

To a very special woman,

When there is so much to say and be thankful for, where does one start?! That is what I've been battling with when wanting to write this letter to you.

What we most want to say though, is THANK YOU.

We have walked this extremely difficult and heart-breaking journey for over 12 years, with so many highs and quickly-followed lows, all along knowing that we couldn't and wouldn't give up. God promised me many years ago, at the start of this journey, that we would have our baby. We thought it would be easy; we got married, thought after about 3 years of enjoying our time together as husband and wife that it was the perfect time to start a family. But God's timing is not our timing and only He knows when that perfect time is!

We have gone through many years of tests, procedures, pregnancies followed by miscarriages, negative results and a rollercoaster of emotions (that without our Faith and my amazing husband, would have probably seen me locked up in a loony bin a long time ago!), but all along knowing that God would hear our prayers. He was not going to abandon us. He would give us our baby...we just didn't know when or how that would look.

When we were told the news 3 years ago that it was most probably due to my poor egg quality that we kept losing our babies, at first I felt I was letting my husband down and, I will be honest, I felt a bit of a failure and that my dreams and hopes of carrying our baby were now dashed.

We knew there were other options; we could certainly adopt. We didn't know how God intended us to be parents... I just knew I was going to be a mom and that my hubby was going to be the most incredible father. But once we started looking into adoption there just wasn't a peace in my heart that that was what God wanted for us now. Adoption is in our family, on both our sides, so by no means are we against it. I just didn't feel that that was part of our plan (for now; who knows what may happen in the future!).

So when Dr. Coetsee told us that our last failed cycle didn't mean the end of the road for us and that we did have the option of using an egg donor, my heart filled with joy!

We prayed and prayed and prayed!! The stumbling block for us was the finances. We just couldn't afford another round of IVF. But that didn't stop God! Very close friends of ours who have walked alongside us all these years offered to pay for our treatment! Oh Lord, thank You!

We got sent a lot of agencies to look through to choose our donor, and boy did I feel a little overwhelmed at first. How were we going to choose the right donor? How would we know if she was the right one for us? Silly us; we have asked God to be in every detail of our journey, so He wasn't going to let us make this decision on our own! After looking through quite a few profiles from different agencies, I was drawn to Jenny's agency. She was just so lovely; she made contact with me and I asked so many questions that I thought she may soon get tired of

me! But she didn't and was such a great help in the process. We did choose a donor, who I felt was chosen by God for us, and when Jenny got hold of me a few weeks later saying that that first donor had said she couldn't proceed, I must admit I initially felt a little knocked down and questioned whether we had really felt God's peace over that decision. But then immediately after those thoughts I felt God say " Just trust Me!!!"

Jenny sent us two suggested profiles, yours and one other, and yours was the first link I clicked on. And well... God always knows better!!

As I read through your profile there was just so much that I could identify with and in some areas it felt like I was reading my own profile (if I were to have one!). God, we trust You!

And we just thank you!

Thank you...for first making that choice to put yourself out there to be a donor and wanting to help others realize their dreams.

Thank you...for being so selfless. We have gone through the IVF process 7 times so I know what your body and emotions go through with all the meds, scans, and the egg retrieval and how you feel afterwards. And to go through all that, not for yourself but for complete strangers, it is a completely selfless act and we just thank you so much.

Thank you... for being so flexible and accommodating. When I heard that we were going to have to put things on hold for 3 weeks after my first hysteroscopy (meaning about a months' delay), I was so nervous that we were going to lose you. But then when Ilse said that she had been in touch with you and you were happy to wait, we were so incredibly grateful. I wished then that I could just give you a big hug and say Thank You!

Thank you... to your partner , for supporting you in your choice to be an egg donor to try and help couples like us who so desperately need women like you. It's not easy being the other-half when your partner's body is being pumped with hormones and they don't know if they're happy or sad from one moment to the next!

Thank you.

I'm so sorry I've taken up so much of your time with this long letter! I'll end off now, but what we would like to say more than anything, is that no matter what the outcome of this treatment is, all the above, all our gratitude for the role you have played; your selflessness; your willingness to put your body through a pretty grueling process for us, two people you don't know and whom you'll never know, that will all apply regardless of whether we are successful with a pregnancy or not. The hope you have given us cannot be measured. God knows what is going to happen in a few weeks' time. He knows and we continue to trust Him and know that irrespective of the outcome, He will still remain. But He has given us hope in sending you to us. God performs miracles; He could very easily and miraculously allow us to conceive naturally (even with my dodgy eggs!), but He has chosen to bring us through this long journey and He's

led us to this moment, where He's allowed you to be part of our story. And there are no coincidences when we walk with Him and ask Him to be part of every detail of our lives.

You are part of our story, part of our testimony, no matter what happens, and we will forever be grateful and we will never forget you.

Thank you

xx