

LUKE + ABBY



A PEEK INTO OUR STORY

HELLO, MAMA!


WE'RE LUKE AND ABBY

We do not know you, but we know you are deeply brave. **We don't know your story, but we're confident you're stronger than you believe.** We don't know all the circumstances, but we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are a truly incredible mother and want what is best for your beautiful baby.

You are likely facing one of your life's most difficult and impossible decisions. So, although we have yet to talk face-to-face, hear your story, or hear your voice, **we already have immense respect and admiration for the person and mother you are.**

Our deepest commitment is to do whatever it takes for your child to thrive, to feel cared for and adored in a loving, silly, faith-filled home. We hope to give your child the love and care they need in order to flourish. The uniqueness of each child and the diversity that brings to our family is something we eagerly embrace.

We are humbled and honored you would even pick up our book, a little peek into our family and world.



WE'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR YOU
AND YOUR LITTLE ONE FOR
MONTHS AND WILL CONTINUE TO
PRAY THAT THE LORD GUIDES
YOU IN THIS DECISION.

OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION



OVER THE YEARS, OUR HEARTS HAVE ALSO REALLY GROWN FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS AND BIRTH MOTHERS. WE HAVE SUCH A STRONG DESIRE FOR THEM TO BE RECOGNIZED AS THE TRUE SELFLESS, LOVING, AMAZING MOTHERS THEY ARE. WE FEEL PASSIONATELY ABOUT OPEN ADOPTION AND ALTHOUGH IT CAN HAVE ITS INEVITABLE MESSINESS, IT IS SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO RAISE A CHILD WHO IS ABLE TO HAVE AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR BIRTH FAMILY.



Even on our very first date, we talked about adoption. We had a hope to one day adopt, as we both come from families where we had experienced the beauty of adoption firsthand. We saw the hard, we saw the journey, we saw the beauty in diversity and both wanted the opportunity to step into that if we were able.

Our youngest son, Jude is adopted and we are so blessed by him and his birth family! We are so thankful to have a very open relationship with his birth family and see them regularly. Even from our days in the hospital, our goal was to always make sure she felt seen, honored, and enabled if she should choose. One of her initial hopes in the matching process was that her son would one day have a relationship with her (at that time) 2.5-year-old daughter, and we are grateful that their relationship has flourished so much more than we ever thought or imagined.

Since then, we have gotten together with her and her family several times a year. We were honored to be in attendance at her wedding ceremony with Jude as the ring bearer, she and her family have been at Jude's both first and second birthday, and all gatherings in between. Honestly she, her children, and her new husband (and his family) truly are family to us.

How wildly blessed are we to have this relationship with her? How wildly blessed is Jude to have a mother who is so selfless and willing to continue to be present in his life (and we know at times it has come with a lot of emotions)? How amazing to have SO many people to love this precious boy! Adoption is hard, and at times messy, and certainly will ebb through the seasons- but **it has been the greatest privilege to be chosen by Jude's birth mom and get to raise him alongside her.**



OUR STORY

WE WERE SET UP BY ABBY'S BEST FRIEND!

I was attending Baylor University and my best friend, Bethany, met Luke at the University of North Texas. As soon as she met Luke, she called me and told me she had “met my soul mate.” Bethany eventually brought Luke to Waco one weekend and after dinner on that first night, Bethany came down with severe food poisoning. Luke and I were fatefully left just the two of us for the entire weekend, and haven't stopped talking since...it was DIVINE food poisoning we like to call it!

OUR CONNECTION WAS INSTANT

We connected over our love for youth ministry, travel, family, faith, adoption, and so much more. For the next year, we spent weekends together that always seemed too short. We tried new restaurants, lingered at coffee shops, had picnics in parks, spent time with our families, went to concerts, and



were always finding a festival of one kind or another. I eventually left to go teach in Italy for a year after I graduated, and although we were used to a long-distance relationship, across the Atlantic REALLY took it to the next level (insert long romantic, handwritten letters back and forth here). But the commitment and love were there, and Luke proposed when I came home for Christmas break that year.

