

# CPC Newsline

30 Mill Street • Unionville, CT (860) 673-7397 www.TheCrisisPrenancyCenterCT.org

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Deborah Laws, Executive Director

## *Glory* in the place of despair by Lisa Nolan

Often when I talk to people about my involvement with Crisis Pregnancy Ministry they will innocently rattle off a pro-life bumper sticker slogan like, "Great 'choice'....baby killing!" or words with a similar sentiment.

I know in my heart that these people are attempting to affirm my involvement with this ministry and show me that they understand what it is all about. Unfortunately, what they don't know is that I'm a post-abortive Christian woman and that their comments bring condemnation for sins forgiven, and blows to wounds still tender.

The following is a difficult testimony to share. It was difficult to write and it is painful to read. Generally, a person's name would be withheld for a testimony like this one. As you read it you might think, "What in the world made her put her name on this story?" or "Why would she be willing to share her shame and disgrace in such intimate detail?" The answer is because of 'grace.' Grace is real. And grace is very powerful. It is at the Lord's leading that my name not be withheld as a bold demonstration as to the power of His grace. If you are willing to go on this difficult and painful journey with me, you will see for yourself how the power of grace can change a life to the glory of God.

### *I Never Thought it Would Happen to Me*

When I was 26 years old I became pregnant. I was single, had a college education, a career in management and had recently become a Christian. Everything about me looked good on the outside; however, on the inside I was suffering from eating disorders and had problems with alcohol.

I had been a loner for many years and didn't have a close circle of friends. I had also been estranged from my immediate family for 6 years and had no one to confide in, or turn to. I knew my boyfriend didn't love me and that it was an unhealthy, even abusive, relationship.

I was alone in the world, and I would not allow myself to consider that I had any option other than abortion. I couldn't emotionally afford to do so as I was bankrupt in so many ways already and barely surviving. I was already at

the very end of my rope and I had no one in whom I could trust.

I didn't know very much about abortion although I had read a few articles in the newspaper about it. I always assumed abortion was a lofty debate about morals, and that the outcome only affected girls in high school. I ignorantly assumed abortion was illegal, as I thought most immoral things were.

### *The Beginning of the End*

Having always had a cycle like clockwork, I feared I was pregnant as soon as I was two days late. I quickly secured an over-the-counter pregnancy test and the result was positive. I was frozen with extreme fear, overwhelming shame and looming disgrace. From that point on I was like a zombie and I never looked to the right or the left, only forward toward abortion, as if my only other option were suicide.

(continued on page 2)

## **2004 Baby Bottle Drive Fund Raiser: *Success!***

Last winter my husband, three sons and I started working on the 2004 Baby Bottle Drive Fundraiser to benefit the CPC. Initially our work was administrative in nature—generating lists, writing letters and making a lot of phone calls.

Once the participating churches were secured the legwork of delivering hundreds of baby bottles all over central Connecticut began. Smaller churches took between 30 to 40 bottles, while larger churches asked for up to 500!

Most of the churches ran their drive by distributing the bottles on Mother's Day and collecting them on Father's Day, which was when the real work began.

Some of the churches had (continued on page 7) a pro-life committee or an active youth group who took

I could not allow myself to consider the fact that I was pregnant to mean that I was carrying a baby, or something of value. I chose to believe I had a 'choice,' even after the pregnancy test was positive. I now recognize this was a horrific lie that I received from the pro-choice movement.

Unable to sleep I watched TV and in the wee hours of the morning I stumbled upon The Silent Scream, which is a movie portraying an actual abortion at 11 weeks gestation. Although I was shocked by the images I rationalized that the child on the screen was from an advanced pregnancy and that I was only three days late. All kinds of modern slogans like "it's only a blob" or "a few cells" and "an untimely pregnancy can ruin a woman's career" and "women have rights and choices!" were hedging me in and giving me courage to abort.

Around 4 in the morning I bought a newspaper and went to sit at my desk at work, to look in the classified ads for an abortion clinic. As much as I wouldn't allow myself to consider that I was carrying a baby, I knew deep in my heart that what I was doing was wrong and that it needed to be done in secret and under the cover of darkness.

Mixed in with the abortion clinic classifieds there was an ad for Birthright International (a crisis pregnancy organization). From the name I gathered it wasn't an abortion clinic and I can't say why I called that number, but I did. Perhaps I possessed the slightest hope that maybe, someone, somewhere, could, or would help me. I waited with terrible anxiety as the phone rang and rang. Eventually an answering machine picked up with an enthusiastic-sounding man's voice, speaking very quickly, like he was desperate.

