

RIGHT TO LIFE



God will carry us through the hard times

What the short life, and death, of our daughter taught us

By **Stephanie Boothe**

Allie Rose would have been 4 this year. She would be learning her letters, colors and Sunday school songs. Her big sister would be teaching her how to sing "Fuzzy Caterpillar" and her ABCs. Her daddy and I would be reveling in the chance to watch another beautiful dark-haired, blue-eyed baby girl learn and grow every day.

Instead, we mark this time of year with a great deal of sadness; as we only had three short weeks to love our beautiful Allie Rose on this Earth.

Let me correct that. We love her every single day, but we only had three weeks before Jesus took her home to him.

Losing a child is an unexplainable feeling. Even for the most faithful, you find yourself questioning. Although you know

Two very powerful events helped me to know I was going to be OK. We would be OK.

I have always known God put some amazing people in my life. My best friends never left my side. My family held my hand through every step of the process. My big brother sat with me in the funeral home and cried with me as we listed our mother as "preceded in death" on a newborn's obituary.

But the full force of God's support for us on Earth was really driven home the day of Allie's funeral. We planned a small visitation for just family and then a simple graveside service as very few people in our lives had met her. But when we pulled up to the cemetery, we were astounded. I'd never seen so many people at a funeral before.

People from every single walk of our lives showed up for the funeral of a child most of them had never met. It must have taken hours for the line to go through and hug us. I sat there sandwiched between

"Not long after Allie's funeral, God showed his love for us again – this time even more powerful than that cold January day."



Aletha Rose Boothe - Dec. 6, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2014.

January day.

The first time my husband and I attended church after Allie's death, the elder called on my husband to lead the closing prayer. My husband says the most beautiful prayers, and this day was no exception. As he thanked the Lord for sending His son to die for our sins, I was immediately overcome with emotion.

It felt like the wind had been knocked out of me, and I immediately started crying.

It's the first time I remember being overcome by the Holy Spirit, and I was filled with a comforting thought that HE alone knew my pain. That God knows, first hand, the pain of losing a child.

In that moment, I knew and fully trusted God to guide me through my grief.

He has.

I miss Allie Rose every day. I think about her every day. But there has to be meaning in her life and in her death. Maybe I'll never know what that meaning is, but we still honor her in our family pictures and have slowly started placing pictures of her up around our house.

God graced us with another baby two years ago – a son – whom we love so fiercely. Sometimes I think God knew his precious life had to come into this world, and probably would not have if we hadn't lost Allie.

Let me just say our son could never and will never be a replacement for the beautiful baby we lost, but we knew in our hearts that our family wasn't complete. And the joy and laughter our son has brought into our home may not have happened otherwise.

Again, his life takes nothing away from his sister, and he will grow up knowing that God sent us the most beautiful rainbow when we'd recovered from the storm of losing her. Allie's baby brother and big sister will know their angel sister and will always know how loved she is.

As we prepare for the New Year – the anniversary of her passing – we look on with trepidation knowing New Years will always be a difficult time for us. But we take comfort in knowing her precious life is in the hands of God and – just like the poem – God will carry us through the hard times.



everything happens for a reason, there's something almost cruel about getting to love that precious baby for three weeks, just to have her taken away. Now, I'm not saying I doubt God's plan because I know He knows what I cannot. And I never doubted He would see me through it, and He did.

But it doesn't mean I woke up the next day and said "OK, God. I get it." There were questions. There was sadness. There was anger and doubt and every emotion. But something deep seeded in me kept me going.

Faith.

The faith that God would never leave me. I thought about the poem "Footprints in the Sand," and I could picture God carrying me through this turmoil. And I knew God was right there with me, that he'd shoulder my burden when I couldn't. For the first time, I gave my burden to Him and I could function. I knew that I needed to be strong for my family. For my husband and our four-year-old daughter.

He responded immediately.

my dad and my husband hugging people I hadn't seen in years. Friends from college, our brothers and sisters from church, co-workers from our old jobs. More people from my hometown than I could even imagine. The top executives from my company were there.

