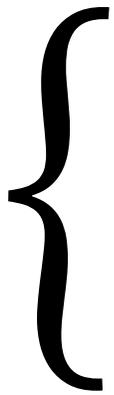




Amen & Michelle Bains

Dear Birth Mother,



We regularly thank God for you in our prayers. We are thankful for your immeasurable love in choosing life for your child. We are thankful for your strength and bravery for making this decision to allow someone else to parent this child. We are thankful that your decision is fulfilling the dreams of another family (possibly even ours).

We want to thank you for considering us. We want you to be assured that if you do choose us to love and raise your baby, we will welcome this child with hearts full of love, an undeniably strong support system of friends and family, and a faith that has seen us through all of life's joys and struggles.

We pray for peace for you and your family as you make this decision and wisdom as you choose a forever family for your baby.

-Amen & Michelle





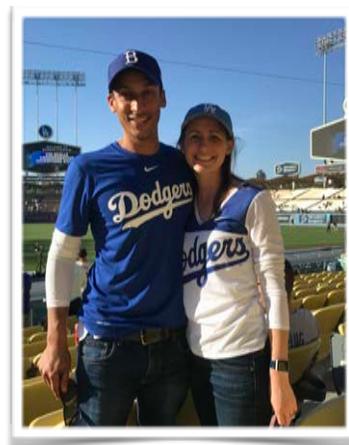
ABOUT US

We met in 2005 when Amen moved to Los Angeles. Through a mutual friend he joined a Bible study that Michelle was already a part of. He then began volunteering with the youth group that she had been serving with for several years, working with high school students. As the result of spending so much time together we became fast friends. We maintained a strong friendship and some time later we began dating. In 2013 we got engaged and a year later, were married in Napa, CA.

We love to travel together and explore, whether that is our great city of Los Angeles, domestically around the United States, or abroad to Europe. We discovered that our favorite place outside of the US is Italy and look forward to going back soon. We enjoy adventures: from concerts, to movies, to hikes. We enjoy having season tickets to the LA Dodgers and the Pantages Theatre.

Community is incredibly important to us and we seek to have intentional time with both our family and friends. Michelle's parents live locally and we spend most holidays with them and Amen's are just a few hours away. We have an almost weekly Sunday night dinner with our group of friends, many of whom have children as well. We also spend time each year visiting our close friends from childhood who live in Morro Bay, Seattle, Hawaii Wyoming and Portland. We feel so fortunate to have people in our lives who fill us up, whether in person or through phone calls and texts.

We live in a single family home with a great backyard in a neighborhood known as Westchester, north of LAX Airport. We love our neighborhood and it is the perfect area each evening to walk our dog Scully. Scully is a Cocker Spaniel and Poodle mix and she is 3 years old.





I grew up in a small suburb of Los Angeles called Pacific Palisades with both parents and an older brother. My parents have been married for about 45 years. My mom is a retired 1st grade teacher and my dad is retired from owning his own business. My brother lives in Oxnard with his wife and 4 year old daughter. He is working as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

ABOUT
MICHELLE

I would describe my childhood as happy and full of love. My parents supported me and encouraged me to do my best in all that I did but did not push me to do things that I did not want to do. My father is Jewish and my mother is Catholic. When I was in high school I pursued my own faith and became a Christian at a camp with the youth group I had been attending with a friend. Consequently, when I graduated college I felt that I wanted to give back and volunteered with the high school youth group at that same church for 11 years. I feel these kids taught me as much as I taught them.

I attended public school in LAUSD from kindergarten through 12th grade. From there I went on to earn a BS in Psychology from Texas Christian University, an MA in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pepperdine University and a credential in School Psychology from California State University, Long Beach. I have worked as a School Psychologist in LAUSD (in middle schools for 5 years now) for the past 8 years. This year I am beginning a new position as a School Psychologist with a private agency that allows me to work from home half of the week.



ABOUT
AMEN

I was born in Visalia, in the Central Valley of California. I have an older brother who is 2.5 years older than I am. My parents were born in India, got married, and moved to the United States in 1970, making my brother and I the first generation born in the states. My parents are both retired and happily married. My mother was a nurse and my dad worked for the US Postal Service for 25 years. My brother still lives in Visalia and works as a pharmacist. He is married and they have two children, ages 3 and 5.

I graduated college in 2002 from University of the Pacific with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design, but soon felt the call to full-time Pastoral ministry. I have been working at Calvary Church since 2007 as the Community Life Pastor. I graduated from Fuller Seminary with a Masters in Theology. I also have the pleasure of serving on two boards. The first is an organization called Hands of Mercy, where we build homes for families in need in Ensenada, Mexico. The other is an organization called Claris, which seeks to empower, encourage and support women and families to make informed decisions during pregnancy.

Outside of work, I love spending time with people. I count myself incredibly blessed to have a great and diverse group of friends, which leads Michelle and I towards unique and fun adventures. I have also been a life-long Dodger and Laker fan, thanks to my dad, and it is fun to live in Los Angeles and have the chance to go to games regularly.





ABOUT
OUR
FAMILY

One thing that has been on our hearts through our time of dating and now into marriage, is having a family which includes kids. Both of us have devoted much of our lives to loving and serving children and students. We have served the high schoolers of our church through youth group for 8 years. Amen spent 5 years serving with, teaching and coaching middle school students and Michelle has dedicated her professional life to counseling and helping students succeed in school.

As we stepped into marriage, we had many talks of what our family could look like and adoption was something that we discussed in great detail. We believe it would be a step we would pursue one day, regardless of having biological children or not. What we didn't know was the journey God was going to lead us through over the next several years as we struggled through infertility.

Through that process, it confirmed our deep desire for children and we soon came to realize that God's desire for us was to grow our family through adoption. This clarity has brought us such peace, joy and excitement for what God is doing in our family. We look forward with great expectation to what is next.

