

Journeys

STORIES FROM THE STREETS AND BEYOND



LITTLE FOOTPRINTS
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



LOVING HOUSTON
ADOPTION AGENCY



finding a solid, biblical church and making new friends, Montgomery County truly started to feel like home. But something was missing. For many years, I had wanted us to be a foster/adoptive family. However, the timing never seemed quite right. With three teenage boys quickly approaching young adulthood, the desire to welcome a new child into our home and hearts became very strong. I prayed that it was indeed a calling from the Lord and asked my husband if he too felt this calling. After a long and thoughtful pause, he looked at me and simply said "Say yes to yes."

THE CALL THAT CHANGED US

After reading about Loving Houston Adoption Agency's rescue ministry, we knew right away we wanted to partner with them. Saying yes to yes took on a life of its own as we went through the licensing process and quickly prepared to welcome a new family member. Within two days of becoming licensed, we got THE call. A sweet, 6-year-old little girl needed a new home and family. Would we be able to take her in? YES!

GOD SET UP

On the drive there, Rescue Story by Zach Williams came on over the radio. Every lyric of that song resonated in my soul, and I knew that this moment had been God-given and God-ordained. This was the day that God had planned for her healing to begin. After completing placement paperwork and learning some of what our daughter had been through, we excitedly rounded the corner into the room where she sat playing. She looked up at us and with the cutest and squeakiest little voice asked one simple question: "Are you going to be my new family?" Yes!

LOVE IN ACTION

Saying yes to yes these past two years has been less spoken and much more demonstrated. It's seen in the times that we've stopped everything to bear witness to our daughter remembering a painful or scary memory and to comfort her after nightmares. Saying yes has meant spending countless hours teaching her the reading and literacy skills she hadn't received. Saying yes has meant watching our sons grow in their faith while they learned how to



patiently care for their new little sister, even if it meant not having as much individual time with their mom and dad. Most importantly, it has meant teaching her to pray to a loving, Heavenly Father, while she wondered how it could be a part of His plan for her to endure so much loss and pain in her young life.

LOVE COVERS ALL

Saying yes means answering hard questions. At just six years old, Elize was already wise and aware beyond her years. She asks why her family was so broken? We tell her we don't know and then pray for them. She asks why we're so different. We tell her about our love for the Lord and each other. Elize is beginning to understand the finality of her mother's death and heal from that tremendous loss. She is also able to see why she needed to be removed from her dad's unsafe environment. She enjoys hearing the stories we tell about the foster care classes we went to, and she asks if her family can go, too... so that they can learn how to talk without cursing and discipline without hitting.

FOREVER IS FINAL

Elize's adoption was finalized just two weeks ago. She has settled into a routine filled with school, church, cheerleading, and playtime with friends. She now enjoys reading, too! We have reestablished communication with half-siblings, fulfilling a promise we made to her to learn how to bridge the gap between her birth family and ours. The trauma she experienced in her early life will never disappear. However, the daily love and nurture she now receives from us, her sweet case-worker Ally, and supportive teachers and counselors has allowed her to finally rest in the permanence of her forever family. And to think that it all started when God asked and a family simply said yes!

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

