The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries March 2006
Rachel's Vineyard is on the web at: www.rachelsvineyard.org Our national toll-free hotline is (877) HOPE-4-ME. ===================================
Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes, women, men, couples, grandparents and abortion providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a resource for clinical training, education, and healing models.
Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We work in partnership with Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.
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Help us spread the Good News! Pass along this newsletter to friends and colleagues. If you are receiving this newsletter because a friend forwarded it to you, details on subscribing (or unsubscribing) appear at the end.
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Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer. Charles Finney
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Standing in the Gap By Mari Godbout

VINE AND BRANCHES

It was originally decided that the Rachel's Vineyard Intercessory Prayer Ministry would be a ministry offered anonymously until Theresa gave some well-received reasons for sharing about my story and myself. She felt that it is hard to ask someone to dedicate their time to pray for our needs and, even more, it is simply difficult to need and ask for help. I know these struggles very well.

About thirty years ago I, along with two out of four of my older sisters, were diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. The prognosis was that the illness would continue to progress, deteriorating muscles throughout our body.

The illness continued to progress as expected and six and a half years ago I left my career due to health reasons. In what I gratefully describe as God's goodness and great mercy, my heart was immediately convicted to bring a post abortion healing program to Arizona. Through much research and many contacts, I was led to Theresa and I began working with her to make Rachel's Vineyard in Arizona a reality.

At that time, God had been preparing many for their work in the vineyard and today there are four teams serving in Arizona. I was blessed to be able to work with each of the Phoenix area teams as they began offering retreats. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to everyone who made this possible for me, as it was only through their assistance and acceptance of my physical limitations that it happened. It is hard for me to be present yet unable to do the physical work, such as setting up and cleaning up, much less requiring assistance for all of my personal care and bodily nourishment needs.

As my illness continued to progress, the time had come when I would no longer be serving on retreats, however this ministry was still something I held very close to my heart. At this time the idea of an intercessory prayer ministry within Rachel's Vineyard was planted within me. This idea was shared with and embraced by Theresa and it began from there. It is truly my joy to offer prayer and sacrifice for the needs within the vineyard. Your prayer requests are precious to my heart and graciously received.

If you would like to request prayers, please send your request to RVprayers@cox.net.
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Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness; not the definition of helplessness, but the feeling of it; not figures of speech, but earnestness of soul.
~ Hannah More
A Note from Our Pastoral Director
My dear friends,

Abortion hurts everyone who touches it. Those who at one point thought they were helping women by working in the abortion industry have likewise been wounded. It doesn't matter how large or small a role one played, or for how long or short a time. Any cooperation in this procedure brings a burden that needs the Lord's healing. As you know, Rachel's Vineyard provides a God-given source and stimulus for that healing, as it does for those who have had abortions themselves.

I have helped many former workers in the abortion industry, from the doctors to the nurses, the technicians, and even the receptionists and security guards. Around the world, a growing movement of these former workers is being created, called the "Society of Centurions." Just as the Centurion at the cross of Jesus repented of having taken part in his death, so these men and women have "dropped their swords" that were used against the unborn, and have found the peace of God.

Just as women and men who have lost their own children by abortion find strength in being in contact with other parents of aborted children, so those who once worked in the abortion industry find strength from other former abortion employees.

Moreover, when someone who has been involved in the taking of life feels called to assist the pro-life movement in some way, they can provide something that few others can provide: a direct look into the abortion industry. There is value in the information they know – and they may not realize how valuable it is.

If you have worked in the abortion industry, or know others who have done so, would you please have them contact me? Together, we can introduce them to an ongoing and specialized form of healing and service to the Lord and His Kingdom of Life! I can be reached at mail@priestsforlife.org.

he Board, Rachel's Vineyard

God bless you!

We are looking for Men to share their personal experience of how has abortion impacted their lives for an upcoming book on Men and Abortion. If you would like your story considered for this project, please e-mail mjstockwell@midsouth.rr.com before you begin writing. Marvin will contact you with instructions and then work with you to edit your story.

