

Everyone Has a Beginning

As you look into the eyes of a newborn, you can't help but smile. Those soft, innocent eyes gazing up towards you, their tiny fingers grab hold of your finger. As the baby grows older, he starts maturing. The baby soon becomes a toddler. Before you know it, the child grows into adulthood. You might be wondering, "What would my life look like if my child never existed?" Although children make impacts on multiple people throughout their lifetime, including their parents, there would be no journey, no growth, if parents refuse to give these precious gifts from God a beginning to their adventure.

Each child starts as an embryo in their mother's womb. At conception, these embryos are given their own blueprint, or DNA. The DNA are the "genetic instructions" and provide each child the necessary information for growth and development. As the embryo continues to develop, their heart starts beating at 22 days. By the time most mothers find out they are expecting, the baby's heart will have already started beating. Between weeks 13 and 16, the fetus begins developing their expressions.

When Melissa Ohden was 14 years old, she learned a shocking secret about her past—she was an abortion survivor. In 1977, Melissa's mother had committed an abortion, using a toxic saline solution for over 5 days. Believing her child was dead, Melissa's mother left Melissa with the rest of the medical waste. She stayed there until one of the nurses noticed her cries and small movements, where she was then transferred to intensive unit care. Doctors believed that she was going to be blind and have a fatal heart defect, but against all odds, she had gone on to live a

perfectly healthy life with her adoptive family. Later, Melissa tracked down her biological mother, who confessed that she was forced into the abortion by her mother, who was a prominent nurse in the community. Melissa was able to forgive her biological mother and went on to develop a meaningful relationship with her.

Why was Melissa able to forgive her mother? Her mother, like many women who had an abortion in the past, regretted her decision. It is never too late to start anew, as Melissa realized her mother's contrition and was able to forgive her. Melissa now stands as a pro-life advocate. Through this advocacy, she was able to save and to touch many lives. As seen in this story, every little action matters, from an act of forgiveness to choosing to be a voice to stand up for those who cannot defend themselves. Through little actions, like being the voice of these innocent humans, we can give them a beginning, a start to their journey of life.