

December 2007

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Crib Notes



I can do all things!

(Alli gave her testimony at the Lois' Lodge banquet)

My name is Alli. When I was 19, I learned I was pregnant. I was so scared. I thought my life was over. I just knew that my parents were going to disown me and my friends were going to leave me. I had grown up going to church and in a community where everyone knew my family. My town is a big football town and my dad was the coach for our college team for several years. No one knew how to react. The

father of the baby, who was 17 did not want the added responsibility of a child and was encouraging me to develop an adoption plan. I was really confused and stressed about my situation. I learned about Lois' Lodge from a family friend who had stayed there during her pregnancy. She and her family were very positive about Lois' Lodge and thought that it would be a good place for me to go. Her father had been my parent's pastor so we really valued his input.

I learned a lot during my time at Lois' Lodge. I learned that God and my family will always be there for me and will always love me, even when I screw up. I also learned to take responsibility for my choices and my actions. In the beginning I was pretty high maintenance. Several times a week I would run into Debbie's office either telling her "I am so stressed" or "I am going to go crazy". She always remained annoyingly calm. I used to think- "Doesn't she get it? This is a serious crisis!" Over time I discovered what she already knew- "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*". I became a lot less dramatic and more confident about my ability to cope.

I grew so much during my stay at Lois' Lodge. My favorite part about being at Lois' Lodge was probably learning how to do things on my own. I actually learned how to cook. I even reached the point that instead of always calling someone to ask them how to do something, I was able to figure it out on my own. Another area of growth for me was in the spiritual area. I grew to love going to church and spending time in the word. Not because my parents dragged me there but because I wanted to go.

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The girls that stayed with me at Lois' Lodge are like my sisters and I would do anything for them any day. They taught me so much. We all came from different backgrounds but we were so bonded because of going through this experience together. Some of the girls that were in Lois' Lodge with me had grown up in very challenging circumstances. One girl was 14 years old. Her mother was addicted to drugs and was in and out of prison. She had the courage to allow another family to parent her child through adoption. I was very close to a girl that has since gotten married to the father of her baby. I envy her for that. They are doing great. We had a reunion with our babies. One other girl placed her baby for adoption and she is attending college in Indiana now. I keep in touch with her and it is obvious that she is doing great. She displays pictures of the baby and the adoptive parents on her facebook. She is very proud of the choice that she made. Another, who was only 16 when she got pregnant ran away from the program and moved in with the father of her baby. That didn't work out. We all knew it wouldn't. She is now living in the Lois' Lodge aftercare program with her sweet little girl. I don't know what I would have done during that challenging time without having all of those amazing people in my life. I remain in touch with most of them.

My life is much different now. I am so busy. Between school and being a mom I don't seem to have time for anything else. Debbie laughs at me sometimes because the high point of my day is that I get to go to Walmart. It is hard to realize just how hard this mom thing is until you actually experience it. Being a mom is the biggest job that I will ever have and it will last for a life time. It's a 7 days a week and 24 hour job but it is worth every day and every hour. My relationships with my friends have changed. They are always going out on the weekends and having fun doing whatever they want. It seems like they don't have to worry about anything. I don't really go out too much. It's hard to find a babysitter and by the time you have it's too late to go out. I can't do things spur of the moment anymore. Actually, to tell the truth, I now like staying at home. All this being

said I wouldn't change what I have been through for anything. I do realize that if I didn't have the supportive family that I have I would never have been able to do this on my own. I am very thankful to my parents for their ongoing support and unconditional love. They, like me are extremely grateful to Lois' Lodge. I left about a month before my baby was due. I really wanted to have the baby in Georgia to assure that my family would be there. Just recently I have decided to admit that I should have stayed at Lois' Lodge longer in order to learn and grow even more. I loved all the people that I met while I was at Lois' Lodge. I will never forget them. I am grateful to all the staff and the volunteers. Zeritha was my mentor. Her own daughter had experienced an unplanned pregnancy and had stayed at Lois' Lodge. Zeritha always told me the truth in a loving way. Lois' Lodge and the friends I met through this ministry will always be special to me and to my family.

