



RYAN *and* STEPHANIE



# HELLO

*it's so nice to "meet" you*

Thank you for taking the time to look at our profile book!

We acknowledge that you are likely in the midst of a very confusing and difficult journey and we honor your courage and strength as you move forward.

We want you to know that we have already begun praying for you and your baby. We are excited for the opportunity to grow our family and look forward to opening our home as a haven of joy, support, and unconditional love.

We put this profile book together to introduce ourselves and we hope to have the opportunity to get to know you as well!

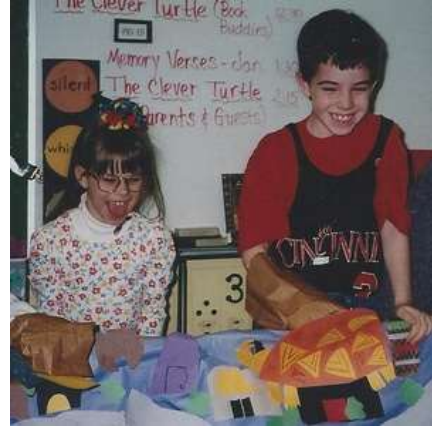
WITH LOVE & APPRECIATION

*Ryan and Stephanie*

# OUR STORY

We both grew up in Cincinnati and first met when we were 8-years-old in our second grade class. However, after elementary school we went to different schools and didn't see each other again for over a decade.

We briefly connected on social media in high school and both attended the University of Cincinnati after high school...but it would still be a few more years before we would reconnect with one another.



Performing in the second grade puppet show together.  
Ryan had a big crush on Stephanie!



Ryan cheering on the Bearcats in college



UC bound in 2007!

Ryan studied business at UC. Stephanie initially studied psychology but ultimately ended up going to massage school to become a licensed medical massage therapist.

In the middle of Ryan's junior year at UC he was in a serious car accident that broke his neck and left him paralyzed.



Ryan's car at the scene of the accident on November 20, 2009

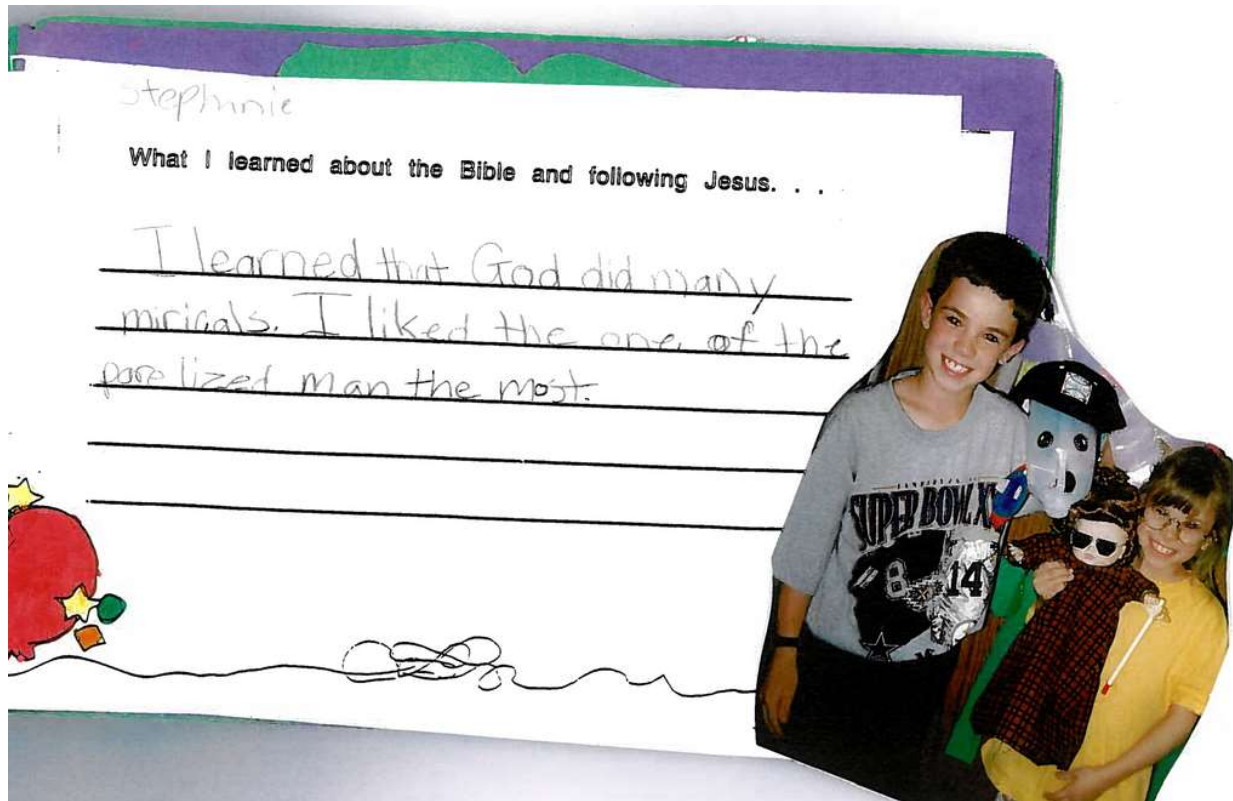


Sporting a neck brace in the ICU

After seeing the news of Ryan's accident on social media, Stephanie reached out and offered to help with Ryan's physical rehabilitation when he returned home from the hospital. We quickly struck up a friendship and began dating a few years later.

