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

April 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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Blessed are the Humble, for They Will Inherit the Earth

By: Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the Earth. Sounds weird doesn't it? The humble are probably the least bit interested in inheriting the earth and all its possessions and wealth! Yet, for those who authentically work for the kingdom of God, reality and life are frequently turned completely upside down.

I have always taught that those who don't actually want the job of ministering in Rachel's Vineyard are actually the most qualified. When you are involved in a high powered ministry of healing which is solely granted through the grace and mercy and authentic power of Christ, it's not unusual for some deeply wounded people to seek a prideful position of feeling responsible or taking the credit for another's healing. It's these people who cause me concern.

Doing the work in the name of God, or any position of power and authority, for that matter, brings inherent risks for those with a personal agenda to compensate for areas in one's life where they may need deeper levels of healing of previous trauma or loss. Sadly, we have all witnessed the horror of church abuse with priests, pastors and TV evangelists who get swept up in their own pride as they circumvent accountability and lead secret double lives: as saints by day, yet becomes something else in the darkness. In less dramatic cases, some coworkers can become like psychic vampires, sucking the life and energy from team unity and destroying healthy communication.

I am fond of saying the most dangerous person in any ministry is the one who has not done the work of their own healing. People often replicate the same family dysfunction they may have suffered in childhood in their place of work or ministry. This is the number one reason why we require any person who wants to help with our programs to go through it as a participant first. They are always surprised what God reveals to them and the tender way he brings a new peace to a very old, sometimes forgotten pain. God naturally wants to fill us before; we empty ourselves into His work.

Integration and healing from trauma is necessary before we can assume any kind of healthy leadership. **Depression and Trauma are disconnective disorders. They do not improve in isolation. To fix them you must be connected to others.**

I am thankful that we have a ministry that helps people release toxic secrets in a community of caregivers... working together as the suffering body of Christ. Alone we can't really offer much, but together, respecting the unique roles of functions of each member, a beautiful environment can be created where there is safety and healing are thereby accelerated. God's love can shine! Real healing empowers the ability to live in the present moment....in Freedom! Authentic ministry will always end up on the cross – challenging us to die to ourselves, our pride and egos. Those who can't endure or refuse the cross, risk being controlling, manipulative and compulsively driven leaders.

Those who don't aspire to personal greatness will be great. Conversely, those who have sacrificed others to advance themselves will eventually, in God's time, be brought down.

What helps us to be humble? True humility begins when we're on our knees before God, astounded by his greatness, submitted to his sovereignty, and focused on his blessings. The more we experience the majesty of God we can be free to celebrate rather than control the precious gifts others possess. The more we endure the cross of Christ, the more we are aware of our frailty and dependence, and can see no options but forgiveness and mercy as we work for justice and truth.

Humility also comes as we focus upon Christ, who offered himself as our teacher, explaining that he is "humble and gentle;" that" his "burden is light." The humility of Jesus could not have been more overstated: he was fully human and yet submitted himself to the torture, humiliation and excruciating pain of crucifixion as he embraced our sinfulness. It's not an easy calling – but we are instructed to imitate Christ. It's certainly not a task for the faint of heart or those consumed with their own comfort and positions of authority and power. Humility isn't easy, especially in a world that prizes success and self-promotion. To be humble about our accomplishments might even seem like a professional dead end ticket to nowhere.

As Jesus shared, the laborers are few but the harvest is plenty! The world instructs us to climb on and over anyone in our way and even the most reasonable consultants and business advisors and well meaning professionals all say, "Go for the gold!" But Jesus invites us to "Be still and know He is God." He also says, "Blessed are those who are humble, for they shall inherit the earth!"

In this Easter season, let us turn to Christ with gratitude for his example,

his perseverance and his willingness to lose all for the sake of saving sweet souls. I pray that we can all be inspired to imitate his example and follow his lead in dying to ourselves so that we can have life in its fullest abundance and serve those who come into our care with purity of heart and God inspired purpose. Then you will last for the long haul and not tire as we all run the race toward eternity.

Can Dry Bones Live Again? A Scripture Reflection

By: Richetta Lobban

To join in the following reflection, you are invited to first read the scripture passage of Ezekiel 37:1-14; Mark 5:21-24, and Mark 5:35-43

Can dry bones live again? Not too long ago, I would have thought not, but I had hope. Can the heart of a dead girl beat again? I wasn't so sure, but I prayed that in my case, it would.

Although I didn't know it at the time, my heart had been traumatized by poor decisions. A major one killed it. However, I find it interesting that something as dead as my heart seemed that it, could feel so much pain.