Alli 2007



We are grateful to all of you who include Lois' Lodge in your giving at the end of each year. During this season many people pause to review, plan, and pray about giving to Christian causes and organizations before December 31. This type of reflection can help ensure maximum benefits for you and your charitable interests. Carefully considering what to give, and when to give it, can increase the impact of your gifts and help you meet personal priorities. There are also ways to provide for meaningful future gifts while enjoying immediate income tax savings and other benefits today.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13 (New International Version)

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



The Christmas Holiday Season is a time when we focus on, and enjoy, the acts of giving and expressing gratitude. We want to touch others with our gifts just as God has enriched us with His love, provision, and the gift of salvation and eternal life. As we give during the holiday season, God warms our hearts and validates His Word: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35 NASB).

If you are like most of us, there are people on your gift list who truly do not need to be burdened with another gadget or magazine subscription. They are people, like you, who delight in giving to others instead of accumulating things for themselves. Yet, you want to express affection for them at Christmas or other times of the year. What better solution than a gift that honors those individuals and helps to change lives for the good through the work of Lois' Lodge.

Your gift in honor of friends or loved ones tells them that you recognize their heart for kindness. Your gift will encourage them and provide a far more lasting memory than a box of chocolates or a coffee table book. All donations to Lois' Lodge are tax deductible. We will send your friend or relative a special Christmas greeting card which will announce your gift and express our thanks. What better way to join in the spirit of Christmas than by helping to provide shelter and care for young women and their unborn children. For our clients Lois' Lodge is their Room at the Inn, the place where they can see God's love and find hope for a better future for themselves and the babies they will bear.

Grab your Christmas list and respond today. Your gifts will be a true blessing to your family and friends and to the ministry of Lois' Lodge. Please send your donation to:

Lois' Lodge,
1316 Hemlock Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Be sure to provide the name and address of the person in whose honor you are making your gift so that we can send them one of our beautiful cards.



Debbie

Dawn

Nancy

Shirley

Eileen

Gerry

Dottie

Cindy

The Lois' Lodge staff and Board of Directors
Wish you and your loved ones
a very Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.



From the Director's Desk.....

It seems like time starts really speeding up at this point of the year. Before we know it, it will be Christmas. Soon thereafter the beginning of a New Year will be here. Come January 1, I often end up feeling disappointed because I have let the holidays overshadow checking in with you regarding a very important event which occurs on January 20th. The month of January is Sanctity of Human Life Month and January 20th is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. I hope that each one of you will prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to participate in this important event.

In 2008 it will have been 35 years since the Supreme Court's infamous *Roe vs. Wade* decision. Since the legalization of abortion 45 million babies have lost their lives. In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended, and 42% of unintended pregnancies are terminated by abortion. Worldwide, almost two in five women who become pregnant have either an abortion or an unplanned birth. Most U.S. women cite more than one factor contributing to their decision to have an abortion: Almost three-quarters say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or other responsibilities; about three-quarters say they cannot afford to have a child; and almost half say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.

A favorite mantra of the National Organization for Women is "Every Child a Wanted Child". This sounds noble until you realize that this group is seeking to make the case that women who are pregnant with a child that is not "wanted" or planned should have the option to abort their baby. The underlying argument is that it is better for the child's life to be snuffed out through an abortion than the child to be "unwanted". At Lois' Lodge we seek to help our clients to understand there are no "unwanted" children in the broadest sense. Even if the biological parents choose not to raise their child

there are wonderful families throughout this nation that would be thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to parent a child. This oft-cited notion of "unwantedness" is misleading and I believe it is utterly insufficient to justify even a single abortion.

