



her unborn child. My heart ached for this young, homeless mom pregnant with her first child. We had no idea that night how God was going to weave our lives together and that we would meet again soon.

AND SO THE JOURNEY BEGAN

Our journey began in June 2011 when we met an amazing family who shared their experience with us about Montrose Street Reach and Little Footprints Children's Ministry, who minister to the homeless and at-risk adults and children in Houston, TX. They also expressed the need for families to rescue and adopt street babies through the ministry's adoption agency called Loving Houston.

When we first felt the call on our family to be part of the mission of Loving Houston, we only committed to doing a straight adoption. My husband was fine with fostering, but I didn't think my heart could handle fostering a baby with the possibility of one day having him or her taken away. So we waited.

From what we had seen, most people got "the call" to foster within days of being licensed, but that was not the case for us because we were waiting for straight adoption. We began to wonder if we had really heard from God. Over the course of several months, the Lord began to change my heart and mind about fostering. One day I just felt Him ask me if it would kill me to rescue and give back a child. In that moment I was reminded of Jeremiah 29:11 and knew He had a plan for us to foster.

CHANGE OF HEART

Soon after this decision, we were called to Street Church to meet a couple whose seven-week-old daughter was about to be placed into state foster care. They wanted to voluntarily place their daughter in temporary care with Little Footprints before CPS took their child. Their plan was to find jobs and get off the streets while we fostered their child. When we met the parents that night, the mom and I recognized each other immediately. This was the mom whom I had prayed for three months earlier at Street Church. Our minds reeled as we could already see God's hand at work.

FIGHTING FOR BELLA

The next year was the best and most difficult year of our lives:

*"Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering towards the slaughter."
- Proverbs 24:11*



it felt like a roller coaster at times with lots of twists, turns, and the kind of sudden drops that cause you to lose your stomach. After caring for this precious little girl, whom we began to call Bella, in our home for three months, we found out that her birth mom was pregnant again and living under a bridge. Her situation lay heavy on my heart. I had developed a relationship with Bella's birth mom, and God gave me a special love for her. However, our calling was to fight for Bella. We were engaged in a spiritual battle fighting a very real enemy. We had several close calls when we thought we were going to have to give her back, so we had to trust that our God loved her more than we did and had a plan for her life.

FINALLY OURS

We adopted Bella Grace on May 17, 2013 after 14 long months on our knees as a family. The great thing is that we never walked one step of this journey on our own. Our lives and our kids' lives are forever changed because we took the leap of faith and rescued a baby from the streets.

Since then we have had the privilege of loving on two of Bella's birth siblings by taking them from the hospital so that they did not have to spend one day in homelessness. The Lord told us in each situation to release her siblings, and He raised up Godly families through Loving Houston to become their forever families.

HE CARRIED US THROUGH

We believe wholeheartedly in the mission of Little Footprints and Loving Houston and feel honored that the Lord has allowed us to be a part of these ministries. We will never look at this world with the same eyes as we did before, and we will never forget our loving Father who carried us through each and every day.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me..." ~ Mark 9:37