EIGHT MONTHS LATER WE WERE MARRIED

We got married in an old restored opera house, dripping with history and charm. It was beautiful and classic and cozy and not too uptight. We were surrounded by our dearest friends and family and the reception was just a party! We spent most of the night dancing, connecting with the people most important to us, and also trying not to melt. It was the middle of August in Texas and the AC in the ballroom went OUT. So it was a sweaty party, but an awesome party, to say the least.

WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR 14 YEARS

Marriage is hard and we definitely have fought for our relationship through thick and thin. We continue to choose each other and put in the effort to keep the commitment we made all those years ago. Our open communication and respect for one another has grown exponentially as we have matured together. We are truly best friends and love spending time together and at the end of the day we are so thankful that we get to do life together. We love that we have such shared interests, passions, and a vision for our family!





From Abby: Oh man, Luke is just the best human. He would literally give you the shirt off his back to stay warm, even if it meant he would freeze. He is a helper through and through. His heart is so for serving others, something he absolutely gets from his family. Luke is wildly intelligent and has such a gift for weaving faith, the Bible, and theology into our everyday lives, and conversations with others in such a powerful and approachable way. If you need someone to get creative to figure out an out-of-the-box solution, Luke is your guy. If we are ever in a bind or difficult situation,

If you know Luke, you likely feel seen by him. He asks the hard questions, he encourages others in a way that really matters, and he connects with people where you feel like you've known him for

years...and likely is the most personable person in the room making everyone laugh. He is loving, gentle, thoughtful, hysterical, creative, a dreamer, and a "people person" through and through.

The only way to describe Luke as a father is to say he was so obviously built to be a Dad. He has such a natural undeniable way of loving, shepherding, protecting, and caring for his children. He knows just the right times to press in with the "get to the heart" type of questions, and when to laugh things off with a silly joke. He is so intentional, unbelievably present, easily interruptible, and just such a calm, gentle, strong comfort to all three of our kids.

He is the dad who comes home exhausted from work, but you'd never know it because he immediately jumps in to help with the

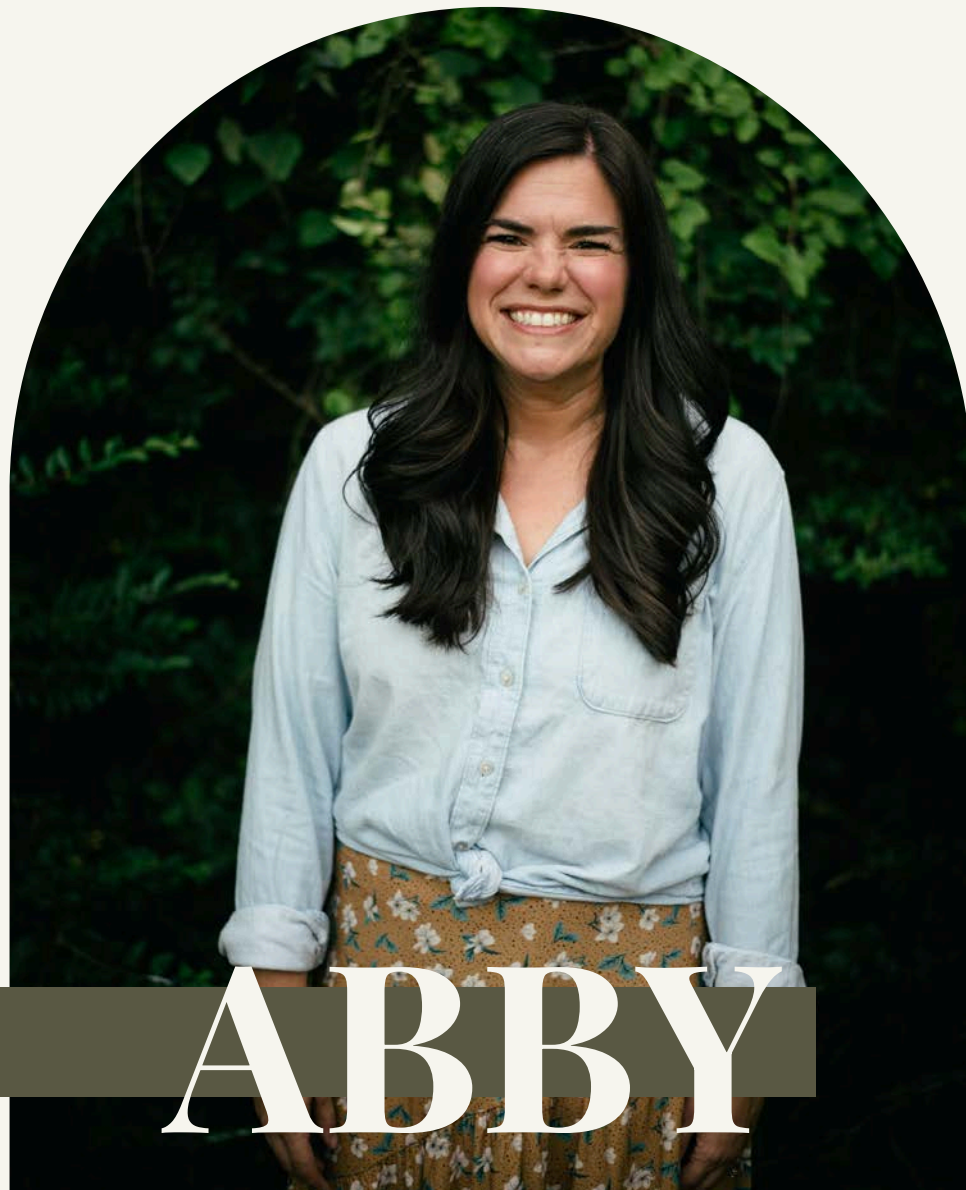
leftover schoolwork and the toddler having a meltdown. Wrestling after dinner is a nightly occurrence and usually (staying up later than Mom would like) having thoughtful conversation with the girls or snuggling Jude before he prays them to sleep. He is the spiritual heart and leader of our home...but also the one that keeps us all laughing. A “rockstar Dad” wouldn’t even scratch the surface, these kids will be eternally blessed and changed to have Luke as a father.