I remember reading or hearing somewhere that pain is the body's way of letting us know that something isn't right and that we should tend to it, instead of ignoring it. Maybe God sent that crushing pain (the pain that made me wish I was dead) to tell me that it was time to deal with the wounds in my life. Those wounds had caused me to build a thick wall of anger, hatred, distrust, and resentment.

It has taken me a while (a good while), but this year I have been able to tear down some of that wall. I have been able to let some of those negative feelings go, though I constantly battle myself not to pick them up again. And because God was finally able to soften my heart (even though I fought Him long on that one) He recently brought me back to life! He put a new song in my soul! I haven't felt this excited about a desire for more than 20 years. I have a dream; I have a goal to strive for. It feels good. It feels right.

Can dry bones live again? Yes. Can the heart of a dead girl beat again? I'm a witness. Despite my rebellion, God was patient with me. Despite my fears, He works on me. Despite me, He loves me. He loves you, too.

Richetta Lobban attended a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

EWTN's Women of Grace features Rachel's Vineyard's Fr. Ben Cameron

The popular "Woman of Grace" EWTN program with Johnnette Benkovic will be repeating the excellent episode featuring Rachel Vineyard Kentucky leader and Father of Mercy, Fr Ben Cameron. This was an excellent program with a powerful personal witness and great pastoral and clinical insights from Fr Ben. Don't miss it and make sure to alert others about the program.

Healing and Hope After Abortion

- 4/22/2013 The Post-Abortive Woman: Healing and Hope Part 1
- 4/23/2013 The Post-Abortive Woman: Healing and Hope Part 2
- 4/24/2013 The Post-Abortive Woman: Healing and Hope Part 3
- 4/25/2013 The Post-Abortive Woman: Healing and Hope Part 4
- 4/26/2013 The Post-Abortive Woman: Healing and Hope Part 5

A Message from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Catholic Church has been blessed with a new Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is quite aware of the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard because of our activity in Argentina. (Moreover, as Cardinal he has been a member of the Pontifical Council for the Family, the office at the Vatican where I worked and which oversees the Church's pro-life activities -- and which in various ways has heralded and supported the work of Rachel's Vineyard.)

We have all seen this Pope's desire to be close to the lowly, the weak, and the forgotten. And his homily at his installation Mass was all about protecting the weak.

Abortion not only kills the weakest of the weak, the children in the womb, but it weakens Mom and Dad. It weakens them in their very identity as Mom and Dad, as life-giver and protector. It weakens their self-esteem, their relationships with others and with God, and countless other dimensions of their lives.

From this perspective, then, we can consider the work of Rachel's Vineyard as a work of protecting those we serve. We are protecting the weak from the ongoing wounds of abortion, from the merciless tricks that their own minds and emotions can play on them, and from the callousness of others.

Let us continue to protect the weak, parents and children alike, and let's pray that under the leadership of Pope Francis, the Church will be even more responsive to their needs.

Sincerely,
Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
National Director, Priests for Life

Welcome New Sites

Rachel's Vineyard joyfully welcomes new sites:

Cullman, AL under the leadership of Maria Steele
Kenosha, WI under the leadership of Donna Brendel

Also:

We are pleased to announce that the Lebanon site is back up and running under the leadership of Brid Gemayel!

We would like to offer a warm welcome Maria, Donna and Brid as they embark on their journey as leaders in the Vineyard!

A Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

As spring unfolds all around us and we celebrate the mystery and majesty of our Risen Lord, let's embrace the spirit of love and generosity of the season. If you've thought about donating before, but have not: NOW is the time. Easter is a time of forgiveness, hope and new beginnings. Your donation will give those suffering because of abortion the hope and healing that they so desperately desire, the long awaited new beginning that they long for.

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

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants: A Fond Farewell to Our Outstanding Leaders!

Let us give a fond Farewell to Lupe Aguilera, she has been accepted to the Catholic Theological Union Masters program. Lupe has been very helpful in translating many Rachel's Vineyard materials and Living Scriptures into Spanish. She will be turning over her leadership role to two women who will continue the Rachel's Vineyard ministry in El Paso, TX. Lupe shared this note with us:

Dear RV Family,

I wanted to introduce you to our new English and Spanish site coordinators. Anna Lisa Peña will be our new English Site Coordinator and Silvia Chiocco will be our Spanish Site Coordinator. Many of you may have met Silvia at our last Leadership Conference in Malvern where

she made many connections with our Hispanic leaders. It has been the greatest honor for me to be associated with Rachel's Vineyard and I know that I leave this ministry in good hands. You all are in my prayers.

Until we meet again,

Lupe Aguilera

We congratulate Lupe on her acceptance to Graduate School!

