



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

What Does Open Adoption Look Like?



Education: A woman with a problem pregnancy has three choices: parenting, abortion, and adoption. Adoption, however, is often either quickly dismissed or not even considered. It is actually the more mature teens who are usually more willing to consider adoption than younger teens. But they may want to be a part of their child's life, not just to get pictures and reports, but to really see them grow up and have a relationship with them and with the adoptive family. Talk about adoption often

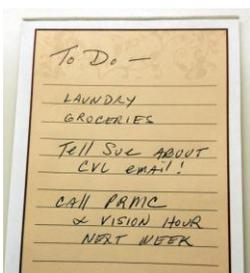
focuses on the baby and the adoptive parents, with little said about the birth mother.

One young mother's story was recently told on Facebook in posts from Humans of New York. Missy was a senior in high school when she looked at profiles of couples wanting to adopt.⁽¹⁾ but she knew she wanted an open adoption, which was rare at the time. Kathy, the adoptive mom, went to Missy's graduation, invited her to family dinners, was present at Aden's birth, and invited Missy to babysit. When Missy went to college, she only saw her son once or twice a year, but always felt that Kathy would still welcome her no matter how much time passed. Over the years Missy and Kathy shared their lives and were able to talk about Missy's feelings. They trusted each other immensely. When Missy had children of her own, more feelings arose about not raising Aden herself, but she was able to talk to Kathy about that. Kathy repeatedly expressed her gratitude for Missy, not just for her son.

1. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/birth-mother-open-adoption-felt-seen/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please help all women in crisis pregnancies to be informed about the option of adoption. Help them to see it as a loving way to provide for their child if they are unable to do so themselves. Help them to turn to you in prayer to discern your will for their child, and make the best decision for both themselves and their child. Help their family members to accept their decision and give them loving support. Bless families who want to open their homes to adopted children, and help them to be patient in waiting for the child you want to send them.



Action: Use the preferred terminology in speaking about adoption: "She made an adoption plan," rather than "she gave away her baby"; "They have children by both birth and adoption," rather than "They have 2 adopted kids in addition to their own"; "His birth parents," rather than "his real parents" - the adoptive parents are his REAL parents; "He was adopted," rather than "He is adopted" - adoption is an event in the past, not a characteristic of the person. If someone you know is considering abortion, invite them to explore the possibility of making an adoption

plan, and let them know that they can still be a part of their child's life if they wish.