

Pro-Life Heroes

Teresa



There are myriad reasons why we are Pro-Life. *Pro-Life Heroes* chronicles the activities of everyday people making tremendous sacrifices to defend innocent human Life.

Maria and David are a devout Christian couple who consistently taught their children about Christ through their own words and example. They were active members of their church, even raising awareness of the need to pray for the unborn. Maria prayed, too, during her difficult labors, that the children with whom she was being entrusted would always find the grace necessary to live Christ-centered lives.

Having taught her entire family about sexual purity, Maria was completely shocked during a visit to the pediatrician's office with her twelve-year-old daughter. The doctor asked Maria to wait outside while he visited with her daughter, Teresa. The doctor emerged from the room and announced to Maria that Teresa was pregnant. Although in disbelief, Maria rushed to her pre-teen daughter and hugged her in tears, exclaiming, "I love you, no matter what." Teresa then revealed that she had been sexually active with a boy her same age. When the doctor began listing their options, Maria *and* Teresa informed him they would exercise only one option, and there would be no abortion. That was not the difficult part of the decision. Teresa, despite her admittedly promiscuous behavior, was too heavily influenced by her parents' example of faith to ever consider killing her unborn baby. Even the doctor remarked that in all his years practicing he had never witnessed such acceptance when a parent was notified that his or her daughter was pregnant. Usually the families become confrontational with accusations, anger, and violence.

Teresa's entire family showed themselves to be true Pro-Life heroes, as the pregnancy and the surrounding issues grew more and more difficult. For instance, Maria and David had to rely on scriptures to calm Teresa's older brothers who were struggling with outrage at the young father of their little sister's baby. They had to counsel Teresa, since she was still angry with herself for the decisions she had made.

There were times when Teresa threatened to leave with her child—with no resources, no education, no maturity. These were the most challenging times for Maria and her husband. Although tempted to practice tough love, Maria and David refused to let Teresa go, knowing they could provide Teresa and the baby with the best support and abundant love. These parents forgave, and

6776 Southwest Freeway,
Suite 430
Houston, TX 77074
(713) 782-LIFE
fax: (713) 952-2041

continued to do their duty as parents, imitating the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Maria and David enrolled their daughter at a wonderful school for teenage mothers, which provides daycare and allows new mothers to breastfeed their children throughout the day. The parents of the young father were trying their best to teach responsibility by having the paychecks from his very first job go directly to Teresa's family as child support--a pattern that he will continue for the rest of his life.

By no means was this an easy or enviable experience. Maria questions why this happened to her family. She believes that Jesus knew they talked the talk, and He wanted them to practice what they preached. Maria and David, along with Teresa and the family, learned to walk the walk in a much deeper way than they ever thought possible.

Today Teresa is an ambitious and grateful girl. She knows a teenage mother does not often have support from her family, a roof over her and her child's head, and many times is forced to drop out of school. Teresa is determined not to be merely a "sibling" to her son, but a true mother. She recognizes that mothering will fill her middle and high school years with bottles, temper tantrums, and teething. Teresa plans to pursue her radiology degree after completing high school.

God once again proved not only to Maria and David, but also to Teresa that He does not give a burden without also giving the strength to bear that burden. Many families would have been torn apart by such a difficult trial, but this family grew stronger and used each day as a lesson of love. Maria believes that her main goal from this life is to eventually be able to present all her children to Christ, and show Him that she did her best to protect all the children He had given her.

God proves that despite the odds, Life is always the choice that reaffirms His presence in our lives. Teresa's son is a blessed baby--blessed in the way that every child should be, whatever the circumstances of his or her conception, welcomed into a world of love.