We would also like to say Farewell to Sharla and Dave Wells. Due to their recent move out of the Lancaster, KY area, they have decided to step down as leaders of the Lancaster, KY site. Sharla would like the Rachel's Vineyard family to know that she is keeping you all in her heart, she prays that Rachel's Vineyard continues to grow and help those in need. She has turned her leadership role over to Ellie Durbin, whom she believes will be able to keep the Lancaster, KY site running for many years to come.

We would like to offer a warm welcome Anna Lisa, Silvia and Ellie as they embark on their journey as leaders in the Vineyard!

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

We asked for continued prayers for **Eugenia Hadley** as she continues her battle with stage 4 melanoma. She recently had successful surgery to remove some of the cancer and is doing well! Please continue to pray for total healing! Without Eugenia's hard work Rachel's Vineyard would not be so well established in the Latin American community and throughout South America. Let us pray together for her continued healing and peace.

We also, pray in thanksgiving for **Theresa Burke's** ongoing recovery from Reflexive Sympathetic Dystrophy and that she continues to make miraculous progress! We are appreciative for the many prayers for her family as well.

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

Kelowna, BC - Retreat - Contact: G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

April 18-21, 2013

Yellowknife, NT Contact: G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

June 1-4, 2013

For more information about Grief to Grace visit www.greiftograce.org

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
Or log on to: http://www.saskprolife.com/2013_convention.

Stockbridge, MA - Rachel's Vineyard Team Training

May 11, 2013

Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting the training for Rachel's Vineyard Team Members

To register please contact Suzanne DeFriesse at 203-417-0504 or via email at luvthegospa@hotmail.com

Please RSVP by May 4, 2013

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Madison, WI

Contact: Mary Mead 608-221-9593

meadmt@sbcglobal.net

Contact: Mary Mead 608-821-3177

rachel@straphael.org

April 12, 2013- April 14, 2013

Fort Worth, TX

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 817-886-4760

misericordia@racheltx.org

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757

forgiven@racheltx.org

April 12, 2013- April 14, 2013

Chandler (Interdenom), AZ

Contact: Linda Diamond 480-309-0625

RachelsVineyardAZ@hotmail.com

April 12, 2013- April 14, 2013

Longbranch, WA

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE

valeriepr@aol.com

April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

Kansas City, MO

Contact: Sr. Maria Stella 816-363-9489

rvkcmo@gmail.com

April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

Metuchen (Español), NJ
Contact:Carmen 908-303-8150
April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

Knoxville, TN
Contact:Catherine McHugh 865-694-4971
peace4lilith@aol.com
April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

Provincia Colon, Panama
Contact:Maria Jose (507) 442-0683
Contact:Sister Maria Magdalena (011507)-442-0683
April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

Hildesheim,Germany
Contact:Anne Arthur
amecarthur@yahoo.com
Contact:Christiane Kurpik +49-(0)5121-133761
chrkur@web.de
April 12, 2013 - April 14, 2013

North Battleford, SK
Contact: Bonnie Cameron 306-480-8911
r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net
Friday, April 12, 2013
Sunday, April 14, 2013

Prescott Valley, AZ
Contact:Magdalin Leonardo 928-713-9504
rvpvaz@gmail.com
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Great Falls/Helena, MT
Contact:Susan Gliko 406-442-0607
susanmtrv@msn.com
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Fond du Lac (Interdenom), WI
Contact:Hartford Pregnancy Help Center 262-673-3733
Contact:Laura Denk 262-224-5617
laura@hartfordpregnancy.org
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Steubenville, OH
Contact: Sharon Maedke 740-283-3636
aimhelpcenter@sbcglobal.net
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Arlington, VA
Contact: Project Rachel 703-841-2504
projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org
Contact: Project Rachel 888-456-HOPE
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Spokane, WA
Contact: Julie Olson 509-994-4355
spokanerv@gmail.com
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Denver, CO
Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406
Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414
lorgreg@msn.com
April 19, 2013 - April 21, 2013

Cache Creek, BC
Contact: Nancy Hadden 250-267-5081
rvkamloops@yahoo.ca
April 24, 2013 - April 26, 2013

Asheville, NC
Contact: 1 Shelley Glanton 828-230-4940
sglantonop@charter.net
Contact: 2 Carla Haire 828-342-4655
cwool76@frontier.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Bend, OR
Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074
ProjectRachel@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Doylestown, PA
Contact:Evelyn 215-317-5752
evelynwalsh59@gmail.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Rapid City, SD
Contact:Carol Kling 605-374-5639
ckling@sdplains.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Honolulu, HI
Contact:Lisa Shorba 808-349-5071
RVinHawaii@gmail.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Omaha/Lincoln, NE
Contact:Heather 402-253-9936
helpingrachel@yahoo.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