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You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Ghandi

From Grief to Grace -- Reclaiming the Gift of Sexuality

By Theresa Burke, Ph.D. Founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Most of us in post abortion ministry have observed the link between sexual abuse and abortion. Conservative estimates suggest that 55% of girls and 35% of boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of eighteen.

These alarming statistics have a good deal to do with patterns of abuse and crisis. Sexual abuse, at any age, can impair one's ability to be healthy in the present. Sexual abuse is even more injurious when it is experienced during the formative years of childhood, since the distortions that sexual trauma inflicts can be deeper, more stunting, and more ingrained into the child's developing personality. Sexual abuse survivors describe having a sense of lost selves, an injured inner child, wounded souls, and stolen psyches.

If a history of sexual abuse exists before an abortion, the woman may experience the abortion itself as simply a further continuation of the violations of her body that have gone before. The way in which abortion resembles sexual abuse is striking. In the abortion, the abortionist's hand or instrument penetrates deep into the protective and sacred part of the woman's womb. The

abortionist is usually a male and the entry point is the same as where she has been violated by men in her past. The destruction of the child growing inside her echoes the way sexual abuse destroyed her own innocent childlike nature. In such cases, abortion can take on elements of a symbolic suicide. The death of the innocent "inner-child" can be a reenactment of the traumatic loss of the abused girl's own self.

Most experts in trauma and abuse support the idea that victims recreate their abuse or trauma in many ways. It is unfinished business and the victims will continue to act it out until it somehow is resolved or completed. The reenactment can be a ritualized means through which a woman will intensely grieve and mourn. The grief of abortion, like the grief of incest, is held in unvoiced cries of secrecy. It is a powerful re-creation of the intrusion forced upon the woman during sexual abuse, in which she is once again called upon to lay helpless on her back, silently enduring the invasion of her body. Afterward, just as after episodes of sexual abuse, she must be prepared to hide her shame and guilt, as well as, despair and grief in a trauma driven secret.

In an effort to heal the wounds of sexual abuse – which in many cases becomes a precursor to abortion, "*From Grief to Grace – Reclaiming the Gift of Sexuality*" was written by Kevin and Theresa Burke as a new ministry tool. The new Living Scriptures are very moving and all participants in the first retreat responded with tremendous grace and openness. We were humbled and honored to observe God's mighty work in the hearts of beautiful women and men of God who did in all reality, reclaim their sacred dignity.

Nancy Rodrigue, a professional counselor employed by the Woman's New Life Center in New Orleans, was excited when she heard about the new retreat. She attended the pilot retreat in North Dakota with the hopes of bringing it back to Louisiana.

In comparing the new retreat to the Rachel's Vineyard process, Nancy shares:

"The living scriptures are powerful and evoke emotional responses. There are journal exercises that allow each participant to focus on specific areas of abuse. Although there were various forms of abuse represented, it was amazing how all the participants met on common ground. From Grief to Grace gives retreat teams an opportunity to expand their ministry to those in pain."

Shelly Stone, who coordinated the first retreat in North Dakota states: "We are more than what can be described as "fortunate" to be a part of this group of the suffering body of Christ in Rachel's Vineyard. We are called to bring help and healing to the church and the world. The healing has begun, we must continue on the journey through the vineyard."

Comments from Participants who attended "From Grief to Grace"

"Each and every one of the Living Scriptures was so anointed. I loved each of the activities/rituals that followed. It was a powerful "hands-on" experience that penetrated to the soul. The journey through the Sorrowful mysteries and joining in the suffering of Jesus was very healing for me."

"Because of this retreat, I don't hate God anymore."

"Incredible! Each session went deeper and pulled my emotions up and out of the darkness. I have never been on a retreat like this. Your insight and knowledge is amazing. You seemed to cover most areas in the lives of abused women. Only the Spirit working in you could have

created something such as this. Thank you!"

