

# Caring TOGETHER

SHARING LIFE STORIES OF COMPASSION, HOPE, & HELP

DECEMBER 2023

CARE-NET.ORG

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## BRAVE *Like Mary*

You helped Calista choose LIFE...even though her "Joseph" wasn't there.

The church bells for Christmas filled the crisp air with warm sounds echoing down Main Street. It felt like the whole town was dressed in winter greens and twinkling lights. Calista\* stood in front of the church nativity, breathing out long billows of steam through her nose as she drank it all in. The second she opened her eyes, they locked on to the figure of Mary.

Calista—Cal to her friends—felt like she had something in common with Mary: **she hadn't planned on the baby growing in her womb.** Cal could relate to the confusion and excitement Mary must have felt. But, unlike Mary, Cal didn't have Joseph to be a husband to her and a father to the baby growing inside her.

Cal settled her hands over her growing belly. Being alone was one of the reasons she'd seriously considered abortion... and nearly went through with it. When she had second thoughts, she found *Pregnancy Decision Line*—a

national hotline funded entirely by your donations—and called. The hotline coach who answered was very interested when Cal talked about her faith, and asked her what she thought God would want her to do about the pregnancy. Cal believed in God... but talking about God's thoughts on the baby made her feel uncomfortable, so Cal changed the subject.

### YOU HELPED PREPARE CAL'S HEART FOR CHANGE

While the conversation hadn't immediately changed her mind, it made her wonder if abortion was the right thing to do. Maybe wrestling with what the coach had told her was what prepared Cal for the dream she had. She'd woken up that morning, and the dream felt different. She still had chills thinking about it.

That dream led her to choose life for her little one. It felt like God was speaking to her.

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## Advent DEVOTIONAL

Focus your heart and direct your prayers during this wonderful Advent season when we reflect on Christ's birth and the abundant life it brings to the world.



DOWNLOAD  
YOUR FREE COPY TODAY!

[www.care-net.org/advent](http://www.care-net.org/advent)

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# CHRISTMAS WITHOUT JOSEPH?

What would Christmas have looked like without Joseph? How would the world's most well-known story, the source of countless millions of Christmas productions, songs, and little wooden figurines, change if Joseph wasn't there?

It seems most of the attention around Christmas centers on Mary and the baby Jesus...but Joseph gets far less attention.

Scripture tells us that Joseph was a good man and, upon discovering Mary's pregnancy, wanted to "put her away quietly." Though he had the legal right to accuse Mary of adultery, he loved her and didn't want to see her put to death. Joseph's planned course of action would have forever altered the Christmas story and had far reaching implications on the fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

You might argue that God is God and would have made a way for Mary and Jesus to thrive without Joseph. True. But God didn't. His actions reveal His desire for Joseph to be part of the story. For Jesus to have both a mother and earthly father, and for Mary to have a husband. For Jesus to come into the world with a single mother would have fulfilled God's purpose, but *it would have violated his principles.*

The angel Gabriel didn't stop after giving Mary a message of hope; he went and told Joseph, too. The Creator of marriage and family understood that the best environment to raise a child was within the shelter of a loving marriage... even when the child was Jesus.

Gabriel serves as an inspiration for our work—delivering the message of abundant life to Mary **and** Joseph so Joseph could provide Mary with a home and help raise Jesus in a loving family. It is of equal importance that God created this family as much as an example for us as he did to provide for His Son.

So this Christmas, let's give Joseph his fair share of Yuletide attention and thank God for empowering him with the message of life so that Mary and Jesus, in His humanity, would experience abundant life.

*This is an adaptation of a longer article that appears on Care Net's blog at [www.care-net.org/abundantlife-blog/christmas-without-joseph](http://www.care-net.org/abundantlife-blog/christmas-without-joseph).*



You make this work possible. Thank you!

Blessings,



Roland C. Warren  
Care Net President & CEO

► **Read more at**  
[www.care-net.org/blogs](http://www.care-net.org/blogs)

## VISION STATEMENT:

Care Net envisions a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.

## BRAVE LIKE MARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cal continued on her way to the pregnancy center the coach had mentioned when she called Cal back. Along the way, the young mom remembered how God had spoken to Joseph in a dream to take Mary as his wife and be an earthly father to Jesus. Raising a child not his own wasn't something Joseph planned on either. Maybe Cal could relate to Joseph a little bit too.

### YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MOMS LOOK TO THE EXAMPLE OF MARY

In Matthew 19:26, we read "with God all things are possible"... even when people fall through. Sometimes He meets people through dreams and visions, but He also works through His people.

