

# *Tyrone and Emily*



*so happy to "meet" you*

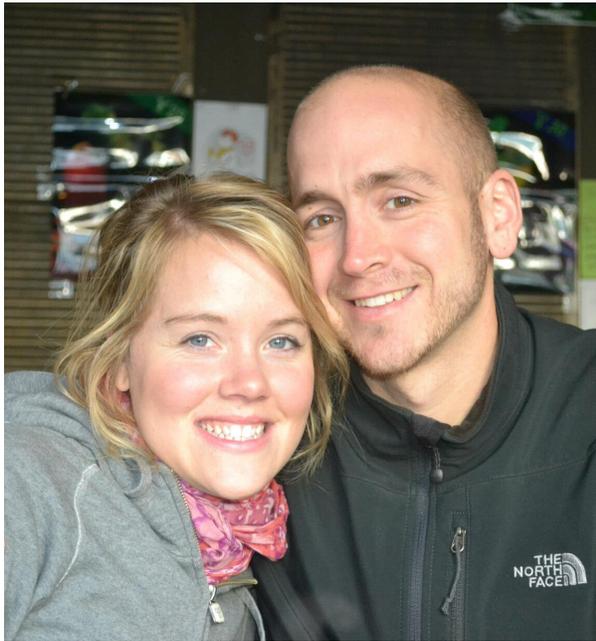


Thank you so much for learning about our family and for considering us for this very important decision. Our hope is that you will feel loved and supported in this process, no matter what decision you make, or family you choose for your child.

We are just a regular family that has a lot of love to share. We have a ton of fun together, we support and encourage each other, and we have many resources to give to another child. We currently live in Cambodia during the school year and spend our summers in the U.S. and Canada. We especially love to travel and work as international teachers which allows our family to travel the world, experience different cultures, and learn about a lot of different people.

We want you to know that we would protect and care for your child and encourage them to pursue their dreams in life and ensure they have a great education. We will be there for them during the ups and downs in life and make sure that they have a lot of fun and laughter in their life! We hope that as you learn more about us, that you will feel that both you and your child could fit into our family, as we will all share this journey together. We are sending you and your baby a lot of love during this process.







# *our hearts for adoption*

We're hoping to adopt because we have a lot of love and resources to share with another child. Emily's family was also built on adoption (both of her brothers were adopted) and we would love to have the opportunity to grow our family in this way. We talked about adopting a child even before we were married and hoped and prayed that adoption could play a role in our family.

We love that on Emily's side there is already a history of adoption in the family, and we can count on her brothers (who are awesome Uncles) to go to for any advice for us about adoption, or as mentors for our hopeful adopted child as they grow up. Emily's sister-in-law (and her best friend growing up) is also a birth mother and shares a close relationship to her son and his adopted family. Our extended families are ethnically diverse on both sides, which makes us comfortable pursuing an inter-racial adoption. We feel comfortable knowing that if our future child comes from an ethnically diverse background he or she will most likely have family or friends in our community with a similar ethnic background or skin color. Tyrone's biggest mentor and cousin, Kevin, who is African American initially taught him the game of basketball. Kevin now mentors Tyrone in life and they co-coach basketball camps together. He is Tyrone's go-to for questions about coaching, being a husband and father, and general life advice.

**We feel so blessed to be close with all of our family and know that the baby who joins our family will be looked after and immensely loved by everyone in the family!**

# our love story



From Emily: We met at a birthday party for a three-year old little girl named Sydney (she is now graduating high school this year!) I was the nanny for Sydney and Tyrone is Sydney's older cousin. It was merely by luck (and God's perfect timing) that Tyrone and I met. During the party I noticed right away how much the little girls loved Tyrone and he was so sweet and funny with them that it was instant attraction for Emily, he was also pretty cute too! You could say it was "love at first sight," as I went home that night after the party and told my best friend, "I met my future husband today!" Apparently Tyrone was feeling the same way and asked his cousin for my email address. We began emailing each other right away and even writing letters to send in the mail. We eventually started dating as we got to know each other more and I decided to attend university in the same town as Tyrone.

From Tyrone: I took Emily to a Greek restaurant for dinner on her birthday because cooking Greek food together had been one of our first dates. I was so nervous the entire dinner because I had her engagement ring in my pocket. Our friends were waiting at Emily's house for a surprise birthday party. I had gotten her favorite dessert, Dairy Queen ice cream cake, that said "Will you marry me?" After dinner, we drove to the special place where we first decided to start dating and I told her that her cake was in the trunk of the car. When she turned around I was on one knee and I asked her to marry me. All of our friends were waiting at her house to celebrate and I remember being so happy to tell them she had agreed to marry me!