"To be completely honest, I did not want to come to this retreat. I was hardened as I walked in. But this retreat really opened me up. The Holy Spirit spoke to me so clearly and beautifully. It really started the healing process and a new confidence n me. The only thing I wish was different is that the retreat was one day longer. This has truly changed my life."

"This retreat was very loving. Very hard, but in a good way. The way it was done made it easy to get in touch with your pain."

"This was one of the most powerful, life giving, excruciating, invigorating retreat weekends I have ever experienced."

"Flawlessly given!" "Awesome! I still, and will forever, reap the blessings of what I received on that weekend."

"Everything was so deep and meaningful. God was truly present here."

"When muscles are tense you can go to a massage therapist and let them massage the tense and tight muscles. After a massage, the area feels sore and worked over, but you know that in a little while as the soreness subsides, your muscles will feel looser, free of that tight pain. My heart is a muscle. This weekend has been like a deep tissue massage on my heart. It feels sore, worked over. I have faith that as this soreness subsides, that my heart will feel more free. Free to love and be loved. Loved by God and others. To love those that God has entrusted into my care and those that cross my path. Thank you for this massage! Thanks be to God."

Please pray for our next *Grief To Grace* Retreat, which is scheduled for March 20-22, 2006 at the Malvern Retreat House in Pennsylvania and again on July 24-26, 2006. A facilitator training for those who will be offering this program will follow each retreat.

To read more about the link between sexual abuse and abortion read <u>Forbidden Grief – The Unspoken Pain of Abortion</u>, by Theresa Burke with David C. Reardon. Send orders to orders@priestsforlife.org

We live surrounded by a sea of poverty. Nevertheless, this sea can decrease in size. Our work is only a drop in a bucket, but this drop is necessary.

Mother Theresa

Help Support the Work of Rachel's Vineyard

Please consider supporting our efforts with your prayers and assist us by sending a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000...\$500...\$100...or even \$25 to help us in this vital and life changing outreach. Click here: <a href="http:<//www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm">http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm to contribute via credit card or PayPal or send an e-mail directly to me mailto:t.burke@rachelsvineyard.org and I will forward a postage-paid envelope or you can send a donation directly to:

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries 800 N. Henderson Road King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

With gratitude,		
Гheresa Burke, Ph.D.		
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Need a Buddy?		
By Jeanne Krieg		

Since my own retreat in 1999, I have enjoyed helping others to find healing by working on retreats and producing a video entitled "Door To Hope." But by the far the most rewarding part of this work has been helping as an email buddy on the Rachel's Vineyard website. As an email buddy you answer questions and give support to those suffering after abortion. We offer hope and encouragement from our own healing journey to help individuals take the next step and attend a retreat or healing program. Frequently, I stay in touch after their retreat as well.

I remember how afraid I was to go on my retreat. I feared I would be the only one who had more than one abortion or had done some of the things I had. One part of me felt like a monster and couldn't bear the thought of 3 days of having to actually confront my shame, guilt, sadness and all of the other pain that I had been storing up for years. But there was another part of me that really wanted to find freedom and healing from it all. I must have changed my mind 50 times that week prior to the retreat and actually had planned several escape routes if I decided I didn't want to be there. I had instructed several of my friends that if they received a frantic message from me to call the retreat center and inform them there was a death in the family and that I needed to leave immediately. Once I went through my retreat I realized it was the best gift I ever gave myself and wanted to make sure others received that blessing as well.

I get several men and women each month emailing me from the U.S. and abroad. By the time they contact someone on the E-buddy list most have buried their pain for years and discussed their abortions with few if any persons. Some event usually triggers a need to find peace and they are overwhelmed with a flood of feelings that they have been pushing below the surface for years. They are relieved to find that there is healing possible but skeptical and fearful as well. What do I wear? What will we do? How much pain will I be in? Will I cry the whole time? Is it confidential? Some have held onto to this pain for so long they can't even imagine letting it go. Some are trying to work out childcare, finances, or how to get away for the weekend. You need to do a lot of listening, sharing, and handholding.

