



Crib Notes

June 2004

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Simply A God-send!

A message from a former resident....

As I sit here thinking about what to write for the Lois' Lodge newsletter all that comes to my mind is "Thank-you". However a simple thank-you doesn't nearly describe how very appreciative I am of absolutely everything Lois' Lodge and everyone affiliated did for me and my family.

Let me introduce myself, I was once a resident of Lois' Lodge. I lived there for almost two and a half months during the, hands down, no questions asked, most difficult time in my life. A time that I never thought I would encounter and that I never thought I would overcome.

When something unexpected and seemingly devastating happens to a person they don't know what to do or who to call. So many questions arise like "why?", "how will I ever move on from this?", or even, in my case, "God, how could you let this happen to ME?!"

Never have I questioned God more than when I realized I was pregnant and I wasn't married, worse yet....I wasn't even out of high school! It was my senior year, I went to a Christian school, I was a volleyball extraordinaire, and of course no one even knew the sin I had been hiding. The night before my senior year was about to begin I



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First Annual Consignment Sale Fund Raiser!

Saturday June 26th, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church

800 Fullwood Lane
(at Highway 51), Matthews NC

A truly good wife is worth more than precious gems!...She is energetic, a hard worker, and watches for bargains." (*Proverbs. 31:10,18 Living Bible*)

The Director's Corner

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him. So now, I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord... 1 Samuel 1:27,28 NIV



There are so many times that I feel unworthy of the opportunity to lead this important ministry. This is especially true when my own children are acting like “nuts”. For those of you that don’t know- I too, am in the process of trying to raise teenagers. My own children are Jessica, age 17 and Justin, who will be 16 in just a couple of weeks. Early on in my career I was the administrator for a group home for teenage girls through the department of Social Services in Ohio. At that time I was in my late twenties and was going through my own pregnancies at the same time that I had residents in my program that were also pregnant (average age 16). That was strange. Now, I am working with teens and their families at the same time I am experiencing my own set of challenges relative to this stage in my life at home. Some days I don’t know if this is good or bad.

A lot of the girls that come through the doors of Lois’ Lodge are not very different than my own children. They come from families who have tried to raise them in the best way possible. These girls have done well in school, attend church, have regular types of interests, and basically have lived normal, productive lives. I am frequently reminded that any of us could experience the type of crisis which leads families to Lois’ Lodge, in our own family. I comfort myself by remembering that Franklin Graham went through a period of time in his life when he was acting like a “nut”. If Billy Graham’s son can be a “Rebel Without a Cause” for awhile, why should I assume that my own children will not mess up from time to time. I am just so grateful that there are Christians, like those of

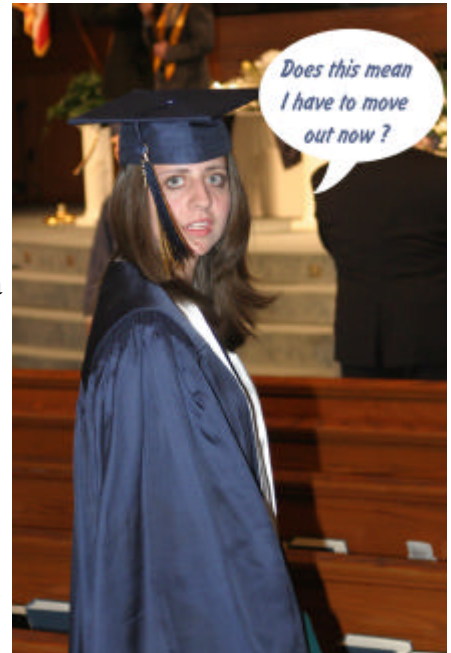
you that are involved in Lois’ Lodge, that are willing to be available to offer support and encouragement during the trying times.

That being said, I need to let all of you know how much I appreciate the prayers which you offer up for me and my family. And- in addition to

sharing my own insecurities about my personal parenting adventure, I would like to share my joy at a special honor which was just bestowed upon my daughter.

Jessica just graduated from Hickory Grove Baptist Christian School and received the

“Christian Leadership Award”. I am so very proud of her. I am also proud of our first resident of Lois’ Lodge, who also graduated from High School, one day after Jessica. This resident wrote the feature article for this newsletter. I am confident that both of these young ladies will use their personal testimonies to reach others for Christ. I am honored to have been a part of both of their lives.