The way he spoke alarmed me. I couldn't emotionally afford to feel desperate or allow myself to consider something was at risk. I had to use everything in my power to stay calm and zombie-like. I had rights and choices. It was still dark and I was safe.

The voice urged that if it was an emergency to call another number, but again, the word "emergency" made me uncomfortable. What if I allowed myself to admit this was an emergency? How could I take refuge in my 'choices' if I realized that something was at stake or in danger? I looked at my watch and decided I didn't have the courage to wake up a stranger or to wait for sunrise. I needed immediate resolution and so I called an abortion clinic, and even at that early hour, a person picked up the phone. I made an appointment for that

afternoon.

### *The Abortion Clinic*

As I drove to the clinic I was aware of the contrast in the sunny, clear, beautiful spring day and the way that I felt. I wished it were dark and dreary. Although I felt the beautiful sunshine inappropriate, the warmth comforted me.

The waiting room was filled with anxious-looking boyfriends, girlfriends, sisters and moms. Women seeking abortions went into another waiting room immediately, where we were quickly checked in.

I was given a blurry medical form that had been copied so many times that one whole corner of it was clearly

*"All kinds of modern slogans were hedging me in and giving me courage to abort."*

missing. I was also given a clipboard and my medical form was placed on top. As I sat at the end of the nurse's desk I gazed up and noticed there were about 30 pieces of white medical tape, all in a long row, with a corner of each piece stuck to the shelf, so that the clipboards could be made up quickly. A piece was taken

from the shelf, secured to the metal clip, and my name was written upon the tape.

Under my medical form was a manila file that had my name written upon so many layers of white-out that it cracked when I bent it.

I was taken to a restroom and told to put my clothing in a cubby and to come out in a hospital gown. All the cubbies were filled, so I rolled my clothing up in a ball and placed it in the corner on the floor.

After a quick exam I was told that I was at least 6 weeks pregnant. Although I knew that couldn't possibly be true, I didn't say a word. The doctor was kind and friendly, although rushed. He said it was all no big deal and soon I wouldn't have a problem anymore. He never asked if I had any questions.

### *The Long, Narrow Room*

After the exam I was taken to a long, narrow room lined on both sides with chairs that were filled with women in hospital gowns, bathrobes and one even had a stuffed animal.

Although I sat completely silent, the only discussion around me was about abortion.

So many different kinds of women were sharing their hearts and experiences in that long room, with a wide variety of ages and situations. Some were recently out of college and just landed their first big job, some were in high school and their moms brought them against their will,

one woman was married and her husband didn't want any more children, one was afraid of losing her boyfriend if she didn't abort. Everyone had a different reason and story. No one looked pregnant.

One conversation was about the pro-life protesters who were outside the clinic as they entered the building. The women talked about how the chanting, slogans and scripture verses made them all feel terrible, but that the experience of walking through the protesters didn't change their situations or reasons for abortion. One woman with tears in her eyes said, "What? Did they think I came to this decision lightly?" I didn't see any protesters as I had been the last one to come in, and I was very grateful.

As the conversations continued one woman voiced her heartfelt concern about whether she would still be able to get pregnant in the future. We were all shocked as a 3<sup>rd</sup> year college student assured her that there would be other pregnancies, as she was at this same clinic for her third abortion (she was the one with the slippers, fuzzy bathrobe and teddy bear).

Every twenty minutes or so, a big heavy door at the end of the long room would open and each time we all jumped. When it would open the next woman would get up and go in, some looking back, some not. Once the door shut again they would continue in their nervous whispers about the "who," "what," and "why" of abortion.

One woman spoke up rather boldly and said there was no way she could possibly be 6 weeks pregnant. She said she knew it couldn't be true as she rattled off various dates, making her case. Then another woman said the same thing, and then another. Just then a nurse entered and said the conversation needed to end immediately or we would be asked to leave. That subject was not revisited.

Another conversation was about who brought us and who was waiting to drive us home. Until that point I still hadn't spoken a word when someone singled me out and asked me the question. "No one," I replied, "I came on my own." And of all the shocking, pathetic and horrifying stories shared in that long room, this one seemed to devastate everyone the most. The reason for this, I believe, was because we all understood we were there to destroy a part of ourselves, but at least someone was there with each of them, to help deal with the pain that would be both physical and emotional. I was alone and would be utterly more so after the abortion. And we all knew it. I was glad when the door opened again, distracting everyone. The events of the past 24 hours were starting to catch up to me, and I found myself

swept under an intense wave of exhaustion.

