

CPC Newsline

Crisis Pregnancy Center • 30 Mill Street • Unionville, CT 06085 • (860) 673-7397

Fall 2010

Deborah J. Laws, Executive Director

A Christmas Journey

by Nichole Perreault

Are you traveling this Christmas? Perhaps you're going to see your parents, in-laws or friends. Or, if you're really lucky, you might be off for an island vacation! You'll spend lots of time planning, packing, driving, flying. Undoubtedly, you'll get a little cranky and irritable, but in most cases your travels will be bearable and your time fun.

In September, my husband, daughters and I went to the Outer Banks, NC, with my parents, my brothers and their loved ones. This was our first trip to the Outer Banks and we couldn't wait! My parents generously rented a beach house for an entire week so we could really enjoy ourselves- you know, actually go out to eat and buy souvenirs without applying for a second mortgage!

So there I was, on a virtually free vacation, heading to some of the most popular beaches in America, with my nearest and dearest. What a blessing! What a gift! Sure the trip was long- we drove- and the house was crowded- 11 of us (13 when local friends popped in!)- but that shouldn't matter, this is a VACATION! Right!

Before I go on let me tell you that, overall, the vacation was fantastic, refreshing and beautiful. However, the internal struggles tell a story that I am compelled to share.

Upon arrival, my husband, kids and I were quickly relegated to the bedroom of a musty, not so clean, basement. We were the logical choice, I know; we needed the space. And we certainly couldn't put my parents there; after all, they paid for the house. (But I hate basements!) Oops. Was that me whining?

In a matter of days I developed a nasty cold, (I'm sure it had *nothing* to do with the musty basement-so don't feel bad mom, dad, boys- it's OK, really), and spent the rest of the week sleeping on the couch upstairs. (No, no don't worry guys- I am sure my back problems since vacation are not at all related.)

Well, as the end of the week approached, I simply couldn't wait for the trip home. We would stop at the Sheraton in D.C. on Saturday night. A nice, clean, fresh hotel room. Aaaaah.

Imagine my surprise when I opened the door to our room, or shall I say the newly renovated supply closet? Tiny, damp quarters, located partially underground, with a window, (small mercies), that looked out on a cement stairwell. "What are the odds?" I said to myself. "What are the chances?" I asked my husband and kids

But I wasn't laughing or even mildly frustrated. I was insulted and defeated all at once. Was this some kind of cruel joke from above?

All the while, not only that day, but throughout the whole trip, I battled with myself. The very thing I didn't want to do, I continued to do! I was grumpy, dissatisfied, impatient and miserable. What was my problem? Where was the graciousness, the humility, the peace? Who was I to deserve better than a musty basement? A cramped couch? A little cold on vacation? A less than perfect hotel room? In fact, directly across the street from my brother's room were the homes of some of D.C.'s poorest families. Many of whom would have gladly traded places with me for a night. Where was my gratitude?

I felt as if God were holding a giant mirror in front of me. I admit, I was surprised. Often, when people describe me, they say I am "humble". (Then again, many also say I am mellow and relaxed, when in fact I have an anxiety disorder! Ha! That should have been the first clue.) I am amazed at how, even as I stared into the face of my own ugliness, I was helpless, totally helpless to change. God continued for weeks and months to hold up that mirror and I continued to be a curious observer of myself.

Last Sunday, our family went to see the Nativity Story. You will not be surprised that the theme of traveling on a journey resonated deeply within me. A small, humorous, yet revealing storyline developed in the journey of the Magi - one eager and two reluctant

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A Christmas Journey (cont. from pg. 1)

travelers. Their reluctance to give up their “upper class” way of life, their creature comforts such as good food and comfortable living conditions and their fear of the unknown was rather indicative of western culture, me included!

The central part of the story, Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, vividly portrayed their sacrifice. The rigors of such a long trip, by foot or pregnant atop a donkey, were undeniable. At night, after a meal of flatbread and water, they slept on the hard earth, beneath wool blankets; he with sore, bloody feet and she heavy with child. Many scholars believe the weather for that time of year would have been very cold and damp, even harsher conditions than were portrayed in the film.

As they neared the end of their 90 mile journey they must have longed for a quiet night with warm lodging, a soft bed and a fresh, hot meal. Instead, they found themselves in a stable, very likely a cave, among someone’s livestock. Was Mary’s pride hurt because she had to give birth in a barn? Did she snap at Joseph or roll her eyes when strange men came to visit her newborn son?

We don’t know for sure, but I would imagine she responded more like her character in the film, with wonder and awe. After all, the Bible tells us that she “pondered these things in her heart.”

The ultimate message of the movie, however, was about another journey; a journey across the chasm of space and time, light and darkness, heaven and earth. A journey that changed the world, forever. The journey of Jesus.

God had planned this trip since before the beginning of time and had been preparing His people for Jesus’ arrival for thousands of years. At the appointed time, Jesus left the comfort of his home, heaven. He left his family, Father God and the Holy Spirit. He left his position as God, worshipped and adored by angels. He didn’t pack a thing. He left it all behind to travel to earth and enter the womb of a poor, oppressed, Jewish girl. He spent nine months being carried in her belly, the last days of which were difficult on them both. It is no wonder he arrived so soon after they reached Bethlehem.

As He took His first breaths, He joined us, His beloved, in experiencing life as we do. He felt cold, hunger and total dependence on His earthly parents for His survival. He longed for physical affection and delighted at the voice of his mother. However, His earthly journey would put His life in peril before He was even two years old.

