



Vine & Branches

Rachel's Vineyard
Healing the Pain of Abortion
One Weekend at a Time

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January 2018

**“We see a light, on Christmas night,
And see, a path now opens wide!
The lost, the stranger calls to us:
The wounded heart so needs us now.
Alive to love, the angels’ song
We’ll travel where love leads.
Long locked away, our deepest song
Now dances like a child.
We see a light, this joyful Christmas night.**

**Then faith awakes, on Christmas night,
And we become love’s answering voice!
The water flows, the mountains move,
We see much more than ruined lives.
Alive to love, the angels’ song,
We’ll travel where love leads...”**

**Text based on Julenatt by Sig Nilsson, translated by Euan Tait ©2017*

A Message from our Founder

Dear friends,

2017 has been a whirlwind of amazing accomplishments for Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries! 40 new locations from around the world are up and running and are in development! The retreats are currently offered in 33 languages! We are excited to share a snapshot of our activities in 2017 in this end of year report.

Our efforts to spread Rachel’s Vineyard have encompassed over three decades of ample effort and perseverance!

One of the most interesting and compelling advantages we have discovered in the growth of Rachel’s Vineyard, is that for anyone to facilitate or serve on our retreats, there is a requirement that they experience healing in their own lives by first entering the process before they would venture out to offer it to others. We truly understand that we cannot give what we do not possess. What surprises everyone who agrees to this unusual request, is how God reveals a hidden wound and pours His abundant blessings and graces into that place of unrecognized hurt. The result is a powerful experience of healing that was unanticipated. For many, they had no idea that more healing was possible or even needed until God opened their eyes to it.

We invite all our participants to approach the Lord with a sense of expectancy. He knows our hearts and our hurtful past experiences sometimes better than we do! He does not see things the way we do either, and He longs to draw our hearts close to His love so that He can help us experience what is good and holy that lies within each of us. No matter where our lives have wandered, He desires to bring us home to a place of peace and safety. He invites us to experience new life!

The love of God is active, vibrant, and blazing in our hearts as an unstoppable fire burning to evangelize. It's a divine source of love, mercy, and compassion. We observe that those who have this encounter are filled with gifts of grace. After which, many seek to give the gift they have received to others! That's how our ministry has become the largest post-abortion ministry in the world. It has been spread by those whose lives have been changed and they desire to share the joy and peace that they have received with others who continue to suffer in silence, shame, grief, and sadness.

It is transformative because the Rachel's Vineyard retreats do change us first and foremost. The experience also changes how we see ourselves and others. It changes what we believe is possible and invites action. Rachel's Vineyard inspires our souls by uniting us with Christ in our deepest places of brokenness and pain. Isolation is ended through community as we find strength, courage, and the love to become radically available to others in need.

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis invites all of us, "to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ." He assures us that, "the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

Rachel's Vineyard is considered by many to be the most effective and successful program for healing after abortion precisely because it provides an authentic 'personal encounter' with Christ. What's more, that meeting is transformative, life changing, and a dynamic reversal of the damage caused because of traumatic experiences of death, rejection, and profound feelings of shattering despair and powerlessness.

Our programs for healing have spread all over the world with no sign of slowing down! In fact, we have difficulty keeping up with all the demand. We have a small staff of 4 people at our International headquarters in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

I can honestly say we have overcome many challenges.

I believe that a trusting attitude and an ethic of perseverance go hand in hand. When you let go of the need for control, approval, and expectations, you learn to really trust God. Because of our own limitations, lack of adequate staff, and too many demands, we had to let go of our own effort based perfectionism and become very creative in empowering others as we strove to discover what is possible rather than focusing on all of the seemingly impossible challenges. Trusting that God is always with us, it becomes easy to put Him in charge and trust Him to help everyone to receive to His grace. The results and ultimate responsibility for our work truly belongs to God. This reality releases joy and freedom. It inspires creativity and problem solving. It empowers others to utilize their gifts to help us build. It alleviates the need to micro-manage others in fear. When you trust God, you're able to see people in their goodness and call forth virtuous leaders to serve with affirmation and blessed assurance. So instead of waiting for something, we are always looking for opportunities with a persistent fiat to unknown possibilities. We don't hesitate to say yes to those seeking to serve, even when there are no resources or support! We trust that God will provide in every situation if we move forward in faith... And in time He does! The fruit of this trust is peace, wisdom, and discernment, as well as the blessing of many opportunities for training and education. We understand that it is not our job to save or change another person.

