

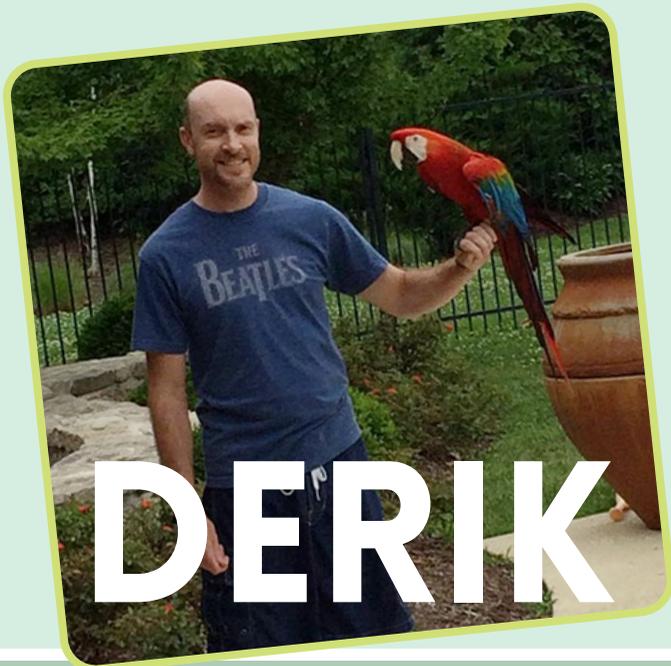
All you
need is
Love

The text is written in a light green, elegant cursive font. The phrase "All you need is Love" is arranged in three lines. The word "All" is on the top line, "you" is on the second line, "need is" is on the third line, and "Love" is on the fourth line. The text is decorated with two yellow leafy branches, one above "you" and one below "Love". There are also four small pink hearts scattered around the text: two above "you" and two below "Love".

Meet



*Derik, Elizabeth
and Annabelle*



DERIK

Derik is 46 years old and works full-time as the Facility Manager for a private school. He is a hard worker, he can fix about anything, and he serves his family incredibly well. He is funny and he is the one that our sweet daughter goes to when she wants to play and have some fun, as well as for protection. Derik enjoys doing house projects and knowing that his family is well taken care of.



ELIZABETH

Elizabeth is 42 years old and she works full-time as the Executive Assistant at our church for both the Head Pastor and Executive Pastor. She puts her family first and loves our daughter unconditionally. She also can be silly and our sweet daughter comes to her for comfort and food. Elizabeth enjoys gathering people and hosting in their home.



ANNABELLE

Annabelle is 5 years old and began Kindergarten this year. She attends school where her Daddy works. She is a sweet and tender-hearted girl and has definitely inherited her Daddy's sense of humor. Annabelle loves to swim and she loves to get together with her cousins and friends. She has 5 cousins that live in town.



THIS IS US

We've been married for 8 years, and have been good friends over 12 years. We met at church and served together. We purchased our first home together 3 years ago. We enjoy quality time together as a family, being outdoors, and cooking dinners together. We are committed to our church and have met some of our closest friends there.

Our Family



We have LOTS of extended family in town. All the grandparents have helped in taking care of Annabelle while mom and dad are at work. And, Annabelle adores her cousins. We are very close to family and are so thankful that they have been such a huge part of Annabelle's life and will be of our future child or children, as well. (And having built-in babysitters is pretty great, too!)



Derek's Family



Elizabeth's Family



Meet Bentley

Bentley is our puppy dog—he is now 1.5 years old and fully grown at 9 pounds. He is a sweet dog, loves to play, and licks lots to show his love.



Our Home

We purchased our home 3 years ago. Derik is good at making renovations to our home. So far, he has put in a front patio for us, put in some updated light fixtures, put in a back door, and is currently building a deck.

We also live just a couple of blocks away from Elizabeth's sister and two of Annabelle's cousins. That has been a lot of fun, especially on snow days.



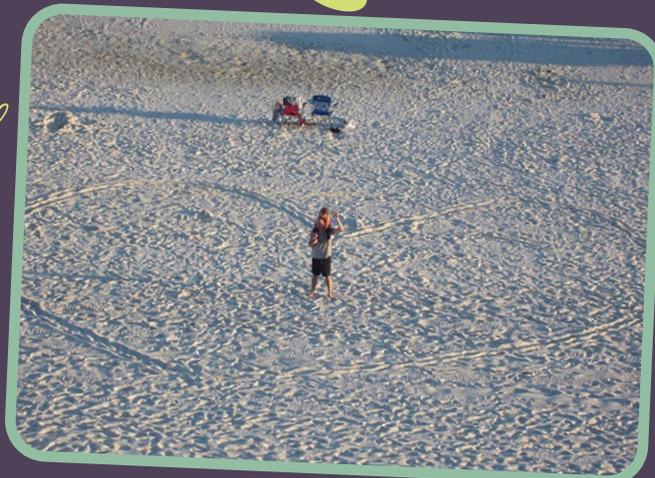
Hobbies

As mentioned, Derik spends quite a bit of time working on the house. We also enjoy spending time with friends and being outdoors. We joined a local pool this past summer and Annabelle has excelled at swimming.



Travel

We love to travel. We take about one big trip a year, often with Elizabeth's side of our family. We also try to get away together every year with just us. Travel is a refreshing time and it's good to recharge while being together and getting away from the day-to-day activities of life.



FRIENDS



We have met some of our closest friends through our church over the years. Even though some have moved away, we continue to stay in touch. Others are here and we enjoy spending time with them. When we spend time together, we typically eat dinner, play games, or do activities that involve the kiddos. Elizabeth enjoys catching up with her friends through meals, coffee or walks.



DEAR BIRTH PARENTS:

We are overwhelmed, blessed, and beyond thankful to get to be on this journey we are now on.

To tell you a little more about us, my husband Derik and I have been married for 8 years and have a 5-year old daughter, Annabelle. Our hearts have desired to have another child, and we have not been able to get pregnant again. Annabelle is hoping for a little sibling or two and she has already stated that she would like them to sleep in her room (although that is not our actual plan). Derik and I are committed to each other and it is our joy to raise a family. Our family comes before anything and we are able to unconditionally love, provide, and protect Annabelle and will be able to do the same if we are blessed with additional children.

We have lots of family in town, so any child or children added to our family would be surrounded and very loved. We also are for an open adoption. We are willing to stay in touch with you and your family and we are willing to send letters and pictures.

We would be honored to have you consider us for adopting your child. We imagine that is the hardest decision for a mother to make, and we also believe that adoption is an ultimate act of love. If you would consider this, it would give our family an opportunity that we have been longing for.

Thank you for the time you have taken to read this letter and learn about us. We hope that we have the opportunity to learn a little more about you, and we welcome your questions.

Praying for God's wisdom, direction, and peace for you in the days ahead.

Blessing upon blessing:

Derik and Elizabeth

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11



a gift of hope 
adoptions

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