According to Sharon L. Camp, president and CEO of the Guttmacher Institute, "Behind almost every abortion in the United States is an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. Abortion is not an isolated event in a woman's life. It is a last resort for a woman who is faced with a crisis pregnancy she did not want or plan for." Lois' Lodge offers women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy the resources needed to sustain their pregnancy and to develop a plan for their own future and future of their child. Unplanned and unwanted pregnancies do not need to result in an abortion in order to terminate the child's life. There are other options. Abortion is not a woman's last resort. Through your support, Lois' Lodge provides women with an alternative to abortion. Help us to help women to know that they have options. We are there to help them to choose life for their child.

Everyone can get involved in Sanctity of Life Month. Children, parents, churches, businesses, youth groups, classrooms, Bible studies and prayer groups—all can play a simple but vital role in showing concern for this important issue. Perhaps you have wondered, "what can I do that will have an impact and make a change"? On page 6 of this newsletter you will find several ideas. There are many more. Contact us if you would like additional information on how you and your group can get involved. The ideas can be very simple—yet each one is like a cleansing, preserving touch of salt. Jesus doesn't ask that you be a whole box of salt—only a pinch of it (Matthew 5:13). Will you be salt? We can reach out in our own way, according to the particular call God has put on our lives—and in reaching out we can draw others closer to God. Women and children all around us cry out for loving, caring hands. And in ways that are simple and natural, we can bring the kingdom of God to them.

Debbie

Why Do We Celebrate Life?

(www.bfl.org)

God spoke and the sky, sea, and land burst with an astounding variety of life-plants, birds, flowers, sea creatures, animals, and insects -- providing an endless source of fascination and delight for His crowning creation, Mankind.

God then made a diverse array of nations from one blood.

Life is very good!

When sin and death entered the world,
God did not abandon His call to life.
He chose a people through whom
He would bring eternal life to the world.
He offered them a choice between life and death.
He asked, "Why will you die?"
Choosing death makes no sense.
In life there is hope.
Choose life!

God exchanged His Son's life for ours so that we may live.
Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty of our sin and purchased new life for us.

In Him alone we have everlasting life.

Choose Jesus

Choose eternal life!

Many people wonder when life begins,
but it might be more enlightening to consider where it begins --
in God Himself

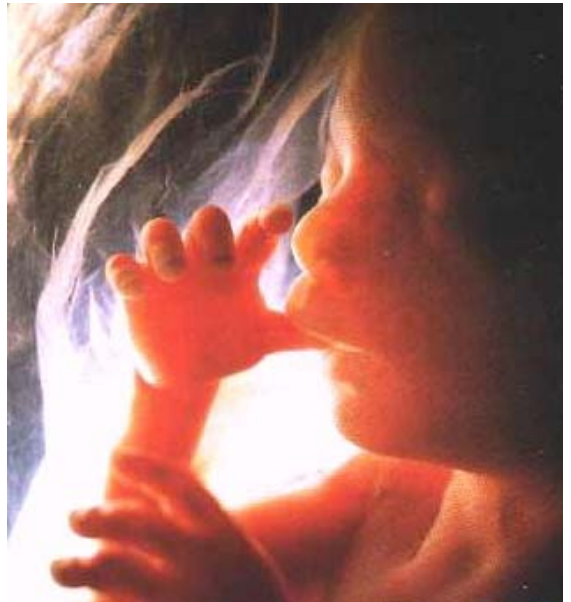
The Great I Am is eternally living, the Source and Sustainer of all life.

This is why we celebrate life!

God has a call on our lives, too.
As bearers of His image, we ought to reflect His care and concern for all people.

We can offer our lives in the service of preserving life.

Protect life!



Scripture references:

Genesis 1:11, 20,24; Revelation 4:11. Also Gen. 1:26,31; Rev. 22:14; Psalm 33:6,9,13-15; Isaiah 45:18

Deuteronomy 30:19. Also Romans 5:12; Ezekiel 33:11; Ecclesiastes 9:4

1 Peter 3:18. Also John 5:24, 11:25, 14:6, 20:31

John 5:26. Also Gen. 2:7; Rev. 22:1; John 1:4, 6:63; 1 Corinthians 8:6, 15:45; Matthew 4:4; Acts 17:25,28; Is. 42:5; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 12:10; Jeremiah 10:10;

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, **you did for me.** . . .

Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did **not** do for me." Matthew 25: 40, 45



SANCTITY OF LIFE MONTH Ways that You can Help!

(52 Simple Things You Can Do To BE Pro-Life, By: Anne Pierson)

These are a few simple ideas for how you can make a difference during Sanctity of Life Month and throughout the year.

Also, check out our website: www.loislodge.org and go to [How You Can Help](#) for information on how to get further involved through serving at Lois' Lodge.

Pray

The power of prayer works! Every ministry that exists needs God's grace and your prayers. Call us for updates on prayer needs. Volunteer to help coordinate prayer times and to assist with providing others with prayer updates.

Pray for the clients, that their hearts would be tender and open to receive counsel and the love and forgiveness of God.

Pray for the director and the ministry's board of directors.

Pray for the wisdom of God's Holy Spirit; for unity among the staff members; for the marriages and families of all staff and volunteers.

Pray for funding efforts and that people will be touched to give generously and regularly.

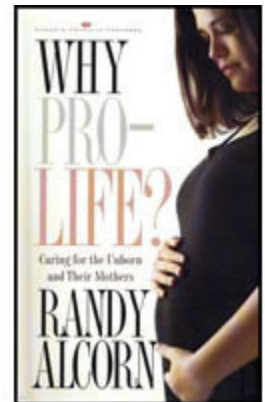
Keep individual prayer requests on a calendar in your kitchen and involve the family in praying for these daily needs as well.

Keep up to date on the Latest News

Stay up to date on current news regarding the ministry of Lois' Lodge by subscribing to our blog: www.loislodge.blogspot.com.

LifeNews.com provides a great opportunity to keep on the cutting edge of information on pro-life issues. This will be particularly significant as election time draws near. Check and see if your denomination is linked with a pro-life organization. Presbyterians for Life provides very good information (www.ppl.org), as do Baptists for Life (www.bfl.org).

We have a wonderful resource that we would like to share with our supporters. If you would like a copy of the book [Why Pro-Life](#) by Randy Alcorn, please call us at the office (704)376-8550 or send us a note requesting a copy.



Give financially

This is one of the major means that allows ministries to continue to serve: financial contributions. Without God's provision for pro-life ministries through His people, they will be unable to continue the important services they offer to their community.

You can get your children involved in pro-life giving by placing a baby bottle on your kitchen table. Every meal, each family member places a nickel or a few pennies (or a penny for every year of one's life) given to a local pro-life ministry to help a woman and her baby. Another method you might use is to designate on particular coin for pro-life work. Every time a family member receives that particular coin in the change, that coin goes into the bottle at the next meal. When it is full, the change is delivered to the organization so you can actually experience the ministry first hand. Since I have a bunch of teens running in and out of my house and my fridge, I am going to put my baby bottle in the refrigerator. Every time the kids take something out they need to leave something for the moms and babies at Lois' Lodge.

Lois' Lodge Banquet 2007

Close to 400 people attended the Lois' Lodge banquet at Ballantyne Resort and donated approximately \$57,000 to this important ministry. This represents approximately 1/5 of our budget for the upcoming year. We are grateful to everyone who came and shared their evening with us in order to learn more about Lois' Lodge. Special thanks go to the underwriters that covered the expense of the banquet so that all proceeds went directly to the ministry. We also would like to acknowledge Rick Cammer, who was our event coordinator at the Ballantyne Resort.

Sharon Jaynes was our keynote speaker at the banquet. Sharon is an international speaker at women's conferences and is the author of ten books with Harvest House Publishers, Focus on the Family, and Moody Publishers.



Her book, Your Scars are Beautiful to God was nominated for the Retailer's Choice Award in 2007. Sharon's books have been translated into several languages and have a great impact in the Latino community. For ten years, Sharon served as Vice President and radio co-host of Proverbs 31 Ministries. She is the co-founder of Girlfriends in God, a conference and online ministry, and is a popular guest on television and radio stations both home and abroad. Sharon has been married to Steve Jaynes for 26 years and they have one grown son, Steven. To purchase Sharon's books, visit www.sharonjaynes.com or visit your local Christian book store.



