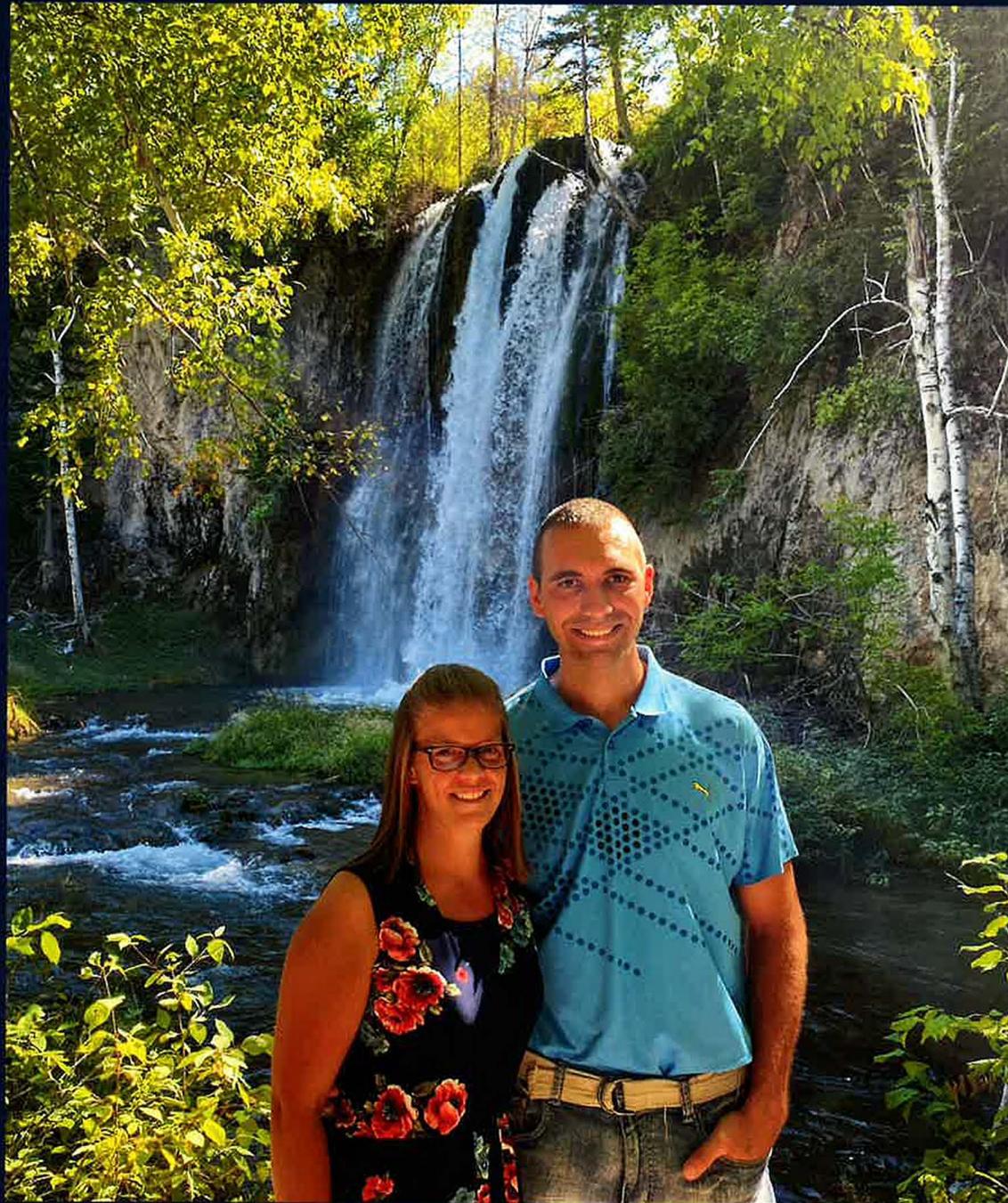


~~~~~  
A  
Glimpse  
Into  
Our  
Lives  
~~~~~



~~~~~  
Nate  
and  
Rhoda  
~~~~~

