

December 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And, the government will rest upon His shoulders; And, His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

We think of the little town of Bethlehem as quiet and peaceful when Christ was born, but I believe it was anything but. Quiet is almost never true of Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in San Bernardino. I'd use descriptive words like crowded, noisy (Full of laughter as well as tears) and busy. Years ago we would have occasional days when we could get caught up, catch our breath...Not any more!!! Now we know to make the most of every minute. We seldom have a day when we are not busy from the time we open to the time we close. The phone rings almost continually. Through the years we get more and more frequent contacts via text and email. Something is continually signaling a client contact. My how things have changed since I began February 1, 2006! What an amazing ten (10) years we've experienced!

As I write Michelle just walked in without an appointment. When she was here the last time she wouldn't take a layette bag. She wouldn't schedule a return appointment. She had no intention to carry her baby to full term. She didn't plan to parent, and “Oh God no, I couldn't give my baby to a stranger!” Without a doubt, she planned to end the life of her baby. She had plans for her life and a baby now or for a very long time, had no part in that plan.

When she left that first time, Carol told her to come back any time if we could do anything for her. Today she came in for another ultrasound. She wanted to see her baby again. She is suffering from debilitating “24-hour-a-day sickness,” but refuses to take anything because, “It might hurt my baby.” Huh? Major cause for celebration!!

Mary was unprepared for the birth of Jesus. What Mary needed, just like Michelle, was help and support. Mary went to Elizabeth, and Michelle came to Pregnancy & Family Resource Center. Though Michelle isn't yet ready to praise God because she sees this baby as a blessing, she is willing to discuss her options---one of which we all know, is abortion. That's where her head was at when she first learned she was expecting this baby. Because you and others like you partner with us, Michelle's baby is alive and thriving. THANK YOU!

Now she's here to meet with Carol who will act as Michelle's advocate throughout her pregnancy. Carol will have the privilege of walking with Michelle on a path that will feature a series of completely unknown factors. Together they will face one challenge after another and then watch how God works to resolve some serious problems. Michelle and her family will keep track of how her baby grows via ultrasound. What an amazing opportunity to witness a little miracle. Of course, I don't think Michelle fully understands the blessing this baby will be to her-- YET. Nevertheless, from God's perspective a baby is ALWAYS a miracle and a blessing.

God's people prayed many years for the promised Messiah, and one night over 2000 years ago, He came. His coming was in a much-unexpected way, and in a manner that was not easy for Mary, Joseph or their families. This journey will not be easy for Michelle, her boyfriend and their families. Yet, somehow, God will use this experience to make Himself real in all the lives this baby touches. The point of the celebration of Christmas is this: God used a baby to reveal Himself to His creation. He still does.

Do me a favor. This Christmas when you see a crèche with Mary and Joseph gazing at their precious little one would you **stop right then** and pray for Michelle who is having a tough time dealing with a pregnancy that didn't happen as she'd planned? Will you pray for all our moms who need support and reassurance? When you see a baby in a manger, would you stop and pray for each of their babies who were not expected? Then, realize all over again how very important it is Pregnancy & Family Resource Center continues to be here between two very busy abortion clinics.

As we come to the end of another year let me take this opportunity to say THANK YOU!! for your partnership with us. This year together we have touched the lives of over 3,500 clients, many of them like Michelle. God has revealed Himself to us as He has taken what you've given and multiplied it to bless those whom we serve.

God bless you for caring for our clients and for the encouragement you have been to all of us this year. ***We look forward to another miracle year in 2016!!***

We wish you a VERY Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with the peace and joy which are a result of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken
Executive Director