San Jose (Interdenom), CA
Contact:Maria Klein 650-988-9400
maria@dxdt.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Springfield, MA
Contact:Jean Suddaby 413-452-0661
Contact:Suzanne DeFriesse 203-417-0504
luvthegospa@hotmail.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Stockton, CA
Contact:Kim Fuentes 209-465-5433
respectlife@stocktondiocese.org
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Citrus Heights, CA
Contact:Kim Fuentes 209-465-5433
respectlife@stocktondiocese.org
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Orange County (Interdenom), CA
Contact:Sandy White 949-322-8575
ocrvinterdenom@gmail.com
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Upstate / Greenville, SC
Contact:Christy 803-554-6088
grace4healing@gmail.com
Contact:Kathy 803-546-6010
famlifecor@earthlink.net
April 26, 2013 - April 28, 2013

Kenosha (Interdenom), WI
Contact:Donna Brendel 262-620-3608
donna@midwest.cc
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Hudson (Interdenom), WI
Contact:Carla Stream 715-381-5668
carlastream@gmail.com
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Savannah , GA
Contact:Stephanie May 912-201-4059
scmay@diosav.org
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Los Angeles (Español), CA
Contact: 877-272-7835
Contact: 877-8-RAQUEL
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Pittsburgh (Western PA) Interdenom, PA
Contact:Abigayle Koller 412-977-9521
rachelsvineyard.westernpa@yahoo.com
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Joliet / Romeoville, IL
Contact:Kay Corcoran 866-99-4-GIVE
corcoran-family@sbcglobal.net
May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Fort Worth, TX

Contact:Macaria (espanol) 817-886-4760

misericordia@racheltx.org

Contact:Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757

forgiven@racheltx.org

May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Dallas, TX

Contact:Lacy de la Garza 214 544 2273

healing@racheldallas.org

May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Ottawa, ON

Contact:Terry or Lynda Munroe 613-806-5522

rvr_ottawa@yahoo.ca

May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Vancouver, BC

Contact:Doreen Yung 604-525-0999

vancouver.rachelsvineyard@rcav.bc.ca

Contact:Respect Life Office 604-443-3256

rlo@rcav.org

May 03, 2013 - May 05, 2013

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Click here for retreat site details

Contact:Nancy Blom 763-250-9313

rvr-nancy@usfamily.net

May 10, 2013 - May 12, 2013

Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA

Contact:Christine 415-260-4406

christinew@firstresort.net

Contact:Valerie Johnson Fish 707-967-1101

rachelsvineyard@gmail.com

May 17, 2013 - May 19, 2013

Orlando/Central Florida, FL
Contact:Karen Reilly 321-662-5097
karenreilly57@gmail.com
May 17, 2013 - May 19, 2013

Minneapolis/St. Paul (Interdenominational), MN
Contact:Debbi Stocco 651-206-8926
dstocco@nationalrd.com
May 17, 2013 - May 19, 2013

Oklahoma City, OK
Contact:Joanne Forgue 405-623-3844
rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com
Contact:Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844
okcrachel@yahoo.com
May 24, 2013 - May 26, 2013

San Bernardino, CA
Contact:Blanca Leal-McGuthrie (Español)
909-520-3867 blancamcguthrie@gmail.com
Contact:Mary Huber - (English)
909-475-5352 mhuber@sbdiocese.org
May 24, 2013 - May 26, 2013

Encino (Interdenominational), CA
Contact: 310-846-3227
Contact:Tegra Little 310-433-6008
nolongerbound@faithfamily.org
May 24, 2013 - May 26, 2013

Palm Beach (Español), FL
Contact:Emily Babilonia-Gonzalez 561-966-8580
ebabilonia12@bellsouth.net
May 24, 2013 - May 26, 2013

Kelowna, BC
Contact:Janet Kormish 250-762-2273
rv.kelowna@hotmail.com
May 24, 2013 - May 26, 2013

Albany Area, NY

Contact: Kathleen Whimple 518-469-0779

Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Contact: Mrs. Pat Mousaw 518-222-1160

Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013

Northern New York, NY

Contact: Colleen Miner 518-891-2309

cbm510@roadrunner.com

May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013

Grand Rapids, MI

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824

mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

Contact: Toll-free (MI only) 800-800-8284

May 31, 2013 - June 01, 2013

Tulsa, OK

Contact: Mary Lee Ingram 918-508-7142

m Ingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013

Kansas City (Northland) Interdenom, MO

Contact: Kathy & Dan Hawk 816-401-4594

rv.north.kc@gmail.com

Friday, May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013

Detroit Area, MI

Contact: Chris Elwart 248-494-6363

info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org

May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013

Winnipeg (Interdenom), MB

Contact: Chris Mackay 204-772-1923

loss@pregnancy.ca

May 31, 2013 - June 02, 2013