***Welcome!***



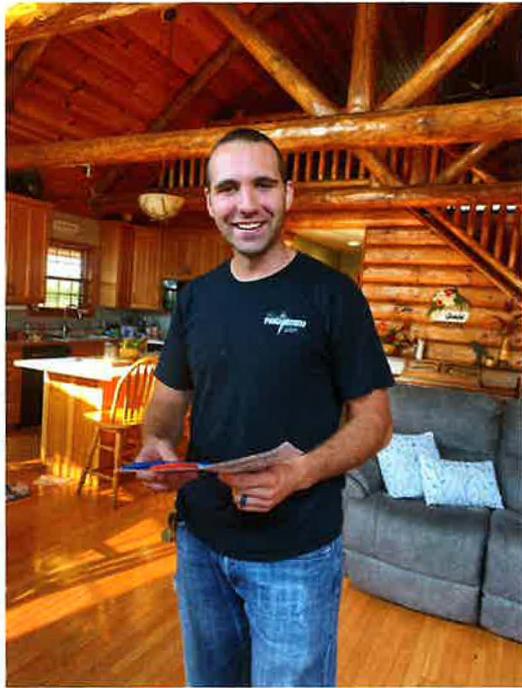
**Hello, and thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We can only imagine the emotions you may be experiencing as you consider adoption, and we want you to know that we admire your strength and the love that is guiding your journey.**

**We are Nate and Rhoda, and we are incredibly grateful that you are taking the time to learn about us. We have dreamed of growing our family through adoption, and we are ready to provide a home filled with unconditional love, warmth, and endless support. We cannot wait to share that with a child and to create new traditions, celebrate life's little moments, and nurture them as they grow into whoever they are meant to be.**

**Thank you for considering us. We hope this book gives you a glimpse into who we are, the life we share, and the kind of parents we aspire to be. No matter where your journey leads, we hold you in our hearts with gratitude and respect.**

**Love,**

***Nate and Rhoda***



# Nate



**Hello, I'm Nate! I was born and raised in a small town in northwest Iowa. I am the second oldest of 8 siblings. I have 4 brothers and 4 sisters. I graduated from college with degrees in Industrial and Commercial Wiring and Electrical Technology. In my spare time, I enjoy working outdoors around our property and helping family with various electrical projects. I also enjoy being a volunteer firefighter and have been on our local department since 2012. I am looking forward to being a dad and hearing our future children laughing and playing in our yard while I work outside.**

## Rhoda



Hi, I'm Rhoda! I was born and raised in Michigan and lived there until I moved to Iowa when I married Nate. I am the second youngest of 7 siblings. I treasure being part of a large family, and family is a very important part of my life. After high school I earned my CNA license and worked in an Oncology unit before I was married. I love to spend time outdoors in nature working in our large vegetable garden and planting numerous flowers around our property. I currently work at our christian school as an Education Assistant for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. I am looking forward to helping our future children grow academically, physically, and spiritually.

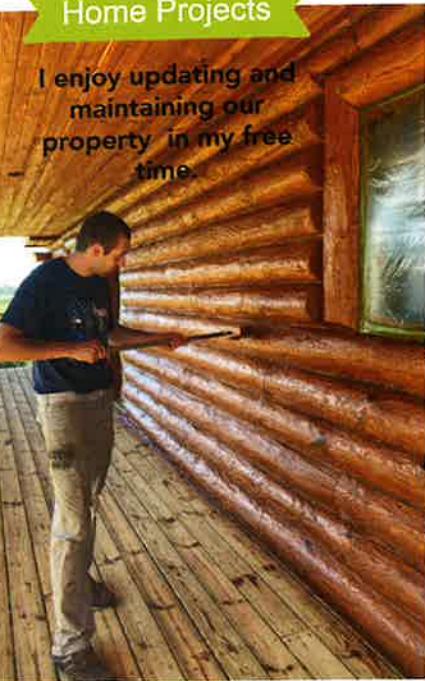
## Vacations and Hobbies



**We enjoy going on vacations and usually go on at least one a year. Our favorite vacations are getting out in nature and seeing God's beautiful creation such as waterfall hikes, visiting national parks, hiking mountains, and staying at a cabin by a lake. We also enjoy going to different zoos and animal safaris across the United States. We have made many memories together and are super excited to take our future children on vacations with us and make new memories as a family.**

### Home Projects

I enjoy updating and maintaining our property in my free time.