What's most impressive about this turnout is it was the coldest day of the year. Sub-zero temperatures, and these people stood in the freezing cold to honor the all-too-short life of a child they never knew. To be perfectly honest, I don't remember what the elder from our church said during the service as I spent the entire time watching a girl from my office rub her hands together and fight back the tears in this weather.

I couldn't believe she – and so many others – were there, and I took great comfort in knowing that God had brought all these people to us. He was showing us that He would take care of us through all of them.

Not long after Allie's funeral; God showed his love for us again – this time even more powerful than that cold

ABORTION FACTS

- 1 out of every 4 pregnancy ends in abortion in the United States.
- Nearly 1 in 3 women has had an abortion by the time she is 45.
- Nearly 4,000 children are aborted every day.
- Over 1 million abortions are performed in the U.S. every year.
- Since 1973, more than 58 million abortions have occurred in the U.S.
- The abortion rate in the U.S. is 19.4 per 1,000 U.S. women aged 15-44.
- Each year, about 2% of U.S. women aged 15-44 have an abortion; 47% of them have had at least one previous abortion.
- 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25. Women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 17%.
- Black women are 4.8 times as likely as non-Hispanic white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2.7 times as likely.
- 37.1% of all abortions are performed on black women who make up only 14% of the total population of U.S. women of child-bearing age.
- Approximately 50% of U.S. women who have an abortion are using a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant.
- In cases where prenatal testing helps diagnose cases of Down Syndrome in babies, about 90% of these babies are eliminated by abortion yearly.

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ADMITTING TRUTH

It can be difficult but very freeing

By **Kay Lyn Carlson, LMSW**

Admitting to an abortion is a great challenge for women who would rather conceal and hide from the debilitating truth of what was allowed to



happen inside their wombs. Deep emotional wounds are uncomfortable but must be revisited for healing to begin. By continually stuffing, denying and running from the past, a woman forfeits her well-being and replaces it with isolation, hopelessness and despair.

Many women say they don't talk about their abortions because they fear once they open the floodgate, the tears will never stop. The pain and grief seem too horrendous to confront. Others, haunted by shame and regret remain trapped and disconnected emotionally from the world around them.

Admitting to an abortion takes courage and there is risk in sharing one's story. I once trusted a church leader with my secret and her response was "Oh, Kay Lyn, I'm so glad I don't have to deal with knowing that I killed my own child." This woman did not intend to say such a hurtful thing. She just didn't know how to respond.

Feeling safe and connecting to at least one other person is vital in abortion recovery. Since professional counselors are bound by confidentiality, they can be a great resource for those seeking help.

After I shared my story with my pastor, the first words he said were "My dear Christian friend." I melted in the chair. He wasn't rejecting me. He handed me his Bible and asked me to read John 3:17. "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." [NIV] He pointed out that this verse doesn't say God sent Jesus to save the whole world except those who have had abortions. And it doesn't say in John 3:16 that "God gave His Son so that anyone who believes in him *except Kay Lyn* will have eternal life."

He then referred me to a professional Christian counselor. It took me more than three months to finally get up the nerve to call! While talking with her, I did not feel judged or looked down upon. I was free to share the anguish that had been building up in my heart for years.

Admitting to an abortion:

- Decreases the stronghold of denial and isolation
- Lessons anxiety and depression symptoms
- Reduces shame and guilt

Admittance also allows the opportunity for us to reframe false beliefs we may have about God.

Growing up, I learned conflicting views of God primarily from my dad.

He taught me that:

- God is an angry God, and we are like filthy rags to Him. He cannot stand the sight of us.

- God reminds us of our sins through its consequences. That it will be like a dark cloud looming over us wherever we go for the rest of our lives.

- God judges us, and when we die, it's literally easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it will be for us to get into heaven.

- God loves us and sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

From this perspective, understanding God was like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole!

Voices in my head kept reminding me of everything I had ever done wrong. I thought they were from God—the dark cloud of consequences my dad had warned me about. Whenever I started to feel good about myself, I thought I heard God warning me about becoming prideful. I remained in a state of perpetual shame, even though I continually begged for forgiveness.

