



# Matt & Gillian



Brody



# So Nice to Meet You



Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We want you to know how honored we feel to be considered as adoptive parents for your child. Believing this must be a challenging time and decision for you to make, we want you to know we respect the courageous step you are considering for you and your child. We hope to be given the opportunity to welcome your child into our loving family and will do everything to help them fulfill their hopes and dreams. We wish you peace and strength.

# About Us

**We enjoy being active** in activities like golfing, group fitness classes, and hiking, but we are always willing to try new things. This year we joined a local bowling league with our friends which has improved our skills. As our skills improved the boys on the team created a new 'strike' tradition of putting a sleeve on our arms with fake flames which created a lot of laughter as we played other teams. The girls were more into the team outfits than bowling strikes, so we even made matching team shirts with everyone's nicknames, lucky numbers, and a bunch of hot pink flamingos just for fun!



**We love experiencing music** at concerts, festivals, or just listening on a home speaker around a fire. Our craziest concert memory was traveling to see Marcus King Band in a venue that was a literal cave. We had the impression when we arrived at the venue that it would be an outdoor concert, but we were then escorted down a long path to the cave's main entrance. As we walked into the dark, cold, entryway down a dirt path we began to see stalagmites hanging from the ceiling as we approached a large flat space that had large multicolored chandeliers hanging over it and a big stage at the other end. To date it is the best venue we have experienced.

**We like to tackle DIY Projects.** Since we became official homeowners together, we have taken the opportunity to complete home improvement projects. Gillian usually inspires the project design and Matt brings it to life. Matt has built a dining room table for our home that has moved with us over the years. To capture special memories, he even carved our initials into the wood, and we have written each city the table has been to on the underside of one of the table slats. Most recently we renovated the room in our home that we wish to be the nursery. This has been a truly creative project for us, collaborating on gender neutral colors and design aspects. We just finished creating an accent wall in the room, using wood paneling to create some texture and we painted it a deep green. Your child will always be supported in all their creative endeavors.



# Meet Gillian *by Matt*



**Gillian is known for making others feel valued.** We were long-distance dating in first few years and our weekends became very important to us. One of the crazier weekends was a surprise birthday concert Gillian planned for me. I came to visit like it was any normal weekend, but Gillian planned for my brother and close friends to meet us at a concert venue to tailgate and attend the show all together. Once we got to the tailgate parking spot, she had two big posters that read, 'Happy Birthday Matt' 'Yours Truly, Toby Keith', which revealed who would be performing at the show. I was in complete shock that she was able to pull off such a big surprise and I smiled so big at the parking lot reveal, before attempting to sing my favorite Toby Keith song. It was one of the best moments early on in our relationship because Gillian made me feel so loved and special.



**Gillian is a goof ball.** There are always plenty of silly dance parties or funny jokes being made when she is around. Our close friends have a 4-year-old, and every time we get to see each other, Gillian and Olivia bee-line it to her toy room. Gillian is always quick to jump into play with Olivia, whether that is singing along to the Frozen movie soundtrack or the classic clean up song as they bounce around the playroom. One of the funnier moments was a bubble dance party the girls had out in the driveway, just jumping and spinning around in a bunch of bubbles like no one else was watching. Your child will have a mother who encourages humor and an abundance of laughter when expressing themselves.



**Gillian is passionate about creativity and design.** Between deciding paint colors, rearranging furniture, and putting up photos from our favorite adventures, Gillian is always at the helm of the inspiration. Recently, we painted the exterior of our house; an important design project since it would be a very permanent change, but it also making our own personal touch on the home. Gillian took the time to explore the options, she bought sample paint colors and painted sections of the front and back of the home, and even creating an online 3-D image of our home on the paint website so we could review color options from another perspective. Gillian always considers the fine details to create a cohesive design that is reflective of our who we are. We love how it turned out, especially when we get compliments from our neighbors.

# Meet Matt *by Gillian*

Matt is an **incredibly generous person**, especially with family and friends. He is happy to assist with tasks that range from creating balloon arches for a little girls Frozen themed birthday party to managing the demolition of his mom's kitchen for a renovation. There is truly no request that he would turn down as being reliable is a value he holds close to his heart. Matt maintains his generous spirit and each holiday season instead of gifting to one another, we pick a military family to sponsor. Matt always plans the shopping day where we spend time at stores picking out a special gift for each child and parent. Then we write a handwritten card to express our gratitude for their service and wishing them a peaceful holiday season. This year we had the opportunity to support a family from California who just had their first baby. On top of a special item to treat each parent and cute baby gear for their newborn, we added a 'First Family Christmas' photo ornament to the box so they could capture the memory for their tree.



