

Vine and Branches

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

July 2009

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes women, men, couples, grandparents and former 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.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is available on the web at www.rachelsvineyard.org and through our 24/7 help line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

Contents

[Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2009](#)

[The Healing Journey After Abortion Conference- Leeds, England](#)

[Sharing the Heart of Christ- New Book by Kevin Burke](#)

[The Mystery, the Drama, the Repetition of Trauma - by Dr. Theresa Burke](#)

[A Note from the Pastoral Director](#)

["My Chance" Powerful New Song by Jamie Thietten](#)

[An Independence Day Appeal](#)

[New Sites](#)

[United In Prayer](#)

[Grief to Grace- Healing the Wounds of Abuse](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Events and Trainings](#)

[Other Events of Interest](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats](#)

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"Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit."

– Henry David Thoreau

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Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2009

There is STILL TIME to register for this month's Conference!

July 7-10, 2009 Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference

"Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest" Malvern, PA USA

Rachel's Vineyard 2009 Leadership Conference: Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest is HERE! With just ONE WEEK left before the conference, there is still time to register!

Speakers include Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, Father Frank Pavone, Janet Morana, Msgr. Mike Mannion, Jim and Joy Pinto, Denise Rowinski Mengak, Lori Eckstine, Michelle Krystofik and many other dynamic leaders in the field of post abortion healing! To learn more, visit our website www.rachelsvineyard.org or click one of the links below.

Click [here](#) to print out the registration form. Click here to view a wonderful array of course descriptions to intrigue every level of experience!

Fax your registration to 610-354-0311

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Rachel's Vineyard "Healing Journey After Abortion" Conference
Leeds, England

August 14-16, 2009 Rachel's Vineyard Conference "The Healing Journey After Abortion" Leeds, England

Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Leeds, England will be offering a three-day conference with Theresa and Kevin Burke. Topics covered will include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Re-enactment, an overview of Rachel's Vineyard, a seminar on the Silent No More Awareness Campaign presented by the movement's co-founder Janet Morana, as well as informative seminars on how to minister to men and families suffering after abortion. A special seminar for clergy will be offered on Friday August 14th.

For more information on the seminar in England or to register please contact:
Deacon Charles Conner charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk

Click [here](#) to view our brochure.

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Sharing the Heart of Christ- New Book by Kevin Burke

Hot off the press is the much-anticipated *Sharing the Heart of Christ*, by Kevin Burke with Fr. Frank Pavone and Theresa Burke, PhD. This book guides those in post abortion ministry to a deeper, more holistic understanding of how to approach the abortion wound in both women and men.

The book discusses such topics as the limits of talk therapy, the importance of healing for men and pastoral and sacramental concerns such as repeat confessions and appropriate ministering for those who are post abortive with a history of childhood abuse.

Early praise for *Sharing the Heart of Christ*:

"*Sharing the Heart of Christ* helps us further understand the nature of the abortion trauma, the reason for its persistence and the possibility for healing. Here we learn about the healing power of God's grace coupled with sound psychiatric principles. It is a book filled with hope."

+Robert F. Vasa
Bishop of Baker, OR

"I highly recommend this book for all priests, counselors, and lay people who travel the path towards healing and reconciliation with those who suffer from the wounds of abortion and sexual abuse."

Michelle Krystofik
Associate Director, Respect Life Office
Archdiocese of Newark, NJ

To order your copy today, click [here](#).

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The Mystery, the Drama, the Repetition of Trauma

By Dr. Theresa Burke

The story is weird, bizarre, and a little crazy, but every symptom tells a story and this one has its roots in trauma. 26-year-old Beccah Beushausen created an elaborate pregnancy fantasy as she gained the emotional support and compassion of a million Internet readers who provided affirmation and support as she carried her doomed imaginative pregnancy to term. The fantasy was terminated when a reader recognized the photos as a "reborn doll" and Beccah's secret was exposed, leaving her isolated in grief

and agonizing shame. (We previously wrote about “ReBorn Dolls” in Vine and Branches. Click [here](#) to view the story)

While bewildered bloggers and media pundits refer to Beccah Beushausen as an attention-seeking liar and con artist, no one has made any reference to her actions as a form of traumatic re-enactment.

What is sad for those grieving pregnancy loss, and most especially abortion, is that society does not recognize their unspoken trauma or the symptoms of unresolved grief. Beccah’s story reveals that it was easier to find support by telling lies than by surfacing the truth. It seemed preferable for her to pretend to be a hero in the face of a challenging pregnancy than to face the painful reality of her past abortion and miscarriages. When the grief response is met with “acting out,” the adrenaline produced can become alarmingly addictive.