From Luke: I work at a local Christian school on the Campus Leadership as the Dean of Students which functions like a Pastor/Chaplain/Counselor for the students, staff, faculty, and families. Thankfully, the school is very family-friendly and flexible and since our kids attend I get to take them to and from school every day, and even see them throughout the day in the halls and at lunch. I also plan to take one month of paternity leave so that we can be with the new little one. I also have the honor of working as a Chaplain in the Navy Reserves. I serve once a month to be a spiritual presence for Navy members and it has been so rewarding to use my gifts to serve those who serve our country.

One of my favorite things to do is spend time with friends; relationships matter a lot to me with friends, family, and neighbors. So as much as I can, I try to spend time with people enjoying good food, drink, and conversations. But for myself personally, as dorky as it sounds, I love learning. I can’t get enough of it. So whether it be books, activities, skills, etc. I love being immersed in getting deep into whatever it is that I’m doing. But some of my biggest passions are theology and the Bible, woodworking (working with my hands in general), design and art, cultures and travel, all kinds of food, breadmaking, and fitness.

EVERY NIGHT I PRAY OUR KIDS WOULD LOVE GOD’S WORD, LOVE GOD’S WORLD, LOVE PEOPLE, AND LOVE THE CHURCH. MORE THAN ANYTHING I WANT THEM TO HAVE A THRIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, US AS THEIR FAMILY, AWESOME FRIENDS, THAT THEY’D BE HEALTHY, AND THAT THEY WOULD FAITHFULLY DO WHATEVER GOD CALLS THEM TO.





From Luke: To this day, Abby is by far the most impressive, incredible, thoughtful, lovely, gorgeous woman I've ever met and I could never have dreamed that I'd be married to such an exceptional woman who is even a better friend to me and mother to our kids. The amount that she can accomplish, at the level of excellence and beauty she does it with, all while never losing sight of her love for her God, taking great care of the kids, and effortless grace in how she treats everyone is mind-boggling!

Abby is selfless in everything she does with a deeply rooted heart for the service of others. Since the day we met, I've seen her seamlessly enter the unknown with fearlessness and confidence knowing she

can either handle it, figure it out, or that God's got her so has nothing to fear. She has the gift of discernment; I don't know how she does it, but she's able to assess situations and brilliantly navigate them with poise and grace.