I was tormented by Psalm 139:13-16:
*You created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made,
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.*

*When I was woven together in the
depths of the earth,*

*your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

The passage felt like a flagrant reminder of the horrendous sin I had committed.

After I resolved the emotional and spiritual scars from my abortion, I was able to view this verse differently. I inserted my name as the one who was fearfully and wonderfully made.

God promises healing to those who ask for it. James 5:16 states, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

Healing requires connection, a humble spirit and an admittance to the sin committed. When a woman confides in you, realize that she has decided to trust you with her deepest darkest secret. Communicate your acceptance of the woman, God's willingness to forgive her and walk beside her as she processes an array of psychological, emotional and spiritual issues arising from her abortion experience.

Kay Lyn Carlson, LMSW, specializes in Reproductive Loss issues and co-leads the Crises Pregnancy and Abortion Recovery Network division for the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC). She can be reached at klcarlson20@cox.net.



Legislative update

Jeanne Gawdun | KFL

President Donald Trump made good on one of his campaign promises early in his presidency by nominating strong conservative judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. House passed legislation to repeal and replace several of the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) and block most federal funding of Planned Parenthood. Unfortunately, it stalled in the Senate.

The U.S. House also passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would ban abortions at 20 weeks gestation due to the medical evidence that unborn children feel pain. The U.S. Senate has yet to take up the legislation. In 2011, Kansas became the second state in the nation to enact similar legislation, and it is still in force (15 other states have since passed such bans).

Kansas was once again a leader in pro-life legislation with the enactment of two first-in-the-nation laws:

1. "Simon's Law" prevents "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders from being placed on children without parental knowledge or consent. Proponents of the bill testified that many children with chromosomal abnormalities were being denied life-sustaining treatment due to some in the medical community's negative view of their "quality of life." The law also requires the disclosure (upon request) of any existent hospital policy concerning the refusal of life-sustaining care.

2. The "Disclose Act" updates the state's 1997 informed consent provisions for women considering abortion. The Act requires the disclosure to women of relevant information on the physicians providing abortions, such as the holding of local hospital privileges and malpractice insurance, the length of employment, and Kansas residency.

As the year draws to a close, pro-lifers in Kansas await a decision from the state Supreme Court as to whether the Kansas constitution contains a so-called "right to abortion." The enormity of such a decision is stated in the petition to the Kansas Supreme Court found on the KFL website:

"The Kansas State Constitution guarantees the 'right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' When adopted in 1859, it did not state, nor intend to create, a 'right' to abortion. In fact, in that same year, just before and after the adoption of the Kansas Constitution, our legislature passed laws making it a crime to kill an unborn child by abortion. We, the undersigned citizens, object to the recent interpretation by certain Kansas judges that a broad and extreme right to abortion should be 'read into' our constitution—and further protest that such a judicial opinion authorizes the inhumane dismemberment of fully formed unborn babies while they are still alive. We, the undersigned, urge the Kansas Supreme Court to interpret the Kansas Constitution to protect the Right to Life."

Reflecting on 2017 and looking to 2018

As I reflect on 2017 and look to 2018, several themes keep recurring. First, 2017 was a tough year. I'm grateful for the year and at the same time, ready to put 2017 behind me.



Our family has faced several health hurdles along with many other new and challenging situations.

Second, it's been a year full of opportunity to learn, grow and see God's regular and daily provision in our lives. I'm privileged to work in a ministry caring for homeless, hungry, and enslaved people and it is incredible to watch how God transforms hearts and lives. Oftentimes, that begins with a hot cup of coffee and a smile. To be successful, it always involves God softening hearts and transforming people.

As I prayerfully look to 2018 and consider what God may bring in the new

year, I'm excited. I'm reminded of William Booth, British Methodist preacher and founder of The Salvation Army. He was born into poverty and his dad died when he was 14.

