

Teen Pregnancy Continued From Pg. 1

When I found out that I was pregnant, I was scared, and who would not be? All sorts of questions running through my mind: can I be a mom, what will I tell my parents, what are they going to think, am I ready for this, will everything be okay, can I finish high school, what about college? After a while the reality of it really started to settle in. I realized that it was not about me anymore. I decided that I was going to graduate from high school for the baby. I am in the top percentile of my class, and it is my senior year. Being pregnant does not mean I have to throw it away; it just means that everything will be a little harder. I will also go to college

for the baby, I will make something of myself for the baby, and I will do everything I can to provide for the baby. I am only seventeen, but everything I do will be for my child.

Being pregnant changes one's life. Senior Jessica Owens states, "At first I was scared, but now I'm happy that I am [pregnant]. I like knowing that I am giving life to someone." I think it is significant to realize that it is another life that you are bringing into the world. An abortion should not even be in the list of options. I agree with Owens when she said, "I made a choice, and I have to live with the choice I made."

Teen pregnancy results in only about one-third of all teen mothers getting their diplomas. That means that two-

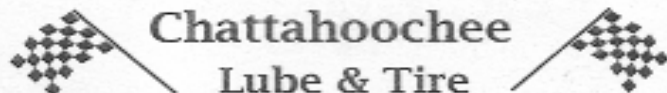
thirds of them will not even graduate. It is understandable why someone would drop out because of a pregnancy, but it is not a reason or an excuse to drop out. It is crucial to get a diploma, because even most minimum wage jobs require at least that. If that is not enough of a reason to stay in school, then think about this: a baby is another life, not something that you can put on a shelf when you get bored. The baby will need diapers, clothes, love, baby formula, a crib, and so on.

Sometimes teen parents feel the need to get married because of the baby. If you have been together for only a couple of months, it is not a good idea. A baby is not a reason to get married. In many instances, a guy may hear "I'm pregnant"

and they might break up with you, suggest an abortion, or feel the necessity to marry you. He will share the responsibilities if he really loves you, and that is a good sign. Let time pass, and if the relationship holds true, then marriage might be an option. For example, my relationship has held strong for three years now since my freshman year, 2006. Alex O'Reilly, Heard County High School graduate of 2008, has been the person I could always depend on, and he has been very supportive over the last couple of months. We are engaged, because we know we want to live our lives together. Yet, we will not be married until we feel ready.

As you can see, there is a lot that comes with being preg-

nant as a teenager, especially for the girl with being tired, having morning sickness, having to go to the bathroom all of the time, and not to mention being on an emotional roller coaster. It is definitely not easy. As I said before, as teenagers we are not ready to become parents. For those that are already mothers-to-be, you must keep pushing forward and not give up. It is a little strange going to school, being stared at, and talked about, but that will be nothing compared to when the baby arrives. For those that are not teen parents, keep it that way. The best things to do are focusing on school and enjoying your teenage years.



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Opportunities for Service

Sunday, The Lord's Day

Sunday School(all ages)..9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice.....7:15-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday

CRU(Youth Group).....7:00 p.m.

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Word of Life.....7:00-8:00 p.m.

We love Him because

He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