The 500,100 volunteers throughout the world are the vehicle, but the pressure is on God, so we can enjoy our work and have a front row seat to behold the lavish miracles of healing that occur on every retreat.

There is nothing that could ever deny the reality that, “God is with us.” His own name IMMANUEL means, “God is with us.”

This is His desire. He wants to be with us, not separated from us. He desires to heal the world so we can share in His life.

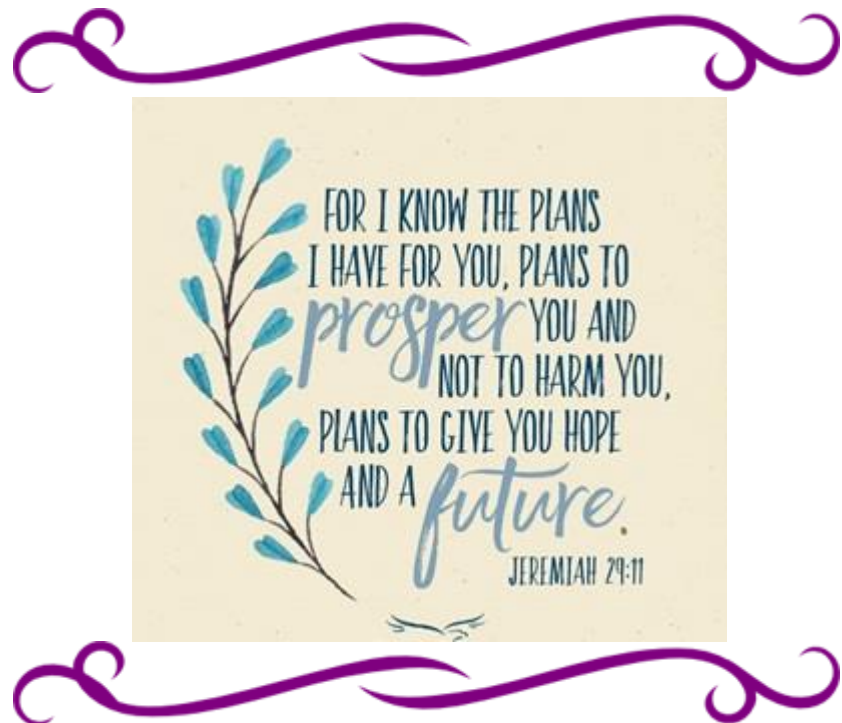
Thankfully, God continues to anoint our ministry and raise up amazing people and groups to help us spread our ministry utilizing their gifts. Many of those healed joined educational and advocacy groups like The Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Women Hurt and other places where the power of personal testimonies served to educate and inform politicians and even public and parochial school audiences on the detrimental impact of abortion.

We are grateful for the support of Priests for Life, the many diocesan and church based ministries, the crisis pregnancy centers which offer our retreats and the many other nonprofit organizations that partner with us to spread the work of healing with Rachel’s Vineyard retreats and support groups.

Blessings and Peace,



Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries





The year of our Leadership Conference is upon us!! Registrations have continued rolling in, and the countdown has begun!!

We hope you can join us for four days of education, fellowship, prayer, and fun! This is also a great way for those who are looking to learn more about Rachel's Vineyard and post-abortion healing to network with volunteers and leaders from around the world. This conference promises to be wonderful, engaging, and filled with joy and laughter.

We look forward to seeing old friends, making new ones, and learning and growing together in the Vineyard!

*If you are interested in registering for our conference, please email assistant@rachelsvineyard.org



**"We cannot all do great things.
But we can do small things with great love."
~Mother Teresa**

Abortion is Traumatic, Not Empowering
"There are people out there to listen to your story.
There are people out there to hear about your grief."
By Marcia Segelstein

The *Washington Examiner* recently [published an op-ed piece](#) called "Abortion is not empowering – I should know, because I had one."

