

Rachel's Vineyard

2019

A Year in Review



Rachel's Vineyard

A Ministry of Priests for Life

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1-877-HOPE-4-ME

Note from the Founder

Dear Friends,

As we mark the passing of 2019 and prepare to welcome a new decade, I must honestly catch my breath! The strong forceful currents of the past 10 years have rapidly eroded my 50's leaving me a bit more pensive and reflective rather than jumping on my keyboard to ride the next giant wave of "to do" items!

No matter what is happening, through each life transition, I anticipate the next 10 years of the roaring 2020's will likely bring more growth for all our ministries.

In our day to day operations, I dream the dreams of life gone by as I look forward to the future with hope. We are excited to share an overview of our activities in 2019. We offer special thanks to Father Frank Pavone and Priests for Life/Gospel of Life Ministries that continue to support our International Administrative office.

I also cherish the worldwide connection with so many talented women and men who have made this ministry their life's work!

Each year we continue to expand our efforts, establish new leadership with new classes, conferences, facilitation seminars and regional and international team trainings. I never dreamed we could still be going so strong some 35 years into this! But there have been scripture promises so many of us have courageously trusted:

*I will go before you
and I will level the mountains;
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.
I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the Lord,
the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
~ Isaiah 45:2-3 ~*

I would like to express my profound gratitude for the efforts and dedication of so many ministry leaders and supporting partners who have been *summoned and called by name* into this amazing work of God. We share a bond and kinship with all who labor in Rachel's Vineyard because we have received and embraced His "hidden treasure." I feel so much gratitude for the gift of faith inspiring us to spread Rachel's Vineyard to "all the ends of the earth!" And it's true... I mean that literally, as we've have teams traveling for days through the Arctic Tundra to help start ministries at the edge of the North Pole and others all the way down to the tip of South Africa! None of this could have been accomplished if we had not experienced the power of God as he prepared the way to *cut through bars of iron*, releasing the prisons of fear and shame with the power of His tender love.

2019 has been another year of *breaking down barriers* and *leveling mountains* of secrecy and unspoken grief.

Note from the Founder

We began the year off with an International Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference in Latin America hosted by the Rachel's Vineyard team in Ecuador for all the Spanish speaking ministries.



Rachel's Vineyard Latin American Leadership Conference held in Ecuador



Rachel's Vineyard Eastern European Leadership Conference held in Slovenia

In October, we held another International Leadership Conference in Slovenia for the Rachel's Vineyard teams from Eastern Europe, followed by a training event in Austria. The sisters of the Marian Convent in Vorau (Kongregation der Schwestern von der Unbefleckten Empfängnis, CCIM), under the Leadership of Mother Superior Sr. Marianne Schuh, welcomed Theresa to conduct a specific training & reflection event for the Austrian team. In Slovenia, as well as in Austria, Theresa was invited by the local bishops to discuss the work of Rachel's Vineyard.

This year 24 new sites have started, with 12 up and running and 12 currently in development! The retreats are currently offered in 27 languages!

With remarkable changes in the landscape and the many crisis pregnancy centers available, we are witnessing a steady decline in abortion rates.

Yet, there still remains a bitter and divisive battle over choice. I am relieved that our ministry continues to side step all the crazy politics in order to focus exclusively on the broken hearts of men and women who struggle to live with their choice as we educate about the life and soul distorting damage caused by abortion.

When I participate in interviews and conversations about my books as they become translated for the first time in foreign countries, I find myself astonished that this is completely new information in many places where abortion is rarely debated or spoken about. There are many nations with scarce information published on the detrimental impact of abortion. In some regions, it's basically accepted as necessary part of government regimes demanding forced abortions; or policies tied to financial aid and economic growth. When these little lives go unnoticed and unnamed and the family's loss goes unreconciled as some statistic, we have destroyed a part of our very humanity. The pain and stain of killing, the fact that we can't undo it, gives this

The number of abortions fell by 196,000—a 19% decline from 1,058,000 abortions in 2011 to 862,000 abortions in 2017.^{1,2}

The abortion rate (the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44) fell by 20%, from 16.9 in 2011 to 13.5 in 2017.

