



*Love is patient, love is kind.
Love does not envy, love does not boast,
love is not proud.
Love is not rude, love is not self seeking,
love is not easily angered.
Love keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but
rejoices with the truth.
Love always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.*

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

Dear Birthmother,

We can not pretend to understand your emotions nor the thought process you must be experiencing at this time. We can only try to explain who we are, and how we may be able to help each other given the current circumstances. The decision we have both committed to is one that will most certainly change lives; and long-term, it would be positive for all involved.

We hope you will take a moment to hear our hearts and desires for that future. In either case, we wish only the best for you and your child.

Russ and Lori Madsen

A little about us –

Our names are Lori and Russ. We have been married since September of 1999. We dated for three years prior to our engagement, and found that we have many interests and goals in common and enjoy each other's company. Our common bond has always been trust and respect. When we first met, Russ was a Golf Professional and Lori was in the last semester of Nursing School, preparing for her Board Examinations. In between our work and studies, we would see each other as much as possible. We enjoyed going to the movies, playing golf and taking long walks talking about the present and the future. During that summer, Lori passed her Board Exams and was starting her career as a Registered Nurse.

As our relationship grew, we started to travel. We went to Florida to see some of our friends at Pensacola Beach. Our next trip was to fabulous Las Vegas. We also visited Lori's aunt and uncle in Southern California. Traveling is still a passion for us. We try to take a couple of trips each year to see a favorite or different part of the country. Another fun pastime is working on our home. We purchased our home in 2002. We have a large fenced back yard and two Labrador retrievers who keep us company. Suzie is our yellow female; and Maxx is our overgrown Chocolate male. We love taking walks with them at our side. Lori is passionate about flowers and plants. She enjoys their beauty and gets back as much as she gives. Every day of the year our home reflects Christmas decorations. One thing that Lori cherishes more than almost anything is the "Christmas Spirit." Our home is a constant reminder of this belief.



*The beginning – Our Wedding
9-19-1999*



Vacationing in Florida



Lori & Russ at the Country Club

Both of us love to play golf. This may have started because Russ was a golf professional and has worked in the golf industry for 17 years. Lori followed in her dad and older brother's footsteps and learned the game of golf at an early age. We play together often as we both enjoy the outdoors and frequently travel to a beautiful nearby lake for a weekend getaway. However, it is always nice to return to our home.

Lori was raised in the Methodist Church and attended Sunday School and church services every week. Lori was very active in the church, sang in children's choir, was an acolyte and served as a greeter. Russ grew up in a Baptist Church as a youngster and later involved himself in the Methodist Church. After marriage, Russ was baptized and became a member of the Methodist Church. We find strength and faith through God and plan to raise our child in a Christian atmosphere.



Our Home

About Lori –

Lori continues to work as a Registered Nurse and has been for 11 years. She is 35 years old. She has two brothers, one older, Jeff, and the other younger, named Adam. She has been a part of the community she grew up in for her entire life. Currently, she works in a retirement center and has for all of her adult life. She has worked there for the past 16 years and enjoys helping all the residents and their families. She has been the Director of Nursing, Charge Nurse, head of the Alzheimer's Unit and currently works as the Patient Coordinator. Lori has always enjoyed helping others and being involved in changing the quality of life.



Lori enjoys the sunset on our Jamaican honeymoon



“Viva” Las Vegas

When she is not working, she spends some of her spare time involved with women's charities. The first charity was founded on the belief of helping young women. It contributes funding for education and the development of young lives. She has been a member of this group for over 12 years and participates regularly. Additionally, she has been Secretary for Tria-Sorosis. This is another charity that Lori gives her commitment of time. This organization is dedicated to community service. She has been active in this group for almost a decade.

Without question, Lori is a friend. She spends her free time talking, laughing, and joking with several close friends. Because she is so outgoing, Lori makes friends everywhere she goes, especially within our community. Whether lying out at the pool, sitting on a deck, or going to a restaurant, she and her friends have a great deal of fun. Wednesday's are “her” night out with most of them. She looks forward to these nights to relax and enjoy their company.



A day at Lori's work

Lori with her nieces



Lori & Maxx - Her 4-legged buddy

Lori is very organized. She has the ability to divide her time perfectly between work, friends and her husband. She is truly a remarkable person you must meet. Once you get to know her, she will become a friend for life. Her compassion for people is first on her list; after all, she is a nurse. Russ believes she will be as great a mother as she is a nurse.

