



More than once after I made the decision to adopt, I was told by people, "Just wait? now you'll get pregnant!" I usually gave a polite laugh and said something like, "Well that would be a surprise!" In my mind I was rudely saying "It be a heck of a lot cheaper." or "Who knew all I had to do was stop infertility treatments to get them to work correctly?" or "Do you think I'm not happy to be adopting?"

I think people say this familiar comment because they honestly do not know what to say when they learn adoption plans from someone who has tried so long to get pregnant. They aren't aware how much time, effort and gut wrenching emotion had been put into the decision to end infertility treatments and pursue adoption.

People have heard from someone somewhere at some time about some woman who got pregnant once she decided to adopt. This story has become a bit of folk wisdom spouted as freely as, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." When others simplify your life into a cliché which isn't even based on facts it tends to be annoying to say the least.

The fact is the number of infertile people who get pregnant after pursuing adoption is the same number as infertile people who get pregnant after ending infertility treatments. The factor of deciding to adopt or adopting a child is not relevant.

I know a handful of couples who have gotten pregnant without infertility treatments once they chose adoption or had adopted. They were extremely surprised and

happy not to have to spend the time and money on adoption. I have been told by some of these couples that they were even a bit mad that they got pregnant. That was because they didn't want to become the 'cliche' which had annoyed them so much before.

As for me, I am convinced that my family is complete. If pigs decided to take flight and I became pregnant, I would be thrilled. But I'm not going to hold onto baby clothes in hopes of this happening. I am going to move on with my life and not get wrapped up in the 'Could I be pregnant??' game. My focus is only on the three children who are already in my family.

Recently, my husband, Paul, told me a story regarding this topic of others expecting us to be waiting to become pregnant since we adopted.. Paul's co-worker announced that his wife was pregnant with their 4th child. Paul told him that he couldn't imagine having four kids because three make for a pretty hectic household. The co-worker (who knew we had adopted our children) said with a matter-of-fact tone, 'Hey don't count out having more kids. You never know...?' Paul looked at him like he had two heads and replied, 'What? Am I accidentally going to fill out some paperwork??'

Danielle I. Pennel

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