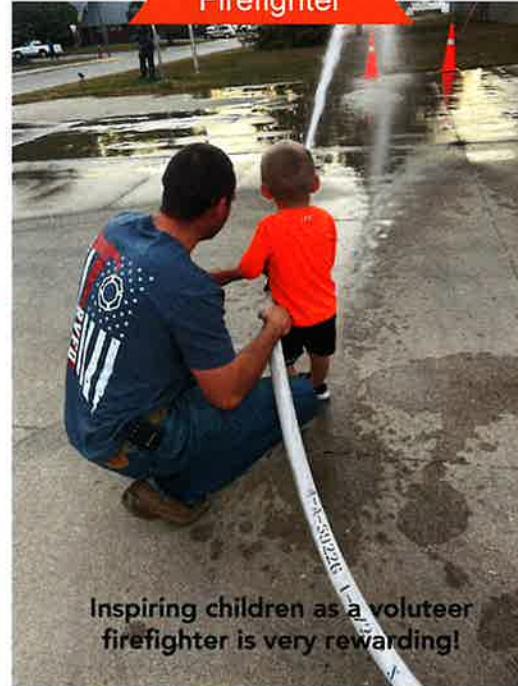
### Knitting

All be people fall in love.



I have made 6 afgans and currently working on 2 more!

### Firefighter



Inspiring children as a volunteer firefighter is very rewarding!

### Baking

Cookies, pies, and cinnamon rolls are my favorite treats to bake.



### Biking

Biking is our favorite way to exercise together.



### Hiking

Weather does not stop us too quickly from hiking. Rain, snow, sun, we love it all!



### Skiing

Skiing is a great winter adventure!



### Ice Cream

Trying local ice cream shops wherever we go is a highlight of our trips!



# Nate's Family



**My family all lives within 10 minutes of each other in Iowa, besides my one sister who lives in Michigan. My parents have been married for 33 years. Dad retired from being a veterinarian this year and Mom works part time at our christian school. They enjoy babysitting and entertaining their grandchildren. My mom often thought about adopting children herself, so she will be thrilled to have adopted grandchildren.**

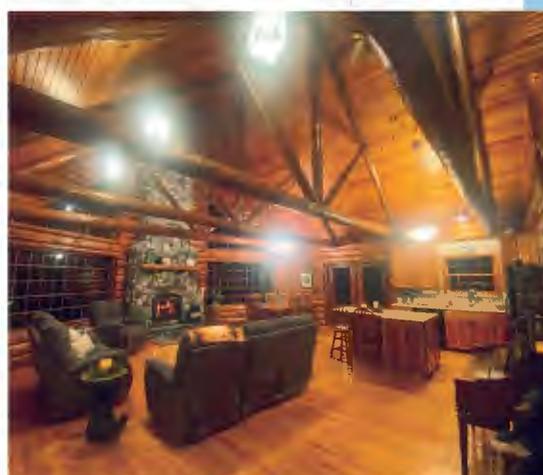
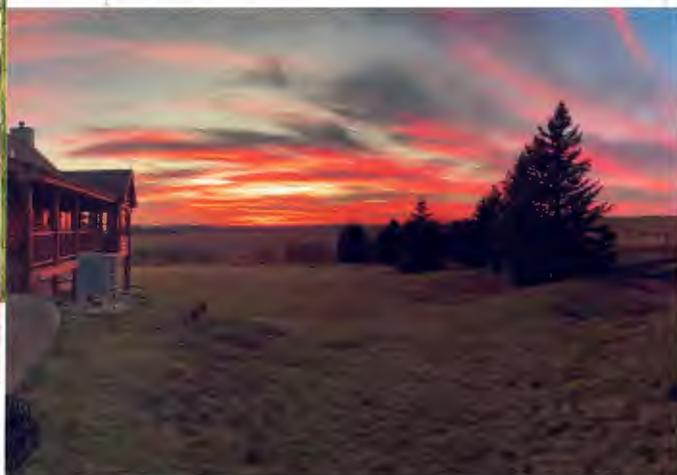
# Rhoda's Family



I grew up in a loving and caring family. We are a close family and enjoy spending time together. My parents have been married for 43 years and are always excited to spend time with their grandchildren. I have 2 sisters that live in Canada and the rest of my family lives in Michigan. We are looking forward to taking our future children to Michigan and Canada to spend time with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.