Verne Phifer provided our music at the banquet. Verne is a local Christian recording artist. He has been a Christian for 19 years and has served faithfully for nine years at Hickory Grove Baptist Church as a Choir member and worship leader. He has also sung with the Charlotte Philharmonic for four years, and continues to sing at many churches around the globe. You may purchase Verne's CD, *Revealed*, at the Hickory Grove Baptist Church Bookstore or online at www.cdbaby.com or www.digstation.com.

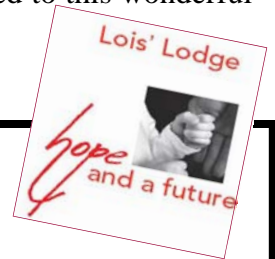
Jeff Atkinson from WBTV news served as our Master of Ceremonies for the banquet. Jeff has been a special friend to this ministry since the first year that we became operational. Jeff is an active member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church. He is married to Victoria, they are blessed with daughter Tori. Watch for Jeff on WBTV News.



Pastor Shannon Burton from Central Church of God and Rev. Airton Pupo from Hickory Grove Baptist Church led our times of prayer. We grateful to everyone who contributed to this wonderful time of fellowship.

THANK YOU TO OUR BANQUET UNDERWRITERS

Bissell-Hayes Realty, Church at Charlotte, Carmel Baptist Church, Concerned Women of America, Dr. Phillip DeHoff of Providence Obstetrics & Gynecology, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Light of Christ United Methodist Church, Perfect Image Printing, Steele Creek Church at Charlotte, Ruth Samuelson and others.



Options Abound for Year-end Giving

We recommend that you consult your tax, legal or financial advisors before making estate planning decisions.

With December 31st around the corner, you may be like thousands of other individuals who are reviewing their financial and estate plans to ensure your family's goals are being met. Supporting Lois' Lodge by making a planned gift can be an effective way to help moms and children for generations to come, while receiving financial benefits and/or saving taxes in 2007 and beyond.

The most common types of planned gifts are:

Gifts of cash: Gifts made with cash or checks, which are postmarked no later than December 31, 2007 or delivered by that date, qualify as deductions on your 2007 income tax.

Bequests: You can establish a bequest as a fixed amount or a percentage of your estate.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006: If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make an outright gift to Save the Children by transferring funds directly from your individual retirement account (IRA) without paying federal income taxes on the distribution. The gift must be made by December 31, 2007, and would count towards your minimum required distributions. Such a gift can be made up to \$100,000 per year.

Charitable Gift Annuities: A Lois' Lodge gift annuity can provide an immediate or deferred fixed income stream for life. This is an excellent way to supplement retirement income or help support aging parents. Payout rates are based on age, and a portion of your payment will be tax-free. You also will receive a charitable deduction for the year of the gift.

Appreciated Assets: Donate stocks, bonds or real estate, and avoid capital gains taxes on these assets.

Paid-Up Life Insurance Policies: When your family responsibilities decrease and your policies are no longer critical to their well-being, use them to support the ministry of Lois' Lodge's.

Retirement Plans: Tax-deferred IRA and 401K plans may be extremely vulnerable to high income and estate taxes. Naming Lois' Lodge as a beneficiary may reduce these taxes and allow you to leave other assets to heirs.

Trusts: A charitable lead trust would generate funding for Lois' Lodge until the time comes to transfer the remainder of the fund to your heirs. In the meantime, taxes can be minimized. A charitable remainder trust can provide lifetime income to you or your heirs, along with some tax benefits. When the income payout period ends, the remainder of the trust flows to Lois' Lodge.

Act now for greatest benefit

As the year draws to a close, act now to make certain you have accomplished your charitable goals for 2007. Remember that time spent deciding what, when, and how to best make your gifts can result in maximum tax savings and other financial benefits.