The abortion ratio (the number of abortions per 100 pregnancies ending in either abortion or live birth) fell 13%, from 21.2 in 2011 to 18.4 in 2017.

Note from the Founder

unspoken wound a unique, piercing, and powerful emptiness that our society, no matter how much pleasure or power we possess, cannot fill the deep graves we are afraid to grieve over.

No matter the level of destruction or pain, God wants to heal his wounded children and grant them an unmistakable experience of His mercy and peace. The worldwide growth of Rachel's Vineyard has been forged quietly in the crucible of suffering which was once hidden and unspoken in the hearts and minds of those grieving their babies lost in abortion. Our retreats embody the eternal flame of the Holy Spirit ignited to burn in the hearts of those who have suffered the excruciating trauma of abortion, bringing them back to life. What's more, those who have been healed are passionately on fire to share the miracle they received with other peoples and places. As a result of this, there are more than 500,900 volunteers working with Rachel's Vineyard throughout the world. They have been agents of evangelization and conduits of Christ's love in a valiant resolve to share the gift of healing they have received.

We hope to stay ahead of the waves rather than feeling pulled under by the forces of death working relentlessly to deprive children and families the gift of life. We are grateful to all the volunteers, outreach organizations, mental health professionals, pastoral care workers, clergy, pregnancy centers, ministries from so many denominations, and Catholic diocese that collaborate with us. Thank you for being a lifeboat for rescue, recovery and redemption!

In closing, I want to share a beautiful scripture that we are all living from *Ephesians 3*:

*I kneel before the Father.... I pray that out of his glorious riches
he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit
in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
may have power, together with all the saints,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
and to know this love that surpasses knowledge --
that you may be filled with the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Let's be clear, this scripture refers to being filled with the fullness of the life and the power that comes from God!" Please don't miss the part that blesses us with strength and power which is rooted and grounded in love within our inner most beings, the depth of our hearts and souls where God whispers his presence!

Because we witness miracles all the time, we kneel in gratitude and humility in awe of God's presence and power.

In the fullness of Christ's love,

Theresa M Burke Ph.D.

Dr. Theresa Burke

Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

A Quick History

Since our inception, our healing retreats have:

Served over 326,000 individuals, couples and Families;

Trained more than 156,000 healing professionals;

Educated more than 11,500 clergy;

Organized more than 535 educational seminars for mental health professionals;

Offered more than 14,500 retreats;

Offered more than 3,000 support group models;

Connected millions of visitors to our help resources;

Disseminated 501,000 books and videos;

Empowered 500,900 volunteers who volunteer with our ministries;

