

## AMBER PERKINS SHARP

Amber (Perkins) Sharp graduated from Glen Rose as co-valedictorian in 2001. During her years at Glen Rose, she was actively involved in many organizations and was a Varsity Cheerleader. After graduating high school she moved to Houston, TX, where she completed a discipleship program and worked full time at a church. She lived in Texas for five years before relocating to Indianapolis, IN, to work with a school assembly program for a year. After moving back home to Arkansas, Amber ran into Jake Sharp in downtown Little Rock in June of 2008. Jake also attended Glen Rose for a brief time in junior high and while dating, told Amber that when they were in school together he used to brag to his friends that she was his girlfriend: although, Amber barely even knew who he was. Amber and Jake got married in June 2011 and settled down in Benton, AR.

Amber enrolled in college at the age of 28 and earned her Bachelors of Science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a 4.0 GPA in May 2015. She currently works as a Business Coordinator in the Biostatistics Program in the Department of Pediatrics at UAMS.

Amber, who was adopted herself and grew up in a large family of nine siblings, has always had plans to adopt. Jake wasn't hard to convince as he also grew up in a large blended family with two of his siblings also graduating from Glen Rose. Amber and Jake started the process to become foster parents and officially opened their home in April 2014. They have fostered a total of fourteen children at one time or another since then and most recently adopted a sibling group of three that they fostered for eighteen months. Amber has said, "Going from no children to three in such a short period of time brought its challenges, but the joy and reward that is found when we see how far those little lives have come make all the trials and challenges so worth it!" Amber, along with her biological brother and sister who were adopted with her, were able to meet their other biological siblings for the first time at Christmas in 2014. Through the power of the internet and determination they discovered their younger brother lived in Mountain Home, AR, and their older sister lived in Maryland. "It was awesome to have the five of us together for the first time."

Amber and Jake have plans to continue fostering and pray that God blesses them with a biological child of their own someday. They also have plans to adopt again.

