

Infertility

Comfort for Your Empty Arms
and Heavy Heart

Amy Baker
with Daniel Wickert



www.newgrowthpress.com

New Growth Press, Greensboro, NC 27404

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Cover Design: Faceout books, faceout.com

Typesetting: Lisa Parnell, Thompson's Station, TN

ISBN-10: 1-939946-33-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-939946-33-1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Baker, Amy, 1959–

Infertility : comfort for your empty arms and heavy heart /
authors Amy Baker with Daniel Wickert. — First edition
pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-939946-33-1 (alk. paper)

1. Infertility—Popular works. 2. Infertility—Psychological aspects. I. Wickert, Dan, 1955– II. Title.

RC889.B285 2013

616.6'92—dc23

2013018363

Printed in Canada

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13

1 2 3 4 5

Jenny always loved children and grew up as the neighborhood babysitter and big sister. Even as a preschooler Jenny spent hours playing with her dolls. Unlike her friends who might leave their dolls lying around, Jenny was always meticulous in the care of her babies. They were cuddled and loved during the day, and at night they were tucked in with tender care. As she got older, Jenny transferred her attention to real babies. She loved working in the nursery at church and was so responsible that she began babysitting before most of her peers. It may have helped that she had three younger siblings whom she mothered and loved too. It was always Jenny's plan to get married and have a house full of kids. She couldn't wait to be a mother—her hope chest was full of baby bottles and blankets.

After high school Jenny went to college and met Mark, the man of her dreams. When they married six weeks after graduation, Jenny was incredibly happy. Although they planned to save some money before beginning their family, they both wanted to have a large family. After two years of saving, Jenny and Mark began trying to have a baby. You might suspect what happened: Jenny was not able to conceive and carry a baby to term.

Despite their lack of children, Jenny's desire didn't die. She still looked longingly at baby clothes and told herself she wouldn't mind if she were sick during the whole nine months of her pregnancy.

When her best friend became pregnant, Jenny cried for a week. Having a child became Jenny's consuming passion. She was willing to try any kind of treatment, regardless of how costly or painful it was.

As time went on and she was still unable to conceive, Jenny withdrew from working at the church's nursery and Wednesday children's clubs. She hid all their books on parenting and frequently refused to go to activities where children would be present. Her husband Mark suffered too. He was also sad that he and Jenny hadn't had children. He wanted to help and comfort Jenny, but nothing he said or did seemed to help. So mixed with his sadness was a feeling of helplessness.

Their problem of infertility is not one Mark is able to solve. They both are praying that God will give them children, but they are starting to lose hope that God hears their prayers and will help them. Their arms are empty, and their hearts are heavy.

Infertility Brings Suffering

Perhaps you can relate to Jenny and Mark. Or maybe your story is much different than theirs. But no matter what the actual circumstances of your infertility, it has brought intense suffering into your life. You may have always assumed that your future would include children, and you structured your hopes around this desire. You thought