

Brandon & Bethany



Hello,

WE ARE BRANDON + BETHANY

As you are sitting down to look through our book, we recognize both the difficulty and the courage required in this process. It is our hope that our story will provide you with great peace as you move forward.

We are Brandon and Bethany, married for 18 sweet years, and live in Dakar, Senegal with our 3 precious kids, ages 13, 11, and 9. After our third child was born, we knew we wanted to share our lives and home with additional children through adoption. If you feel our family would be a great fit, we promise to raise your child in a loving, joy-filled home. We promise to meet your child's physical and emotional needs in the best way possible, while providing unconditional love and whatever they need to thrive and grow into adulthood.

And rest assured, **even though we live over seas, if your heart's desire is for an open adoption, it is totally possible to do that.**

We are super intentional and close with our friends and families through face time, sharing photos, videos, and we make trips to the USA almost every year!





About Us.

2002 OUR FRIENDSHIP

We both played college basketball, so naturally we met on the basketball court. We were instantly friends.

2005 OUR LOVE STORY

After a few years of friendship, we found ourselves never wanting to do anything apart, so we finally made it "official."

2006 OUR WEDDING DAY

We were married on a warm summer day in June 2006. This year we are blessed to celebrate year 18. Our marriage is finally an adult!

2011 OUR KIDS

In our first five years of marriage, we lived in Germany and New Zealand where Brandon played professional basketball. Afterwards, we moved back home and were both teachers until we became pregnant with Ellie, then shortly after with Jackson and then Selah. Bethany stayed home with the kids, while Brandon taught health and coached high school basketball.

2018 TO AFRICA

We transitioned to Africa in 2018, and have loved the international lifestyle ever since. We both speak French and our kids are getting pretty good at it, too!

THINGS THAT MAKE US HAPPY

1. Traveling new places
2. Seeing our kids overcome fears
3. Reading the Bible as a family
4. Impromptu dance parties
5. Beach days
6. Visiting family in the USA





**Every minute spent in your company
becomes the new best moment of my life."
-Bolt, from the movie Bolt.**



WHY WE WANT TO ADOPT

Adoption has always been a part of our conversations from the beginning of our relationship, and now we are settled and in a season of life that has opened up doors for adoption. And honestly, **we love our life** and have a whole lot of love to give.

We would be absolutely honored to be chosen as a family
to raise your child!

And once again, we want to express that even though we live
over seas, if your heart's desire is for an open adoption,

it is totally possible to do that.

We are super intentional and close with our families through face
time, sharing photos, videos, and we make trips
to the USA every year!



HI, I'M

Bethany

I'm a people loving introvert, who thrives in the company of others, but finds comfort and rest in the peaceful moments of the day. I love hospitality and welcoming guests into our home, especially family and friends, who come to visit us in Senegal. I earned my bachelors degree in Middle School Education and a masters in Teaching English as a Second Language. I LOVE to teach, even if it's just teaching the kids how to bake chocolate chip cookies. I also love assisting with the basketball programs at our kids' school, which has provided us with lots of extra time together. It's fun to see them with their friends and helping them grow in a sport they love. I love the work we do in Senegal, but **my greatest joy is being a mom**. I'm so very thankful for the flexibility of our job that allows me to have plenty of time to be there for the kids at any moment. I have always wanted to add to our family and am really looking forward to this adoption!

FAVORITE THINGS

- 1) Coffee with whipped cream
- 2) Reading a good book
- 3) Being outside in nature
- 4) Baking homemade cupcakes
- 5) Movie night with my family

“She has the
gift of
hospitality.”

WRITTEN BY BRANDON

I have never met someone that knows Bethany that doesn't absolutely love her. I started falling in love with her almost 20 years ago and that love grows more and more each day. The Bible says the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart and to love others as yourself. Bethany does this better than anyone I know. One of the greatest joys of my life is to see how much our kids love, trust, and need her. It does not matter the challenge, worry, or excitement; she always knows the right thing to do and say that adds life and joy to our family.

This is also evident in her unique gifting of hospitality. Every person that enters our home has a sense of peace and joy by the way she welcomes others. Bethany is obviously beautiful on the outside, but her outside beauty does not compare to the beauty of her heart. I can assure you, she will love and support your child to dream big and be a world changer!