### *The Big Door*

I was the last woman to go through that big, heavy door, at the end of the long room. The room where the abortion was performed looked like any other OB/GYN office and I was very quickly put to sleep with a shot of medication. The next thing I remember was the room swimming and I was being helped down and into a recliner in the next room. I was given a large tablet for the pain and told that I would have abdominal cramping for the next 24 hours. The staff wanted to go home and although I was still very groggy I tried to gain my bearings and get dressed. I drove myself home.

### *Lies Do Not Sleep at Night*

I went on with life and tried, unsuccessfully, to pretend that it all never happened. Although the lies of the 'choice' campaign gave me the courage to have an abortion, it did absolutely nothing for the pain, suffering and confusion following it. I was faced with the harsh reality that I had done something horrible and that it could not be undone no matter how great my regret. I believed my sin was too great for Christ's forgiveness and I attempted suicide.

The Lord intervened in the attempts to end my life and from that point on I pursued a relationship with Him with an intense, fiery passion and complete abandonment. I drastically turned my back on the ways of the world and threw myself into the studying of God's Word, prayer and fellowship with the body of Christ.

Two years later the Lord blessed me with a wonderfully loving, godly husband.

### *Grace: The Path to Healing*

There were still many challenges to my healing of post-abortive regret. Life constantly presents reminders of the choice I made so many years ago.

When I gave birth to our first son I was overwhelmed with powerful feelings of love for him. Until then I had never known "the love of a mother" and experiencing as much created a painful contrast between my first pregnancy (ending in abortion) and that one (producing the first of three beautiful children). As I looked at our newborn son I could not help but remember the child I aborted.

*"Although I sat completely silent, the only discussion around me was about abortion."*

Loving our sons as much as I do, I could not begin to express the concept of not having one of them. It is beyond my ability to even ponder. However, there is currently an empty seat in my mini-van, which would not be empty, had I not exercised my 'choice.' There could have been another wonderful child sitting in that seat, or in our pew at church.

This reminder and countless others requires daily access to God's grace. If God's grace were not real or very powerful these reminders would be too much to bear.

My post-abortive healing was a long process because it took me years to fully comprehend the consequences of my decision to abort. It was a scary healing to pursue because in order to attain it I first had to allow myself to feel the pain of admitting the fact that I destroyed my child. It brought me back to the Garden of Eden and the desire to point fingers because of lies spoken and believed. Lies or no lies, the responsibility was mine and until I could admit as much I could not truly ask for forgiveness or access God's grace. My complete healing took 13 years.

*Millstones are Dangerous, Be Careful (Matt 18:6)*

Statistics show one in three women, sitting in any church in America, on any Sunday morning, has had at least one abortion. Please, be very careful. God has a plan to heal the broken hearts that are hiding behind the assumed, yet false security of secrecy. You do not want to be the one to stand in His way or to keep them in their painful prisons.

Although my husband and I are pro-life, our hearts are very tender in our efforts. We are just as concerned about not building a wall of judgment and condemnation between a post-abortive woman and God's grace as we are about protecting the life of the unborn. God loves both, women and their unborn, equally.

There is only one unpardonable sin recorded in the Bible (Mark 3:28-29) and it's not abortion. Well-intentioned pro-lifers can create an atmosphere of judgment and condemnation in their efforts against abortion. Until this ends, the voices that can most intimately represent the devastation caused by abortion will remain silent, hushed under a veil of fear.

Post-abortive women can personally and powerfully attest to the utter lies shrouded in the 'choice' campaign. If you want to help put and end to abortion, help these women access grace, receive their healing and find their voices!

*Our Battle is Not Against Flesh and Blood*

My husband and I vote pro-life; we participate in peaceful pro-life marches and pray for a change in the legislation. However, we do not believe these efforts will bring final victory in the arena of abortion. This battle is too enormous to fight with bumper stickers, slogans, demonstrations, campaigns and even legislation.

I believed abortion to be illegal. No one made me have one. I watched The Silent Scream the night before. I called Birthright the morning of. I knew what I was doing was wrong. I saw the condemnation caused by the pro-life protesters on the faces of the women in the abortion clinic waiting

room. And I was a Christian. Yet I still chose abortion. Why?

Because ours is not a battle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of this dark age (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is

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the father of all lies (John 8:44) and the 'choice' campaign is full of them.

The Word says, "Satan was a murderer since the beginning." His plan of attack through abortion is extremely well fashioned to destroy mother, child, family, honor, respect and sanctity of life.

Please guard your lips as you share your heart about abortion. Ensure your words express love, grace and mercy or your efforts will be rendered fruitless, not by Satan, but by our righteous God who will not allow even a condemned sinner to be slandered because of the sacrifice His Son made, so that they could be forgiven.

