

I grew up far from having the family life every girl dreams of: an absentee biological father, a dysfunctional and abusive home life with physical abuse and sexual abuse (by a non family member, from the age of 12-16).

Meanwhile through all of this, we attended church on a regular basis and I grew up being taught that life begins at conception.

Because of the abuse, I became pregnant 2 months after my 16th birthday and I remember thinking "What am I going to do"? How will I get through this? Why Me?

I was ashamed, embarrassed, afraid - all the things a person might be feeling and more.

I had my daughter, alone. While it was one of the hardest things I've done, it has brought me the biggest blessings in my life.

When I gave birth in 1988, her biological father was by then an imprisoned habitual felon. I didn't know a lot then, but I knew this baby was my gift and I loved her before she was born. I had to take care of her...

I went on to get a GED and began work 3 weeks after she was born. I knew this wasn't good enough so I kept aiming higher, stepping up in jobs a little at a time and taking additional courses.

I was accepted into Salem College and went on to work in a booming industry making a top salary by 2005.

Following college, I started my own business, later was offered partnerships, and through it all did a lot of volunteer work.

Of course there is so much more pain and heartbreak to this story that I am leaving out, but I wanted you to know at least this much of my testimony. The course of my life and my family's life was altered in such a dramatic way by my pregnancy; but, despite all of it, I consider my pregnancy, a GIFT.

My daughter was my gift. Personally I feel I was headed down the wrong path in life.

Let me make this clear! God did not cause this to happen to me! But, he rewarded me handsomely for not taking the life of my unborn child.

So, no matter what your situation, your pregnancy does not have to define who you are now or will be as a person. You do.

Love in Christ,
A Blessed Mother

Philippians 4:13