## Our Home



Welcome to our warm, cozy, and cheerful log home! We own a spacious home with a large yard on the outskirts of a small town in northwest Iowa. We have the privilege of living in a safe, quiet, and friendly neighborhood that is part of a tight knit community. Everyone comes together to help each other out when there is a need.

It feels like we live in the country with fields surrounding us and beautiful sunsets, but we have all the benefits of living in town at our fingertips. Church, school, family, library, stores, and bike trails are all within a few minutes of our home.

We are excited to raise whatever children God desires to give us as a family here!

## Cooper



Meet Cooper, our 3 year old yellow lab. He is such a lovable, friendly, and playful dog with a fun and curious personality. He loves: his blankets, to play fetch, go swimming, and belly rubs. Cooper loves people whether they are adults or children. He has been a great addition to our family and we love having him around. He is always looking for a play mate and he will love having children to play with!

# Faith and Values

## Our Faith:

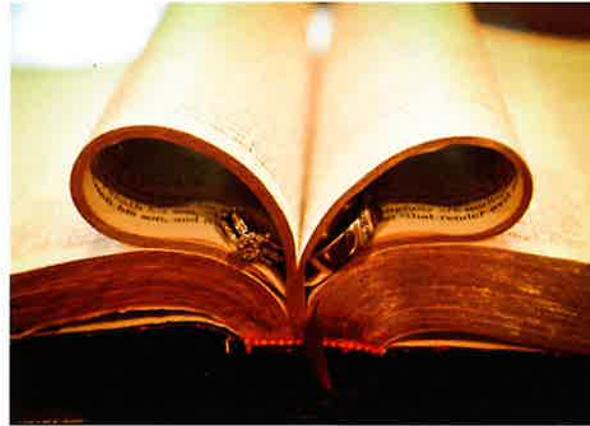
- We are Christians and believe that we need to be saved by Jesus Christ.
- We believe that He came to this earth, suffered, died, and paid the price for the sins of His people.
- We believe religion is very important in a family and that God is in control over all things.
- We plan to send our children to a private christian school and take them to church with us each Sunday.

## Our values:

- We love each other unconditionally
- We are each others best earthly friends
- We treat each other with respect
- We are a team and make important decisions together
- We support each other during life's happy and challenging times
- We don't believe in divorce
- We communicate in a loving way
- We say "I love you" often and also "I'm sorry" when needed



# Marriage



*"In all thy ways  
acknowledge Him, and He  
shall direct thy paths."  
Proverbs 3:6*



**It was a warm, sunny, summer day when we first met each other at a church youth conference in Iowa. For the next 3 years, we spent many hours talking on the phone. We also made the 11 hour trip back and forth between Iowa and Michigan every 3 weeks to be together for a few days over the weekend. Some of our favorite things we enjoyed doing when we were dating (and still do today) were: going to state parks for campfires and grilling supper, visiting museums and zoos, and walking along the beaches and piers of Lake Michigan.**

**Surrounded by many family and friends from near and far, we were united in marriage (2015) a couple days before Christmas. We were married in Michigan at the church Rhoda grew up in.**



- Cottage vacations with Rhoda's family
- Family nights with Nate's family
- Going out to Pizza Ranch any time family from Michigan visits
- Escape rooms with friends
- Bonfire and fireworks on July 4 in Michigan with Rhoda's family
- Dinner dates for birthdays and anniversaries
- Game nights



# Work



I, Rhoda, currently work at our christian school as an Educational Assistant helping students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade that struggle with math and reading. I have worked here for 9 years.

I enjoy working 8:30-3:00 Monday-Thursday and having summers off because it allows me to still keep up at home (cleaning, cooking, and gardening). I have always dreamed of being a "stay-at-home" mom, so I plan to quit at school when we are blessed with a child.



I, Nate, currently lead two teams at an automation company that I've been with for 10 years. We program flour mills, feed mills, pet food plants, and renewable fuel plants across the US, Canada, and Mexico.