We were married in Cannon Beach, Oregon on the top of a beautiful hillside overlooking the ocean. It was a very simple wedding at a park, but it was beautiful and we were surrounded by all of our closest friends and family. We wanted to get married outside since both of us love the outdoors, and we were told that the weather at the beach can be super unpredictable, but we took the risk anyway! It happened to be a beautiful blue sky day but super windy. Our brother had to hold the altar up from falling over in the wind during the ceremony! It is still a really funny and great memory for us, as we tried to say our vows quickly before we were blown away! Everyone still laughs about it today. One of our favorite parts of our ceremony was having Sydney, the little girl who we met through as our flower girl.

We have been married now for eleven years! We enjoy many hobbies together. We love traveling and we have traveled to over 15 countries together since we were married. We also love cooking, baking, and trying new recipes from around the world! One of our favorite “date nights” is having Tyrone make dinner for us (he is a great cook) and watching a movie together in our home. We also love doing anything outdoors together, like camping, fishing, or going on a hike!

# meet Tyrone

Tyrone is such a caring, funny, sensitive, and hard-working person. He is passionate about so many things. Most importantly, his family, which he always puts first. He is an incredible basketball coach and he has made a difference in the lives of many children and teenagers who he shares his love of basketball with and who he teaches every day as a physical education teacher. His dedication to teaching children and being the best teacher and father he can be is one of the things I love most about him. I admire how he always lives by strong values and morals and makes thoughtful decisions for our family. He also makes me laugh all the time! Another one of my favorite things about Tyrone is that if I am ever feeling down, he can find a way to easily make me laugh! (Oh, he also makes THE BEST food!)



**SOME OF HIS FAVORITE THINGS: COACHING BASKETBALL, MARGARITA PIZZA, VACATIONING ON THE OREGON COAST, SURFING, & THE OFFICE**



**TYRONE'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I NOTICED FIRST ABOUT HIM AND WAS ONE THING THAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM!**



My husband works with children as a teacher every day and as a father. He is amazing with children; they tend to gravitate towards him because he gets really excited about sports and activities that kids just want to be around him. I have heard a lot of students say that he is their favorite teacher because he loves what he does and I think children can notice when adults genuinely like children. He can be silly and funny with children, but he also takes his job of teaching children about sports and coaching seriously and is respected by many. I think he would be an incredible father to another child because he always has time for his family. He loves to spend time with children and he will often be at the pool swimming with our daughter, or teaching her and her friends new games. He also loves to read stories with our daughter and she will often come to him for her nightly bedtime story. I also love seeing the relationship between him and our daughter, and how sweet and sensitive he is with her, but also the way he builds her up and helps her develop confidence. Tyrone's love for children is one of the things that I noticed first about him and was one thing that made me fall in love with him!



## meet Emily

Emily is the most loyal person I have ever met. She works incredibly hard to make things work out for our family. She fights for what she believes in and works tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her. If something is bothering her, she will always find a way to make it right. She is a talented photographer and uses her talent to take family photos because she truly enjoys helping others. Emily is very trustworthy and is a confidant for friends because they know that they can trust and rely on her. Emily always makes life fun; she is so adventurous and likes nothing more than creating memories with our family.

**SOME OF HER FAVORITE THINGS: PHOTOGRAPHY, GILMORE GIRLS, VOLLEYBALL, CHRISTMAS, SNOWBOARDING, & CHEESECAKE**

Emily is Kindergarten teacher. It is incredibly inspiring to see how much effort she puts into creating experiences for kids. For example, she cooks with her students every week and doesn't care how messy it will inevitably be. Her interactions with kids are always so positive and kids are naturally drawn to her. Former students of hers are constantly coming up to her for a hug or just to say hi! She genuinely loves children and is looking forward to taking care of another child. **Emily is a very involved mother who always puts her family first.** Amara and Emily have a very special relationship. When Emily is cooking or doing things in the house she always includes Amara. For Emily, it doesn't matter how much messier it is or how much longer it takes to let Amara help create something. One thing that really attracted me to Emily was her adventurous spirit. She loves to take Amara on adventures and show her the world. As a mother, it is very obvious that Emily imparts her value of caring for others to Amara. Birthdays and holidays are very important to Emily and she always makes them memorable for our family.

Being a Kindergarten teacher works so well for our family. We love our school, and having our daughter attend the school we work at is amazing. The school is incredibly family-friendly and the teachers have a great sense of community. The baby will eventually be able to go to the school that we are teaching at. For childcare while we are at work we employ a nanny who has been working for us for two years. Our nanny is amazing with children and we trust her completely with our daughter. She is part of our family and will provide a very safe and caring environment for the baby when Emily eventually goes back to work. We are lucky that the school we teach at is very close to our home, so we often get to come home and have lunch together and makes coming home and seeing the baby very easy throughout the day.





## *meet Amara*

Our daughter, Amara Paige is almost five years old. She is an outgoing and sensitive child and loves to color and draw. Her favorite thing to do is to play with her neighborhood friends on the playground or at the pool. Her Dad taught her to swim at a really young age, so she spends a lot of time swimming and pretending to be a “mermaid.” Amara is really excited about the possibility of having a sibling. She has always been very interested and sweet with babies, and we know she will make a fantastic older sister.





