to have them playing an integral role in the lives of our children. Zach helped to build a cottage for his parents a few years ago and we love spending our lazy summer weekends visiting with his siblings and their families at the lake. Swimming, canoeing, boat rides and sand castles fill our summers at the cottage. Zach sister is married and has two teenaged boys. His brother is married with two young children. It is always a joy spending time all together. Amanda is very close with her mother and sister, so we naturally spend a lot of time with her family. Her sister's husband is Zach's closest friend and their 4 children are truly best friends with our children. Our annual summer vacation with her family is one of the highlights of the year. It's filled with bike rides, days at the beach, games at the park and a daily walk to get ice cream! Church, birthday parties and holidays provide many opportunities to gather with our extended families. Everyone is so very excited for us to welcome another child into our family through adoption!

We have a great network of friends who are like extended members of our family. Zach has a group of guys and Amanda has a group of girls that we spend time with each week. It provides a perfect space to study God's Word, talk about "life" and experience fun activities with those we consider our closest friends. We can depend on these people to celebrate successes with us and encourage us through life's difficult seasons. These friends have been praying for us during this adoption process and they look forward to being part of the "village" that surrounds the child we adopt with the same love they currently shower upon our biological children.

Zach with our brother-in-law (his closest friend)

Amanda's sister has 4 children...these cousins are like siblings to our kids.

Zach with his brother and brother-in-law… leaving to go run in a Tough Mudder race.

Our children love to dote on their cousins. These are the children of Zach's brother.

Amanda with her closest friends…. her sister and mother

For Amanda's family, walking to get ice cream is an important part of our summers

All of Zach's side of the family at the cottage he helped to build

Zach with his brother

Our Home

We live on a rare, 2.5 acre property that has a beautiful feeling of living in the country while actually being in the middle of the city. Our house is a 3 bedroom ranch which we have put a lot of hard work and love into making our own. From tearing down walls to laying new floors, from building a new patio to constructing a Studio for homeschooling, we have enjoyed creating an environment that meets our family's needs. Outdoors, we have a developed a vegetable garden, raspberry patch, chicken coop, a giant playset, a "mud kitchen" and a meadow with walking paths. We love having a place like this for our children to experience a childhood full of fun and exploration. Our city and surrounding area is a wonderful place to be raising a family. We make frequent visits to the local parks/nature preserves, zoo, farmers markets, art museum, and local sports events.

Our garden….one of the most beloved parts of our yard

We built a studio space for the kids…a place to create and explore.

Cousins and friends flock to the fort Zach has built

Zach after one of his triathlons

Amanda with our dog, Chloe

A Note From Us

Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. We admire your love and sacrifice in this endeavor and hope this profile gave you a glimpse into our life as well as an understanding of our deep desire to adopt.

The calling to adopt a child has been woven throughout our lives. We can see how God has used life circumstances, passions, interactions with other adoptive parents and His Word to clearly point us towards growing our family through adoption. We are eager to welcome a child of any race, culture or background into our family, knowing that they are beautifully created by our loving Father.

Throughout our careers and involvement in the local church, we know the importance of a strong family in a child's life. We have worked diligently throughout our 11 years of marriage to create a stable physical, financial, emotional and spiritual environment for the children who enter into our care. Zachary is a Professional Engineer who is committed to working hard in order to support his family. His time spent serving in the children's ministry at church, being an uncle to 8 children and a biological father of 3 has equipped him to be able to speak into the lives of children of all ages. Amanda's time spent teaching and caring for children of many races, backgrounds and differing abilities has given her a wealth of knowledge in what it takes to nurture a child and prepare them for the world.

We hope the pages above have helped you understand our love and dedication to family. We will continue to pray for you, for strength, clarity, hope and peace, as you move forward with this difficult decision.

Sincerely,

Zachary & Amanda

WHY ADOPT?

We know that God has given us an abundance of love to pour into a child we bring into our family through adoption. We can look back at our lives and clearly see how God has been preparing us for this purpose. He has protected our marriage, blessed us with a stable support system and wired us with a desire to graciously love another child the way He graciously loves us. Our hearts have been forever changed by the Gospel and it is because of our faith that we feel called to adopt.