She's a steadfast, nurturing, and gracious mama who somehow is both a powerhouse and strong example for our girls, yet has such a tender heart for those around her and those in need. They are always doing so many games, connecting with other kids and moms and families so that our kids continue to grow in such a well-rounded way. She so naturally just talks with our kids about what's going on in their little mind, their heart, and their relationships with other people and with God. We've



always wanted to adopt and I've only seen her thrive even more as a mom in everything related to adoption. I feel like being a mom, traveling, and being surrounded by other cultures, and anything related to adoption are just her happy places. It's such a joy to see.

From Abby: I am currently both a stay-at-home mom and self-employed, working part-time from home. I am so grateful to have my dream job working as a travel consultant, helping other families take bucket list trips. I am my own boss, which allows me to prioritize the kids as #1. I work just two days a week when all the kids go to school, and we would plan for this baby to also attend our local family-owned Mother's Day Out with Jude. We also do a decent amount of traveling as a family for my job, pinch me...something I never thought I would be able to do while also providing for my family!

When I'm not planning the next adventure, you can usually find me with my nose in a book. I'm an avid fiction reader and my

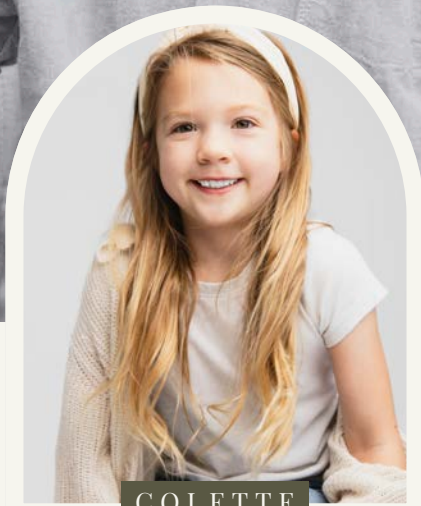
ADOPTION IS VERY NEAR TO MY HEART, AND I SO LOOK FORWARD TO HOPEFULLY BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER BIRTH MOM. IT GIVES ME SUCH JOY TO HONOR HER, TALK ABOUT HER, CELEBRATE HER, AND THINK OF WAYS WE CAN SERVE HER INTENTIONALLY. GROWING OUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION IS A PRIVILEGE I DO NOT TAKE LIGHTLY.

favorite place might be the library (the quieter the better!). On the other hand, I'm a sucker for some good reality TV or the latest documentary series. I am usually happiest being outside when the weather is sunny. Nothing fills my cup like a good night out with my closest girlfriends and deep conversation. Although sometimes I struggle to find the time to stay active, I really am my best self and mother when I take the time to get some movement and lift heavy things.

OUR CHILDREN



EVERLEE



COLETTE



JUDE

Everlee (E, Bug, age 9) is our responsible, artistic, sometimes shy, beautiful little bookworm. She takes a bit to warm up, but once she does she's yours forever. Everlee is incredibly observant, has an eerily accurate memory, and is the girl who surprises you with how thoughtful she is of others. For the past two years, she has dove into the world of competitive gymnastics and is thriving. We can't pull her away from the gym. Although she is entering those elusive pre-teen years (in full force!), we are so grateful to still have a warm, affectionate, close relationship with our oldest girl.

Colette (Cole, Coley, Nugget, age 7) is an easygoing, tender, bundle of joy. Her imagination can keep her occupied solo for hours and she is always the first one to jump in with her younger cousins and head up some epic pretend play. Cole is our steady middle and just the glue of our family. She is resilient in moments of stress or difficulty, and she is the first one to cheer her sister and others on instead of leaning toward jealousy. To know Cole truly is to adore her. Cole is our floating butterfly that some days like gymnastics and other days soccer, but we aren't in a rush to dampen that free spirit.

Jude (Jude Dude, Handsome, Bulldozer, age 2) is ALL boy and just the light of our lives. He is on top of tables and holds his own with his older sisters, and just a ham through and through. He is the kid walking around the restaurant waving and saying "hi" to any and every stranger, yet loves his Mama and Dada. Jude is physical, over the top in the best possible way, and quick to tell his sisters "MINE!" All of us are truly enamored with our little guy...and he knows it. If you can get him to slow down long enough, he may give you some snuggles, and his toddler personality and humor is in full force in the best possible way.