By her own description, author Ally Bowlin, like so many young women, bought into the feminist fiction that abortion is an inconsequential, no-big-deal procedure with no after effects. She remembers the nurses reassuring her that the abortion wouldn't affect her ability to have children later. She remembers telling herself, "Now I can be successful," "Now I can finish college," "Now I won't have the burden of another life to look after."

But of course there were after effects. Bowlin describes struggling for years with anxiety, anger and depression. "I had vivid flashbacks, memories of the day of my abortion replayed for years, at any given moment.

Still to this day, six years later, I can tell you the color of the wallpaper in the clinic, the color of the chairs, even the color of the nurse's scrubs." And yet, when she eventually sought counseling, her abortion was never addressed as a potential cause of her emotional struggles.

It was this very issue – the refusal of the therapeutic community to acknowledge post-abortion suffering – that spurred Theresa Burke to found [Rachel's Vineyard](#). Now a ministry of Priests for Life, Rachel's Vineyard offers weekend retreats for post-abortion healing. It obviously fills a serious need, holding over 1,000 retreats annually, in 49 states and 70 countries. So much for post-abortion suffering not being real.

So how did it start? When Burke was a graduate student in the field of psychotherapy, one of her assignments was to lead a support group for women with eating disorders. Over time, six of the eight women revealed that they'd had abortions. As Burke wrote in her book, *Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*, they told Burke that their abortions were perhaps the most difficult decisions they had ever made, while at the same time denying that they'd had any significant effect on their lives. Sensing that, as she put it, "a lot of unexplored and unresolved feelings were being denied, repressed, or suppressed," and that those unexpressed emotions could be important in treating their eating disorders, Burke spoke with her supervising psychiatrist about how to proceed. She was told in no uncertain terms to drop it.

Fortunately, she didn't. When she completed her training, she decided to set up small, free support groups for women who had had abortions. As she told me in an [interview for Salvomagazine](#), those sessions "were always filled, even though we never advertised. It was all word of mouth."

Burke knew she was onto something. "I even began to sense that therapy – coming in to discuss their abortions – actually made it worse. We now know from research that talk therapy does not always help victims of trauma." So Rachel's Vineyard was born, so to speak.

Ally Bowlin eventually found help. "Last year," she writes, "I had the gift of receiving loving, compassionate post-abortive healing. Post-abortive healing was probably the hardest 12 weeks I've had to endure in my 27 years. But, compared to a lifetime of suppressed grief and heartache, I would go through it many, many more times. I learned that feeling intense pain post-abortion is *normal*, feeling regret is *normal*. And that there is hope past that regret; there is love on the other side of that pain."

Bowlin wants other post-abortive women to know that they shouldn't feel pressure to see their abortion as positive. "There are people out there to listen to your story. There are people out there to hear about your grief. Let them in and let them help."

How courageous of Bowlin to share her story with others in the hope of encouraging them to find help. And not only that: Bowlin is now a national programs coordinator for Students for Life of America.

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**Rachel's Vineyard Recommends:
"Elijah's Path to Healing Foundation"**



"I believe the Lord has led me to start a foundation to help the Widows and the Fatherless. Elijah's Path to Healing Foundation will provide a community to help assist these special families in crisis. I know what this journey is like, and who better than my son and I to try and help these beautiful people through the path of healing."

–**Tracy Boone, Founder**

Elijah's Path to Healing Foundation is in its early organizational stages, however, if you know someone with a need in this area, please Tracy at tracy@icanfinishwell.com.

**Elijah's Path to Healing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. To learn more about this foundation, or if you are interested in donating, visit <https://icanfinishwell.com/foundation/>*

**"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."**

~ James 1:27

Message from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

January is a big month for Rachel's Vineyard -- more emphasis on abortion in the headlines, major gatherings with testimonies in DC, San Francisco and elsewhere, increased web traffic from those who need healing, and more. At the gatherings I will help lead both at the March for Life and the Walk for Life West Coast, many who have had abortions and are *Silent No More* will give public testimony to how Rachel's Vineyard saved them from a life of despair!