Not long after that, a couple invited him to church. He accepted Christ and he was all-in saying, "God shall have all there is of William Booth." Humble beginnings, yet William helped turn a nation of people to Christ and the Cross. When he died, 40,000 people, including Queen Mary, attended his funeral. He didn't live his life for the recognition or fame. He knew, "The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender." He did it because he understood that is our assignment as believers of Jesus—saying, "God shall have all there is of me."

When you say, "God shall have all there is of me," what does 2018 look like for you?

Mark DeGross

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Student pens “10 Reasons Why I’m Pro-life”



While the pro-abortion side would like everyone to believe they are really pro-choice and not pro-abortion, it's truly a deception. Making abortion “safe, legal and rare” is just smoke and mirrors. Abortion is a money-maker for places like Planned Parenthood, who rake in cash for committing one of every four abortions nationally.

Articles have popped up occasionally touting the fact that yes, pro-abortion people are just that: in favor of, and happy about, abortion. To that end, Salon.com published a piece entitled “I am pro-abortion, not just pro-choice: 10 reasons why we must support the procedure and the choice.” While it is a disturbing read, it clearly shines the light on those in opposition to the pro-life position.

Lauren Galvan, founder and president of Brown Students for Life, responded with a list of her own on why she's pro-LIFE:

1) I'm pro-life because being able to abort our offspring is not a fundamental right and in fact is the complete antithesis of female empowerment and equality.

2) I'm pro-life because well-timed pregnancies give children a healthier start in life, but taking the lives the babies who aren't well-timed and not providing mothers experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with the support she needs to carry the baby to term is wrong and needs to change.

3) I'm pro-life because I take motherhood seriously, and abortion and the lack of support society gives to women robs a mother of her chance to be one.

4) I'm pro-life because intentional childbearing helps couples, families and

communities to get out of poverty, but that doesn't justify aborting an unwanted human being. Each baby should be wanted and they are. Sometimes it just takes time for a family to find an unwanted baby, adopt her, and make her part of the family.

5) I'm pro-life because reproduction is a highly imperfect process, and even babies whose genes decide to go against them deserve to see the world — even if it is just for a short period of time.

6) I'm pro-life because I think morality is about the well-being of sentient [human] beings, including the pre-born, who are human and can feel and perceive things as well.

7) I'm pro-life because though contraceptives are imperfect, and people are too, babies should not have to suffer the death penalty because of faulty man-made creations or mistakes.

8) I'm pro-life because I believe in mercy, grace, compassion, and the power of fresh starts. Just because abortion is legal now doesn't mean we can't create a new culture of life — one in which all pre-born children and all mothers are protected and honored by the law.

9) I'm pro-life because the future is always in motion, and we have the power and responsibility to shape it well. Abortion, the greatest human rights violation of my generation, will end in my lifetime.

10) I'm pro-life because I love my future daughters and would never deny them the right to live, no matter how they were conceived or when they were conceived. As a mother, I would do everything in my power to ensure that my daughter first lives, and then lives well.

How she became pro-life on a liberal campus

Lauren Galvan decided to keep an open mind about the abortion issue when she started her freshman year at Brown University in 2012.

It was during a biology class at Brown when Galvan came to the conclusion that unborn babies are human beings who deserve the same right to life that other humans do.

She wrote:

“Ironically, coming to Brown, arguably the most liberal school in the Ivy League, was the first step in my conversion to the pro-life cause. After taking “Vertebrate Embryology” the spring semester of my freshman year, I profoundly changed my disposition on human personhood, and I became firmly pro-life.”

“The scientific reality of fetal development first catalyzed this resolution. In every embryology textbook, I found — as you will find — irrefutable evidence that an individual human life begins at conception. At that point, a living organism with unique human DNA is created. This is simply a scientific fact, and no amount of arguing from pro-choicers

can make it untrue. What they mean to say is that this fertilized embryo, though human and alive, is not yet a person and therefore not protected under the category of human rights.”

Galvan then articulately explained the pro-life position in her column and pointed out the danger of allowing society to decide who is a “person” with rights and who isn't. She brought up the human rights abuses of slavery and genocide, which supporters justified with claims that the targeted groups of people were not really people.

