

SPRING 2017 PARENT LIFE

PARENT LIFE UPDATE

The teen moms survived another winter and are so excited about the nice weather. Being able to go for walks, soak in some sun, and enjoy nature sure improves everyone's mood. However, sharing the hope of Christ with teen moms changes them forever. Every spring we spend time discussing the death and resurrection of Jesus and what that means to those who believe. It is always an emotional time filled with lots of questions. We had three teen moms choose to begin a relationship with Christ, and they are experiencing a hope they have never had before!

This spring we've been working on relationship skills. We are working through the program, "How to avoid marrying a jerk or jerkette". The teen moms have been learning what it really takes to get to know someone, how a relationship should progress, what kinds of things really matter in a relationship, etc. In this age of electronics, some of the moms really struggled with this program. Imagine, needing to spend time, face to face, talking with someone in order to get to know them! Texting, facetimeing, and snapchatting are NOT considered face to face. Eventually, it all starts adding up, and the concepts of the program make sense to the moms.

We are finishing our Nurturing Parenting program this month. These parents have been very devoted to improving their parenting skills and have worked really hard. It's been rewarding to see how much improvement they've made. We have a group of teen moms excited about starting Parenting with Love and Logic in May. Their toddlers are challenging them, and they are looking for answers. This program provides those answers and teaches them how to be consistent is applying these new parenting skills.

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PRECIOUS' STORY

Precious was 16 when she found out she was pregnant and her parents were very angry. They told her she was bringing shame to the family. Precious was allowed to go to school but nowhere else. They were trying to keep her pregnancy hidden from her family and community.

As her pregnancy continued she became more and more depressed. Precious was referred to me when she was about 6 months pregnant. As I got to know Precious, we talked about the shame she was feeling and how it was affecting her and her baby. I knew Precious was Muslim and over time I shared with her what I believed about shame and forgiveness. I told her about the love of Christ and that through Him we can be forgiven and made new again. Precious seemed to have some hope after that meeting. As we continued to meet over the months I noticed her mood improving and she was sharing more and more with me.

Precious gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and graduated from high school early. She is now working and planning on starting college soon. She is talking about how excited she is about her future and the plans she has for her and her daughter. Even though Precious hasn't made a decision (yet) to follow Christ, she has hope. She continues to ask questions about my Christian faith and I'll continue to share with her.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Parent Life has been in the F-M area since 1995 with a mission to serve pregnant and parenting teens and their children and point them toward Jesus. Would you prayerfully consider joining our team in making a difference in the lives of this generation and the next? We are looking for volunteers with a passion for serving local teens and also for monthly financial partners.

Volunteering as a Parent Life Mentor is such a great experience. It would consist of building relationships with teen moms and modeling positive parenting and Christian living. Partnering with Parent Life financially is also very rewarding. You would have a direct impact on the education, nurturing, and spiritual growth of teen parents and their children. All donations are tax deductible, and a pre-authorized debit form can be found on our website for safe, easy, and convenient giving.

You have the opportunity to change the life of a teen mom and her child. If you would like more information on volunteering or making a donation, please call our office at 701-237-6682. Thank you for believing in this ministry and thank you for your prayers and support.

In Christ,

Linda Bass



HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- That the moms who accepted Christ will continue growing in their relationships with Him.
- For direction for the moms who will be graduating this May/June.
- Health for the moms and their babies being born this spring.

WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

- Diapers, size 1 and 2
- Baby wipes
- Summer clothing: 12-24 month boys, 6-36 month girls
- Sandals
- Lightweight jackets
- Baby Tylenol
- Digital thermometer
- Baby lotion