As credits of the Nativity Story rolled over the big screen, I couldn’t help thinking about the remainder of His stay here on earth. I am amazed at how He *chose* to travel here, among *us*: the broken and the diseased, the selfish and the desperate. Furthermore, He didn’t come here to be served or worshipped. Instead, He was the one serving us. He taught and fed thousands, healed disease, raised the dead and battled demons, all while subjecting himself to the curses of humanity, such as physical exhaustion, rejection, humiliation, bodily harm, death. I imagine He longed for home more than any homesickness you or I have ever known. Yet He could not return until His journey was complete.

In His final hours, Jesus accepted upon Himself the crushing weight of every sin of every person that has ever or will ever live. He bore an eternity worth of spiritual death (separation from God) for every one of us. He loved us so much. He went where we should have gone. He endured what we deserved. He stood in our place, so we will never have to. And then—and *then*— He invited us back to His place, heaven. Not to visit, not just for dinner, but forever!

Jesus’ journey was no vacation. But He went anyway and He did it perfectly. Which is more than can be said for me. As I write this, I can see Him smiling. He’s glad I paused to look in the mirror. He loves me. Even when I am at my worst and I can’t stand myself, *He* loves me. He knows the depth of my imperfection and the hardness of my heart. He sees when I look away and bury the ugliness; yet He is not ashamed. He loves me, just as I am, but He won’t leave me here this way. No, Jesus traveled across space and time so I might find Him. And He has invited us back home with Him.

Of all the places you may go this holiday season, of all the routes you drive, planes you fly or trains you get on, this, **THIS** is the journey most worth taking!



2010 Baby Bottle Boomerang

Thank You!

We're extremely grateful to our 2010 participating churches and their congregations for their love, support and donations to our annual fundraiser, the Baby Bottle Boomerang. Without the Body of Christ, the program simply wouldn't work. In addition to the churches who bless the CPC year after year with hosting a drive, we're so happy and excited to share that several new fellowships joined their number!

The 2010 Baby Bottle Boomerang included 17 churches with a wide variety of denominations. They are as follows:

Bakerville Methodist, New Hartford
Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church, East Hartland
Bethel Christian Church, Newington
Bethel Christian Church, Bristol
Collinsville Congregational Church, Collinsville
Community Baptist Church, New Hartford
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Simsbury
Faith Bible Church, Winsted
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Terryville
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bristol
North Canton Methodist Church, Canton
St. Mary's RC Church, Unionville
St. Patrick's RC Church, Farmington
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Hartford
Pilgrim Covenant Church, Granby
Praise Christian Fellowship, Pleasant Valley
Valley Brook Community Church, Granby

The Baby Bottle Boomerang traditionally runs for six weeks from Mother's Day to Father's Day; we provide the baby bottles and everything you'll need. The BBB is not only a fund raiser but also a great way for the local community to learn about the CPC and the services we offer.

We'll start coordinating our 2011 participating churches in January/February. If you would like more information about the Baby Bottle Boomerang or to find out how your church can participate, we'd love to hear from you!

CPC News

Monthly & Annual Donors

The CPC wishes to humbly thank all of our faithful monthly & annual donors. Many of you have been supporting the CPC for years. You keep our lights on and our rent paid. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Save a stamp! Electronic Donation Option Now Offered on the CPC Website!

Donating has never been easier with this new on-line feature! Select one-time or monthly donations. Just visit our website and click on the "Donate" button. Donations can be made electronically through PayPal.

Also available on the CPC Website:

Services, 24 Hour Hotline, Facts About Abortion, Contact Information, Testimonies, Newsletters and more!

Current total of babies helped by the CPC, Unionville:



1268 and counting!

The Crisis Pregnancy Center Needs:

- ◇ New Cribs and Mattresses
- ◇ Size Newborn Baby Clothing
- ◇ Baby Bottle Boomerang Churches
- ◇ Your Prayers!
- ◇ Regular/Monthly Financial Support
- ◇ Volunteers!

Meeting these basic needs can make all the difference for Life! Please contact the Center if you can provide any of these important items. *Thank you!*

The CPC offers post-abortive stress healing peer counseling and related Bible Study. All services are free of charge and completely confidential.

Mission Statement

The CPC, embodied in its staff and volunteers, is committed to supporting women in crisis pregnancies with the goal of minimizing the number of abortions in our local community through a compassionate presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed. While we count the number of clients who do or do not have abortion, this must not become this center's definition of success. We are in an ongoing race. Furthermore, through education and outreach to both area churches and the local community, we aim to create an awareness that abortion compounds human need rather than resolves it. The CPC is a non-profit Christian agency that does not discriminate in offering its services free of charge.

Four Ways YOU Can Help Support the CPC!

Choose Life CT License Plates

The Children's First Foundation donates \$20 to the CPC with each license plate ordered! Please visit: ctchoose-life.org



Be sure to indicate "CPC" on your application in the Original ID# box!

Good Search for the CPC! Surf, shop and support the CPC all that the same time! Just visit goodsearch.com



and enter the **Crisis Pregnancy Center, Unionville CT** as the charity you want to support. Don't forget to make Goodsearch your default search engine and add it to your browser toolbar!

Donate using Paypal! You can send a monthly or one-time donation using safe and secure electronic Paypal!



Just visit: www.TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org and click on the "Donate" button.

Host a Baby Bottle Boomerang at your church! This fun and easy fund raiser is also a great way to increase community awareness about the CPC and the services we offer. It traditionally runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day and we provide everything you'll need! Contact the CPC to get started.



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Visit us on the web:
www.TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org

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