I do whatever I can to gently encourage them to attend a retreat, because I know how much this will help them. Some are ready to sign up for the next retreat but others just need to correspond for a longer period before they are ready to take that next step. I have learned that patience and trust in God's timing is very important. I have emailed some for over a year before they actually went to a retreat and I rejoiced when they finally went through it. I am humbled every time I hear back from someone that I have helped get to a retreat. I feel very fortunate to be able to volunteer in this area of Rachel's Vineyard.

Jeanne Krieg writes from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is the producer of "Door To Hope" a
video about post abortion trauma and healing. To order a copy contact
orders@priestsforlife.org

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

Upcoming Clinical Training and Speaking Engagements

March 25 Baltimore, Maryland

Sponsor: Archdiocese of Baltimore, Respect Life Conference

Contact: <u>Denise Douglas</u> 410 354 6900 (Kevin and Theresa will be presenting)

April 1 Tri State Post Abortion Conference: New York

Sponsored by: The Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York

Lumina, and the Westchester/Putnam Vicariate for Life. Keynotes: Theresa Burke, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Georgette Forney - Silent No More Awareness Campaign

Contact: Theresa Bonapartis - 877-586-4621

April 7 Diocese of Newark Post- Abortion Training Day

Contact: Respect Life Office - Michelle Krystofik (732) 388-8211

Presenters: Theresa and Kevin Burke; Fr. Mike Mannion

April 21 Clergy Training Day, Wisconsin

Presenters: Theresa & Kevin Burke; Fr. Frank Pavone; Leslie Graves; Vicki

Thorn

April 22 Statewide Pro-Life Wisconsin Conference

Contact: Ron Faust 608-221-4281 ext 229

Dells, Wisconsin

April 27-28 2 Day Training Conference, Jamestown, North Dakota

Post-Abortion Care for Professionals and Healing for Sexual Abuse

CEU credits available

Presenter: Theresa Burke, Ph.D. Sponsor: Diocese of Fargo

Contact: Rachelle Sauvageau 701-356-791

May 5 Rachel's Vineyard Fundraising Event

West Chester, Pennsylvania

Contact Katie <u>Katie@rachelsvineyard.org</u> (610) 354-0555 Keynote: Fr. Frank Pavone with Theresa and Kevin Burke

May 8 Bridgeport, Connecticut

Full Day Clinical Training for CE Credit

Host: Diocese of Bridgeport

Contact: <u>Clarissa Cincotta</u> 203 218 0291 (Theresa and Kevin will be presenting)

May 17-20 Hearthbeat International Conference, Orlando, Florida

www.heartbeatinternational.org/2006 Conference update.htm

35th Annual Conference

May 26-28 University of Notre Dame, Indiana

Marian Conference 25th Anniversary

Contact: maryconference@hotmail.com (574) 288-8777

(Theresa Burke will be presenting)

Ramah International Conference, Kansas City, Kansas **July 18-22**

Contact: Sydna Masse 941-473-2188 Sydna@aol.com

http://www.ramahinternational.org

From Grief to Grace - Reclaiming the Gift of Sexuality **July 24-26**

A new retreat model for those who have been victims of sexual abuse

Contact: Katie 610 354 0555

Malvern Retreat House, Pennsylvania

Facilitator Training - From Grief to Grace **July 27-28**

Malvern Retreat House, Pennsylvania

Contact: Katie 610 354 0555

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Schedule (March – April 2006)

March 3-5, 2006 -- Romeoville, Illinois Local host: Joliet Diocesan Life Office Contact: Kay Corcoran 815 838 7171

March 3-5, 2006 -- Hays, Kansas

Contact: Donetta Robben 785 623 7531

March 3-5, 2006 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Contact: Susan Lepak 405 721 5651 ext 107