One of the things I also look forward to each January is the National Prayer Service, for which I am the principal organizer on the morning of the March for Life in Washington (see www.NationalPrayerService.com). This year it is on Friday morning, January 19th.

Can you be there? If you or others you know are coming to DC for the March for Life, what better way to start that day of public witness than to join with other Christians from around the country for two hours of prayer, praise and preaching!

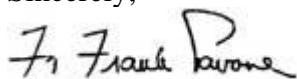
The service is in Constitution Hall from 8:30 to 10:30am. I will be preaching, and our special guest speakers are the Benham Brothers!

And as always, the theme of healing will be given special emphasis, and those who are present will be reminded of the power of Rachel's Vineyard!

As we gather, let's make it clear that prayer and worship are the foundation of the pro-life movement and of all the work we do to bring the world more into line with the Kingdom of God!

And please know of my prayers for you, your family and your intentions!

Sincerely,



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



A New Year Appeal

Around the World, many of us welcome the New Year as a chance make a fresh start; a new beginning. As we enter 2018, we encourage those men and women who may be suffering after abortion to begin their journey towards healing at Rachel's Vineyard! Please consider donating to Rachel's Vineyard this year to help make the resolutions of those seeking healing come to fruition. Your generosity could help make someone's New Year brighter.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those hurting after abortion through your contributions and prayers.

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 in Social Media



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

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RVHealing

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rvhealing




"You crown the year with Your goodness,
and Your paths drip with abundance."

~Psalm 65:11



United in Prayer

Please pray for our new Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites and leaders, that they may find strength, and blessings in the New Year as they begin their journey helping those in need find peace and healing!



"O eternal light, lift up my blindness!
O perfect unity, create in me simplicity of being.
Humble my heart to receive your graces."

~St. Louise de Marillac



Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity

www.GriefftoGrace.org

Aston, PA

Call: 610-203-2002

Email: info@griefftoGrace.org

February 18-23, 2018

Beaverton, OR

Contact: griefftoGraceoregon@gmail.com

Call: 541-357-7501

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: Fr. Matías Jurado

Call: +54 11 5220 3619

Email: padrematias@gmail.com

El Salvador

Contact: anajhill@hotmail.com

Call: Ana Julia Hill - 503 77297721

Call: Nueva Alianza – 503 22987000

Houston, TX

Call: 866-763-6557

Email: G2GTexas@griefftoGrace.org

January 13-17, 2018

Kelowna, Canada

Call: 250-878-7603

Email: G2GKelowna@gmail.com

April 19-22, 2018

London, UK, England

Contact: 020-7937-4297

07849-029-442

07770-373-758

Email: G2Guk@yahoo.com

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: diane@griegtorgrace.org

Call: 612-440-7247

October 21-26, 2018

March 17-22, 2019

Newark, NJ

Contact: info@griegtorgrace.org

Call: 610-203-2002

Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Aryn Sylvester

Email: phoenix@griegtorgrace.org

Call: 480-215-6762

March 4-9, 2018

June 13-17, 2018 (Retreat held in Spanish)

July 22-27, 2018

Tasmania, Australia

Contact: info@griegtorgrace.org.au

Call: +61-407704539

April 8-13, 2018



**"There are far, far better things ahead
than any we leave behind."**

~C.S. Lewis



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

On **January 20th, 2018** - Dr Theresa Burke will be the Keynote Speaker at Centennial celebration and Rose Banquet dinner in Lafayette, LA.


For more information please contact: Trista Littell at tlittell@diolaf.org.

On **March 17-18, 2018**, Theresa and Kevin Burke will hold a Clinical, Clergy, and Rachel's Vineyard Team Training in Tucson, Arizona.

For more information contact: Gail Phelps at rachelsvineyardtucson@cox.net.


On **April 28th, 2018** - Dr Theresa Burke will be the Keynote Speaker at the Second Annual We Remember Memorial Hike & Conference in Lake Geneva, WI.

