

CROSSROADS PREGNANCY CENTER

From the Heart of the Director

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

Christmas ~ The Most Wonderful Time of the Year is a phrase we hear every December. Some folks often tap into a sense of holiday cheer and spread love and generosity to their friends and family. For others, Christmas can be the most difficult time of year to experience grief, loss, and heart wrenching changes. If ever there was a most difficult time of year to face an unplanned pregnancy, December is it. What is it about Christmas that makes it wonderful? What is the significance that we celebrate the birth of Christ? What does the soul long for during the bleak days of Christmas—and always? What do our clients need the most when they come through our doors?

1. Comfort: Women who face unplanned pregnancies struggle with a plethora of emotions—shock, fear, and uncertainty. They face derailed plans, hopes and dreams while fearing an unknown future. A situation this difficult calls for comfort. Comfort is like a mother who warmly embraces her child who has just experienced a painful experience by easing her child's feelings by her presence, help, encouragement and security.

Those we serve need comfort this Christmas. Not only does God bring comfort to His people, He is “the *God of all comfort*” (2 Cor. 1:3) and the Holy Spirit's name is literally “*Comforter*.” (John 14:16) Because we know the Source of all comfort, we are able to offer comfort to those who need it.

2. Hope: A desperate client may be compelled to seek a quick solution because of her circumstances, but what she really needs is confidence and encouragement to embrace the future, even though it might look different than what she had planned. Cambridge Dictionary defines hope as “to want something to happen or be true.” Thankfully, biblical hope offers something more. The hope God offers is a hope that does not disappoint. “*This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*” (Romans 5:5) It's not a wishful hope, but rather a steadfast assurance that our loving God will fulfill His promises. Hope leads to good decisions, while choices made based on despair usually end in regret.

Christmas reminds us of the ultimate hope God freely offers. Christ Himself. Because we are secured by hope, we are able to share *the reason for the hope* we have in Christ. (1 Pet. 3:15)

3. Peace: An unplanned pregnancy can be a source of great worry, fear and anxiety. It can cause a woman's mind to race, inhibiting her ability to think clearly. Not only does she need peace, she needs the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 says this prophetically about Jesus, “*For a child will be born for us, a Son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*” Because we know the Prince of Peace, we can minister to her worried and anxious heart. We can share the Gospel, through which she can experience the peace of God by making peace with God through Jesus Christ.

4. Joy: If you've been in this ministry for any length of time, you've read about some miracles of transformation and changed hearts. The young woman who came in with such fear and anguish, now proudly smiling as she shows off her newborn. Those parents, greatly distressed about their daughter's pregnancy, now transformed into doting grandparents. A decision for life may not seem easy, but that new life brings great blessing and joy. When babies are born (whether unplanned or planned), everyone around them celebrates and benefits from their presence. Because we are created in the image of God, joy fills our hearts as we gaze upon these precious gifts for the first time.

Abortion could never accomplish what a baby's presence can.

In Luke 2:10, the angels said to the shepherds, “*Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*” Jesus has given us His complete kind of joy. “*I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.*” (John 15:11) This Christmas, we can be instruments of sharing this joy in the lives of others.

5. Love: Comfort, hope, peace and joy are undergirded by one great foundation—love. “*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*” (1 John 4:7) God, our Creator, loves every human being. He loves us in a special way above anything else in creation (Psalm 8:3-5; John 3:16). Because we know Him and are loved by Him, we have His love for others. “*By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*” (1 John 4:9-11)

What greater gift can we give them this Christmas? Comfort, hope, peace, joy and love.

“And the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13)

“For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

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

Kathryn Enloe, Director





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If you would like to be removed from our
mailing list, please contact us either by
phone or email.

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Center Donations: Christmas colors abound in our Mom Store! Every donation we receive is a special gift from the heart. Many thanks to **Shirley Ballard, Colleen Donovan, Angie Gordon, Monica Hayes, Sheri Kanagawa, Sara Mauldin, Ella Schales, South Valley Community Church Women's Ministry** and **Heather Zonneveld** who donated blankets, clothing, diapers, baby equipment and bathing supplies.

We thank **Hanford Christian School** for the boxes of toiletries they put together as gifts for our Moms and Dads, and to **The KARR Club** for hosting a baby shower for the Center.

Thank you for your gracious generosity!

Center Hours: Because of client requests for later appointments, we will be adjusting our hours of operation on **Tuesdays only** beginning **January 7, 2020**. Our new Tuesday hours will be 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Those volunteering in the Mom Store and folding newsletters will not be affected by this change. Center hours will remain the same for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (9:30-3:00) and Friday (9:30-12:30).

SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 23, 2020

35th Anniversary Banquet and Fundraiser
Koetsier Ranch, Visalia

Celebrating 35 years of God's Faithfulness
One heart at a time...one life at a time

Keynote Speaker: **Megan Almon**, *Life Training Institute*

Year-End Donations: To be eligible for a 2019 tax-deduction, donations must be received in our office or postmarked by December 31. Donations can be made in the form of cash or check, or online at crossroadscpc.com