A central aspect of trauma is a sense of helplessness. Reenactment is a means by which the individual revisits an aspect of the trauma to confront, conquer, and triumph over the experience in an attempt to vanquish helplessness. By its very nature, trauma shatters one’s perceptions of self and world and so the memories related to the trauma are kept in “active memory” to be processed and ordered. As long as these traumatic memories resist the mind’s ability to understand and integrate them, these memories will continue to erupt and reenact the trauma until the survivor successfully develops a new way of understanding what has happened. We call this “mastering the trauma.”

Beccah admits in her apology page that she was sorry for all the lies:

“The #1 question I have been asked in the last few days is what I would tell people online who followed my story, who are now upset to find it is not true. The simplest and most honest way that I can answer why I started lying (even prior to opening my blog) and started my blog is that I am struggling with my life. I have been dealing with unresolved pain that weighs heavy on my heart and which I have been unable to handle alone.”

“I am no stranger to losing a baby. I have suffered this type of loss, more than once, to varying degrees, and while the circumstances and times vary (spanning from between my college years through just this last year), the pain is very constant...”

“In just a few days I have realized the extent of my need for help with past unresolved issues... I truly am sick of running from my pain and sick of escaping the hurts that make up my past. I have now been forced to look at these things with eyes wide open and know I have a very long road ahead of me...”

Reliving a traumatic experience, whether in the form of intrusive thoughts, dreams, or fantasies and actions, carries with it the same emotional intensity of the original event.

Traumatized people do not “repress” their traumatic experience in the sense of “forgetting” memories that evoke unpleasant internal conflicts. During a traumatic experience, the feelings and knowledge of what is happening is so unacceptable, that the memory is barricaded off from the cognitive intellect and the mind refuses to acknowledge it.

At the same time, that quarantined memory, which experienced and remembered the loss, becomes an anchored phantom. The trauma becomes fixed at a certain moment in a person's life -- dissociated from consciousness -- and becomes the material to draw upon in subsequent post-traumatic reenactments.

The concept of traumatic reenactment can be readily applied to women who were not protected during the vulnerable state of pregnancy and then went on to have an abortion. If the abortion was traumatic, or was kept secret, the woman becomes vulnerable to recreating the same feelings of abandonment, despair and helplessness, repeat pregnancies, multiple abortions, and shame. In addition, any feelings (both physical and mental) which accompanied their abortion may tend to surface at later times. Repetitions of the same impressions or sensations may occur through behavioral and physical reenactment of the trauma. It’s not uncommon for women to engage in pregnancy fantasies, obsessions with becoming pregnant, or re-enacting themes of death and destruction through violent crimes, child abuse. Individuals can also think of 101 ways of re-living shame, guilt and grief, and in many cases, eliciting “punishment for their crimes”

or validation of their perceived “badness.” I’ve written about these cases in my book *Forbidden Grief – The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*.

Although their names hit the press, the details of the trauma behind their actions rarely makes it into the headlines. These stories reveal hidden trauma. We need to start recognizing the symptoms and helping those who suffer to face their losses and heal, otherwise they may be doomed to a life of recreating the story in a disguised way. An obsession with pregnancy, reliving lies and betrayals, the rumination about the baby’s impending death, seeking support and compassion for an unknown hurt, attempts to re-write a shattered self image into a hero.... And unfortunately, at the end of the day, as Beccah’s story shows, the secret is eventually exposed, the support has vanished, and she grieves alone.... A virtual replay of the original tragedy.

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“*One Nation Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All!*”
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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

One of the challenges that accompanies any ministry as large as Rachel’s Vineyard is that one always has to try to “catch up” with those who have an outdated understanding of the ministry, and present to them fresh and updated information so that they see the ministry more clearly.

I had to do this recently, for instance, with a group of individuals who are involved in another post-abortion healing effort. They did not know about the “quality control” that is necessary for each site to observe, in order to operate with the name “Rachel’s Vineyard.”

Periodically, it’s important for all of us involved with the ministry to review the basics of our work, the agreements that give shape and protection to our retreats, and the philosophy and guiding principles of our ministry. In this way, we will be strengthened for our work and we will be able to assist others to understand and appreciate the Rachel’s Vineyard ministry more deeply.

Friends, we are blessed. We have been entrusted with a great treasure that the Lord gave to Theresa and Kevin Burke, and through them, to all of us and to the whole Church. Let’s tend the Vineyard with care and invite others to it with confidence!

