

# Life Net

Sharing the Life that gives life!

## CROSSROADS PREGNANCY CENTER

### *From the Heart of the Director*

During staff devotions this month, we were encouraged by Cyndi Philkill's devotional, "**Mary's Crisis Pregnancy**" from the booklet *From the Field*. I wanted to share this devotion with you in hopes you will be inspired by Mary and her heart's response to the Lord as His humble servant in her unexpected predicament.

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#### **Mary's Crisis Pregnancy**

*"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy to be born will be called the Son of God...For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1:34-38)*

*This is the beginning of the most awesome crisis pregnancy of all time, as well as a wonderful example of the sanctity of human life and a servant heart. It is the story of the incarnation, God in flesh, Jesus Christ. Why did Jesus come into this world as a baby born of a woman? Why didn't God just zap Him down as a grown man, in the same manner He fashioned Adam? Jesus had to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about the Savior coming from the line of David. He had to be fully human to fulfill His mission. In order to be fully human, His life had to begin as all human life begins, at the moment of conception, not after He was "viable" outside the womb, or took His first breath or responded to external stimulus, but at the moment of conception.*

*What about Mary and her crisis pregnancy? Can you imagine what it would have been like 2,000 years ago to face a pregnancy outside marriage in a strict Orthodox Jewish community! Not only was she pregnant, but who would believe she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit and not by her betrothed Joseph? Young Jewish women were told the prophecy of the Savior of Israel, who would be born to a virgin. They had been waiting for hundreds of years. Why should they believe Mary was the mother of the promised Messiah? The scriptures don't go into much detail, but we can imagine how Mary must have felt. Even Joseph initially turned his back on her and wanted to end their engagement privately. (Matt. 1:19) An angel had given her words of encouragement before he announced her formidable mission. "Greetings...The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid." You have found favor with God...You will be with child...He will be great...his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:25-33) The angel verified her own wondrous experience by sharing the miracle of the pregnancy of her aged cousin, Elizabeth. When Mary visited Elizabeth, she received immediate acceptance and conformation that she was a handmaiden in a miracle: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" (Luke 1:42b)*

*It is said that you can find out if you have a servant heart by the way you respond when you are treated like a servant. Mary accepted her servanthood and praised God that He had ordained her for a life of service. May her example be an inspiration to us as we serve pregnant women and may we share Mary's attitude towards her own crisis pregnancy with women for their encouragement. .*

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From eternity past, God willed a crisis pregnancy to be a centerpiece in His redemptive plan. As we reflect upon the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ought to pause and ponder the questions of the "what, who, and why" of Christmas. The significance of Christ's birth requires us to identify who is in the manger (*Immanuel*-"God with us"), then reach beyond the scene in Bethlehem. We must look into the distance to the cross and resurrection. Why? Christ was born for the sole purpose of dying on the cross for our sins; His birth only set the stage for the completion of His redemptive work. Through His birth, death and resurrection, He has offered mankind the most incredible and greatest gift of all... salvation and eternal life to those who would believe. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21) **He had to be born so He could die; He had to die so that we might live.** May we now marvel at the birth of Christ and how "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

**From all of us at Crossroads Pregnancy Center, we wish you a Merry Christmas!**

One heart at a time...one life at a time.

Kathryn Enloe, Director

### ***A Year in Review: 2017 Stats at a Glance***

By God's grace, we saw a total of 468 clients this year. The Gospel was shared 138 times and our clients received spiritual counsel 348 times, with 2 young women praying to receive Christ! We rejoiced with our clients as they welcomed 18 new lives into the world! We are thankful to the Lord for every client and the opportunity to share the love of Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers and support to this ministry...to God be all the glory!



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## LifeNet

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## Center Life: Treasured Gifts & News...

Many thanks again to the *Ladies of Grace* at Grace Baptist Church in Lemoore! Your incredible kindness and generosity were a sweet surprise to each of our clients as they received their gifts at their first Parenting Class this month. Pictured here is our sweet **Imelda**, a single mother of four who was excited to surprise her children with their beautifully wrapped gifts under the tree when they came home from school that afternoon. What a wonderful way to show love and kindness to our clients that Jesus is the reason for the season!

**New Curriculum:** We are pleased to announce that we have added additional curriculum to our Earn While You Learn program entitled "*Special Circumstances.*" This covers topics of abusive relationships, adoption, post-abortion healing, relationship loss, and miscarriage. We have updated our "*Life Skills*" curriculum which enables our clients to learn about things such as abstinence, healthy relationships, how to interview for a job, how to shop for and buy a car, how to manage the home, and personal finances. This curriculum equips clients who may not have had anyone teach them basic life skills with the understanding and confidence needed to change the course of their lives and, potentially, the lives of their children. We are excited to offer these additional learning incentive programs to our clients!

**Mom Store Thank you!** We are grateful and our clients are blessed by the generous donations made recently for *The Mom Store*. We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to **Heather Zonneveld, Micki Bettencourt, Angela Soares, Lindsey Oliveira, and Jennifer Borba**. God bless you all for giving to this ministry. The Mom Store exists because of your generosity.



## Upcoming... Sanctity of Human Life 2018

January 22, 2018, marks the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the devastating 1973 Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. In the wake of Roe, legal abortion in our nation has claimed the lives of more than 60 million unborn children and has hurt countless women and men. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation establishing a National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHLS) which reads: "*We have been given the precious gift of human life, made more precious still by our births in or pilgrimages to a land of freedom. It is fitting, then, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade that struck down State anti-abortion laws, that we reflect anew on these blessings, and on our corresponding responsibility to guard with care the lives and freedoms of even the weakest of our fellow human beings.*" This year, SOHLS will be commemorated on Sunday, January 21st.

## Prayer Requests ~ Thank you for praying with us!

- ◆ *Kathy & Pat Mundy as Kathy continues to battle leukemia (James 5:14)*
- ◆ *The Supreme Court of the United States in "NIFLA, et al., vs. Becerra" (Prov. 21:1)*
- ◆ *Our staff, volunteers, clients, and Board of Directors as we head into 2018! (Gal. 6:9)*