About Russ –

Russ is 41 years old, and currently a sales manager for one of the largest glove manufacturers in the United States located in the Midwest. He has worked there for four years and has been very successful. He manages several accounts in the Midwest. His territory includes Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota and Nebraska. Although he likes traveling, it is not the same without Lori. Luckily, we have been able to travel on a few trips together to Las Vegas and Florida. He still gives golf lessons and is active at the local Country Club where he once worked. He is the past president of the board and currently serves as the Golf and Greens chairman.



Russ spends time with our niece, Olivia



Russ on a golf trip in Scottsdale, Arizona

Russ grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He lived there for 23 years before moving to work as an assistant golf professional. Russ graduated in the top 10% of his high school class before attending the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He studied Political Science/Pre-Law for 3 ½ years and played on the golf team. Ultimately, his passion for golf won over his passion for law and he left college for the links in 1990. The long hours, working weekends and all the holidays kept him away from what he desired most—Lori.

He wanted a “normal” work schedule and found it as a salesman. He is currently a top salesman for his company and finds that there is “extra” time to go on walks, play golf and travel with his best friend and wife. While working as a salesman, we have made new and wonderful friends and have enjoyed getting together with them for dinner or traveling to Kansas City, St. Louis and the Lake of the Ozarks.



Close friends enjoying Mexican Cantina



Halloween with our nephew

Prior to marriage, Russ and some of his friends purchased some land in the country. They constructed a cabin and machine shed. They use it frequently as a place to “get away” from the day-to-day activities. They use the tractor to plant food plots for the wildlife and overall upkeep of the farm. The cabin has all the modern amenities and other than location, feels like a second home. Being around nature is a great source of happiness for him. The farm is about 35 miles from home.

Our Family –

Lori's parents and grandmother live in the same town. She has two brothers that live in Kansas City. Her older brother is married and has two daughters. Her younger brother recently got married and will soon be moving to St. Joseph. Growing up, Lori had Sunday family dinner with her grandparents either at their house or at her parents. Even though her brothers live an hour and a half away, we see them at least monthly for birthdays, holidays or just to get together.



3 Generations – Grandma, Mom, Lori

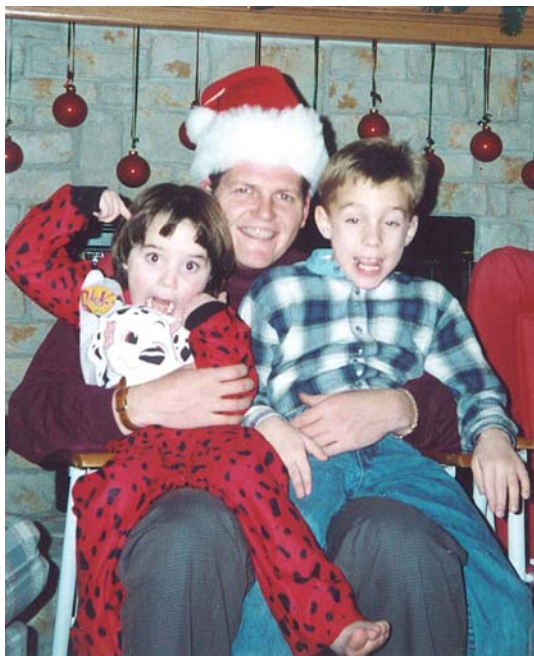


All the ladies in the family

Russ' parents live in Kansas City as well as his grandmother, aunt, cousins and their families. Russ also has a step-brother and step-sister, which between them have six children of their own. We get together with family at least monthly, and at least once a year, we try to get the two sides of the family together for a big dinner.

Both of our families are relatively small, but very close. We constantly have interaction and are talking on the phone if we are not face-to-face. One thing is always constant in our lives—we spend time for and with our FAMILY.

Russ with his niece and nephew



Russ' parents

We look forward to having a child in our home. We feel that the best way to raise a child is with understanding, compassion and love. We plan to use experiences from our childhoods, along with our life experiences to give our child the best possible chance for success and happiness.



Honeymoon in Jamaican Gardens



We are crazy about our nephew, who is also adopted.

Our child will be given room to grow and the discipline to guide. We would encourage choices of many activities and support each one. In addition to that, we would spend time nurturing our child with our extended families, helping our child understand the importance of this aspect of life.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, we would raise our child in a very “open” setting. Our child would learn very quickly about adoption and would soon understand that adoption is a wonderful concept. We would answer all questions openly and honestly and not shelter any truths. We would hope you can see our dream and become part of it.

We can only hope that you choose us and bring more joy to our loving family.

Russ and Lori Madsen