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director and Chairman, Rachel’s Vineyard
National Director, Priests for Life

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“*The hearts that love will never know winter’s frost and chill. Summer’s warmth is in them still.*”
- Eben Eugene Rexford
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“My Chance” Powerful New Song by Jamie Thietten

Check out this powerful music video by singer/song writer Jamie Thietten, entitled “My Chance.” The five-minute music video tells the sad story of one woman’s only chance at motherhood. The song and video are touching and heartfelt.

Click [here](#) to view this beautiful video and learn more about pro-life artist Jamie Thietten.

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An Independence Day Appeal

We are blessed enough to live in a country that gives us freedom: freedom of religion, of speech, and many others that we may take for granted every day. This Fourth of July consider making a donation that will contribute to the kind of freedom that can't be found anywhere else but in the arms of Christ: the freedom from the burdensome pain of abortion. Your donation can make this Independence Day a life changing one for someone who has been waiting for the chains of post abortion grief to be broken.

Choose how to make your donation:

Online www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

by phone 610-354-0555

by mail PO Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

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New Sites

Rachel's Vineyard welcomes four new sites:

Ruth Southwell will be facilitating a new site in the land down under, **Canberra, AUSTRALIA!** We wish Ruth and her team all the best as they begin their journey as workers in the International Vineyard!

We also welcome and congratulate **Nancy Hadden** of **Cache Creek, BC, Canada** who will be facilitating a team. God bless you and your team Nancy, as you begin the healing work of the Vineyard in Cache Creek!

Lisa Shorba will be facilitating a team in beautiful **Hawaii!** Aloha to all of our new volunteers who will be working with Lisa in the Hawaiian Vineyard!

Linda Riva and her team will begin facilitating Rachel's Vineyard Retreats in **Williamsburg, VA.** God bless you, Linda and team, as you begin Rachel's Vineyard!

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"Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God."

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United in Prayer

We offer prayers for the quick healing and full recovery of Joe Geiger, husband of **Kay Marie Geiger**, who suffered several mini- strokes and had a procedure done June 30 to help his pacemaker. Also remember Joe's brothers Leo and Tony who are battling cancer. God bless them with strength and courage to persevere in faith during these difficult times in their lives.

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Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Grief to Grace - Healing the wounds of Abuse will be held in a number of different locations this year. If you or someone you care about is suffering because of past abuse visit www.griegtograce.org. This new program was composed by Theresa and Kevin Burke, the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, to provide a psychological and spiritual healing journey for anyone impacted by abuse to reclaim sexual dignity.

September 17-21, 2009

Corpus Christi, TX

October 26-29, 2009

Aston, PA

November 19-22, 2009

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

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Upcoming Events and Trainings

Saturday July 4, 2009

Immaculate Heart Radio- Gift of Life
Speakers: Theresa Burke, Ph.D, Kevin Burke MSS/LSW
10am and 3pm
Listen live at www.ihradio.org

Tuesday, July 7, 2009 -- Friday, July 10, 2009

Malvern PA- Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference
Contact: Katie D'Annunzio
katie@rachelsvineyard.org
610-354-0555
Click [here](#) for all the details!

Monday, July 27, 2009 -- Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Catholic Social Workers Annual Conference - Louisville, KY (CLOSED EVENT)
Speaker: Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW

Friday, August 14, 2009 -- Sunday, August 16, 2009

Rachel's Vineyard Conference - Leeds, England
Speaker(s): Theresa Burke, PhD and Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW
Contact info: Deacon Charles Conner charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk
Event details: Friday 8/14 designed for Clergy
CLICK [HERE](#) to view brochure.

Friday, September 25, 2009 to Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and Clinical Training - Honolulu, HI
Speaker(s): Theresa Burke, Ph.D and Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW
Contact Info: Lisa Shorba
808-469-5470
lisaals@hotmail.com
Event Details: Rachel's Vineyard retreat 9/25-27/2009
Clinical Training 9/29/2009

Friday, October 2, 2009 -- Saturday, October 3, 2009

Clinical Training - Baltimore, MD
Speakers: Kevin and Theresa Burke
Contact Info: Denise Douglas
410-354-6900
projectrachel@archbalt.org

Friday, November 6, 2009 -- Saturday, November 7, 2009

Clinical/Regional Training - Tucson, AZ
Speaker: Theresa Burke, PhD
Contact Info: Jean Aggerbeck 520-777-4638
breadbasket777@aol.com

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"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."
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Other Events of Interest