Being a parent is just the best. It is a joy, it's hysterical, it's fun, it's exhausting, it's rewarding- there is nothing more meaningful than to mother and father these little souls. Having that family unit and crew of all your favorite people and getting the privilege to steward and help form and care for their hearts is just the most beautiful journey. **Knowing each child is different, we strive deeply to find a way to learn each kid's heart and do whatever it takes to help them individually flourish.** We take our values seriously, but not ourselves too seriously. We want our home to be a safe place for them to fail and only grow and get stronger. All that with a side of silliness, and laughter, and fun!



WE LOVE BEING PARENTS!





OUR LIFE AS A FAMILY

BETTER TOGETHER

Our favorite activities are exploring a new place together, reading (the more libraries the better!), being outside and finding new parks, and all the family gatherings and celebrations together. We do a Friday Family Pizza Night with Luke's side of the family and it truly is the highlight of our weekly rhythm. All the cousins run wild, the parents stay way too late, and you usually can find us around the kitchen table playing our favorite card game, Swoop.

Everyone loves donut dates with Dad on Saturday mornings and we try to fit in as many family game nights around the kitchen table as we can. As a family, we really all love to read—currently, we are working our way through the Wingfeather Saga series! Norway, Switzerland, Hawaii, and Disneyland were some of our favorite vacations! And honestly, we love a good weekend with zero plans to lounge at home, linger at dinner, and just spend time together without any agenda.



CELEBRATING ADVENTURE

- 01 Southern Spain this October!
- 02 Gelato everyday too much?!
- 03 Oregon with Abby's Family
- 04 Hawaii was a favorite!
- 05 Creating core memories
- 06 ALL of the family in Norway!
- 07 San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
- 08 Bottle breaks in Europe
- 09 The French + Swiss Alps!
- 10 Cabin weekends with the fam
- 11 Holiday NYC surprise for the girls
- 12 Disneyworld Christmas gift > toys



LESS STUFF, MORE MEMORIES



04



05



08



11



12

Since family travel is Abby's job, we are so grateful we have the opportunity to travel four to five times a year as a family.

We get to travel domestically and internationally. Our favorite trips have been a big heritage trip with Luke's family to Norway, a France and Switzerland trip this past year, a Christmas trip in NYC, and the kids would probably add Disneyland.

Sometimes our favorite trips are long weekends spent at a cabin nearby with extended family.

When we travel, we try to make it as life-giving as possible. That may mean we might not see every landmark or cross the entire bucket list off, but we'll be stopping at every single playground, lingering after dinner as the kids play in the piazza, or making time to prioritize downtime - because we really think that is when the best family connection and memories are built. Traveling for us is so much about seeing the beauty of these different places and cultures God has created, but also equally about that intentional time as a family and what it builds in our kids and our family's culture!

We have neverending plans for bucket list travel- Europe is a favorite, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, new islands in the Caribbean, the beauty of North America- the travel plans are always endless!

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING



If there is one thing we can go on and on it is how absolutely, unbelievably, wildly blessed we are to have the family we do.

We are constantly driving home from family events telling the kids “Do you know how LUCKY we are?!” To have any family you want to spend time with, get to spend so much time with because they are so close, let alone on one side of the family...but both sides of the family (extended family included!)?! What a gift.

Abby's Family: Dad- Jeff, Mom- Sally, and her husband-Chris (of 15 years...not a “step-dad: as they married when I was 23, but very much a father figure we adore). I have one sister two years younger than me- Amy, married to my brother-in-law, Robert. They have two boys- William (4.5) and Russell (2).

Luke's Family: Dad- Greg and we sadly lost Luke's Mom, Lisa over four years ago after a 30+ year battle with MS.

THE ENTIRE FAMILY IS SO EXCITED WE'RE ADOPTING AGAIN AND VERY EAGERLY AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW BABY!

Luke is the oldest of four and they are each about two years apart. Next in line is Sara who is single and thriving. Then, there is his sister Jill who is married to Dan, they have two daughters Eden (3.5) and Sage (3 weeks!). Lastly, is his little brother David who is married to Kristin and they have one daughter-Olive (2), and one more on the way, due in February!