Moms have life-saving conversations through the work of our national hotline everyday. More than that, these conversations reveal there is a network of pregnancy centers eager to give the support needed for moms like Cal to say 'yes' to God's voice and choose life when facing a pregnancy that they didn't expect – even when the father of the baby isn't there.



Thank you for shining a light in the darkness this Christmas for frightened and confused moms by offering them compassion, hope, and help. Because of you, somewhere in your community, a baby boy or girl is celebrating their first Christmas and has the chance for a bright future, guided by the hand of a loving God! ■



**Through our Year End Matching Challenge, your gift can save EVEN MORE unborn lives!**



**GENEROUS FRIENDS HAVE GIVEN \$60,000 & CHALLENGED YOU TO HELP MATCH IT!**

Please send your best gift right now to reach EVEN MORE mothers and fathers considering abortion and save EVEN MORE babies' lives through your support of our national hotline, 1,200 affiliated pregnancy centers, and churches we've equipped for vibrant pro-life ministry!

*Thank you for your generosity!*



## KYLE BECAME A "JOSEPH"

**...because you helped him protect & provide for his family!**

In a pregnancy, the father of the baby doesn't always get a say on what happens. In this work, we often hear of dads leaving the decision up to the mother, not being available, or trying to force the mother of their baby into an abortion. We don't always hear stories where a dad is the voice for LIFE, but thankfully there are dads like Kyle\* out there!

At first, Kyle's girlfriend, Tyra,\* wasn't really open to anything he had to say in the matter of their baby. She kept going back and forth about what she wanted to do but seemed pretty determined to have an abortion... even though he was willing to be there for her and their baby. When he tried to tell Tyra that, things got heated, and the relationship ended.

Kyle was devastated. He desperately wanted to know his baby! But he just couldn't seem to find a way to convince Tyra. Kyle felt lost, not knowing what to do or where to turn.

Distraught, Kyle turned to God. Throughout the conflict with Tyra, he yearned to return to the Lord. He started to pray, asking the Lord for some direction. A couple of

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You can connect a parent with an unexpected or unexpectedly complicated pregnancy with the compassion, hope, and help they need to choose LIFE for the unborn child and ABUNDANT LIFE for their family!

### Steps to Help Save a Life

- 1 Cut out PDL cards
- 2 Carry with you
- 3 Share with someone facing a pregnancy decision

**pdl pregnancy DECISION LINE**  
ANSWERS. BEFORE YOU DECIDE.

**877-791-5475**

[pregnancydecisionline.org](http://pregnancydecisionline.org) **CARE NET**

**PREGNANCY DECISION LINE (PDL)** is a national hotline providing caring, confidential, and immediate support to women and men facing tough pregnancy decisions.

*Are you ready to start a conversation?*

We are here for you at **877-791-5475** or [pregnancydecisionline.org](http://pregnancydecisionline.org).



# Are You 73?

Did you know that you can make a difference today and get some tax benefits at the same time?

It's possible when you give to Care Net through your traditional IRA. Since Care net is a qualified charity according to the IRS, this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

## BENEFITS OF A QCD GIFT

- Any amount given through a QCD gift counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but will not count toward your income.
- In the year that you turn 73, you must begin to draw your RMD. You can give a gift to Care Net to satisfy all or part of the RMD. You will not receive a charitable tax deduction, but you don't claim the gift amount as income, which could mean lower Medicare premiums. It could also lower your taxable Social Security amount!



For more information, you can reach Bob Milton at 205-914-4812 or [bmilton@care-net.org](mailto:bmilton@care-net.org).

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## Kyle Became a "Joseph"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

days later, his prayer was answered. Kyle's mother had always supported him and his desire to be a father to his baby, and she told him about Care Net's *Pregnancy Decision Line*.

## Reaching Women AND Men for Life

The next morning, Kyle made the call to the hotline. He wondered how much help or support they would have for him since he was the father of the baby, not the mother. He was amazed at how he was welcomed with more compassion and support than he could have ever imagined. Kyle hung up with a reinvigorated spirit and renewed faith in Jesus. Although he still didn't know what Tyra was going to do, he found more hope in the Lord to not give up on life for his unborn baby.

Thanks to your generous support, more fathers like Kyle will find the compassion, hope, and help they need to choose life for their unborn children and support the mother of their child. Thank you for helping Kyle to become a "Joseph" through your support of our hotline. ■

## CALLING ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...  
*Care Net is participating in the  
Combined Federal Campaign*



CFC# 10983

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