

*'I realised that infertility had destroyed my marriage ... and started a service for adoptive parents.'*

## SHARON VAN WYK, 40

'After a seven-year struggle with infertility and numerous miscarriages, my husband Walter and I adopted our daughter. But instead of everything finally settling into place, it was like waking up after an explosion: you realise that you've survived, but then you look around and see that everything else has been destroyed. In our case, it was our marriage.'

'When our daughter was a year old, Walter dropped the bomb – he wanted to move out. In that moment I realised how terrified I was at the thought of losing him, and we agreed to go for marriage counselling. That was the turning point for us.'

'Marriage counselling helped me see the excruciating pain I'd put Walter through. I had been so determined to have a child that I'd gone to whatever lengths necessary to achieve that, including crying on the bed all weekend after Walter said he didn't want to go through another round of IVF, just so that I could get my way.'

'We're now a year out of counselling, and we've done more than just repair our marriage – we've rekindled our friendship, and are so sure of the strength of our marriage that we're in the process of adopting a second child. I've also been able to start Trinity Heart ([www.trinityheart.co.za](http://www.trinityheart.co.za)), an adoption resource for people who want to adopt and don't know where to start, or who are in the process of adopting and need support and guidance. I have such empathy for people who are struggling to have a child, and realised that I could help others with my experience.'

'I have no doubt that if Walter and I hadn't gone to marriage counselling, I would never have had the strength to start Trinity Heart. Before counselling I had nothing extra to give – I could only focus on keeping myself going. Now I'm able to help others, because of that decision to rescue my marriage.' ❖

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