With both sides of the family, everyone is so intentional with our kids. If there is a school event they are there, aunts and uncles are taking the kids out on one on one dates for their birthdays, grandparents always make sure to gift an experience to spend time with the kids (not just another toy), they all take time out of their busy lives to come to the gymnastics practice or soccer game, and we travel with each side of the family once a year for some intentional, extended time together.



THIS PAGE WOULD'N'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS PICTURE OF JUDE'S BIRTH FAMILY

HOME SWEET HOME



OUR HOME IS BRIMMING WITH LAUGHTER, LOVE, AND HOPEFULLY A FEELING OF COMFORT YOU CAN'T DENY.

"IF THERE IS LOVE IN A HOME, IT'S A PALACE FOR SURE."

As much as we love to travel, one of the best parts of an adventure is having a house you love coming home to. And ours is just that, we are so grateful for our home and have been here almost 11 years now. It is a four bed, four bath and the perfect size for us. We have a very open kitchen and living room area where we spend the majority of our time together. The kids are constantly piled up on the bar for breakfast and to do their homework. We really try to prioritize nightly family dinners around our antique kitchen table and love to pull out one of our many board games and gather around the table for a good family game night. The kids are flying through the back doors daily to our big spring-free trampoline, a playset (slide, monkey bars, and picnic table and all), as well as a large driveway where the kids ride their bikes in endless circles.

We live in a smaller city right outside of Dallas and we have fallen in love with our little nook of DFW over the years. It is the perfect middle between the city and the full-on suburbs. There is a park around every corner, the best family oriented community, and down to earth middle-class neighborhoods, and it seems to be one of the only places in Dallas that is very diverse.

Currently, our children attend a classical, collaborative Christian private school that is a university model, so the kids go to school M/W/F and we homeschool T/TH. This has been just the perfect middle ground for us: we love the freedom and flexibility it affords us and value the extra time we get with the kids. We love the small classroom sizes and the midday hugs from Dad at lunch are an added bonus!

Most often we find ourselves biking or scootering around the corner from our house to the “yellow park,” checking out a new (way too large) load of books from the library, at our city pool and waterpark during the summer, and of course, what neighborhood wouldn’t be complete without weekly Chick-fil-a visits?!



OUR FAMILY

01 FAITH

Christ is the center of all we do. He is our hope, our purpose, and our God. Everything we do and don't do as a family stems from His truths. Our family identity is rooted in Scripture and living out those Biblical truths.

02 FAMILY

In addition to our faith, there is nothing more core to our identity than our people. Family, friends that feel like family, our extended adoptive family- these relationships inform who we are and how we love.





03 SERVICE

We have been given the life we have and everything in it as a way to serve God and serve others. If it just terminated on ourselves how futile that would be! We strongly believe contributing to the good of others, instead of selfish consumption, leads to a better world and better life.

04 JOY!

We just love to laugh. There is so much goodness around us, and always a silver lining to be found. We are such believers that hard is not bad, and we can find deep joy no matter what our circumstances. We like to celebrate. We like to have fun. We are so privileged in so many ways and there is so much joy to be had!



VALUES

THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL WE “MET” YOU!

We are just so honored you even thought our book was worthy to be picked up, to be honest. If this is the only way our stories cross- we pray God would be so near to you during this very tender, impossible time.

Our deepest hope as prospective adoptive parents is that, if you desire, we'd have an open, communicative, and increasingly deep and meaningful relationship with you. We know it may be messy, and we know there may be both difficult and joyful seasons, but **our heart of hearts is that YOU feel honored and your child will flourish. That your child will know you as the superhero you are, and that they and us can grow closer and closer with you over the years.**

Although, we would be deeply honored to be chosen to raise your child (truly there are no words) **above all we want what is best for you and your baby.** If our stories continue to be woven together, we so look forward to celebrating you, singing your praises of love and selflessness, and hopefully continuing to foster a relationship between you and your child for years and years to come.

♡ Luke, Abby,
Everlee, Colette, & Jude



**WE CAN'T WAIT
TO MEET YOU!**

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY
MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE...

EPHESIANS 3:20



