

Vine & Branches
The monthly e-newsletter of
Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

February 2013



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.

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Bleeding Hearts

by: Jodi Miller

This morning as I pulled open the shade these bleeding hearts caught my eye. How beautiful and full of color I thought as I walked away. Suddenly it was as if God said, "Stop and take another look. Yes, indeed they are beautiful for I made them. Look at how their hearts are split that's why they are called bleeding hearts."

Then I thought about all the broken hearts that have been torn in two by abortion. The women who were told abortion was not only their right, but it would fix "the problem". When they agreed and followed through with the abortion their hearts were split in two and left to hang alone just like these bleeding hearts all on one limb.

No one to care for them. No one to catch their tears or so they thought...

Then, in God's undeniable way some of those bleeding hearts began to heal – they found out that God had been with them all along and caught every tear.

Slowly, they began to trust again, and then eventually found love again.

Their bleeding hearts no longer shed regretful tears, but they overflow with peace and joy. They now have a strong desire to share God's amazing grace with the other post abortive bleeding hearts. They no longer hang alone bleeding on that branch but now that branch has become the healing vine connecting each one of those bleeding hearts.

Rachel's Vineyard Welcomes Newest Member of International Office Team

The last week in January was exciting time for the staff at the International Rachel's Vineyard office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania as they welcomed their newest team member, **Lairen Vogan**. Lairen joins the team as an administrative assistant, offering her skills in office management and communications to make the ministry more efficient than ever!

While Rachel's Vineyard had been looking to hire another staff member, Lairen had been searching for just the right place where she could use her gifts for something greater, "I have been looking for a workplace that would utilize my talents in a way I have not been able to use them previously. After many a long search I have finally found that at Rachel's Vineyard. I am so excited to be a part of the RV family, doing the work that God has designed for us."

We could not be happier to welcome Lairen to the team and invite you to welcome her to the Rachel's Vineyard Community!

Lairen will be at your service to assist with any questions you may have regarding the ministry and can be reached at 610-354-0555 or 2assistant@rachelvineyard.org.

Emotional Quicksand: The Hidden Pain of Men by Kevin Burke LSW, Co-Founder Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Michael Addis, Ph.D., writing in the December online issue of Atlantic magazine reveals a life threatening problem for men. You are probably thinking... prostate cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes? These are all serious health concerns and while there is still much more to do, we have seen an increase in education and awareness.

But, Dr. Addis writes of a different kind of disease that can strike men. This sickness lies deep in the recesses of the male psyche that features a self inflicted shame-based silence. This silence leaves men isolated and vulnerable to choosing death rather than revealing their secret areas of pain to a family member, colleague or friend.

Cut out the BS!

Dr. Addis was working in an inpatient psychiatric unit when he

interviewed Patrick, a handsome successful looking man with no previous mental health history. He was surprised to read in his chart that Patrick's son recently discovered his father sitting on a couch in his family room with a loaded gun to his head. Initially the interview skated along on a superficial level revealing little of what led Patrick to such an obvious act of despair. Fortunately, Dr. Addis offered some effective tough love rather than just going through the motions of the interview..."Can we be straight with each other and cut out the BS?"

Patrick revealed a series of business failures that led to an increasing disparity between his wealthy lifestyle and the reality of his financial situation which over time made it impossible to pay the mortgage for his big fancy house. Patrick's depression increased as he kept his family and friends under the illusion that he and his business were just fine...all the time his economic and emotional prospects were in free-fall.

Dr. Addis reveals:

He couldn't face working, but he also couldn't face telling people how bad things had gotten. Instead, he got up each morning, dressed as if he was going to work, forced a smile for his family, and either drove around the city or sat at a local coffee shop all day reading the newspaper. Eventually the depression became so overwhelming that he saw no other way out. The Atlantic.com, Invisible Men, page 3

A Sniveling Little Boy

Why didn't he share his financial difficulties and pain with friends or family?

