



Hi! We are Bert & Anita...

Dear Birth Parents,

"We are Bert & Anita, and we are 30 and 31-years-old. We moved to Texas 10 years ago, and we love it! We love our work, the weather, our neighborhood and the nice people. We both were born in the Netherlands, but plan to stay in Texas to continue our business and keep building our lives here. Texas is the place where we want to raise our children.



We have a 4-year-old biological son, and his name is Thijs. Not a common American name, but easy to pronounce, like -ice- only with a -T- in front of it, so you say: -Tice-.

He is a sweet little boy and our blessing from God.

After the loss of our firstborn, and complications during our second pregnancy, our doctor advised us not to get pregnant again. That is when we knew that we wanted to adopt!

We cannot describe how special this time is for us. Our decision to adopt is our well-thought-of and well-prayed-for choice, just like yours is. To choose adoption for your baby's best interests is the most amazing thing we can ever imagine. You will always have a special place in our hearts, and there are absolutely no words to describe what you are about to do for your child and for us, only love.

Since Bert didn't grow up with his mother and was emotionally adopted by his stepmother at age 14, he knows how special a loving family feels. It is our greatest wish to offer that to your child, too. We promise to parent your child, just like Thijs, and give them everything they need.

We will tell him or her about the two wonderful people who made this unselfish choice out of love for their child, to give him or her the miracle of adoption. (And to us, too!) Should you wish to receive pictures and letters over the years, we would be honored to share the gift you have given us, because if not for you, we would never have the opportunity to raise another child."

This is who we are...



Anita



Bert

Hello! I was born in the Netherlands in a small town in 1980. I grew up with my mother, dad and my sister. I remember that our family life was important to us, and it still is! As a child, we often went camping, and now that we are grown, we travel back and forth to see each other. My mom is a teacher and a principal. My dad was a bookkeeper but now works at a school with children who need special education; it absolutely fits him. My parents raised me to be a Christian and we attended church every Sunday. And we still do. I was a good student but loved to play outside: riding horses at the horse farm, building tree houses in our backyard, ice-skating, or babysitting the children in our neighborhood. In 1999, I got my degree to be a maternity nurse in the home healthcare profession. Together with a midwife, I assisted with deliveries at various homes and stayed with each of the families an additional eight days to ensure that they were cared for. I loved my job, and it was the hardest thing to let go when I decided to move to Texas and marry my one and true love, Bert. Bert and I have an amazing relationship, and there is not one day that I have ever regretted my choice. I enjoy Texas weather (mostly) every day, compared to the rainy, cloudy weather in the Netherlands! We have awesome friends and family surrounding us here to have dinner with, drink coffee with, talk with, go to church with, and have fun with at the swimming pool. I love living in Texas!

I grew up on a dairy in the Netherlands. I was born in 1979. My parents divorced when I was 12, and from that moment on, I lived with my dad. My dad practically raised me and I was always with him. He fed me, changed me, and brought me to school. He taught me all about what I know so far in life. We have a very strong relationship and he is my best friend. When I was 14 years old, my dad remarried and we moved to France to start a new life and a new dairy. That's when I learned what it was like to have a real family. My dad's wife adopted my brother and me, not on paper, but for life. I finished high school, went to college and to the university in France, and got my degree in Agriculture and Dairy Science. After doing a practical study in California, I wanted to move to the United States. Little did I know that in my journey, I would bring the rest of my family with me! In 2000, we decided to move to Texas and start our family business. My dad, mom, brother and I managed the cattle, farmland, and the finances. My work is my passion, but that also has to do with the fact that it is family-operated. I see Anita feeding the calves, I watch Thijs playing, or I can take him with me. I am home for lunch and can come to the house for coffee or to help Anita when necessary. Being a part of my family this way is a huge blessing to me. When I am not working, we love to go out and travel to other cities site-seeing or shopping, or even visit other countries.

This is what we do...

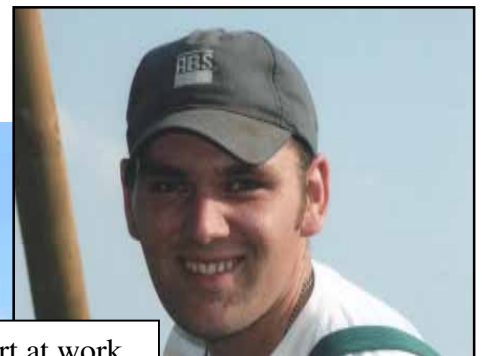
We own a family business: we raise and milk dairy cows! Bert is co-owner of the business, managing the cattle and their feed. He often works long days, but his schedule is flexible and we see each other a lot.

Anita generally works an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon feeding calves, depending on how many are born each week. Along with her calf feeding schedule, she works two days a week in the children's program at our church, leaving her plenty of time for being a mom. When it is harvest time, about twice a year, she helps haul silage on our tractor.

We never had to take Thijs to a full-time daycare. Before Thijs started school this year, he was always with Anita while she worked – while Anita fed the calves, Thijs played with the calves; while Anita worked at church, Thijs played with his friends at church; while Anita hauled silage, Thijs was right beside her in the tractor. Although Anita works, she feels like a stay-at-home-mom because there is so much family time in our way of living. It is such a privilege growing up this way, and Anita plans to do the same thing with your baby.



Thijs on the dairy



Bert at work



Anita feeding a calf



Church

And this is where we live...



Our house



We love our house! It is a four bedroom, and two bathroom house with approximately 1,950 square feet. Your baby will have his or her own room! Our house is located in the middle of our property, but away from the cows, as you can see. We all live about 400 feet away from each other, which gives us plenty of privacy, but thankfully, we can never be lonely. Although we live out in the country, we are very close to town. For us, it is absolutely perfect!