Shortly after reconnecting, Stephanie came across an "end of the year scrapbook" from second grade in an old box of keepsakes that our second grade teacher had put together for each student.

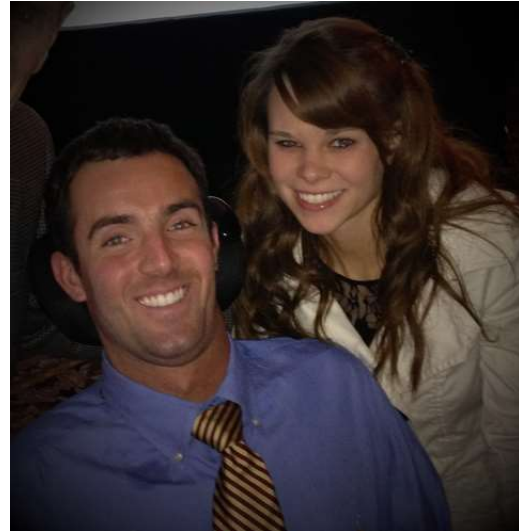
As we flipped through, we were caught by surprise to find a photo of the two of us standing side by side. Even more shocking was what was pasted on the page beside the photo. Stephanie had written this as an 8-year-old as part of a writing prompt:



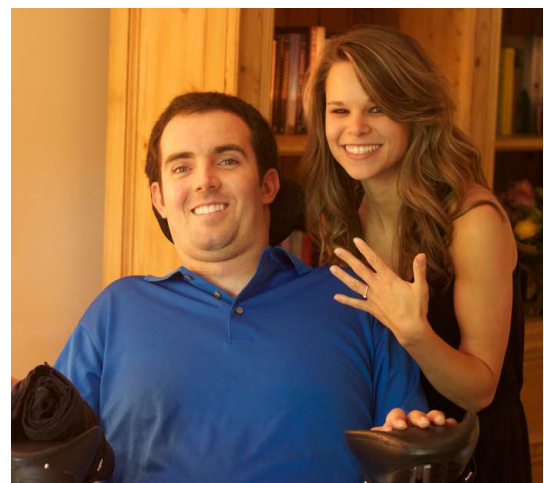
**"I learned that God did many [miracles]. I liked the one of the [paralyzed] man the most."**

We knew that the photo and writing prompt were confirmation that God was at work in our lives, even way back in second grade.

Although there were many aspects of our dating relationship that were unconventional, we still enjoyed connecting on a deep emotional level and enjoyed fun dates such as trips to the zoo, UC basketball games, or going out to dinner.



Meanwhile, Ryan was mentoring a group of high school boys. They met each weekend to discuss life, school, girls, and God. In 2015, Ryan enlisted their help to pull off an elaborate scavenger hunt to propose to Stephanie.



She said yes!

We got married in 2016 on the 7 year anniversary of Ryan's car accident.



The Cincinnati Bearcat made an appearance at our wedding!

Soon after getting married, we built a house on the same street as Stephanie's parents and siblings and moved to Maineville.





## MEET *Stephanie*

Three words that best describe Stephanie are **calm**, **empathetic**, and **creative**. Stephanie has a great sense of humor and is very diplomatic. One of her best qualities is that she is a good listener and always strives to make people feel cared for and seen.

Stephanie loves art, reading, cooking, gardening, music, cats, journaling, and spending time with friends. She can often be found in the kitchen trying out new recipes and is passionate about healthy eating...while also incorporating a balance of fun treats as well to satisfy her sweet tooth.