I should have been able to handle it...I fell apart and turned into a sniveling little boy... 'Oh Mommy, please help me?' I couldn't let people see me like that. (Invisible Men pg 4)

A Newsweek feature on male depression had this to add:

"...even when they realize they have a problem, men often view asking for help as an admission of weakness - a betrayal of their male identities..." Newsweek-Feb 26 2007 Issue: Men and Depression

Clearly many men have a lot of their self esteem and identity wrapped around their professional/business life. Men learn from the schoolyard to the boardroom that revealing vulnerability and an inability to handle emotional or physical pain is a big mistake that will lead to ridicule and shame.

Being strong and working hard to provide for one's family is an important and honorable part of male identity. However sometimes men need to

share the burden of raising their families with their spouse, family and friends. This idea of the solitary male hero is an entertaining and sometimes inspiring image in an adventure movie...but it is far removed from the real world and the difficulty negotiating the personal and business challenges of modern life.

Men and Abortion-Emotional Quicksand

But financial challenges are not the only emotional quicksand that can ensnare men. I have found in my experience as a clinical social worker that a man's experience of abortion can also leave him emotionally reeling without the support and information he needs to negotiate this life changing experience. Given the current abortion statistics (50 million since 1973) millions of men have been involved, in some way, in an abortion decision and procedure.

Regardless of one's moral and political position on abortion, the reality is that many men experience their participation in abortion as a confusing and highly stressful experience. For those men who have ambivalence and especially those that do not support the abortion and are powerless to stop it, the aftermath can be especially devastating.

Jason Baier writes in *Redeeming a Father's Heart* of his experience after being powerless to stop his partner's abortion:

"I...would often break down and cry from depression...I was angry all the time...stricken with panic attacks...No one seemed to understand or know how to deal with my loss." (*Redeeming a Father's Heart* , Pg 33)

Jason, like Patrick isolated and despairing, decided to take a bottle of prescribed sleeping pills and "never wake up." Fortunately, he experienced a moment of spiritual grace that held back his hand and released a deep seismic explosion of fatherly grief from the loss of his child. Strengthened by this outpouring of grief, he read Dr. Catherine Coyle's *Men and Abortion: A Path to Healing* and was now on the road to real healing and recovery. Jason now serves as President of the Fatherhood Forever Foundation and is a member of the Men and Abortion Network both offering excellent education and healing resources for men suffering after abortion.

Breaking the Deadly Silence

Dr Addis broke through the deadly superficiality and the isolating silence that nearly killed his patient Patrick. Men who have suffered the loss of a child by participating in an abortion need a safe place of trust and acceptance but also one of truth where they can freely share their experience of abortion and find healing. As Patrick learned, men need the support and connection with others in sharing their struggles and pain.

Men suffering after abortion and other areas of grief and loss learn that in sharing their weakness and getting help when suffering, they become stronger and better men and fathers. This is male strength rooted in humility and community. Men learn the life saving message that we can't handle it all on our own, and reject the deadly isolation and the depression that takes root in loneliness and false pride.

For men like Patrick and Jason...it is truly a matter of life and death.

Kevin Burke, LSW is co founder of Rachel's Vineyard a healing ministry of Priests for Life and author of Redeeming a Father's Heart: Men Share Powerful Stories of Abortion Loss and Recovery.

Originally published in February 2012 on www.menandabortion.com

A Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

When we think of February we think of candy hearts, romance, flowers...we think of LOVE! But, the most powerful love of all is not found in a Hallmark card, a dozen roses or a box of chocolates; the most powerful love reaches out a caring hand to those broken and in need.

This February, why not pledge to be that loving hand for someone who is hurting after abortion? Make a one time donation or sign up to make regular monthly donations.

EVERY AMOUNT COUNTS.

This Valentine's day, lets fill the world with the power of God's healing love. Donate TODAY.

Please consider making a generous donation today.

Your donation will make the difference for someone who desperately needs healing.