**Matt is a grill master.** On the weekends you will most likely see him trying out a new recipe for smoking or grilling some type of meat. His Green Egg is a true test of patience and creativity for him each time he uses it. One of the funnier attempts at grill mastering has been our homemade pizza nights. We bought all the ingredients to do wood fired pizza, rolled out the dough and slathered it in sauce and placed on the pizza stone in the grill to let it bake. Matt went to open the grill top and we quickly discover we did not have a tool to slide the finished pizza onto. We spent the next few minutes with multiple spatulas trying to get it off and ended up spilling the pizza all over the grill!



**Matt is an avid golfer.** He plays most weekends with friends and family, enjoys playing in local charity tournaments and is part of his company's annual golf event council to support various charity organizations. Matt, and his father-in-law were on a golf outing once and had the opportunity on one hole to both manage a hole-in-one, every golfer's dream. They got so hyped up for one another that neither of them could manage the steady hand to make it happen. That is one of Matt's favorite parts about golf; it is a continuous pursuit. Your child will have a father who will be a hands-on participant in their chosen activities.



# our Journey to Adoption

**We met online.** After messaging each other on the platform, Matt eventually asked Gillian for her phone number, and we began texting. Gillian was nervous once Matt planned the first date because there were two people in Matt's profile photo, and she was not sure which guy was going to show up at her front door. Luckily when Matt showed up it was who Gillian was hoping for. Our first date was planned out by Matt. We went to a local BBQ place for lunch and the conversation was so comfortable and natural. Matt planned an additional excursion after lunch to see a local baseball game. Initially we sat in our designated seats but since it was a quiet Sunday afternoon game there were more open seats than usual. Matt being a spontaneous rule-breaker decided to pursue seats behind home plate and convinced Gillian to join him despite her worry about being caught. She was hesitant initially, but when he took her hand for the first time, she knew it was not a moment to miss.



**Not all our dates were perfect.** One of our fondest memories is the 'beach weekend' date. We went to a local beach with friends to spend the day hanging out with the intent to drive home that evening. Much to Gillian's surprise Matt had been conspiring with his friend and brother throughout the day to decide to camp on the beach that night. While camping was allowed on the beach, we had not made a reservation for a spot. The impromptu camping ended with our tent floor getting covered in sand, being too hot to sleep and getting up early the next morning to drive home sunburnt and itchy. To this day we will avoid beach camping, but the memories still make us laugh. We learned how to communicate in uncomfortable circumstances with each other and to make the best of odd situations that we may not always have control over.



We have always looked forward to becoming parents and expanding our family. Once we discovered our infertility, **our natural next step was to explore adoption.** We bonded even closer through our research and planning. We read more about the adoption journey and discovered that this would be a lifetime pursuit of helping a child understand the beauty of their story in how they became a part of our family, but also still very much a part of you, and where they came from. We are hopeful to share this journey with you and your child.



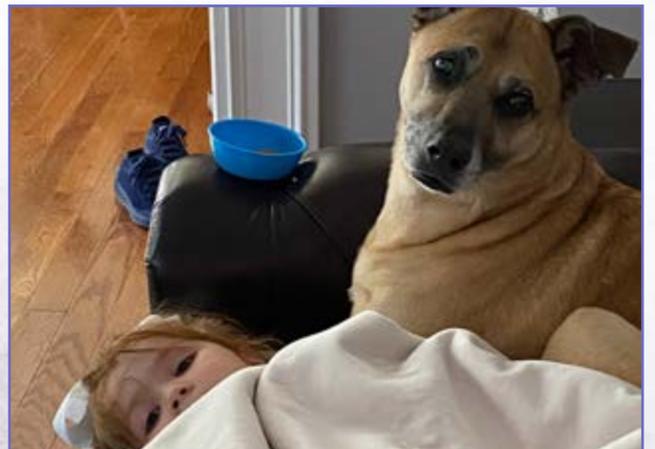
# Meet Brody

Dogs are our favorite animal hands down. **We both grew up with childhood dogs** in our families and knew that as adults we would have dogs of our own as well. Matt rescued Brody at 8 weeks old, when he was still small enough to fit on his shoulders! Brody is an affectionate and gentle dog who makes friends with everyone he meets. Our family members often joke that he is the favorite of all the family pets due to his easy-going demeanor. Gillian quickly discovered that Brody is a loving and loyal companion once they were introduced. He is now her co-worker in the home office providing occasional security detail between multiple naps a day. Each morning she cooks breakfast for she and Brody to enjoy as a special way to start each day.



