

September 7, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

We wanted to share (though many of you already know) that we are in the process of adopting a child. We have been thinking and praying about adopting for many years, but now feel God calling us to move forward. We are excited to grow our family, but we also deeply feel the recent losses of two babies to miscarriage. We know an adoption will never replace our babies, but also know that God is working on something beautiful for our family through adoption.



We have chosen to adopt an infant locally (within Kansas). We have shared our family profile with two organizations:

- 1) Life Choice Ministries (a crisis pregnancy center in Manhattan); and
- 2) The Kansas Children's Service League.

We strongly believe in the work of both organizations. They will minister to and provide counseling for the birth mother through her decision, and facilitate the placement of the child. We hope to be matched with a birth mother soon.

Though the path to adoption has not been without its difficulties, we firmly believe that God calls us all to love and care for orphans. There are over 153 million orphans worldwide and more than 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system. We know that only God is able to care for all of those children, but we can be a small part of the solution through adoption.

Throughout the adoption process, God has provided the peace, wisdom and funding needed for us to move forward. The estimated total cost for the adoption is \$30,000-35,000. We are trusting God to provide the funds, and want to invite each of you to be part of this journey with us. If you feel led, please consider supporting us in one or two ways.

1. Prayer: Please pray God would guide our child's birth parents and give them wisdom and peace as they make this incredibly difficult decision. Pray that God will protect our baby as we wait to welcome them home. Pray for our family as we wait— for Cade as he is excited to become a big brother (although we know he doesn't fully understand what that will mean) and pray for us as we prepare to bring a new baby into our lives.
2. Giving: Aim 5 Foundation has partnered with Lifesong for Orphans and committed an Adoption Matching Grant of \$3,000 to help pay our adoption expenses. Will you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us meet this matching grant and cover the remaining amount needed for our adoption expenses to bring this child home? Our goal date is November 1, but funds will be accepted toward our adoption until the child is in our home and/or our adoption is complete.

Please make any donation checks payable to "Lifesong for Orphans." In the memo, note "family account number, 7887" and "family name, Swanson" to ensure it goes to the correct account. Please mail to Lifesong for Orphans, PO Box 40, Gridley, IL 61744. You can also give online at www.lifesongfororphans.org/give/donate. Select "Give to an Adoptive Family." Complete the online form and fill in "Family Account Number, 7887" and "Family Name, Swanson" Fields. Lifesong is blessed with a partner that underwrites all U.S. administrative and fundraising costs, so 100% of your donation received by Lifesong will go directly to the adoption. Please note that there is a small processing fee for online gifts.

To meet IRS guidelines, your donation is to the named non-profit organization. LifeSong retains full discretion over its use, but intends to honor the donor's suggested use for our family's adoption. Individual donations of \$50 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Receipts for donations under \$50 will be sent upon request. Lifesong is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

We want to thank each of you who have supported us and prayed for us throughout this journey. We anxiously await more information about the adoption and hope to introduce a new Swanson baby to you all soon!

Much love,
Chris, Effie and Cade

Family Name: Swanson
Family Account Number: 7887