

Aborted Christmas?

A long time ago (in our galaxy), there lived a 14-year-old small-town girl. She was the perfect daughter who always did the right thing. One day she was minding her own business when a formidable-looking person came up to her and told her she was with child. Now, she wasn't exactly sure how someone could even become "with child," but he was so impressive and knowledgeable looking, that she couldn't help but believe him.

Belief aside, she was still quite bewildered and scared. She was engaged, after all, and even though she didn't know exactly how or why she found herself in this condition, she knew her fiancé wasn't the culprit. What was she going to do? She loved her fiancé, but she was not entirely convinced that he would stand by her. Would he believe her? Would he view her as a disgrace? Would her faith be enough to sustain her? If someone did not intervene, surely she would be abandoned.

Fortunately, her formidable friend visited her fiancé as well and convinced him to stay faithful. Even so, reputations were at stake, hardship surely to come. Perhaps an abortion was the answer. Were they mature enough, stable enough, to bring an unexpected child into this world? And how well did they really know this "well-meaning" messenger. Maybe he was just yanking their chain. Abortion could just make it "go away," and she could concentrate on getting through middle school.

This roller coaster of doubt vs. belief, worry vs. faith, right vs. wrong could have continued until the darker side of her humanity won. But it didn't. Someone could have tried to exploit her youth and socioeconomic status to convince her that abortion was the solution. But they didn't. Her faith prevailed and her fiancé manned up. They stayed together and raised a Son who would save the world. They named him Jesus.



For thousands of years, many have prayed, I am sure, for saviors—someone to cure cancer, halt hunger, procure peace, make junk food healthy. Could it be that God answered those prayers, yet the very person he sent to bring it to pass was aborted because mom and/or dad found themselves in a less-than-ideal situation and allowed their human limitations to dictate their actions? Perhaps not, but millions of miracles, poised to make their mark on the world have been denied their chance to make a difference.

Bringing a child into the world can be scary, even for the Mother of Christ. And it isn't always "easy to do the right thing" (despite what a stupid poster on my middle-school wall once claimed). For this reason, the message of life's sanctity should be partnered with practical information. Telling a frightened mom that her baby deserves to be born is much easier to digest if she knows about the nearest pregnancy center or shelter. A woman will appreciate hearing that her baby is a gift if you assure her that she is a gift, too.

Christmas is a beautiful time to remember God's gift to the world—a perfect Son who showers us with grace, not because we deserve it, but simply because he loves us. We can be a gift to others, as well. We can love the single mom, the challenging child, the troubled dad (and everyone in-between) and offer them the help and encouragement they need. We can show the world that the pro-life community is compassionate and consistent—that all lives matter: unborn, disabled, elderly...the needy across the globe and the needy in our neighborhoods.

Partnering with You for Life this Christmas!