Only when we seek our Father with a heart of love, and not condemnation, will our prayers be answered. Only then will we see great strides in defeating our enemy and the devastation caused by abortion.

*A Chorus of Confirmation*

As I typed this testimony there was a chorus circling around and around in my head.

*"You have given me the oil of gladness, a garment of praise instead of mourning, a shining crown instead of ashes and glory in the place of despair."*

That chorus is based on Isaiah 61, which is an

amazing scripture that contains a calling, anointed by the Holy Spirit, to release the prisoners from darkness. It says, "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

My God has not cursed me; He has blessed me! He has not condemned me; He has forgiven me! He has not forsaken me; He calls me, and anoints me, and loves me with an everlasting love that is beyond my comprehension!

The blessings of Isaiah 61 are not only for me, but also for all that would receive them in Christ Jesus. We have access to glory in the place of despair! The Lord's heart is for the hurting to be healed!

*A Garment of Praise to Replace a Veil of Shame*

Beloved, if you suffer from post-abortive regret, please respond to the Lord's invitation to receive His healing touch. You don't need to live with the pain, shame and condemnation anymore. A wonderful door is open for you. The door is called 'Grace'.

If you or anyone you know is suffering in the area of post-abortive regret, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Laws at The Crisis Pregnancy Center. It is the Lord's heart to heal your hurt and to give you a garment of praise to replace your veil of shame. His son died so that you might not suffer, so that you could be set free and live in the abundance of His love.



It is at His leading that I openly share this

testimony. It is my prayer that it will give you the courage to seek refuge in the arms of our loving Father.

He is waiting for you. Come.

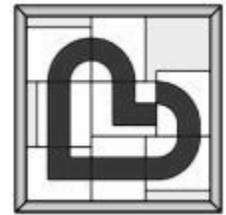
*Note: Heartfelt gratitude to some very special women for their assistance in editing this piece. It was difficult to write and more so to share. I couldn't have done it without your love, support and prayers.*

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## Abortion, Drug Abuse Linked

A new report published in June's *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse* is the latest of more than 20 studies linking abortion to substance abuse.

The higher levels of abuse might be linked to higher levels of anxiety, grief and depression, which have been found in women with a history of abortion. Information used in the report was gathered from 1979 to 1988 through the National Longitude Survey of Youth. Out of this collection there were 749 women with unintended first pregnancies and 1,144 women who had not been pregnant who fit the criteria and were used in the study.



The study found that the rate of marijuana abuse was 7.9% among women who didn't abort the pregnancy, and 18.6% among women who did. Differences in alcohol and cocaine were also examined, showing in both cases that women who aborted a 100% increase in cocaine and alcohol use was noted.

## Graphic Ultrasound Pictures Celebrate Life

Ultrasound Bill in Congress Resisted by Planned Parenthood



Sterling, VA- Recent 3-D Ultrasound technology performed on babies at 12 weeks is shaking up the abortion debate.

The pictures, pioneered by Professor Stuart Campbell at London's Create Health Clinic, are much more detailed than conventional ultrasound. Campbell's new ultrasound has produced vivid pictures of a 12 week-old baby "walking" in the womb. Other images show babies yawning and rubbing their eyes.

"Unfortunately, these are pictures you will never see on Planned Parenthood's web site," said Kurt Entsminger, Care Net President. "In fact, Planned Parenthood has launched an effort to stop women from being given the choice to see ultrasound pictures. They are doing this by attempting to defeat the Informed Choice Act in Congress that will allow women greater access to free ultrasound services. A poll conducted by Care Net in 2003 showed that over 80% of women favored passage of the bill."

Why would Planned Parenthood oppose a bill (continued on page 6) that

is overwhelmingly favored by women, which will afford women great access to free ultrasound services? The answer is simple- Planned Parenthood knows that ultrasounds prevent abortions.

Currently 20% of pregnancy centers offer ultrasounds. Many of these centers have seen incredible results. In many, over 90% of clients who came intending to have abortion changed their minds after seeing a picture of their unborn child. Care Net President Kurt Entsminger said, "This is not coercion, this is not manipulation, this is a graphic presentation of the truth. If women are going to make an informed decision about their pregnancy, don't they deserve to be able to see their own baby smiling and walking in the womb?"

Professor Campbell has previously released images of unborn babies appearing to smile. He has compiled a book of the images called "Watch Me Grow."

Conventional ultrasound, usually offered to mothers at 12 and 20 weeks, produces 2D images of the developing baby and is useful for helping doctors measure and assess the growth of the baby, but convey little information about behavior. Campbell says his work has been able to show for the first time that the unborn baby engages in complex behavior from an early stage of its development.