One of his cutest features are **his expressive ears** as one is always standing straight up and the other is bent down. If he cocks his head in one direction, he looks like he is questioning what is happening. Both ears only stand up if his head is out the window of a car or he is riding on the boat. Matt used this adorable feature to his advantage as a part of his engagement plan for Gillian. He created a handwritten sign that read 'Will you marry my dad?' and put it around Brody's neck as he posed for a picture so that he could be a part of the special day. He sat proudly for the photo and with a gentle head nod it looked like he was popping the question!

**Brody's gentle demeanor has made him a quick favorite with children in our lives.** He is not an overly curious dog and will lay on the floor with infants with enough distance that he can smell them but not disturb them. Our friend's daughter is Brody's biggest fan and on a recent visit she brought her veterinary play set to 'checkup' on Brody. He laid gently on floor while she moved her plastic tools all over his fur and kept picking up his limp ear saying, 'we will fix this.' By the end of the checkup, he had fallen asleep, and she laid down next to him and did the very same thing.



# our Favorite Things To Do



We truly love to entertain in our home whether it is to serve a meal, celebrate a special milestone or have a darts tournament in the basement. One of our favorite hosting memories was a birthday party for Matt. It was a milestone birthday and we decided to give it a theme like his old childhood parties. Gillian gathered a bunch of construction themed decorations and toys and placed them throughout the basement. We even had posters of some of his best childhood photos made for the guests to take pictures with or sign a funny message on to celebrate him. Some of the guests ended up taking pictures with Matt holding his poster for comparison or reenacting the pose in the photo. Your child will always be surrounded by loving and supportive family and friends.

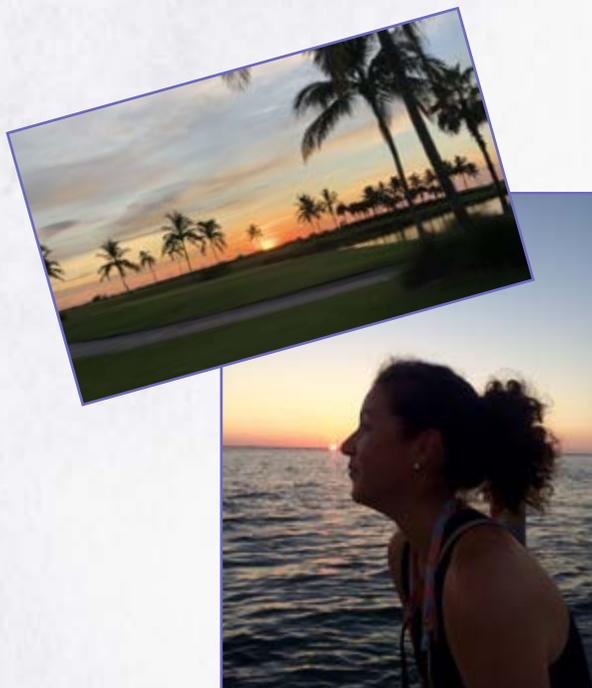


We enjoy our local farmers market in the warmer months to pick up fresh produce for weekend meals. The market is in the heart of downtown, family friendly and Brody even gets to come on this adventure from time to time to socialize with other dogs or pick up special dog treats. One of our favorite stops is our local coffee shop booth, where we can do some tastings or order a specialty drink that we would not make at home. On a recent visit to the market, **we met up with friends at the snow cone booth.** We helped their kids place their colorful order requests and walked the market afterwards pulling the wagon so their parents could shop on their own. We met back up with their parents a bit later and apologized for the kids' messy t-shirts, stained with snow cone drippings.