March 3-5, 2006 -- Juneau, Alaska

Contact: Mary Brooks 907 523 1025 Contact: Fr. Tony Dummer 907 789 2648

March 3-5, 2006 -- Prescott Valley, Arizona

Contact: Diane 928 775 4500

Living Water Retreat Center, Cornville, AZ

March 3-5, 2006 -- Sonoma County, California

Local host: After the Choice, Diocese of Oakland

Contact: Monika 510 267 8335

March 3-5, 2006 -- Washington, DC

Note: Bilingual Spanish and English Contact: Eugenia Hadley 301 237 6177

March 3-5, 2006 -- Wichita, Kansas

Local host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita

Contact: Yvonne or Lori 316 269 4673 or 1-888-456-4673 (statewide only)

March 3-5, 2006 -- Dallas (English), Texas

Contact: Caryn Stevens 214 544 2273

March 3-5, 2006 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: Mary Ann McNeal 404 896 6521

Contact: Rachel's Vineyard Atlanta
Website: Healing After Abortion

March 3-5, 2006 -- Ann Arbor / Detroit Area, Michigan

Contact: Beth Bauer 734 878 2217 ext 214

March 10-12, 2006 -- Fort Worth, Texas

Note: Interdenominational Retreat Contact: <u>Betsy Kopor</u> 817 923 4757

March 10-12, 2006 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866 4 RACHEL

March 10-12, 2006 -- Allentown, Pennsylvania

Contact: Maryann Dunn M.S. 866 372 2435

March 10-12, 2006 -- Sevierville / Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

Contact: <u>Judy Magnussen</u> 423 266 8322

March 10-12, 2006 -- Youngstown, Ohio

Contact: <u>Brenda Dama</u> 330 519 8838 Contact: <u>Br. Vit Fiala</u> 330 799 1888

March 10-12, 2006 -- Philadelphia Area, Pennsylvania

Contact: Priscilla 215-906-6337 Contact: Geri Simboli 610 399 0890

March 10-12, 2006 -- Sydney, New South Wales

Contact: Julie Kelly 02 9440 7980

March 10-12, 2006 -- Cork City, Ireland

Contact: Bernadette 087 859 2877

Contact: Dr. Rita O'Connor 061 468 570

March 10-12, 2006 -- Arlington, Virginia

Local host: Diocese of Arlington Contact: Myriam 703 729 7998

March 10-12, 2006 -- Points-aux-Outardes, Ouebec, Canada

Contact: <u>Jean-Marc & Diane Richard</u> 418 567 2293

March 17-19, 2006 -- Linden, New Jersey Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732 388 8211

March 17-19, 2006 -- Richmond, Virginia

Note: Interdenominational retreat

Contact: Gordon and Deborah Frantzich 540 775 5147

March 17-19, 2006 -- Greenville, South Carolina

Contact: Martha 336 287 8421

March 17-19, 2006 -- Lafayette, Louisiana Contact: Karol D. Meynard 337 261 5607 Contact: Trista M. Littell 337 261 5607

March 17-19, 2006 -- Litchfield, Connecticut

Local host: Archdiocese of Hartford Contact: <u>Mary Hayden</u> 203 882 1326

March 17-19, 2006 -- Knoxville, Tennessee Contact: Catherine McHugh 865 694 4971

March 17-19, 2006 -- Eugene, Oregon

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800 249 8074 or 541 521 5186

March 17-19, 2006 -- Baltimore, Maryland Contact: Denise Douglas 410 354 6900 Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

March 24-26, 2006 -- Providence, Rhode Island

Local host: Life & Family Ministry, Diocese of Providence

Contact: Kristin Caproni 401 421 7833 ext 119

March 24-26, 2006--Richardton, North Dakota

Contact: Carol Kling 605 374 5639

March 24-26, 2006 -- Sacramento, California

Contact: Edie Sickman 916 733 0161

March 24-26, 2006 -- Bloomington, Indiana Local Host: Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Contact: Pat Car 812 327 3712