For more information please go to: <http://twentythree61.com/reaching-out/fundraising-events>



THIS YEAR, LET US
DISSOLVE ALL OUR HOPES
INTO A *SINGLE HOPE*, TO
KNOW CHRIST AND BE
FOUND IN HIM. MAY THIS
BE THE YEAR TO DESIRE A
RADICALLY TRANSFORMED,
DEEPER, TRUER, KNOWING
CHRIST AS OUR *ALL-
SUFFICIENT ONE.*"

-Elisabeth Elliot



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Houston (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Shay Christophson 281-799-2002

Contact: Stephanie Walker 281-974-7880

Friday, January 5, 2018

Sunday, January 7, 2018

shay@gulfcoasthealing.org

steph@gulfcoasthealing.org

Miami (Español), FL

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436

Friday, January 5, 2018

Sunday, January 7, 2018

clamordevida@aim.com

Bowling Green/Owensboro, KY

Contact: Debbie Ward (270) 570-4717 debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com

Contact: Jennifer (931) 242-5506

Friday, January 12, 2018

Sunday, January 14, 2018

jennifer@hopeafterabortionky.com

Fort Hood/Killeen (Interdenominational), TX

Contact: Susie Wilde 254-718-2823

Friday, January 26, 2018

Sunday, January 28, 2018

swilde58@gmail.com

Williamsburg, VA

Contact: Linda Riva 757-887-3144

Friday, January 26, 2018

Sunday, January 28, 2018

lindajr2@yahoo.com

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Gail Phelps 520-743-6777

rachelsvineyardtucson@cox.net

Friday, February 2, 2018

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Zapopan Jalisco (Cerca de Guadalajara), Mexico

Contact: Sandra Lillingston 31251676

lillingstons@yahoo.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, February 9, 2018

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Atlanta, GA

Contact: Jody Duffy

404-717-5557

pathjody@gmail.com

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Columbus, OH

Contact: Pegi Deeter

614-721-2100

PegiD@pdhc.org

Contact: Carolyn Klair

614-721-2100

CarolynK@pdhc.org

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Eugene, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine

541-942-2861

ProjectAurora@aol.com

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

*Note: Retreat will be held in Portland, OR***Lansing, MI**

Contact: Della Seeley

989-828-6002

ds56881@gmail.com

Contact: Toll Free Hotline

888-456-HOPE

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Medford, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine

541-942-2861

ProjectAurora@aol.com

Contact: In Spanish – Araceli

541- 621-7047

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Paula Segno 916-733-0161

projectrachel@scd.org

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

San Jose/Greater South Bay (Interdenominational), CA

Anne Marie Chrisoulis

408-229-9836 Ext. 14

anne.marie@realoptions.net

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Santa Clara & Alameda Counties (Interdenom), CA

Contact: Anne Marie Chrisoulis

408-229-9836 Ext. 14

anne.marie@realoptions.net

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Santa Cruz Valley (Interdenominational), CA

Contact: Anne Marie Chrisoulis 408-229-9836 Ext. 14 anne.marie@realoptions.net

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Tijuana, Mexico

Contact: Carolina Bueno Martinez 664-804-4409 carolina7cbm@yahoo.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Trenton, NJ

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

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Vienna, Austria

Contact: Claudia Schneidenbach (+43) 0699-1021-4241 info@rachelsweinberg.at

Language: German

Friday, February 16, 2018

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Cypress/Katy (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 866-763-6557 rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Denver, CO

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

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-775-4108 edieg2@aol.com

Friday, February 23, 2018

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Grand Rapids, MI

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824 mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

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

Friday, February 23, 2018

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Note: Retreat held in Kalamazoo.

Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL

Contact: 904-221-3232 Rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

Contact: Mary Huston 904-885-9959 mtliai@bellsouth.net

Friday, February 23, 2018

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Janesville (Interdenominational), WI

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608-235-7542

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

Friday, February 23, 2018

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Los Angeles, CA

Contact: Christine Lowe

866-272-2435 RVLA.christine@gmail.com

Contact: Christine Lowe

626-286-2313

Friday, February 23, 2018

Sunday, February 25, 2018