Here's how to make a donation:

Online: www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

By Phone: 610-354-0555

By Mail: P.O. Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends: *Women of Grace* ft. Fr. Ben Cameron of Rachel's Vineyard

Fr. Ben Cameron of Fathers of Mercy and Rachel's Vineyard Kentucky, was featured on a series of shows on Johnette Benkovic's program *Women of Grace* on EWTN. The episodes aired the week of the March for Life and featuring a woman named Patricia as well who shared her compelling story of abortion, hope and healing.

Watch Fr. Ben discuss the healing power of God's mercy through Rachel's Vineyard!

Check out these moving episodes here:

<http://www.womenofgrace.com/en-us/media/tv/details.aspx?id=525>

Rachel's Vineyard on the Radio

Both Dr. Theresa Burke and Kevin Burke, LSW were featured on different radio programs during the week of the March for Life, the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Dr. Theresa Burke was interviewed on January 23rd by Rita Schulte for a podcast program entitled "**Heartline Podcast.**" You can listen to the podcast here: <http://ritaschulte.com/category/podcasts/>.

Or you can go to iTunes podcasts and type in Heartline Podcast and subscribe—it's free!

Kevin Burke, LSW was a Guest January 24th on the ***At Home with Jim and Joy Pinto*** radio program.

<http://www.ewtn.com/radio/other/athomewithjimandjoy.asp>

Kevin presented a brief introduction on how abortion impacts Fathers, followed by questions from callers. The response was amazing. A diverse group of women and men shared from their post abortion struggles or that of their spouse or child and Kevin had an opportunity to offer understanding and support and direct them to the many Rachel's Vineyard retreats across the country waiting to welcome them with God's mercy and healing. Many of you have been blessed by hearing Jim and Joy speak at our RV Leadership Conferences on marriage and family life. You can learn more about them and their beautiful ministry here:

<http://www.jimandjoypinto.com>

Rachel's Vineyard Social Networking

Click the links below to visit Rachel's Vineyard social networking sites. Join today and send to your friends and family!

Facebook Fan Page: www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard

Facebook Cause: www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard

Check out our new Youtube videos!:

www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

United in Prayer

For all those whose abortions have left them broken hearted this Valentine's Day, that God will lead them to healing and forgiveness.

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

Philadelphia, PA

Contact: info@griegtograce.org 610-203-2002

February 16- 21, 2013

Kelowna, BC

Contact: G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

April 18-21, 2013

Upcoming Events

Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association Annual Convention

April 26 & 27 2013

Dr. Theresa Burke will be presenting at the Convention

To register for this event call 306-752-9421 or 306-752-9614

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Charlotte, NC

Contact: Deacon Tom Rasmussen 828-495-7234

deacontom@centurylink.net

Contact: Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol 704-370-3229

MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org

Contact: Shelley Glanton 828-230-4940 sglantonop@charter.net

February 01, 2013- February 03, 2013

Tulsa, OK

Contact: Mary Lee Ingram 918-508-7142

milingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

February 01, 2013- February 03, 2013

Spokane, WA

Contact: Julie Olson 509-994-4355 spokanerv@gmail.com

Friday, February 01, 2013 - February 03, 2013

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717 ml.mason@att.net

February 07, 2013- February 09, 2013

Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 christinew@firstresort.net

Contact: Valerie Johnson Fish 707-967-1101

rachelsvineyard@gmail.com

February 08, 2013 - February 10, 2013

Lake Charles, LA

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317

rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

February 08, 2013 - February 10, 2013

El Paso, TX

Contact: Lupe Aguilera 915-867-8016

rachelsvineyard@elpasodiocese.org

February 08, 2013 - February 10, 2013

Longbranch, WA

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

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

February 08, 2013 - February 10, 2013

San Bernardino, CA

Contact: Blanca Leal-McGuthrie (Español) 909-238-4037

blmcguthrie@yahoo.com

Contact: Mary Huber - (English) 909-475-5352

mhuber@sbdiocese.org

February 15, 2013 - February 17, 2013

Wichita, KS

Contact: Bonnie Toombs 316-269-3935

toombsb@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org

February 15, 2013 - February 17, 2013

Bologna, Italy

www.vignadirachele.org

Contact: Italia-Nord Valeria D'Antonio 011-39-347-262-5321

valedantony@katamail.com

Contact: Italia-Sud Monika e Domenico Montanaro 39.099.7724.518

info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it

Language: Italian

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871

judywarren543@msn.com

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Dallas (Español), TX

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760 sanacion@racheldallas.org