“Our right to life would not depend on others' opinions of us, but rather on the simple and indisputable fact that we are all human and that each human life

deserves protection under the law,” Galvan wrote. “This is the pro-life position in a nutshell.”

Motivated by her conclusions, Galvan went on to found the Students for Life at Brown club. She said she can't even imagine identifying with the “pro-choice” label that she once did during her high school days.

“... for to say ‘I am pro-choice’ to other people is to tell them that I would have or could have supported their parents' decisions to terminate their lives. To me, that is the absolute equivalent of telling someone that his or her life has neither meaning nor purpose,” Galvan continued. “All human life has value, and it's time we start protecting it.”



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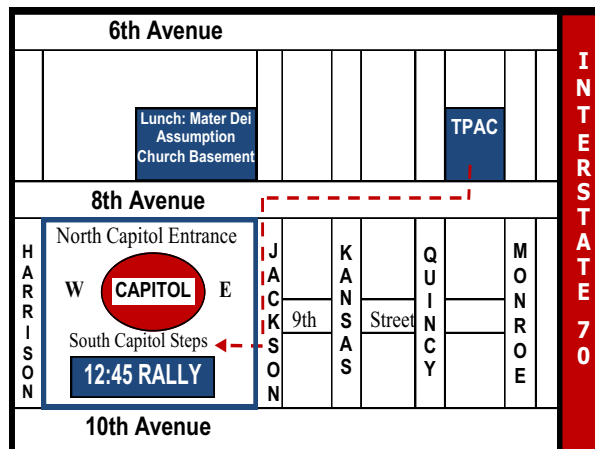
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- 8:30 AM REGISTRATION** - Location for registration, coffee and donuts, as well as workshops, will be the ground floor Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance. Exhibit booths will be on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.
- 9:00 - NOON LOBBY** - Take a tour, watch KS Legislature in action, and other activities to be announced. Info at registration.
- 9:30 - 10:30 WORKSHOPS** - Location: Capitol Visitor Center, ground floor, North Capitol Entrance.
Room 3: Joe Patton on “Preparing for the upcoming Kansas Supreme Court decision.”
Room 4: “Rescatemos Nuestra Raza: Defendamos la Vida del Pequeño Irrepetible.”
- 11:00 - 12:30 CATHOLIC MASS** - Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) followed by March; See map below.
- 11:00 - 12:30 EVANGELICAL PRAYER SERVICE** - Room 4 North, Capitol Visitor Ctr. ground level. Join March at 8th & Jackson.
- 12:30 - 12:45 MARCH FOR LIFE** FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- 12:45 - 1:15 RALLY FOR LIFE**, south Capitol steps with the Governor of Kansas, featured speaker: abortion survivor Melissa Ohden, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Rev. David Epps, legislators, etc.
- 11:30 - 2:30 LUNCH** - Mater Dei-Assumption Church basement. Lunch for a free will donation, or bring your own.
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM WORKSHOPS / Mtg.** Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor Center, ground floor, North Capitol Entrance.
Room 3: Membership meeting. Room 4: More from abortion survivor Melissa Ohden including Q & A.



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MLK Sr. intervened to stop abortion of niece

By Micaiah Bilger

Alveda King, the niece of civil rights advocate Martin Luther King Jr., continues her uncle's legacy by fighting for the rights of unborn babies.

King's advocacy comes from a very personal conviction. Before she was born, her mother considered aborting her.

King shared her story this fall in Rome ahead of the conference "Promoters of Humanity in a Transforming World." King who is Protestant, shared her pro-life work with Pope Francis.

When it comes to her own advocacy, life issues have always hit home for King, whose parents in 1950 became pregnant with her before they were married.

King said her parents had considered getting an abortion until her grandfather, Martin Luther King Sr., "prophetically" intervened. Though they didn't have ultrasound machines at the time, King said her grandfather had strongly rejected the claim that the fetus was "just a lump of flesh." He said that the baby was a granddaughter whom he had seen in a dream three



Alveda King meets with Pope Francis.

years earlier.

