

# Generations & Nations of Love

*Mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, brothers, and sisters share love and laughter in one big Katy home*

*Written by Allison Crawley*

*Photography by Jason Lehecka*

I met my husband Andy in 1999 during college summer break at a small camp in Giddings, TX called Camp Tejas. Even before we were married, we talked about adoption and even decided that one day it would be an option for us. We were married in 2003, and three years later we were blessed with the birth of our son, Catcher. Not long after, we welcomed our second son, Jesse. Both pregnancies and deliveries were difficult, so we decided our family was complete, or so we thought.

## *Multigenerational Adventures*

In 2008, when Catcher and Jesse were 4 and 2 years old, we decided that we wanted to raise our boys in a multi-generational home. So we sold our house, asked Andy's parents to sell their house, and we all moved into a larger home together. The Lord was gracious, and gave us a home with seven bedrooms. "What are we going to do with seven bedrooms?" we would say to each other. Every day at our house is an adventure! Nine people under one roof can make life very interesting.

## *A Yearning for Adoption*

In November 2008, Andy and I felt God pressing adoption into our hearts. We started researching, and our eyes were quickly opened to the orphan crisis across the world. We applied with an adoption agency out of Washington, D.C., and we were accepted into their Ethiopia program. The next six months were spent filling out paperwork, getting shots, taking tests, requesting documents, completing a home study, and filing the necessary immigration documentation. We prayed and considered carefully whether we were open to adopting a special needs

child; we felt strongly that God was calling us to be open to whatever child He had planned for our family.

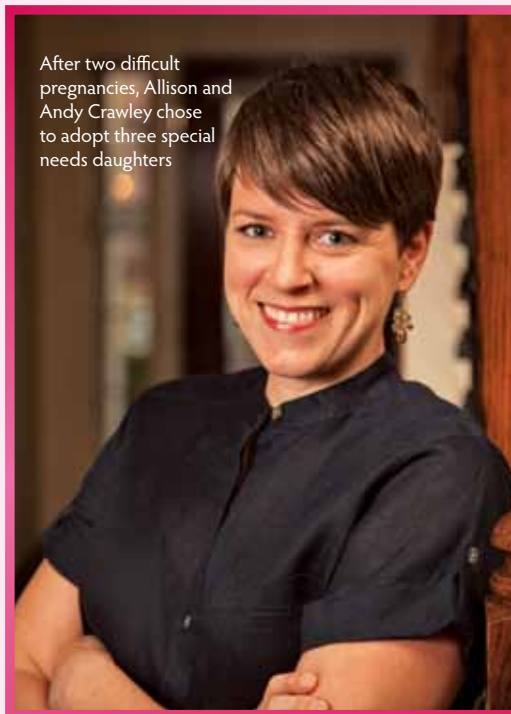
## *Ethiopian Sweetie*

In 2009, we asked our adoption agency if we could be considered to adopt a little girl on their "waiting child" list. This is the list of children who are harder to adopt out because they are older or have special needs. She was 2 years old, and

her profile listed her as visually impaired and developmentally delayed. Andy and I boarded a flight bound for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to bring our little girl home. When we met Addy at the orphanage, we realized her needs were more serious than her profile stated. We were eager to get her home to get her medical attention, and we were terrified at the same time. But our support group, Orphan's Hope at Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church, rallied behind us and through a terrible internet connection in Ethiopia, they encouraged us with scripture and prayers. A few days later, after a trip across the globe, we landed in Houston and brought our baby home. Addy has Aicardi Syndrome, and after having surgery in 2012, she is almost completely seizure free.

## *Sunny Surprises*

Although parenting a child with special needs was very difficult at times, our hearts slowly began to open for another little girl on our agency's hard-to-adopt-out list. She was a beautiful 6-year-old girl in China who was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, also known as brittle bone disease. After doing some research, we began the process to bring her home. On Jan. 14, 2011, we welcomed our second daughter, Sunny, into our family. After having leg surgery at Texas Children's Hospital, Sunny was able to take



After two difficult pregnancies, Allison and Andy Crawley chose to adopt three special needs daughters

Allison and Andy Crawley are raising their children in a multigenerational home with Andy's parents



