

New Rap Video Tells Pro-Life Story

By Liz Townsend

A scared young woman lies on a table in an abortion clinic, waiting as the nurse prepares the instruments that will kill her two-month-old unborn baby. Suddenly she feels a connection to her child and gets to her feet, stumbling out of the clinic doors and away from death. She looks into the sunlight with a beautiful smile, as a children's choir sings:

*I'll always be a part of you
Trust your soul know it's always true*

*If I could talk I would say to you
Can I Live
Can I Live*

This scene from Nick Cannon's new video, for his single "Can I Live," is part of a touching, true pro-life story from a popular rap artist. Cannon, who directed the video himself, tells the story of his mother's decision to give him life, after she came close to having an abortion. The video can be seen on Cannon's web site, www.ncannon.com.

In the video, Cannon is a spirit talking to his 17-year-old mother as she goes to the clinic, pays \$300, and gets ready for the abortion. As she sits in the waiting room, Cannon pleads, "Mommy I don't like this clinic/Hopefully you'll make the right decision/And don't go through with the Knife Decision."

The song and video make it clear that the unborn baby in such danger is a real person, a living human being. Cannon tells his mother that although he knows it won't be easy for her as a single mother, he's already her child and deserves a chance to fulfill the promise of his future: "Your friends will look at you funny but look at you mommy/That's a life inside you look at your tummy/What is becoming ma I am Oprah bound/You can tell he's a star from the Ultrasound."

The video ends with Cannon, now 24 years old, hugging his real-life mom and thanking her for his life. He raps,

I love life

*I love my mother for giving me life
We all need to appreciate life
A strong woman that had to make a sacrifice*

*Thanks for listening
Thanks for listening
Mama thanks for listening.*

Cannon's unapologetic pro-life song has been greeted with many expressions of support, especially from the African American community.

loving future for both the mother and the son that she almost aborted."

"Cannon's personal plea and thank-you to his mom is strong stuff for a generation that continues to struggle with teenage pregnancy and the 'baby mama drama' it often brings," columnist David Person wrote on BlackAmericaWeb.com. "However, with a strong support system and a caring community, the drama can give way to hope. And with hope and

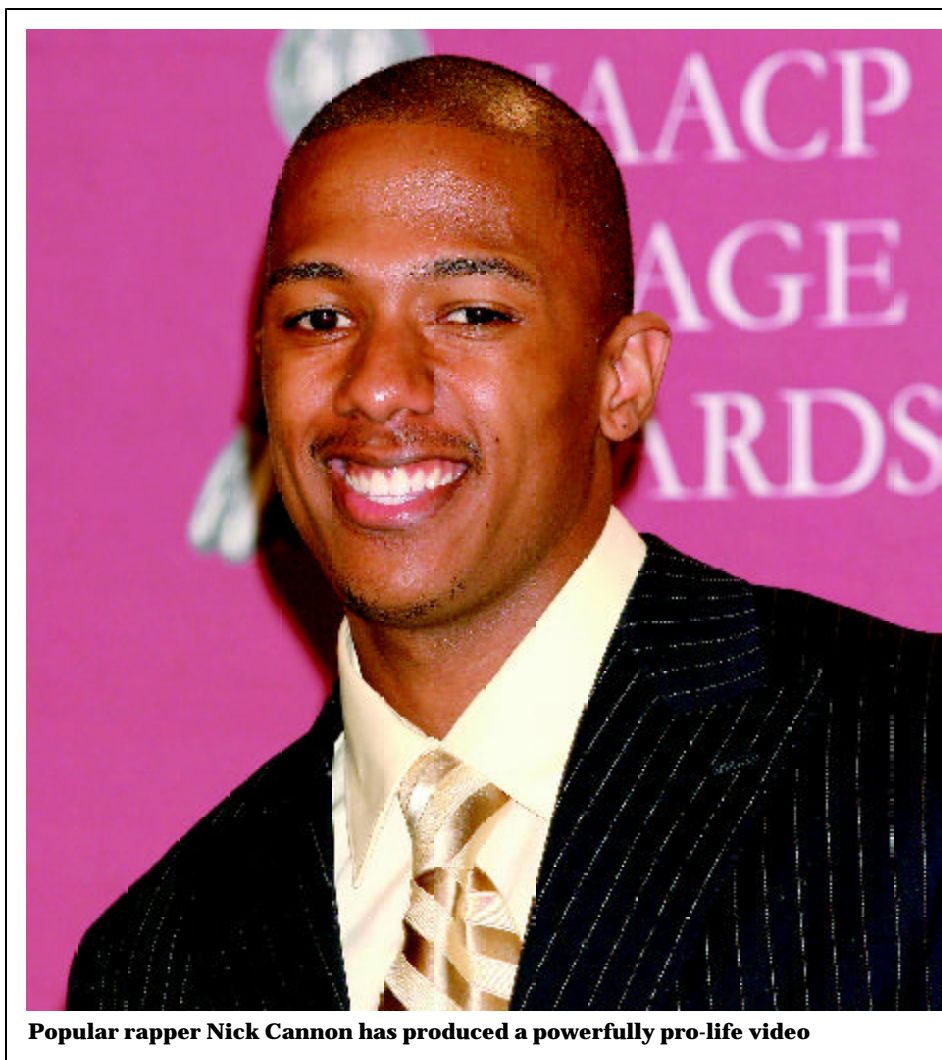
extremely important to me and to our community," he wrote on his web site. "There are a lot of young mothers in need and have had to struggle to raise their children. I just wanted to recognize all the strong women who are raising children on their own like my mother had to do."

According to several reports, the video has already inspired women to rethink their abortion decisions. Syndicated columnist Kathryn Jean Lopez wrote that a woman planning to have an abortion called the Rachel's Vineyard crisis pregnancy hotline. The counselor sent her a link to the video.

Lopez wrote, "According to Theresa Burke, founder of the group, the mother's reaction was, 'Well, now I know I can't do it.' It's a tough road, but this mother, relays Burke, saw 'the gift and value of human life' this 'survivor' sings about in 'Can I Live?' Instead of the abortion, she went for an ultrasound and saw her twins.

"Maybe Cannon will have a cameo in their video 24 years from now."

Gardner concluded that the video will help many scared young women. "The song by Nick Cannon is important because no one can look at this very talented young man and imagine him not being here."



Popular rapper Nick Cannon has produced a powerfully pro-life video

"Abortion is a very silent killer of African Americans, said Day Gardner, director of Black Americans for Life. "Most women who decide to abort their children do so without full knowledge of moral, spiritual and physical implications. In this video, they can see that there is a

effort, babies that were almost aborted can grow up to become scientists, lawyers, teachers and even rappers."

Cannon also realizes that his story, of life and triumph despite a difficult beginning, can help and inspire others to persevere. "This record is

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