Our favorite place to drink a cup of coffee; the back porch.



Our buddies



How we met...



The first time Anita came to Texas



June, 2003

Bert and I met on a camping trip in the Netherlands; Bert was 13 years old, and I was 12. I was so sure that I was going to marry Bert! He was, and still is (in my opinion), so cute! But Bert wanted to be pen pals first, so we wrote each other for 3 years. When I sent him a picture of me a few years later, it changed his mind. We were 15 and 16 years old when we had our first date. At that time, Bert lived in France; the distance was too far and we tried to meet new people, but no one ever came close to what I felt for Bert and what he felt for me.

After several years, I wrote him a letter, and to my surprise, he called me. He was living in Texas and we decided we wanted to see each other again, so that is what we did! I loved Texas and found out that Bert, after all these years, still made my heart beat faster. One year later, we got married (a girl's dream come true) and we will soon celebrate our 7th anniversary. I respect Bert for his honesty, his stability, his ability to build a family, and his love for me, no matter what! This is for sure the perfect time for us to adopt your baby, as we have so much love to share and to give.

Anita is the most beautiful woman I ever met. She is sweet and is, by far, the best mother to Thijs that you can imagine. She is a wonderful cook, and when I open the door to our house, I feel home... the way she decorates, the aroma in the air when she has coffee ready, and the smell of a freshly baked cake or bread as she removes it from the oven. Anita is always smiling and ready to help others. Our wedding day was the best day of my life. To call her my wife made me the happiest man on earth. Although we went through a lot early in our marriage, we learned to walk together and not only share laughter, but also tears. Our relationship only got stronger, and I am unbelievably proud of her! The best part is sharing our dream of parenting together. We always wanted more children, and we feel like adoption is a dream come true.

Our wedding day, the horse carriage was so romantic!
See the background picture of this page.

Thijs...

Thijs is a very happy, outgoing, social, and open child; he also has a lot of energy! Playing outside in his sandbox is his favorite thing to do. We also color a lot, and he cannot get enough when it comes to reading books! Thijs loves to go with his uncle on the forage harvester during harvest season or just 'fix stuff' on the dairy. With his 13-year-old-uncle and his 12-year-old-aunt, he plays soccer, builds with his blocks, plays the piano, or just does whatever they all feel like doing together.

Thijs is such a sweet little boy, he loves to help out or give us a hand where necessary, and he is so gentle when he is playing with other children, especially when they are younger. When we see him taking care of other children, we dream about him protecting and loving his younger brother or sister, your baby. He will be such a good brother, and we are ready to love them both deeply.



Thijs and our friends' baby



Thijs (left) and his cousins

Thijs started Pre-K this year and he loves it! Every morning we bring a happy and excited child to school, it warms our hearts. When he comes home we listen to his stories and about what he learned that day while enjoying a cup of hot tea (for him, with lots of milk and a little bit of sugar) and sharing an apple or a banana. We speak English and Dutch. Thijs switches from one language to the other without a problem, he already speaks both of them fluently.



Drinking a cup of hot tea after school

Our family...



Anita's parents and their grandchildren



Anita's sister with husband and children



Bert's brother and wife

Bert's half-brother and half-sister



Bert's parents



My mother has a strong personality and a big heart. She loves to be a grandma, and she adores her grandchildren. She can't wait to have another one in her arms! Although her grandbaby will not be biological, she will love him or her the same as the others. My father is the listener. I can be with him for hours and still feel so comfortable. I love them both deeply.

I miss my sister a lot. She is two years younger than me. She is very sweet, is so much more organized than I am, and just loves to talk and write. She and her husband have three children: a 5-year-old and twins of 18 months, all boys!

We visit each other about twice a year, either in the Netherlands or in Texas. Even though my family live overseas, we have a strong relationship.

We are very close with Bert's family. We work together, have fun together, and share life together. We often gather at Bert's parents' swimming pool. One of our favorite things to do as a family is celebrating birthdays and holidays! We love to eat together, and Anita, Bert's mom, and our sister-in-law prepare the food that we greatly enjoy.

Bert's younger brother and his wife are expecting their first child at the end of May. Bert's youngest brother and sister (his half-brother and half-sister, although we never say it that way) are very funny, and we love to take them to the movies or just invite them over for a snack or a sleep over.

Not only are we excited about adopting a baby, the whole family is. We have a great family and we are proud to be a part of them!

Traveling and fun...



California



The Zoo



San Francisco



The Netherlands



Swimming in Bert's parents' swimming pool



Paris



Fun Facts...

	<u>Bert</u>	<u>Anita</u>
✓ Favorite Food:	Asian Food	Stuffed Baked Potato
✓ Favorite Drink:	Starbucks Coffee	Starbucks Coffee
✓ Favorite Animal:	Whale	Cat-Like-Animals
✓ Favorite Activity:	Family Time	Painting
✓ Favorite Movie:	True Stories	Romantic Comedies
✓ Favorite Car:	Mercedes	Audi
✓ Favorite Vacation:	California	Beach

We are just thrilled. We can't wait to hold another baby, to have another baby for us to love and to cherish. It would mean so much to us to watch our children growing up together, and for Thijs to have a brother or sister to share life with. It is our promise to you that we will raise your child in a loving, Christian family to be a wonderful, educated and confident adult. We hope you will consider us and let your child become a part of our family! Thank you for reading our letter,



Truly yours, Bert & Anita.