Cooking together gives us time to connect and be creative. One of our favorite lunches to prep is Italian Beef. This is a **comfort food from Matt's childhood** that is easily prepped into a crock pot and cooks while we make other items. Matt and his brothers would play hockey in the snow, to then come in the house to warm up with mom's juicy, slightly messy, beef sandwiches. Recently we did a food prep session where we only cook with what we have on hand in our freezer or pantry. This created some wild recipes for meals, like shredded buffalo chicken with quick mix mashed potatoes and canned peas or sausage links tacos with parmesan cheese from the fridge. It was all edible but may not be a food challenge we take on again.



Every summer we spend multiple **weekends at the lake house** with a great mix of friends and family. It is a place we go to unplug, challenge each other to ping pong tournaments and take long walks on trails or trips on the boat. Matt has even made the lake a special place for us since it was our 'first kiss' destination on the dock under the stars. One of our favorite memories at the lake house was the summer of the **cannon ball competition**. The lake house has a two-story dock, which allows for a tall platform to jump from. Matt and his brothers began jumping to create the biggest splash and before we knew it, neighbors from surrounding docks started swimming over to join in. While some jumps ended up as 'belly flops' and others as big splashes, it was an afternoon that ended with tons of laughter. Your child will create lasting memories at the lake house.



Our favorite destination each year is our **annual beach trip** where our family shares a weeklong adventure filled with golf, pool time, and seashell collection walks on the beach. One of our favorite beach trip traditions is getting out to the beach or fishing dock for sunset. You can literally watch the sun sink into the ocean on the horizon, it is magical. Last year we invented a new pool game called 'ups' which was just a bunch of people in the main pool keeping a giant inflatable beach ball off the top of the water for hours. Every time the ball was touched, we kept count to see if we could beat the most recent score each time. Our arms eventually get so tired!



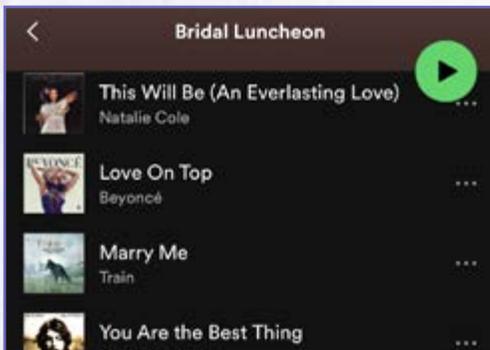
Each year in Captiva we like to plan a date day. This gives us the opportunity to spend some quality time together while on the family vacation. We typically go exploring on the island and pick one restaurant to have a meal and one adventure to share together. One of our favorite memories was our adventure our first year together. We rented a jet ski to go out on the ocean and see wildlife up close and to a private beach to collect seashells. While out on the jet ski, **a pod of dolphins suddenly started racing alongside our jet ski**, jumping in and out of our wake. Now each year we look for dolphins while we are on the shoreline and remember that day.

# our Family

If you select us, your child will grow up with 4 Grandparents, 5 Aunts and Uncles, and **4 cousins.**



Family occasions are known for being **filled with adventure.** One of our wilder adventures was making a spur-of-the-moment after-dinner decision to show up at a karaoke bar in ugly Christmas sweaters to belt out some of our favorite musical hits. We quickly discovered that most of us should not pursue musical careers of any kind since there was a lack of applause after a few performances. However, we did have a small victory that night when Matt's dad won the Karaoke bar's contest for Worst Christmas Sweater. It was a hilarious turn of events from our original plan. Your child will be supported no matter where their adventures take them.



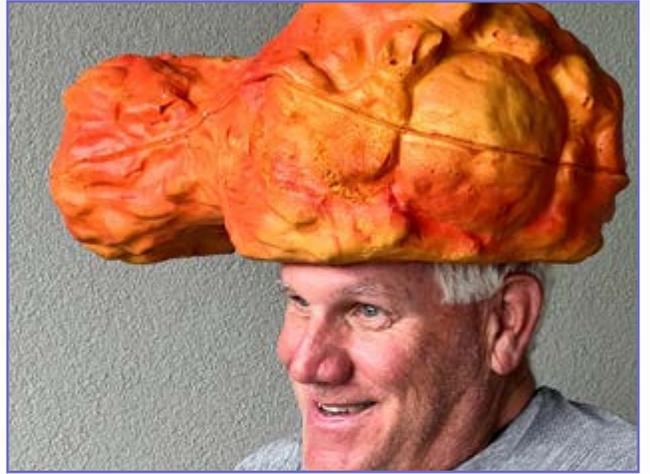
**Music was an immediate bonding method for our combined families.** One of our favorite memories was a music planning weekend we hosted to gather everyone's input on song choices for our wedding. Everyone was invited to come and stay at our house, and we all ended up sitting around our backyard fire after dinner one night and passed Matt's phone around so each person could add a song to one playlist. Some song choices were more emotional, and some were just throwbacks that had us all laughing. It was a great way to generate storytelling amongst the group as people chose songs that marked special memories for us. This has since become a favorite 'game' we play when we are all together.

