
ALWAYS ROOM FOR A LITTLE ONE



Hello,

Our family, from left to right: Davey, Levi, Jon, Sabina, Lucie, and Janna

As we write this introductory letter about our family we are praying that God will give you wisdom, peace, and hope as you make important decisions for yourself and your baby.

If you want your child to be part of a large, loving Christian family then please get to know us! We love children, and each of us (kids included) agree that now would be a good time to add another child to our family. We hope to bless another “little one” with a great childhood. We promise to do our best to, “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Our Story

Jon and Sabina met in Santa Barbara in 1997 on Sabina's second day in America (she is from Germany), and we married in 1999. In September, we will celebrate our twentieth wedding anniversary!

During our pre-marital counseling we became Christians. We're blessed to have a great church family, and thanks to the counsel of many godly couples we were able to lay a great foundation for our marriage and parenting. We have been serving together in the kids' ministry for almost twenty years, caring for all ages from nursery to elementary.

In 2006, Jon (formerly a CPA) joined the church staff and is currently the Church Administrator. Sabina is a stay-at-home mom and home educates our children. She loves it with all of her heart and wouldn't trade it for anything.



Jon and Sabina were married twenty years ago in Santa Barbara



Siblings to Play With

God has blessed us with four amazing kids (all born to us). Our firstborn, Janna (age 15) has been Mommy's little helper with each subsequent baby God has blessed us with. She is four years older than our son Levi (11), and he loves and adores her. Three years later, our son Davey (8) was born. He is very gentle and loving. The boys love playing baseball together. Lucie (5) has a sweet spirit and she will be a great big sister. All of them are looking forward to adding a new baby to our family.

Homeschooling

After the birth of Janna, we saw the fruit of home education in other families, and we desired the same style of education for our family. So when Janna turned five we began homeschooling. Ten years and three kids later, we're still going strong and enjoying

our daily routine. There are many great homeschool curriculum choices available, and we are blessed to have a fantastic homeschooling community in Santa Barbara.

Here are some homeschooling highlights: Each child receives one-on-one instruction from a teacher who loves and knows the student best, the students move at their own pace, we can teach from a biblical perspective, we can focus on character development and life skills (not only academics), we get to read lots of great books, our kids are not separated so they remain best friends and we have time to be together as a family, and finally, we can travel when everyone else is in school!



Gathering around the homeschool table



Travel and Family Traditions

Sabina (now a U.S. Citizen) was born in Frankfurt, Germany and her whole family still lives there. Every other year or so we fly back to visit for a few fun-filled weeks. Another favorite destination is Kauai, Hawaii (that's where the beach pictures in this letter were taken). There is a little red farm house in Salinas, CA we like to visit annually and make side trips into the Monterey Bay area. Also, a few times a year we drive to see Jon's side of the family who live in Arizona and Nevada.



Throughout the year, we observe some fun German traditions, such as advent calendars leading up to Christmas. On "Schultuete" day each of the children receives a cardboard cone filled with new school supplies and toys to begin the school year. Of course everybody is excited when packages from Germany arrive filled with German chocolate and surprises. We also have our own favorite meal traditions like cooking chili inside a big pumpkin or making special Easter cookies.



(top) Visiting our German cousins in Frankfurt
 (mid) A new school year begins with Schultuete
 (bot) Cooking Pumpkin Chili together

Family Philosophy and Home Life

Our family philosophy is to honor God in all that we do and to create a strong and loving bond within our family. We are raising our kids to be best friends. We try to do everything as a family if possible: family meals are the norm, we love to read great books out-loud together, we serve together in the 2 & 3 year-old room at church on Sundays, we love to walk and explore, and we are even remodeling our house together.

A year ago we were able to purchase a bigger house. It is on a really great piece of property, with a swimming pool, big backyard, and only a 15 minute walk to the beach (and we love beach walks!). Our kids enjoyed participating in every aspect of the move, from touring open houses, to choosing paint colors, to picking out kitchen appliances and working on home renovations. It has been a real education!

As you walk into our home the first thing you will notice are books everywhere. We truly believe that if we can give our children a love of God and a love of books, most of our parenting has been successful and they'll be equipped to make wise life decisions and be lifetime learners. The final piece of the puzzle is giving them our unconditional love. We will always be their parents, no matter how old they are. We're working hard because we want our kids to cherish their childhood memories. Someday, it will make them better parents too.

We have much more to write, but this letter is already long enough. We hope to meet you in person and share more with you, answer any questions, and help you make the best plan possible for you and your baby. Thank you for having the courage to make this decision, and thank you for sharing your gift with another family.

We have room in our home and room in our minivan, but most importantly, we have room in our hearts,

Jon Sabina Janna Levi Davey COTIE



(top) Teaching Sunday school to the 2s & 3s
(mid) Baby ready!
(bot) Taking a walk with our dog, Shiloh