**OCCUPATION** Homemaker, Elementary Education Student

**EDUCATION** Currently completing bachelor's degree

**FAVORITE FOOD** Pizza

**FAVORITE HOBBY** Painting and reading

**FAVORITE MOVIE** Lord of the Rings

**FAVORITE SPORT** Football

**FAVORITE HOLIDAY** Christmas

**FAVORITE MUSIC GROUP** Coldplay

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** The Office, Friends

**FAVORITE BOOK GENRE** Historical fiction

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL** Language Arts

**FAVORITE TRADITION** Setting up the Christmas tree and eating fun snacks while watching the Ohio State/Michigan football game the weekend after Thanksgiving with Ryan





# WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Stephanie*

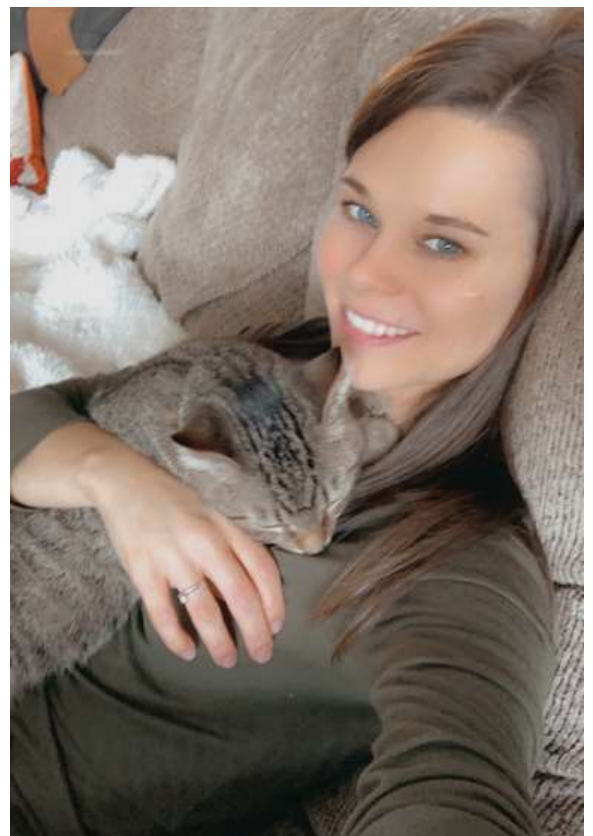
WRITTEN BY RYAN

My wife is incredibly compassionate and the perfect partner to raise a family with. Even when we were dating, I thought, "She is going to be a great mom!" when seeing her with her younger sisters and other little kids.

I love the way she cares for people, listens, and is passionate about hospitality to family, friends, and our future children.



Stephanie's paintings





## MEET *Ryan*

Three words that best describe Ryan are **driven, persistent,** and **optimistic.** These attributes have served him well in both his relationships and his work. In 2020, with the help of Stephanie as his editor, Ryan published his memoir, *One Step Closer: How a Life-Altering Accident Led Me to Everything I Almost Missed.* After publishing, he began working as a financial advisor and thoroughly enjoys the chance to help families organize their finances and reach their goals. One of his favorite parts of the job is helping young families plan for their children's futures by setting up accounts for college funding. He can't wait to get this in place for his own future children!

When he's not working, Ryan enjoys watching sports and documentaries, reading, being outside in the sun, and spending time with friends. He loves the Cincinnati Bearcats and sampling Stephanie's cooking.

**OCCUPATION** Financial Advisor

**EDUCATION** Bachelor's Degree

**FAVORITE FOOD** Anything spicy

**FAVORITE HOBBY** Watching sports

**FAVORITE MOVIE** Remember the Titans

**FAVORITE SPORT** Football and College Basketball

**FAVORITE HOLIDAY** Thanksgiving

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** Lost, 24

**FAVORITE BOOK GENRE** Biographies

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL** Math

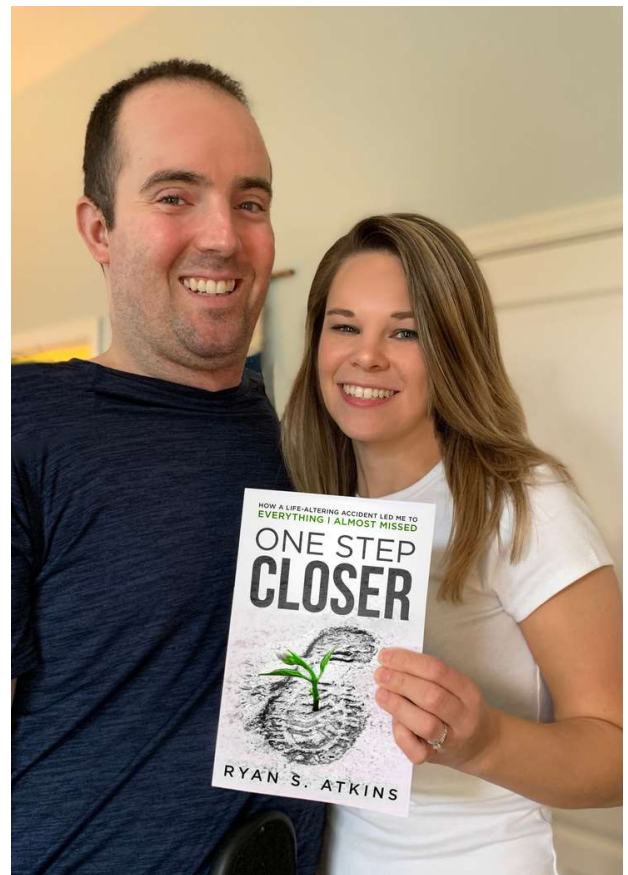
**FAVORITE TRADITION** Reading through the menu Stephanie makes me for my birthday each year

# WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Ryan*

WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE

Ryan is extremely personable, easy to talk to, kind, generous, ambitious, driven, and assertive yet gentle.