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Hamden, CT

Contact: Marie Laffin 203-631-9030 mlaffin@prolifeministry.org

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Saginaw, MI

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

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Denver, CO

Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406

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

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Kansas City (Northland) Interdenom, MO

Contact: Kathy & Dan Hawk 816-401-4594 rv.north.kc@gmail.com

February 22, 2013 - February 24, 2013

Roanoke/Blacksburg (Interdenom), VA

Contact: Linda 540-525-7513 RoanokeRachelsVineyard@gmail.com

March 01, 2013 - March 03, 2013

Miami, FL

Contact: Christy Acevedo 305-479-9230 cloesq28@bellsouth.net

March 01, 2013 - March 03, 2013

El Paso, TX

Contact: Lupe Aguilera 915-867-8016

rachelsvineyard@elpasodiocese.org

March 01, 2013 - March 03, 2013

Janesville (Interdenom), WI

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608-235-7542 rancher868@charter.net

Contact: Pregnancy Helpline 608-755-9739 cheryl@pregnancy-helpline.net

March 01, 2013 - March 03, 2013

Lubbock, TX

Contact: Kathy Krile 806-577-5912

lbb_rachelsvineyard@hotmail.com

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Allentown, PA

Contact: Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ 866-372-2435

mcole@allentowndiocese.org

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Linden, NJ

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 arnewrespect@sjanj.net

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Rockford (Interdenom), IL

Contact: Catherine Rennert 815-968-1157 cathy.rennert@gmail.com

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Providence, RI

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118

rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Las Vegas, NV

Contact: Kathleen Miller 702-737-1672 katm419@aol.com

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Las Vegas (Español), NV

Contact: Maria Vasquez 702-283-8379 shalom_m@msn.com

March 08, 2013 - March 10, 2013

Fresno, CA

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626

butcher_jennifer@yahoo.com

Contact: Paula Davalos - Español 888-686-8537 paula.d@fbcares.org

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

York County, PA

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

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Medford, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine 541-942-2861 ProjectAurora@aol.com

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Indianapolis, IN

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

Contact: Toll-free 800-382-9836 x1521

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Confidential Phone Line 520-743-6777

Contact: Gail Phelps 520-234-0208 dphelps12@cox.net

Contact: Judy Barnett 520-237-9034 judybarnett@q.com

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Peoria, IL

Contact: Colleen Harmon 815-303-1184 ceharmon2012@gmail.com

Contact: Steve Harmon sharmon61@yahoo.com

Contact: Terri LaHood 309-671-1550 tlahood@cdop.org

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Tampa, FL

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 emmaboe@aol.com

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Morganton (Interdenom), NC

Contact: Kim Ollis 828-919-8020 kimberly.ollis@hushmail.me

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Philadelphia Area, PA

Contact: Geri Simboli 610-399-0890 simboli2@earthlink.net

Contact: Priscilla O'Connor 215-906-6337 oconnorp1@comcast.net

March 15, 2013 - March 17, 2013

Temecula, CA

Contact: Dolores Dunphy 951-325-7702 rvtmecula@msn.com
March 22, 2013 - March 24, 2013

Corpus Christi, TX

Contact: Desda Tansey 361-960-6252 ccrachelsvineyard@yahoo.com

Contact: Fr. Tom Goodwin 361-947-2624 thepadre@goccn.org

March 22, 2013 - March 24, 2013