“SHE ADDS LIFE AND
JOY TO OUR FAMILY”





HI, I'M

Brandon

I have a deep passion for God and love being around people. I am an extrovert who loves adventure and all types of sports. **My heart is full when my family is having fun and laughing.** Encouraging and bringing joy to others are some of my strongest gifts. Basketball and education have always been huge blessings in my life. It was at our university and through basketball where I met Bethany. We both played in college and I played professionally in Germany and New Zealand. After my playing days, I coached high school basketball for eight years. Today, I absolutely love getting to coach and teach my kids. I have a Bachelors Degree in Sports Management and a Masters Degree in Teaching. It is such a joy to see others discover God and discover how they can use their skills to make a positive impact! I love my family and truly believe our family has the ability, desire, and love to grow through this adoption.

FAVORITE THINGS

- 1) Reading my Bible on the porch
- 2) Game night with the kids
- 3) Basketball
- 4) Traveling
- 5) Working Out

“He makes me
belly laugh
almost
everyday!”

WRITTEN BY BETHANY

I fell in love with Brandon’s playful and loving personality. He’s energetic and joyful, often making us belly laugh. He’s got the reputation among our relatives as making every family event more entertaining. He’s the one that injects life, games and laughter into every gathering. Brandon’s a gifted leader and an exceptional hands-on father. Not a day goes by when he’s not connecting with our kids and shepherding their hearts, and they share deep, trusting relationships because of it. My favorite characteristic of Brandon is his gift of encouragement and it truly blesses me and the kids everyday. He’s the steady rock in our family, and I can assure you, your child would be absolutely blessed to be raised by this trustworthy, kind father.

“HE’S THE ROCK IN
OUR FAMILY”





MEET OUR KIDS

We know we're biased, but think we have the best kids in the universe. They are happy kids and so much fun to raise! Of course, they are imperfect humans, but they are quick to apologize and learning to forgive. We love to see them step out and learn new things as they continue to grow into who God created them to be.



Parenting is a lot of work. It can be overwhelming at times when life gets busy. But if we pause for a moment and look at the Bible, Jesus makes it clear there are two things that are the most important. We use these two themes in our daily lives :
"Love God and love others."



They cannot wait to have a baby in the house!



Ellie

AGE: 13

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Basketball

LOVES: Her dog Jada & writing
Ellie loves to laugh and is a natural born leader. She is about to publish a children's book that she wrote when she was 10 years old.

Jackson

AGE: 11

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Building Legos

LOVES: basketball & chocolate donuts

Jackson is the most compassionate boy you'll ever meet. We like to call him our human calculator. He can do mental math faster than Mom & Dad.



Selah

AGE: 9

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: Painting

LOVES: board games & ketchup

Selah is our social butterfly. She's very artistic and enjoys singing and performing in school plays. She loves being on stage.



MEET THE EXTENDED

FAMILY

We are super close to both sides of our family. They are super supportive and take great care of us and the kids. Even though we live far, they are super intentional. When we travel to see them, **it's like we never left.** Quality time with them is our top priority when we travel back to the USA. Our parents are super fun and loving grandparents, and each have their own special relationship with our kids that we cherish. Both of our fathers own big cattle ranches, so we love to spend lots of time there checking cows, fishing, and hiking on their land. They are all excited to be adding another little one to the family!



Cousins are built
in BEST FRIENDS

HIS SIDE

FAMILY TRADITIONS

- A week together at the beach
- Christmas at Memee's house with presents and games
- Hiking with Papaw on his land
- Swimming at Great Grandpa's pool with the cousins



HER SIDE

FAMILY TRADITIONS

- Grandparents visiting us in Senegal
- Weekly Face time calls
- Helping Poppa feed cows and chickens on the farm
- Christmas in the cabin



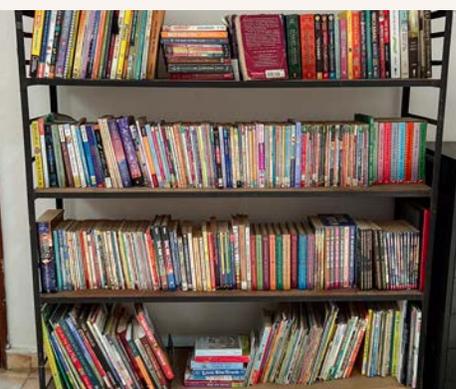
Home Sweet Senegal



We live in Senegal and we LOVE it! The bustling city is on the most western point of Africa, surrounded by beaches and filled with diverse communities. Our kids go to a private Christian American school. They have **classmates from all over the world** and they love learning about new cultures and languages. It's an excellent school, that offers a play ground, basketball court, huge open soccer field, and a walking trail.