My favorite thing about him is the way he is intentional about every moment of his day, everything he does, and every relationship he has.



# HOME

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**WE DEEPLY VALUE CREATING A SPACE FOR OTHERS  
TO FEEL WELCOME, SAFE, AND LOVED.**

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We live in a ranch home in the suburbs of Cincinnati that we built in 2017. Stephanie loves decorating and organizing and has created a space that feels warm and welcoming. Our home has lots of natural light and an open concept floorplan that allows for a feeling of togetherness no matter what "room" people are in. We have a nice yard and a deck with a firepit where we envision spending lots of time making smores with our future children! We attend regular cul-de-sac parties on our street where we enjoy gathering with our neighbors and their kids for fun food and drinks.

Our greatest passion as a couple is opening our home to others. We love hosting dinners, parties, cookouts, and small groups where we can be intentional about relationships and community.





## OUR COMMUNITY

Community plays a big role in our life. It's not uncommon for us to have people over multiple nights per week. We host a small group with a few other married couples where we enjoy themed potluck meals and deep, intentional discussion each week. We also love having friends over for dinners and game nights.

We host an annual Super Bowl party as well, which we started doing all the way back when we were first dating in 2013. It was especially fun in 2022 when our beloved Bengals made it to the Super Bowl!





## MEET OUR FAMILIES

### STEPHANIE'S FAMILY

Stephanie's family consists of dad and mom (Dwight and Gina) and three younger siblings (Nate, Caroline, and Anya). We are extremely close to all of them, both relationally and in distance! In fact, the whole family lives right on our street. All five of them are beyond excited to welcome a new baby into the family. Grandma Gina has decided she wants to be called "Gigi" and can't wait to baby-sit at any possible chance we give her. Grandpa Dwight works in construction and will most certainly spend lots of time building playsets, tree houses, and go-karts for the future baby, just like he did when Stephanie and her siblings were growing up. The three younger siblings are looking forward to taking on the title and role of "uncle" and "aunt."

Aside from spending every major holiday together, we also see Stephanie's family each day. They are incredibly involved and helpful in our lives and we have a wonderful relationship with them. We get together frequently for family movie nights and dinners. All five of them will play a huge role in the life of our future child.



## RYAN'S FAMILY

Ryan's family consists of dad and mom (Jerry and Carol) younger sister Laura, and her husband Andy. Laura and Andy's daughter Elsy was born in December of 2021 and we have loved welcoming our niece into our lives.

Both Jerry and Carol and Laura and Andy live nearby and we see them frequently. Laura, Andy, and Elsy come over for dinner and to hang out regularly and Jerry and Carol come over weekly. We have a great relationship with them as well. Grandma Carol has already bought the future baby a full closet of clothes, toys, and books and Grandpa Jerry is excited to share his love of the Cincinnati Reds and Bearcats!

We are so excited for our future child to grow up with Elsy and to have Laura and Andy in his or her life as the most incredible aunt and uncle anyone could dream of!







# IN OUR *Family*

Our biggest goal in life is to live for a purpose greater than ourselves. While we are all about having fun and celebration, we are not unfamiliar with unexpected loss and suffering. Our intention is and has always been to view hardship with gratitude and perspective.

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## IF YOU CHOOSE US, WE COMMIT TO:

- Raise our child to be a productive member of society who works hard in all that they do and lives for a purpose bigger than themselves
- Instill values of persistence, humility, and compassion in our child
- Live lives that model for our child what it looks like to be thoughtful, caring, and sensitive towards others
- Value hard work and persistence
- Celebrate our child for who they are and love them unconditionally in all circumstances
- Be open with our child about their story from as early as they are able to understand
- Ensure our child knows how very loved and wanted they are and that we dreamed of and prayed for them for many years before they became part of our family



## ONE LAST THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us. Should you choose us to be your child's parents, **we would be honored to have you be a part of our lives as well.** Whether through pictures and letters or face-to-face visits, **we want to involve you in whatever capacity you feel most comfortable with.**

Regardless of the degree of involvement, we want you to know that you will always be acknowledged in our family. We will ensure our child knows how strong and brave his or her birth mother is. We truly believe you are making the most selfless choice anyone could ever make.

Thank you so much for considering us in your journey.

RYAN *and* STEPHANIE