March 31 - April 2, 2006 -- Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota

Contact: Nancy Blom 952 882 2072

March 31- April 2, 2006 -- Temecula, California

English Retreat: Contact: Dolores Dunphy 951 325 7702

March 31- April 2, 2006 -- Stockton, California

Contact: <u>Nancy or Kim</u> 209 465 5433

March 31 -April 2, 2006 -- Jacksonville / St. Augustine, Florida

Contact: Donna Augustine 904 221 3232

March 31 - April 2, 2006 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

Note: Interdenominational retreat Contact: Kathleen Miller 702 737 1672 Contact: Maria Basquez 702 283 8379 (Español)

March 31 - April 2, 2006 -- Lubbock, Texas

Contact: Kathy Krile 806 577 5912

March 31 - April 2, 2006 -- Northwest Indiana Local host: Project Rachel, Diocese of Gary Contact: <u>Carolyn Kenning</u> 219 374 5193

March 31 - April 2, 2006 -- Essex, England Contact: Clare McCullough 020 7723 1740

April 7-9, 2006 -- Paterson/Morris County, New Jersey

Contact: <u>Marie Ryan</u> 973 777 8818 ext 264

April 21-23, 2006 -- Fairfield County, Connecticut

Contact: Clarissa Cincotta 203 218 0291

April 21-23, 2006 -- Wheeling, West Virginia Contact: Jackie Hamilton 304 230 2229 ext 104

April 21-23, 2006 -- Asheville, North Carolina

Contact: Shelley Glanton 828-670-8192 or 828-230-4940

April 21-23, 2006 -- Edmonton and Rural Area

Contact: Marlene Javorsky

Contact: <u>Carla Houston</u> 780 963 4048 Note: Interdenominational Retreat

April 21-23, 2006 -- New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact: Melanie Baglow 504 889 2431 Contact: Nancy Rodrigue 504 269 8186

April 21-23, 2006 -- Dallas (Español), Texas

Contactar: <u>Aurora</u> 972 679 4760

April 28-30, 2006 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contact: <u>Ann Depner</u> 412 456 6955

April 21-23, 2006 -- Scottsdale, Arizona

Contact: Ronnajean 623 551 3667

April 21-23, 2006 -- Lisbon, Portugal Contact: Claudia Muller 91 735 4602 Contact: Psicologa Maria Jose Vilaca Contact: Padre Fernando Paiva

April 28-30, 2006 -- Billings, Montana

Local host: Sacred Heart Renewal Center of Billings, Montana

Contact: Susan Gliko 888-456-4673

April 28-30, 2006 -- Edmonton, Alberta Canada

Contact: Mary Laurene 780 424 4538

April 28-30, 2006 -- Stanwood, Washington Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800 822 HOPE

April 28-30, 2006 -- Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Note: Non denominational

Contact: Chris Mackay 1 204 772 1923

April 28-30, 2006 -- Janesville, Wisconsin

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608 755 9739 or 608 754 0309

Local host: Pregnancy Helpline of Janesville

Note: Interdenominational retreat

April 28-30, 2006 -- Cork City, Ireland Contact: Bernadette 087 859 2877 Contact: Dr. Rita O'Connor 061 468 570

April 28-30, 2006 -- Steubenville, Ohio Contact: Sharon Maedke 740-283-3636

April 28-30, 2006 -- Columbia (Batesburg-Leesville), South Carolina

Contact: Martha 336 287 8421 Local host: Diocese of Charleston

April 28-30, 2006 -- Portland, Maine

Contact: Sandra Thompson 207 879 1130 ext 770 or 771

Toll-free in Maine only: 800 CARE 002

April 28-30, 2006 -- El Paso, Texas Contact: Maria Acosta 915 872 8405 Contact: Cynthia Wynn 806 793 1235

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Publisher: Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Editor: Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

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