The men on Gillian's side of the family have **an odd obsession with hats** and have since created their "Green Hat Club." At all special family events the men wear that hat for the whole time together; it is even their group chat name! It is a common habit now on family trips to look for additional hats to add to their 'club' collection, but it has been a cool way for them to bond. Most recently, Gillian and her sister-in-law created their own hat club on the family ski trip and her dad joined in too. Gillian and her sister-in-law bought the hats in 3 different colors, but all had the same logo since we wanted our 'club' collection to have a little variety. We even bought Gillian's dad a hat so he could be an honorary 'club' member. All 3 of us showed up to breakfast on the last day of the trip wearing our hats. It made for a great picture opportunity.



# our Traditions

Gillian's family is known for **hosting a 'Wing Ding' at Thanksgiving**. Inviting friends and their families to their home is a long-standing tradition the night before Thanksgiving. The men of the family fry up a bunch of chicken wings, all while trading off wearing the ultimate chef hat which is shaped like a chicken wing. Gillian's parents have always enjoyed hosting events such as this to celebrate their friendships. One year at the 'Wing Ding' we had finished all the chicken wings and decided that we should try to fry up a dessert for everyone to try. Gillian and her brother quickly ran to the pantry and pulled out a pack of Oreo's to bring out to the fryer. It wasn't exactly the most festive Thanksgiving related dessert, but most everyone took home a deep-fried Oreo as an unexpected party gift!



Matt's family celebrates an old Polish tradition call **Oplatki**. It is a **Christmas Polish tradition of 'breaking bread'** taking a loaf of any kind of bread and tearing off a big piece then speaking with each family member one to one sharing what you are grateful for about them and wish for them in the new year. Matt's Grandparents started the tradition and have passed it down to continue to foster a close family bond. Matt, being the oldest of his three brothers, has begun to lead this tradition at our family gatherings, meaning he is responsible for bringing the bread and initiating the tradition. Last year instead of bread he researched and ordered the actual Polish wafers that his grandparents used when they were younger. It brought back special memories and big smiles for the whole family, but also created a bit of a crumb trail on the living room floor due to the consistency of the light wafers. We look forward to learning how to incorporate your favorite traditions for your child to experience.



At the beginning of December, we always set aside time to decorate our Christmas tree. As **Gillian is a Christmas fanatic**, decorating for the holidays is one of her favorite hobbies. Gillian has curated a special ornament collection for our tree, it is made up of ornaments from each of our childhoods, hobbies, or special life milestones. We have recently started our own tradition of always **picking out a new ornament along our travels**, unique to the location. Then each year as we decorate, we recall special memories from that trip. Most recently on a skiing trip we picked up a new ornament in the shape of a moose painted with the Colorado state flag!



# our Home & Community



We live in a suburban neighborhood that is right outside of a quaint downtown in north Georgia. Our house is at the top of a big hill with a cul-de-sac at the end. **Our home has a large fenced-in backyard that is perfect for playing sports or allowing dogs to run.** Our backyard has also been known to host a family of deer from time to time and it has been wonderful to experience nature up close. The grass leads to a covered patio that is under our deck and allows us to hang out on lounge furniture and enjoy the outdoors despite the weather. Our favorite memory of the backyard was on move-in day. We let Brody off his leash when we finally got the key to the house, and he took off in a full sprint and did a giant circle in the yard. Matt even joined in running alongside him and we knew instantly he was very happy with all the new grassy space.