Professor Campbell told the BBC: "This is the new science for understanding and mapping out the behavior of the baby. Maybe in the future it will help us understand and diagnose genetic disease, maybe even conditions like cerebral palsy which puzzle the medical profession as to why it occurs."



- From 12 weeks, unborn babies can stretch, kick and leap around the womb- well before the mother can feel movement.
- From 18 weeks, they can open their eyes although most doctors thought eyelids were fused until 26 weeks.
- From 26 weeks, they appear to exhibit a whole range of typical baby behavior and moods, including scratching, smiling, crying, hiccuping, and sucking.

Until recently it was thought that smiling did not start until six weeks after birth.

(Source BBC News [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_pictures/3847319.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_pictures/3847319.stm))

*Thank you to all who attended our wedding. How wonderful it was to include our CPC friends and family.*

*For all of you who have called and asked to see a picture- here is my favorite!*

*With love, Debbie & Bud Laws*



upon themselves the burden of counting all the change (bless you!). But, some of the churches did not have similar resources and that was when I would break out the backpacks and our three sons and I would visit the churches and "load 'em up!"

One hot summer afternoon we were visiting a church in Bloomfield, collecting over a hundred change filled baby bottles. As we ran in and out of the church, carrying as much as we could, our 6-year-old, while wiping the perspiration from his little forehead exclaimed, "Phew! I sure hope this helps a whole lot of babies! I'll bet a lot of kids are at the lake or swimming in a pool right now, but I'm glad we're doing this!"



That child broke my heart (See *Glory* article on cover). He understood what we were doing. He "got" it!

From there it was a summer of counting and rolling change. We set up a large table in the corner of our living room (near the air conditioner!) and whenever we had spare time we all sorted, counted, stacked and rolled coins.

As the coins were rolled we filled plastic shoeboxes and frequently visited the bank. Initially the bank was not too happy to see us, bringing in hundreds of rolls of coins, but the boys took care of that, too, as they would jabber away about what we were doing and why we were doing it. It was amazing to watch the atmosphere change completely and even the most downcast of tellers couldn't resist the boys' infectious enthusiasm.

We were able to raise almost \$15,000 by collecting pocket change for the 2004 Baby Bottle Drive! It was a lot of hard work but it was both an honor and a privilege to work as a family to help the center.

We'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to all of our 2004 participating churches and all the wonderful church-contacts, pro-life committee reps, and church secretaries that worked with us. Bless you all!

**If there is anyway that your church could bless the center by participating in the 2005 Baby Bottle Drive, please contact the Nolan family at Lisa@TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org or call the CPC at (860) 673-7397. We would LOVE to hear from you!**

## CPC News

Our Executive Director, Deborah Laws, has been very busy since the winter 2004 newsletter.



The CPC was invited to participate in a pro-life day at Holy Angels Church in Meriden in November. (see photo)

Deb also spoke at the Soup & Bread dinner on March 18<sup>th</sup> at St Patrick's Church in Farmington.

If you would like to have Deborah Laws address the youth at your church, please contact The CPC at (860) 673-7397



Current total of babies helped by The CPC Unionville: **882 !!!** (and rising!)

The CPC has recently published a new web site featuring:

- ◇ Services
- ◇ 24 Hour Hotline
- ◇ Facts About Abortion
- ◇ Contact Information
- ◇ Testimonies



Please visit us at:  
**[www.TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org](http://www.TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org)**



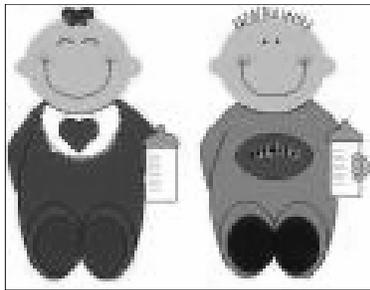
The CPC needs:  
◇ **New Cribs** to bless women who have chosen to parent their baby. Meeting this need can make all the difference! Please contact the center if you can donate a crib. Thank you!

# Invitation

## 2005 Baby Bottle Drive Fund Raiser

Please consider your church cordially invited to participate in this year's baby bottle drive fund raiser to benefit The Crisis Pregnancy Center. Through your church's participation you can help us to help women choose life for their unborn. Without the love, prayers and financial support from the body of Christ we wouldn't be able to serve the Lord in this way.

To understand the details involved in a baby bottle drive, please read the article *2004 Baby Bottle Drive: Success!* on the cover of this newsletter or contact: The CPC at (860) 673-7397 or e-mail [Lisa@TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org](mailto:Lisa@TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org)



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***Address Correction Requested***