Debbie 🙏

Parenting advice for the day from your Executive Director: The best way to keep children at home is to make home a pleasant atmosphere- and to let the air out of their tires.

Crib Notes

June 2004, Vol. 1 No. 2

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Published by Peter Bonney

Lois' Lodge Adopt-A-Month Club

The Lois' Lodge Adopt-a-Month club is an ideal missions project for any type of group (ie, Neighborhood Bible studies, Women's Clubs or Ministries groups, youth groups, Circle groups, Sunday School class, etc.)

To participate in the Adopt-a-Month Club:

- 1.) Select a month from the list below.
- 2.) Send an email to debloislodge@aol.com or call us at 704-845-2185 to inform us of the month you wish to adopt. We will send you an attractive certificate suitable for display on your bulletin board.
- 3.) Begin collecting the items.
- 4.) At the end of your designated month(s), please re-contact Lois' Lodge so that arrangements can be made to obtain your donated items.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Designated month(s):

January - First aid supplies, dryer sheets, soft drinks

February - Snack foods, craft supplies, coffee

March - Aluminum foil, canned fruits, furniture polish

April - paper towels, toilet paper, typing paper, Easter candy

May - annual flowers, pine straw, yard bags, bug spray

June - Laundry detergent, trash bags (all sizes), sun screen, bug repellent

July - Fabric softener, laundry detergent, furniture polish

August - Toilet paper, paper towels, light bulbs (all sizes)

September - Zip-lock storage bags, canned foods, AA & AAA batteries

October - Paper towels, trash bags (all sizes), 35 mm film, AA & AAA batteries

November - Toilet paper, paper plates, paper cups, paper plates

December - Wrapping paper, bows, Christmas decorations, 35 mm film

Meet our Lois' Lodge Housemom -- Marilyn Smith

Around the time that Paul and I first felt called to pray about the House Parent position at Lois' Lodge I began to meditate on the scripture Is. 6:8 (after 2 separate people felt led to share this passage with me). It says "I heard the voice of the Lord saying Whom shall I send? And Who will go for us? Then I said Here am I; send me." Thus began a process for Paul and I where we began to seek God for His guidance and His will for us regarding this important responsibility. The Lord has very gently but clearly led us to the point where we are able to say confidently that He has called us to this ministry to women who are facing the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy.

God has been preparing us for this role. A little over 2 years ago, our daughter Vivienne was in the same situation as the women who are served through the ministry of Lois' Lodge. God brought us all (as a family) through a very difficult situation. We agonized with Vivienne over her difficult decision of what was best for her and her unborn baby. Now 2 years later we can see how God has used this situation for good, not only in Vivienne's life but in our lives as well.

Through one of Viv's contacts we found out about Lois' Lodge and decided to check out their web site. We'd heard they were looking for House Parents and were curious to find out more. About this point in our lives Paul and I had been seeking the Lord about what ministry focus He had for us. We felt He may be calling us into some kind of ministry, or at least we had a desire to be used by Him, but we just weren't sure where that should be. We inquired but found out that the House Parents position had just been filled, so we took it that God had closed that door.

Later we discovered that we could be Relief House Parent on weekends at Lois' Lodge. So since October of 2003, we have found much joy getting alongside the girls, bringing them to Wed night Supper at Church and Youth Group. Occasionally we brought them back to our house

for dinner before Church. God has given us a heart to minister to these girls and their families. Because we have been there ourselves, we are able to make a connection with them. And empathize with them. We are able to bring God's hope and comfort to them. Since the beginning it has been very exciting to see Jesus minister to these girls through us and through others at LL. And even more exciting to see how God is transforming these girls' lives so that they are beginning to see the good that God can bring out of a difficult situation.



From a human standpoint it was been a challenge to contemplate leaving our home, my job in the church office which I loved, our girls, and our cats to follow Jesus. I shouldn't be but I am just amazed at how He has led so gently. He's given us the grace and strength to take this step of faith. There has been much for us to work through. But Jesus said in Matt 19:29, "And EVERYONE who has left HOUSES, or brothers or sisters or father or mother or CHILDREN or farms for MY NAME'S SAKE, SHALL RECEIVE MANY TIMES AS MUCH, and shall inherit eternal life". I have noted in my journal... Lord you have promised a lot here....I am not missing out!!