Our home is a short walk away from the school and a beautiful park that has a lake, zoo, and walking trails. It's a special place to visit when we want to get out of the house and be in nature.

We are blessed with a spacious house that allows us host dinners, birthday parties, or friends visiting from the states. Our favorite feature is our back area where the kids love to play basketball. Our cozy home fosters a **nurturing environment** where our kids can thrive, with plenty of creative toys and endless art supplies.





SAY HELLO TO

Simba, Lilly, & Jada



A B O U T O U R P E T S

Simba,
our beloved cat,
is the man of the house and pretty
much does whatever he pleases. He's
the most spoiled family member, and
when he doesn't get his way he
meows at us until we will obey him.
It's hilarious.



Lilly,
our sweet poodle,
was a Christmas present from
Brandon's mom. She loves to play
fetch and snuggle. She adores the
kids and follows Bethany around
everywhere.



Jada,
our gentle German shepherd mix,
was bought our very first year in
Africa. She has been a part of our
family for 6 years! She is super sweet
and loves to cuddle with the kids.



Our Adventures

WE LOVE TO TRAVEL

Brandon and I both grew up in small towns and didn't have a chance to see much of the world until we got married and Brandon played professional basketball in Germany. We soon discovered that there were so many new countries just a train ride away, and this sparked a new love for different cultures and languages. Now, with our kids, one of our **greatest desires is for them to see different parts of the world** and grow in appreciation of different cultures and people groups. Since we live in Senegal, it's much easier to fly to places like Italy and France for a vacation than it would be if we were living in the US, so we try to take advantage of that during our breaks.

Our family has shared some incredible experiences together like riding camels around Egyptian pyramids, snorkeling in the red sea, hiking mountains in South Africa, and skiing in the French Alps. The kids said if they could take their new sibling back to one place it would definitely be to the beach on the Red Sea where the water is clear and the coral reefs are abundant.

HOW MANY COUNTRIES OUR FAMILY HAS VISITED: 12
OUR FAVORITE PLACE EVER : CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
GREATEST EXPERIENCE : RIDING CAMELS AROUND THE PYRAMIDS



FRANCE



SWITZERLAND



GREECE



EGYPT



SOUTH AFRICA



COLORADO



ZANZIBAR



KENYA

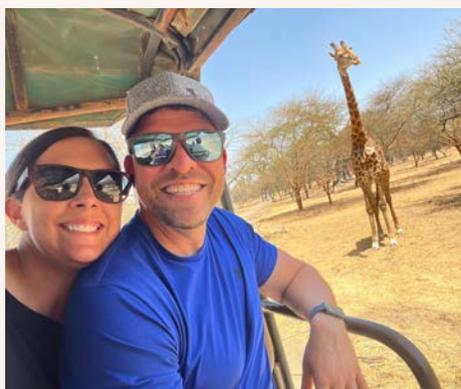


ABOUT OUR Life in Africa

By now, you're probably wondering **why we live in Senegal**. We work for a non-profit ministry helping leaders throughout Africa. We help to catalyze local leaders to meet the physical and spiritual needs of hurting communities. Brandon is the Director of Field Operations for over 17 different countries. Together we train and coach these leaders who are making an incredible impact in their communities. As a family, we also get the privilege to coach basketball clinics in different places. Because our ministry is flexible, we were able to choose where to live. **The thing that drew us to Senegal the most was the school!** It's an American Christian school that offers a solid education with high values, a supportive community, and a variety of fun after school activities.

WEEKLY Traditions

- Family dinners around the table
- Sunday afternoon basketball
- Taco Tuesday
- Friday pizza & movie night
- Bedtime routine: brush, book, bed





WE LOVE TO
laugh





WE ARE SURROUNDED BY A
Diverse Community

A note for you:

If you made it this far, we just want to say an overwhelming thank you.

We are happy you chose to read through our family book and hope you found peace and confidence that we will provide what your child needs to thrive. We are praying that God will cover you with peace in your decision and give you every ounce of courage you need. We know with confidence He will direct this process.

We look forward to future communication and openness, so that together we can give this child the best well-rounded support that they deserve. Whatever that road looks like, your child will only hear honor and respect spoken of you in our home. Your child will be loved, cared for, and given opportunities to grow into the person who God created them to be.

We hope to hear from you soon!

*Brandon
& Bethany*



We can't wait to
meet you!

B R A N D O N A N D B E T H A N Y C O L E