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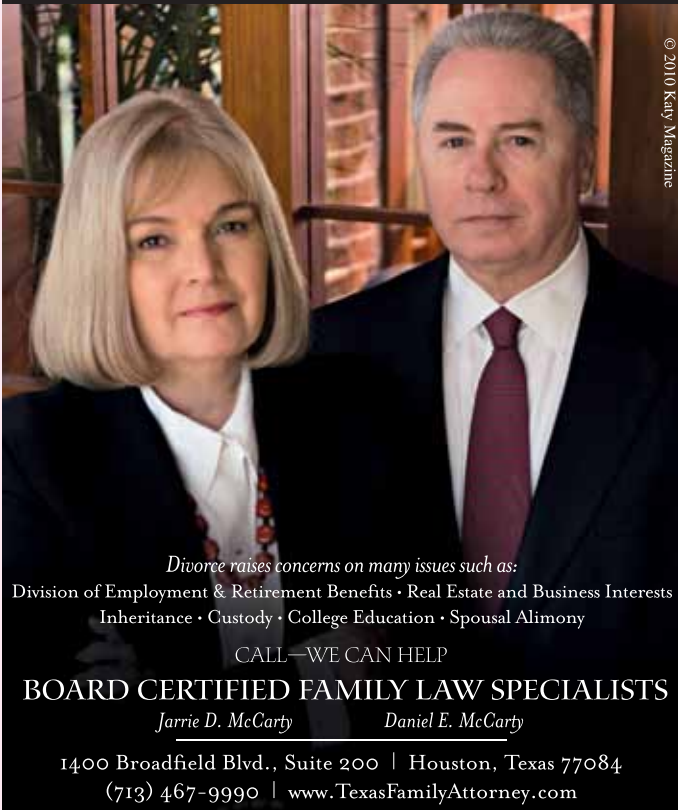


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*“What are we going to do with seven bedrooms?” we would say to each other. Every day at our house is an adventure! Nine people under one roof can make life very interesting.”*

– Allison Crawley

her first independent steps at 6 years old. She also receives bone-strengthening drugs that were unavailable to her in China.

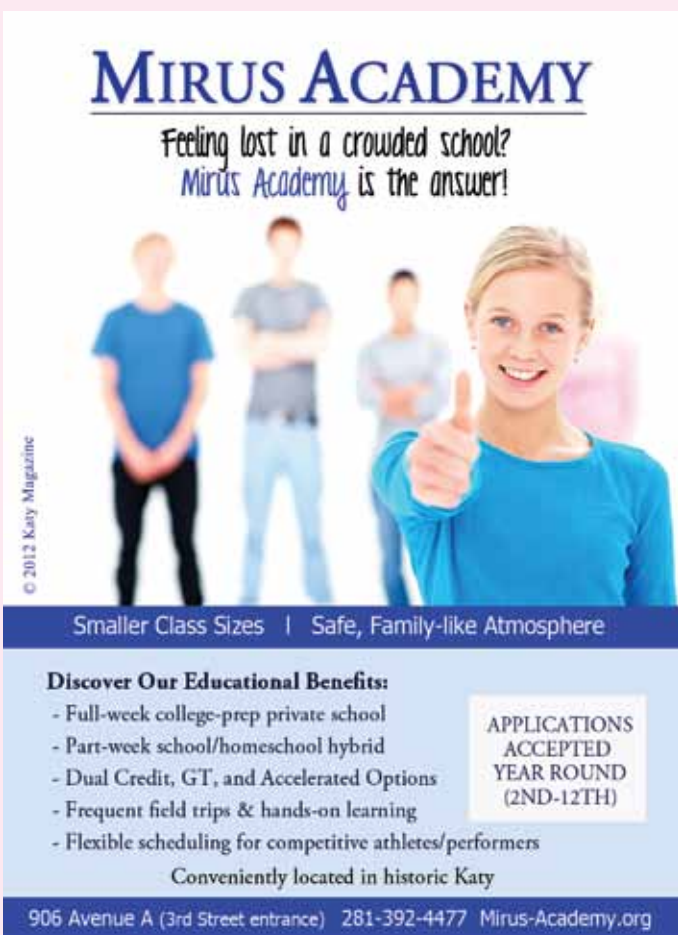
***And Baby Makes Five***

Life with four children, two with special needs, was very busy. But our family was not yet complete. Thirteen months after Sunny joined our family from China, we received an email from a fellow member of our Orphan’s Hope support group. There was a small, infant girl in Dallas who needed a family - one who was comfortable and familiar with her severe medical needs. That family was us! Our hearts were immediately opened to her, and we tried to get her home as soon as possible. On May 19, 2012, we drove home from Dallas with our precious baby daughter, Dottie.

***Multigenerational Love***

It’s easy to look back now and see the big picture of what God was creating our family and our home for. He was equipping us to take care of some very special children. He gave us two extra adults in our home when we decided to create a multi-generational home with Andy’s parents. He gave us seven bedrooms when all we needed at the time was four. He gave us five beautiful children when we thought we would stop at two. He gave us an incredible support group of people who are walking this journey with us, who pray us through surgeries, and bring us hot meals when life gets a little too crazy.

Our life isn’t what we imagined, but it’s better than we could have dreamed! And while our family today doesn’t look like what we imagined it would, we are learning that we really can’t imagine it any other way. KM



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**EDITOR’S NOTE:**  
*We would like to thank Allison Crawley for sharing her inspirational story with us.*



***Do you have an amazing family or story to share? Email [editor@katymagazine.com](mailto:editor@katymagazine.com)***

Allison with her daughters  
Addy, Dottie, and Sunny, and  
sons Jesse and Catcher

