



Never Say Never

Mother's Day in 2017 was May 14. I can still remember getting ready for church that day. We had lost children from foster care in February, including one we had been told we would adopt. We had completed our home study for Open Arms adoption in early May, but were told that the wait would be at least a year and probably two years. As I got ready for church, I cried in the shower, praying that God would help me hold off the tears during church. There was nothing I wanted more at that time than being a Mom. My feelings that Mother's Day reminded me of the myriad of ways that Mother's Day can be painful for mother's, even if it is also very celebratory.

That morning, one of my parishioners told me excitedly that her daughter would soon be having her baby. Then she hugged me and told me that she knew my time would be coming soon. Neither of us knew how soon. My Timmy had been born just the day before. We did not receive the call about him until May 19th.

On the way down to visit with my parents' home mother's day afternoon, Brian and I discussed whether this was a dream that would never happen. Then I said "who knows maybe our child has already been born."

When we were asked whether we wanted to be considered as parents for Timmy, it was late in the afternoon of May 19. When I saw caller id, I thought our social worker needed more information to complete our homestudy. Instead she told us about this baby and told us to go home and think and call back in the morning,

When I called back, she said it might not be us. They were considering other parents too. I said "We have been through this before. We will be fine." Lisa's answer was "of course you will. We will hold you up until you can stand again." That support was so foreign to me that I called Brian about it right away. Neither of us expected it, but the next day we got the call. We were going to be parents. We were to take Monday to plan for time off work and leave for NJ on Tuesday to meet our son.

We were Open Arms fastest ever placement and they were as shocked as we were, but God had big plans for us.

I learned during that time to never say never. I learned to never stop hoping and never stop dreaming. I learned to keep praying, because God's timing is perfect, even when we don't think it is.

Maybe this May you or someone you love is struggling with dreams that did not come true or hopes they had to get rid of. Maybe they endure Mother's Day every year instead of smiling. Maybe you are looking toward sad goodbyes. They are so hard even when you remember your loved one is looking toward victorious hellos in the arms of Jesus.

When we reach May with summer just around the corner it can be easy to look forward to what is next. Don't give up on your hopes and dreams. Never say never, because God is doing a new thing and you never know when the timing will be perfect for you.

Let us celebrate God's goodness together!

Pastor Michelle