After hearing Martin Luther King Sr. describe how his granddaughter would look, Alveda King's parents decided against the abortion and she was born in 1951.

Despite her own life being saved, King said she grew up and aborted two unborn children herself. They are decisions that she now profoundly regrets. She said her grandfather eventually influenced her journey to become pro-life.

When she became pregnant again after her two abortions, King said her grandfather urged her to choose life for her child which she did. Today she is one of the nation's leading pro-life voices.

The shocking, life-saving power of humility

By Susanne Maynes

The nervous 18-year-old girl sat close to her boyfriend, clinging to his hand as though it were a life preserver.

"If my parents find out I'm pregnant," she said, "they'll kill me."

Having spent 10 years helping women as they wrestle with pregnancy decisions, I've heard this phrase countless times. Most women do not pursue abortion lightly. They consider it because they feel desperate.

Here are a few more dilemmas I learned about in the client room of a pregnancy center:

"My mom said she'd throw me out of the house and cut off my college money if I ever got pregnant."

"This baby isn't my boyfriend's. We had a fight and I spent the night with an old friend. Now I won't be supported by either of them."

"I'm a single mom and I barely make ends meet for the three kids I already have. I can't have another baby."

The circumstances surrounding unplanned pregnancies are often shockingly difficult. Ministering to those considering abortion requires a great deal of empathy.

In his January 2016 sermon on the sanctity of human life, Matt Chandler mentions a tell-tale symptom of a lack of empathy: when we ask a question that begins with "Why don't they just..." we demonstrate a lack of compassion.

We make judgments from a place of privilege. We don't take into consideration the frame of reference from which the other person operates—their history, their environment, their challenges.

In other words, we fail to understand their story.

When we ask, "Why don't they just make an adoption plan?" we don't factor in the fear and shame a

woman faces by carrying a child she plans to "give away."

When we ask, "Why don't they just stop sleeping around?" we fail to understand the low self-value and lack of hope for the future that so many young women experience today.

If our background is middle class suburbia, we must be careful of uttering thoughtless questions downward from the perch of privilege rather than from a graciously low position of empathy.

Here's the thing: the young woman we are trying to help may have been raised in generational poverty. She may not have benefited from the presence of her father in her life, let alone had a chance to observe a healthy marriage between her parents.

Given the postmodern culture that influences her, she may have little or no understanding of godly morals.

To this young woman, offering herself sexually to a man who is reasonably kind to her seems like a fair exchange for a relationship. If she's lucky, from her perspective, he won't hit her or go to jail too often.

Plus, her kids will have a father figure ... at least for a while.

This may not be the kind of life we know, but it is the kind of life we must come to understand if we are to minister effectively in a society that has gone off its moral rails.

Amid this tragic madness, how can we reach out to offer compassion and truth to those considering abortion?

Jesus himself is our example.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by

taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. —Philippians 2:4-8

Jesus beautifully demonstrated humility. He willingly took on a human form. He willingly suffered the most humiliating and horrific death possible. He is the supreme example of setting aside social standing, rights and privileges for the sake of others.

Jesus—Son of God, Word made Flesh, Lord and Savior—was approachable. He did not judge or condemn. He never asked the question, "Why don't they just...?"

Instead, he cut across traditional boundaries of race, gender and economic status to scandalously hold conversations with those considered "beneath" a Jewish rabbi's attention.

He asked good questions which allowed truth to dawn in the hearts and minds of people. He made them feel safe, yet challenged them to want something better than where they were stuck.

Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. In this Kingdom, the playing field is level. In this Kingdom, there is no perch of privilege from which to look down at others.

Here, according to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Likewise, there is neither the girl considering abortion, nor the church lady who doesn't understand her. The same Lord died for each of them.

What about the dilemmas I mentioned earlier? Every one of those mothers chose life—and the woman with back problems? No wheelchair.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Pray
2. Volunteer
3. Refer Children in Need To Us
4. Monetary & Food Donations



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