

February 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

“...But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.” (Proverbs 15:13)

Sadness...something we all experience here and there throughout our lives. We're sad when our plans don't work out, when the dog dies, when we lose something we value or simply because the day is kind of hard. This verse out of Proverbs isn't about temporary sadness that comes and goes from one day to the next. The kind of sadness that breaks a spirit is the relentless, continual belief that all is hopeless. There is never a break in the feeling that one's heart and head is under the full assault of a gigantic Ball-Peen hammer. BAM! BAM! BAM!

I was glad to see the end of 2014 because it was a year of personal unrelenting, brutal sadness. The only positive thing I can say about that long stretch of one death, loss and downturn after another is that I had the company of others who were beat up at the same time. Copious tears of sadness...that's how I will forever remember 2014. When everything feels sad it's hard to recognize the good stuff which gets lost in the whirlpool of pain.

I'm thankful that in spite of the hard stuff in life which is common to man, I knew what to do for relief. But most importantly I knew WHO to go to obtain comfort when nothing happening to me or around me made sense. Knowing God is there and working everything for my good (Romans 8) is the most effective remedy I have found to help me see past difficult circumstances with hope for the future. I can do that because I know God. But, what about those who don't know they have the greatest ally possible on their side?

Just recently a friend emailed me with a question, “What if we---if everyone--- fully realized and experienced on a personal level, God's goodness and love as intended directly for each of us?” It's probable we'd all live fully in the security of what we know to be true. We'd no longer operate from our broken hearts, but from our hopeful hearts.

Every day we see more broken hearts than you would believe possible. I don't mean sad because something didn't work out. I mean desperately broken because pretty much nothing has worked out, and with another baby on the way...well...that's just the proverbial straw. We see people who “can't take ‘this’ anymore.” Been there. Done that. Bought and wore the T-Shirt until I became convinced that Jeremiah 29:11 is true, “A hope and a future?” Me? You? Our client? Yes!

So, we have the opportunity to speak truth and hope in to the lives of parents who are going to need it to pass along to their kids who are also going to need it. I can't speak with certainty about what I don't know. I must experience Hope in HIM---before I can point someone else in HIS direction to get what she needs. He's got

enough for the whole family. He's got enough for the young woman who stopped in today to ask if someone would pray with her. In her words to Louise, "Life is bad right now. I've heard about you here and I don't have anywhere else to go." We're glad she did come here, but the truth is she does have another option...she just didn't know it yet. Louise remedied that little deficiency. The Door to HOPE has been kicked open. I hope this young woman will be back to get the full scoop about the ONE who loves her---intentionally/madly/passionately.

As I begin my tenth year as Executive Director of Pregnancy & Family Resource Center, I have to tell you that although I do get weary and I do have my own personal stuff with which I struggle, being here and seeing the "life" come on never gets old or feels ordinary. I still cry when I'm invited in to view an ultrasound, and when parents choose life. Thank you from the bottom of my own redeemed and restored heart for allowing me to be here every day to participate at street level in the lives of these precious people whom God loves with a passion that none of us really understand.

Now...there are some details you need to know:

We NEED more volunteers---both men and women. Call Wendy @ 909-382-4550 to talk about your interests, gifts and passion for life and the application process.

We have several events coming up. I hope to see many of you at Global Outreach at Immanuel Baptist Church from March 7 through March 11. It's always a great time for us to meet many in our community who want to know more about local opportunities as we participate in this annual missions conference.

Women of Faith Bible Church in San Bernardino are throwing us a Baby Shower on Saturday, March 14. Yours truly will be there and happy to meet all those who love our families as I do.

Our 2nd Annual Day of Golf Fundraiser is off and running with a goal of \$50,000 this year. There are still openings for golfers. <http://pregnancyandfamily.givezooks.com/campaigns/second-annual-chuck-stiefken-memorial-day-of-golf-fundr> If you're not a golfer you can participate by creating a fundraising page as a Pledge Partner. It's a great opportunity to share the ministry you support with others who may not understand that all life is sacred. Our desire is that more people in our community (and beyond) will come to agree, "A person's a person no matter how small."

Annual Walk for Life on Saturday, May 16 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Sponsor sheets will be available by April 1---no fooling.

Have a great rest of your winter. Let's pray the drought condition is somewhat relieved this year. I heard on the radio this morning that our State Government is talking about stricter rationing regulations. If Elijah can pray for rain, we can too!



Jesus is my Valentine! He wants to be your valentine too!

For Life!

**Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director**