I have a flexible work schedule, but typically work 8-5 Monday-Friday. A nice benefit of my job is the flexibility to work from anywhere. I plan to take a couple weeks off when we receive our future child.



## Children In Our Lives



Adoption is not foreign to us. For 4 years I had the privilege of being a nanny for 3 adopted children. I was their second mom and loved and treated them as if they were my own children. We spent hours together doing crafts, reading books, going to the park, and taking them to swimming lessons. I was responsible for making meals for the children, doing laundry, cleaning their house, and helping them learn their letters and numbers.

We have had many conversations with the adoptive parents about their experiences with adoption. They thought it was such a neat and beautiful process how God had a hand in directing everything in their adoption journey.

We have been blessed with many nieces and nephews on both sides of our family (currently 32 total with 2 more expecting). We love spending time with them and they mean so much to us! We see how much joy and laughter they bring to a family but also the immense amount of responsibility that goes along with raising children. Our future children will have many cousins to play and grow up with.



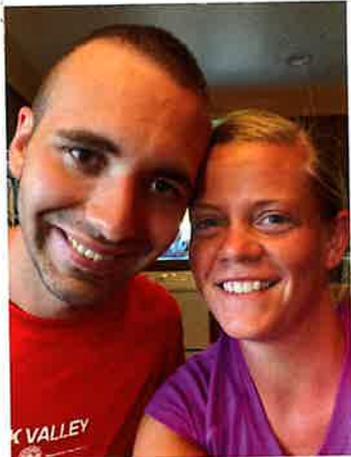


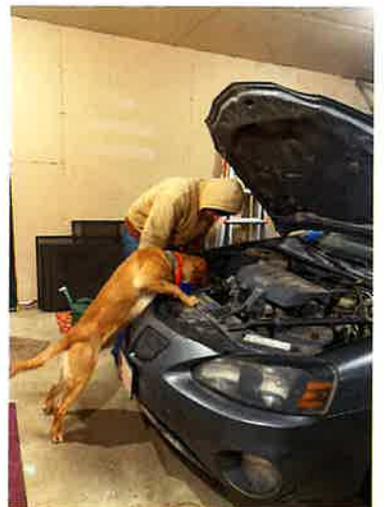
# Everyday Life



We keep our marriage relationship strong by spending quality time together, whether it's working, playing, or relaxing.

*"The true wealth of life is not in material possessions but in the treasured moments spent with family." - Anonymous*





*Dear Birthparent,*

First, we want to acknowledge the immense love, strength, and courage that have brought you to this moment. Though we can not fully understand what this journey feels like for you, we do know that the decision you are considering comes from a place of deep love for your child. That love is something we promise to always honor and cherish.

Your child will always know their story, one that begins with your bravery and selflessness. We will share with them how deeply loved they have always been by you and by us. We are committed to maintaining openness and communication with you if you desire, allowing you to remain connected to your child's growth and development.

We cannot express enough how much we admire you. No matter what decision you make, please know that you are strong, you are loved, and you are not alone. If you choose us, we promise to cherish, nurture, and protect your child with everything we have.

With love and gratitude,

*Nate and Rhoda*

## We Promise

- To love and nurture your child unconditionally
- To respect and honor you as your child's birth mother and remember what it took for you to trust us with your child
- To provide your child with a safe, loving, and stable home
- To surround your child with family, friends, and a community of people who love them

- To hug and kiss your child each morning and tell them how happy we are to see them
- To be in your child's corner, to fight for their safety and well being
- To provide your child with opportunities for learning, adventure, and creativity
- To do our best to help your child become a loving, kind, compassionate, honest, generous, and respectful adult



## *Thank you!!*

**As we reach the end of this book, we just want to take a moment to say thank you, not just for considering us, but for the immense love and courage that has led you to this moment.**

**Thank you for taking the time to learn about us and for considering adoption as part of your child's journey. No matter where life takes you, we are grateful for your strength, your love, and the path that has brought our lives together in this moment.**

**We pray that you may be given peace as you make this brave and difficult decision.**

*"In adoption, a child is not given up. A birth mother gives life, a child a family, and unconditional love. She gives a part of her heart that will never feel whole. She gives another mother a part of her heart that was missing...you give a lot, just never give up."  
- Terra Cooper*





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text **"love"** to 844-764-2029

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