# *Our time as a family*

Our family loves spending time together being outside, whether it's by the pool, playground, or having a BBQ. On the weekends we love to have movie nights and spend time making food together, or trying a new restaurant.

As international teachers, we have had the opportunity to travel as a family to over a dozen different countries during school holidays and summer vacations. We love traveling together as we feel it opens up a new understanding of people, cultures, and ways of living that we hope our children can learn from. We also love spending time at the beach, whether it be in Oregon, or at a new beach in a new country (Thailand and Bali have been a couple of our favorite beach destinations!) We love just relaxing by the water and playing in the sand.

We love to travel during school holidays since getting around to other countries around southeast Asia is usually only an hour flight away. We have gone to Thailand many times several other countries together and we especially love to go to beach towns and spend a lot of the time relaxing and playing on the beach together. Our vacations are never super extravagant, but are centered around family-friendly activities like train rides, outdoor activities, water parks, or finding a local library for reading at.



# meet our families



We are close with all of our extended families. As teachers, we get a lot of time off for school holidays to visit family and we get lots of fun cousin time in, it is one of our favorite things to do. Every summer we come home from Cambodia and stay in our home in Oregon, and visit with our family and friends in the U.S and Canada. We love spending time together with all the nieces and nephews and our siblings (we both have a lot) so we get to spend a lot of time with family which we love!

On Emily's side we love to go on vacations together, like to the beach and rent a house together, or go camping at one of the many amazing lakes or forests in Oregon. On Tyrone's side we always meet up at his parents' house which is in a small town in Canada. The home is large and beautiful and can accommodate many families at one time. It is on a lot of property which we love to go four-wheeling around and right next to a river which has a great beach and is perfect for swimming and fishing. The home has a large back yard (for playing lawn games) and a pizza oven outside for big family parties. This is Tyrone's childhood home and we always go here every summer and it is one of our favorite places in the world. We are both very close with all of our family on both sides.



We always get a chance to see our family every summer or during holidays. **Both of our families are so excited about a new baby joining our family. They are a group of the most kind, loving and amazingly supportive family.** Also, we think the Aunties and Uncles on both sides of our family are so amazing and treat all of their nieces and nephews as if they were their own children.





## *our home*

We live in a two bedroom/two bathroom condominium in an international gated and very safe community in Cambodia on the banks of the Bassac River. Amara loves our backyard. There is a swimming pool with a kids area and the neighbor kids to play with. The big playground in our backyard has a rope swing and a great big wooden play structure for kids.

The community that our home is located in is made up of children and families from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities from all over the world working internationally like us. There are families from South America, Mexico, Africa, Europe, Canada, the U.S and all parts of Asia. Many of our neighbors are teachers, doctors, lawyers, some work for the United Nations or government organizations from their home countries. We know each other well and our children are always playing together and attending each-others birthday parties and celebrations. We love going to the parks, pools, and library nearby; it's a great place to raise kids!





## *our family values*

We plan to stay here for the next few years, as Cambodia is one of the most beautiful places we have ever lived and we love our community. It is possible that may move back to the United States in the next few years, but our plan is to continue to teach internationally since we love the lifestyle and the ability to travel with our children and show them the world, while living overseas.

We were both raised in Christian homes and know the value and importance of raising our own children by the Christian faith. We attend church regularly as a family and are involved in church activities and helping out in our community. Our church is another loving and supportive group of people like our own family. We want our children to grow up to be loving, respectful, and active participants in making our community a better place for everyone, no matter where we are.

Our children will attend the same international school that we teach at, with some of the best curriculums in the world. Our children will get a high-quality education and attend schools with great facilities and teachers (our current school has an Olympic sized pool, two large playgrounds, soccer fields, world-class technology labs, and great teachers from around the world.) We are very proud of the school we teach at and know that our children will receive a high-quality education that will eventually lead them to great universities in their future if they choose, and give them a global perspective on education since they will have teachers from many parts of the world. **We want our children to be following their interests and dreams in life—no matter what route their passions take them.**



# before you go...

We want to thank you for learning about our family and for considering making such a powerful decision for your child. We value your ability to know exactly what is best for your child, no matter what decision you make.

**We want you to know that if you choose our family, we are committed to you as well as your baby.** We are committed to learning about you, if you want to build a relationship with us. We are committed to making sure that your child lives an amazing life and that they know how strong, admirable, and loving their mother is. We promise to always speak positively and openly about your child's story at all times. When they ask questions about you, we promise to tell them how much we love you and how much you love them. We hope that we can have a relationship with you and share all of the exciting milestones for this child in life together with you. We hope that you will feel comfortable to reach out to us whenever you want to, or feel free to keep space if you need it.

We want to be on this journey together with you and we will ensure that your child is loved unconditionally.

All our love,



*Tyrone, Emily, and Amara*