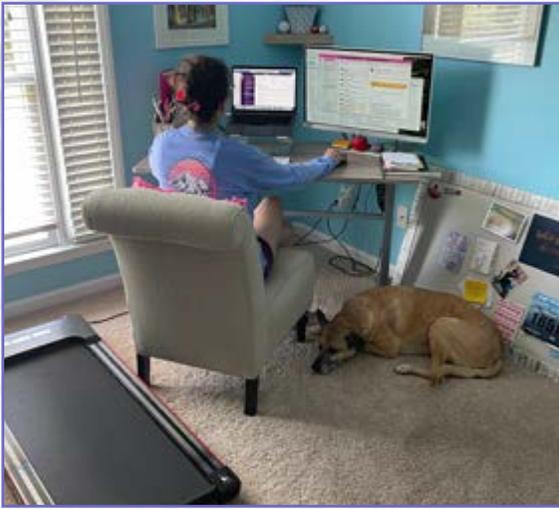


One of our favorite parts about the neighborhood is that we have access to two pools, one dedicated to swim team and one just for families to enjoy a nice pool day. **Our home is walking distance from the family friendly pool.** It has a splash pad for neighborhood kids and nice lounge areas to gather under umbrellas with friends. Last year our neighborhood began hosting one adult pool party in the summer. It was a great way to meet more neighbors and get a chance to enjoy our pool in the evening. Our favorite part of the adult pool party was the great mix of pool games and snow cone truck. We grabbed two snow cones after pool time and walked home enjoying them.

We live in a vibrant town with a bustling downtown that has a lot to offer families. Downtown is pedestrian friendly and easily accessible from our home just by walking. There are **greenway trails that take you on a nature walk to and from downtown.** We have attempted to do the full walk only once. We were all geared up and got out of our neighborhood turned on to the main street where we ended up looking for the actual greenway path entry for about 15 minutes. We thought there would be a bunch of signs pointing in the right direction, but we quickly learned that was not the case. Eventually we ran into a nice couple that had just come from running on the trail and guided us to the entrance. Now we drive to our local dog park and walk the trails into downtown from there.

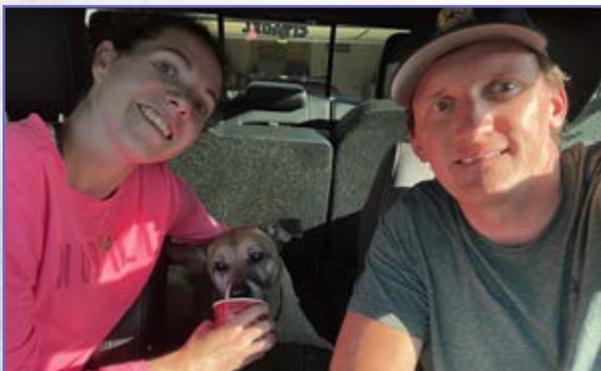


# our Weekdays



Gillian works as a procurement consultant for a large corporation. The biggest perk of the job is her ability to **work from her home office**. Her work hours are predictable and flexible without having any commuting time. This lends plenty of time for Gillian to spend the mornings getting the family ready for the day ahead and the opportunity to make a family dinner each night around the dining room table. Her flexible schedule will also allow Gillian to attend appointments and activities with your child during the day.

Matt works as a project manager for a commercial construction firm. He commutes to a local office each day and **his schedule is predictable**. His office is very **family friendly** which will allow him time for activities or appointments with your child during the day. His office even hosts a family day at the local baseball park every summer to encourage connections between coworkers, as well as their children.



On weekdays we **prepare dinner together and sit at our dining room table for a phone-free meal**. This has always been a great way for us to spend quality time together to just connect, tell each other about our days or this is the time we take to discuss any major decisions we may need to make. Recently, we have added special dessert trips after some dinners to pick up ice cream or candy. Brody even comes on this adventure and typically gets a 'pup cup' with a dog bone on top. Your child will grow up with quality family time each day.



# Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We are exceedingly honored to be considered as potential parents to your child. Our promise to you is that you will be treated with respect and kindness always in both our words and actions. We are committed to working together with you to create a healthy relationship for the benefit of not only your child, but also for the benefit of all families involved. Please know that we will keep you in our prayers as you take this journey and wish you comfort as you make your decision. **Our hope is to share your child's life and special moments through photos and updates if you would like.** We are also open to growing our relationship with you for visits in the future. Until we meet we will continue to pray for peace for you and your child.

*Matt and Gillian*



Matt  
*and*  
Gillian