So from an eternal perspective this has been a "No brainer"!! Just the next step that God has for us in our pilgrimage here on earth. Because we are equipped by Jesus, Paul and I believe we are up to this exciting new phase in our lives.

Important Work
Deborah Brooks
Lois Lodge Fitness Team Leader

It was early May, 2003. There was to be a fundraiser luncheon at a place called “Lois’ Lodge,” a new crisis maternity home that would open in the fall. No one had personally invited me, but I felt urged to attend – why not go, have a casual lunch, tour the lodge and learn more about the ministry?

Later that month, while relaxing on the sprawling back deck that overlooks the pond at Lois’ Lodge, I engaged in conversation with a kind lady, also there to find out what she could about it all. She told me that she recently visited the website and found it fascinating. “Deborah, you just can’t imagine all of the needs they have to fill – everything from paper towels to a fitness instructor,” she said. “A fitness instructor?” I queried and then added, “I’m a fitness instructor”. That’s when the bigger picture became crystal clear.

It was the Lord who opened my ears to the luncheon, He who had urged me to attend, and He alone, who placed the kind stranger, who’s name I still don’t know, beside me on a bench that day. I knew then that I had important work to do; it would be my job (with the Lord’s help and blessing) to put together a “team” of interested volunteers, who, like me, would be willing to offer their time and talent to assist the LL residents in maintaining good prenatal health and flexibility. People were brought into my life who would later serve as team members, exercise mats and exercise bands were donated for our cause, fitness professionals offered me exercise ideas and resources to be used for the ministry. God laid it all out and gave me what I needed to do the job.

The fitness ministry at LL has since served 7 women who have taken full advantage of a twice weekly opportunity to stretch, tone and strengthen their bodies in preparation for what may be considered the *absolute most* important work any woman can do alongside God – bring a new life into the world!

Listen carefully to the knocking on your heart for “the call” to serve in some way at Lois’ Lodge. He has blessed me so much as I continue in an attempt to bless the women there. He *will* do the same for you!



[Times and days for the fitness program change with changing schedules of the women residents at LL, hence, some current team members will be unable to help in the future. If you are a fitness enthusiast, interested in helping out with the fitness ministry now or in the future, please contact Deborah Brooks at (704) 573-9889 for more information.]

How Babies Are Delivered



Simply A God-send

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decided it was definitely time to tell them (my parents). No more hiding my 5 month secret, my life was ruined; my parents would be so disappointed, and not to mention my Christian school, OH my Christian school, I knew that I couldn't return there and what would everyone say?

I knew that I couldn't raise a baby in a way that I thought was right and I chose to place my daughter for adoption through Christian Adoption Services. Through my adoption worker we learned of Lois' Lodge a brand new Christian maternity home for unwed mothers. I would be the very first resident! And let me tell you Lois' Lodge couldn't have opened at a more opportune time. I moved into Lois' Lodge mid September and I felt right at home. It is amazing how God works the most in your life right when you think He has walked away. There was a peace that I felt living there that was so remarkable and unexplainable. Everyone I met, whether someone just donating something, a counselor, an exercise instructor, or house parents, *everyone* was so comforting and loving. I truly felt the presence of the Lord.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of Lois' Lodge, of the people I met, of the days I spent there, and just the comfort that I had while staying there. During what I thought would be the most negative situation I would ever come upon came the most rewarding experiences and life lessons. I don't think that I would look back on this event with a positive attitude on where my life was and where I am now if it weren't for the Lois' Lodge "community". I thank God for sending Lois' Lodge and all that came with it, to me. At what seemed like the most horrible event in my life I can only think back on Lois' Lodge with a sincerely grateful heart.

In two days (May 22) I will be graduating from high school and *yes* my life has gone on in a positive direction through my relationship with Christ and the love and support of my family. I can't say thank you enough for everything Lois'

Lodge has done for me and my family, this organization enormously helped me through the hardest point in my life and I will always be grateful to everyone who contributed to Lois'



Lodge. I love you all and you are simply a God-send!!!!

