

# Heart to Heart Newsletter

## Happy Mother's Day!

### May 2007

#### Meet Sally Anderson

By Donna H. Eliason



On May 1, 1939 Sally Anderson was born in Melrose, Massachusetts. As the middle child of an Italian father and English mother, she remembers her father holding her by an ankle and hand, while twirling her around in a vaudeville act. Another memory is spending three happy weeks yearly at her aunt's boat shack, "living in a bathing suit."

From fifth grade through high school Sally worked first as a baby sitter, then as a dry cleaning clerk. Only in 9<sup>th</sup> grade did she play after school varsity field hockey.

She met her first husband, Allan, as a Salem State College student majoring in secondary/college education. After graduation Sally taught business and secretarial classes at Boston's Chandler School for Women. Sally was younger than many of her graduate students who needed additional skills for job hunting. After marriage and two

children, Sally took night classes to earn her master's degree in education.

Following her divorce, she taught in an Andover, Mass. business college. In 1971 she managed and scheduled classes in a secretarial program in a new vocational high school. Then she met Bob whom she married in 1972. Two new sons enriched her life, as well as new interests in wind surfing, tennis and snow skiing. After three traumatizing miscarriages, the Andersons moved to California. Sally helped Bob who co-founded a startup technology company in their garage. Their son Tim was born in 1977.

In 1976 Sally co-founded a DeAnza college vocational program where she wrote half the classes for the self-paced program. Sally has won the Innovation Award of the Year and DeAnza's President's Award in 1986, and the National Leadership Award in 1989.

Sally and Bob attended a Catholic Church together until they decided to attend the Saratoga Federated Church as a family. There Sally joined Bible Study Fellowship. She remembers one terrible year when "I left God out of my life." After that, "I was determined to live my life so He'd always be a major part." Jeremiah 29:11 is her favorite verse.

God prepared Sally for a dramatic life change after her divorce from Bob. Now she focuses on her children, missions and travel. Her first mission trip was a prayer walk in Italy with "19 strangers" and SVCC's Pastor Dave Sawkins in 1999.

In 2000 an EVC friend signed her up for an Ethiopian mission trip where they taught a kindergarten/first grade class that grew to 160 by the second day. "We went without knowing what we were getting into," says Sally, but what they did impacted lives. "When we left Ethiopia I was never coming back," she says. Not only did they boil their drinking water, but "rode ten hours in a crammed car sitting sideways on a wooden bench." When the team left at 6:00 am, "all the children came out, following us down the hill, crying and begging us to please come back." Five minutes later Sally planned her next trip. This began her passion for Ethiopia, where she returns at least yearly.

Sally loves being home with her six-year-old daughter Lilly who arrived on January 20 from Ethiopia. "I knew when I saw her I wanted to adopt her." Sally's son Rob adopted Lilly's two-year-old brother, Thomas. Sally is making a difference not only with Lilly, but worldwide because of her love for Jesus.

Sally enjoys her two cats ("fur people"), her family and her EVC small group. Christian brothers and sisters lean on each others' shoulders and whisper in their ears their support and love." Sally is a Board member for Harker School, the Horn of Africa, and Brazil- Hope Unlimited. In Sally's spare time she enjoys hiking and making jewelry.

# Living with Lilly

By Sally Anderson



Greetings from Sally Anderson. Many of you followed the adoption of Lilly for the past year. Thank you for all of your prayers. The adoption is truly a miracle.

Lilly and I arrived home to San Jose on January 20. Flying with a six-year-old for 23 hours would be interesting enough, but add to that a child who had never worn a seat belt, didn't speak my language and didn't wish to be confined to one seat and you have an extremely long day. That said, Lilly was wonderful and very brave.

The first few weeks home were very frustrating for her, because, stupid me, I didn't understand anything she was saying, and saying very emphatically. I'm sure she thought she was being confined, as every door in my home had a lock high enough to be out of her reach. It would take her a while to realize the locks were for her safety and not because of my strong will.

After a few weeks, Lilly began English lessons each morning and after six weeks when I felt comfortable that she wouldn't "run" she started attending kindergarten. She loves being with other

children and looks forward to going to school each day. She started Art classes one day a week and was very proud of her five pictures after just one class.

The opportunity to see the world through brand new eyes is a blessing from God. I'm not sure why I was given this precious child to raise at my age, but I'm so very grateful and I thank God for His gift to me every day and especially at bedtime when she tells me everything that has happened during the day. I can even understand most of it now.

God is good.

Editor's note: The adoption of Lilly was finalized on Tuesday, May 1 (Sally's birthday); one year after Sally started the process.