



## Surprise Pregnancy

**“Did he not who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?”** (Job 31:15).

We live on an acreage with three horses that, long ago, gave up their usefulness for almost anything but converting hay into fertilizer. We also have a VERY large garden with straight rows of snap peas, green beans, potatoes, and other homegrown goodness well-nourished by the aforementioned fertilizer. Strings are strung, rows are weeded, and rogue seedlings are culled to keep things orderly, ensuring a well-planned, proper harvest. Hundreds of feet of varmint-proof fence and various types of traps are employed to ensure the productivity of the produce.

Imagine the surprise when, 50 yards away from the well-tended, well-planned garden, a watermelon—WATERMELON!?!?—vine appeared in the middle of one of the fertilizer-in-waiting piles in the horses’ dry lot. There were exactly ZERO watermelon seeds sown by us anywhere on the property, let alone in unprotected space on a manure pile. Watermelons were most definitely NOT part of the plan. Yet here were these three perfect-looking (and, ultimately, perfect-tasting) watermelons.

I know, I know, people are not fruits or vegetables. But how often do we make our plans—plant our straight, well-groomed rows—only to be caught off-guard by something that was NOT part of that plan? How often do we take all the precautions—build fences and set traps—only to have some other “intruder” disrupt our anticipated “harvest”?

An unplanned pregnancy is, well, un-planned. The absolute best pre-natal diet and care cannot prevent congenital disabilities of one form or another.

And what of the watermelons on the manure pile? It doesn’t require much of an imagination to come up with some manure-pile-worthy circumstances surrounding conception: rape, incest, drug-addicted mothers, etc.

What do all of these have in common? The “unplanned” child, the baby born with a disability, the infant conceived in rape: none of these are “surprises” to God. God made them all. Recognizing that fact, the Body of Christ has the opportunity to welcome the newly-expanded family into its presence, affirming these gifts from God regardless of age, ability, or life experiences.



Pray: Gracious Father, be with anyone who is in a surprise pregnancy situation and enable us to welcome them into Your family. Amen.