And a message from the resident's Mom...

My precious daughter has graduated from high school! An event that, last August 9th, I thought surely would not happen. But she did it! With God's help, Debbie's help, Lois Lodge, Christian Adoption and her personal motivation and love for her child. I still remember one Sunday in September last year, one of the other graduates mother's asking me if I would be interested in having a graduation party at church for all the church's grads. I remember thinking, "Oh my gosh, GRADUATION! Will she graduate? What will we tell the family...etc" But look at what has happened, she made the selfless choice, she stayed on track and she did it! I am so thankful and relieved... and proud.

My husband and I were saying to each other that this graduation means so much more than most people realize. And what's so strange is that while I want to maintain discretion, I also want to shout out to the world, "Do you realize what my little girl has been through! Do you know the sacrifice she's made to get here?" If they only knew, and the ones who do are THE most proud of her.

It makes me cry a little, but now, just a little. Another thing to be thankful for.

Virginity Pledges Lower Out-of-Wedlock Births

by Terry Phillips, Washington, D.C., correspondent
CitizenLink 3/29/04

Pledges of abstinence until marriage substantially reduce out-of-wedlock births, according to a new report -- good news because having a child out of wedlock is a strong predictor for a life of poverty and hardship.

The Heritage Foundation report uses numbers from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health -- started in 1994 -- and then followed the kids into early adulthood.

Kirk Johnson, who co-authored the report with Robert Rector, an analyst at The Heritage Foundation, said the results leave no doubt that abstinence education works.

"We find the young women who take a virginity pledge are about 40 percent less likely to have a child out-of-wedlock," he explained.

The study seems to conflict with other recent reports which suggest that abstinence pledges are often broken. Linda Klepacki, manager of abstinence

policy at Focus on the Family, said pledges need to be backed up with education.

"Abstinence education," she said, "helps to teach the characteristics that need to be in place in order to fulfill an abstinence-virginity pledge."

Johnson agreed, saying abstinence education is critical in delaying the start of sexual activity.

"If we can teach adolescents the benefits of waiting," he said, "we can help build stronger families and better communities here in the United States."

Klepacki believes, for maximum effect, abstinence education needs to continue after young adults leave the nest for work or college.

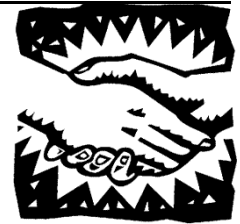
"And I'd like to see it start (at) our Christian colleges and universities," she explained.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: The Heritage Foundation Web site contains more information about abstinence and their research study.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Features/Issues2004/Abstinence.cfm>

Lois' Lodge Partners

The regular monthly support developed through the years through our Lois' Lodge Partners will remain stable and permit the security of assuring that the ministry of Lois' Lodge will continue to serve women in crisis. Grants, church support, and special fundraising events will be planned to enhance the efforts of the ongoing supporters.



___ Yes, for .67 per day, \$20.00 per month, I will become a PARTNER with Lois' Lodge (\$240/annually)

___ Yes, for 1.34 per day, \$40.00 per month, I will join my spouse in becoming a partner (\$480/annually)

___ The Lord has blessed my family and I would like to share that blessing with Lois' Lodge. I will become a Lois' Lodge Partner by pledging ___/month.

___ I would like to make a one time donation of: ___\$2500, ___\$1000, ___\$500, ___ \$100, ___ other

My company will match my donation to Lois' Lodge.

Company Information: _____

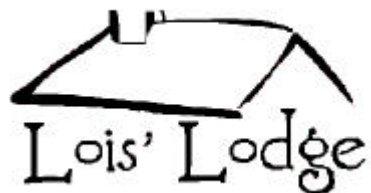
Under United Way's Specific Care program, donors have the opportunity to direct their gift to the causes that are important to them. You may designate to Lois' Lodge by identifying our 501C3 number (#31505), along with our address and phone number on the United Way application.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____



A family-style home in Matthews, North Carolina
for young women facing the challenges
of an unexpected pregnancy

Lois' Lodge, Inc. is a non-denominational, Christian organization that provides practical love, care, and support to women experiencing the challenges of unexpected pregnancies and to their unborn babies. We serve the Charlotte, North Carolina area.

<http://www.loislodge.org>