August 9-15, 2009

Hope Alive Level One Training
Contact: Marie Peters-Ney www.mtjoycollege.com

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Upcoming Retreats

July 10 - July 12, 2009 -- Allentown, Pennsylvania

Contact: Maryann Dunn M.S. 866-372-2435 mdunn@allentowndioocese.org

July 10 - July 12, 2009 -- Fresno, California

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 tjen98@sbcglobal.net

Contact: Rosalinda Gutierrez - Español 888-686-8537 rosgonz20@aol.com

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Baltimore, Maryland

Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 projectrachel@archbalt.org

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Crookston, Minnesota

Contact: Ruth Ruch 701-219-3941 ruch@i29.net

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Fargo, North Dakota

Local Host: Diocese of Crookston, MNLifeCare Center of Thief River Falls, MN

Contact: Ruth Ruch 701-219-3941 ruch@i29.net

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844 okcrachel@yahoo.com

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Paterson/Morris County, New Jersey

Local Host: Paterson Diocese

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-777-8818 x264 rachel@patersondiocese.org

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Taipei, Taiwan

Contact: Georgie Hsieh 886-2-933426608 georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Trenton, New Jersey

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 judywarren543@msn.com

July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- York County, Pennsylvania

Contact: Joy 717-788-4959 Rvpamd@gmail.com

Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 projectrachel@archbalt.org

Contact: Peggy Pritchard 717-757-1773 or Vicki Crispo 717-757-4295

July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Contact: Maria Shores 563-322-1645 hopeandhealing@mchsi.com

Contact: Vicki Tyler 309-796-4707

Note: Catholic and Interdenom Retreats

July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Dallas (Español), Texas

Contact: Norma 972-679-4760 sanacion@racheldallas.org

Note: Español

July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Denver, Colorado

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-410-1710 edieg2@aol.com

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 lorgreg@msn.com

July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Indianapolis, Indiana

Local Host: Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Office for Pro-Life Ministry

Contact: Bernadette Roy 317-831-2892

Contact: Sr. Diane 317-236-1521 dcarollo@archindy.org

Contact: Toll-free 800-382-9836 x1521

July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Temple, Texas

Local Host: Hope Pregnancy Center, Inc.

Contact: Linda Tamez 254-624-1647 linda.tamez@hot.rr.com

July 31 - August 2, 2009 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: Mary Ann McNeil 404-717-5557 pathmcneil@earthlink.net

Website: www.healingafterabortion.org

July 31 - August 2, 2009 -- Omaha/Lincoln, Nebraska

Contact: Heather 402-871-4812 helpingrachel@yahoo.com

July 31 - August 2, 2009 -- South Bend, Indiana

Contact: Sue Brazo 269-683-2229 ndsue33@hotmail.com

Contact: Sue Brazo 269-683-7176

August 7 - August 9, 2009 -- Longbranch, Washington

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE valeriepr@aol.com

August 7 - August 9, 2009 -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Contact: Nancy Blom 952-882-2072 rvr-nancy@usfamily.net

August 14 - August 16, 2009 -- Mesa, Arizona

Local Host: St. Timothy & St Thomas the Apostle

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 mkord@cox.net

August 14 - August 16, 2009 -- Miami, Florida

Local Host: Clamor de Vida y Esperanza Ministry

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 clamordevida@aim.com

Note: Spanish

August 14 - August 16, 2009 -- Saginaw, Michigan

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652 sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

August 14 - August 16, 2009 -- Upstate / Greenville, South Carolina

Local Host: Diocese of Charleston

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 grace4healing@gmail.com

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 postabortionhealing@gmail.com

August 21 - August 23, 2009 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Local Host: Diocese of Camden

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL sclaudy@camdendiocese.org

Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 popejp2rc@verizon.net

August 21 - August 23, 2009 -- Palm Beach, Florida

Contact: Donna Gardner 561-602-4778 isaiah61@bellsouth.net

Retreat Location: Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

August 21 - August 23, 2009 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 toniafj1@comcast.net

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

August 21 - August 23, 2009 -- Sydney, New South Wales Australia

Contact: Debbie 02-9440-7980 info@rachelsvineyard.org.au

August 27 - August 30, 2009 -- Richardton, North Dakota

Local Host: Bismarck Diocese

Contact: Carol Kling 605-374-5639 ckling@sdplains.com

August 28 - August 30, 2009 -- Fort Worth, Texas

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 forgiven@racheltx.org

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 469-767-8669 misericordia@racheltx.org

August 28 - August 30, 2009 -- Tampa, Florida

Contact: Emma Boe 813-631-4370 eboe@ccdosp.org

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