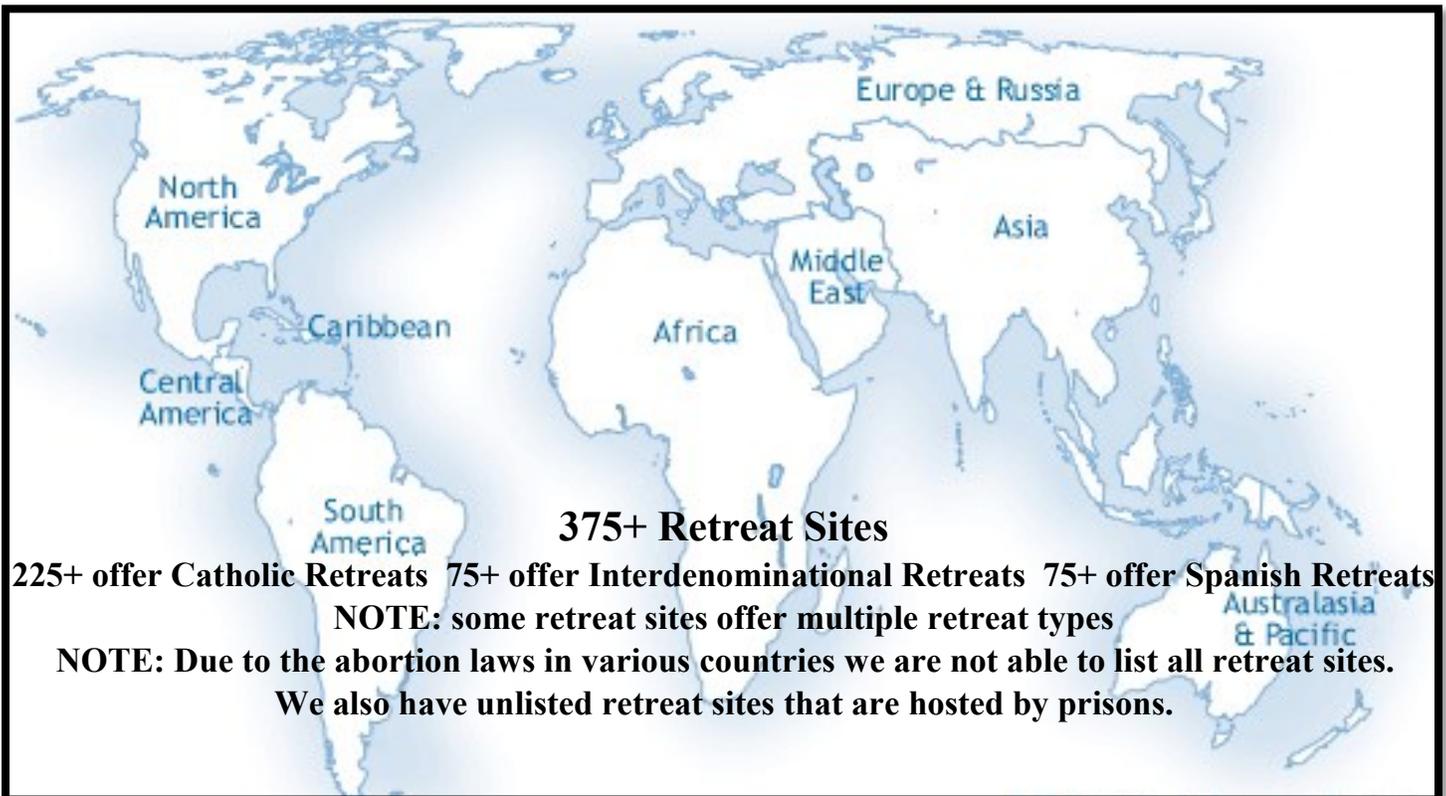
Welcomed millions visitors to our websites and social media presence;

Garnered thousands of print, radio and media titles regarding our work

Published 8 books (listed at the end of this report);

Published 51,500 Retreat manuals.





Rachel's Vineyard Sites Approved in 2019

NEW INTERNATIONAL SITES

- Johannesburg, **South Africa**
- Birmingham, **England**
- Thorn, **Netherland Antilles**
- Szczecin, **Poland**
- Tenerife, Islas Canarias, **Spain**
- Sherbrooke, **Canada**
- Hermosillo Sonora, **Mexico**
- Irapuato, **Mexico**
- Mendoza, **Argentina**
- Cajica, **Argentina**

NEW NATIONAL SITES

- Dubuque, Iowa
- Wichita, Kansas—Reestablished

375+ Retreat Sites

225+ offer Catholic Retreats 75+ offer Interdenominational Retreats 75+ offer Spanish Retreats

NOTE: some retreat sites offer multiple retreat types

NOTE: Due to the abortion laws in various countries we are not able to list all retreat sites.
We also have unlisted retreat sites that are hosted by prisons.

Rachel's Vineyard Sites in Development

INTERNATIONAL SITES

- Ontario, Canada
- Vancouver Island, Canada
- Hong Kong
- Korea
- Quebec, Canada (French Speaking)

NATIONAL SITES

- Los Banos, CA (Español)
- Central Coast, CA
- Orange County, CA
- Manhattan Beach, CA
- Pensecola/Tallahasse, FL
- Saginaw, MI
- Nashville, TN

National Rachel's Vineyard Sites

Cullman, AL	Springfield, IL	Columbus, OH
Mobile, AL	Peoria, IL*	Steubenville, OH
Cottonwood, AZ (Interdenom)	Central Indiana, IN	Oklahoma City, OK *
Mesa, AZ	Indianapolis, IN	Tulsa, OK
Phoenix, AZ (Español)	Valparaiso, IN	Eugene, OR
Prescott Valley, AZ	Hays, KS	Medford, OR
Tucson, AZ*	Wichita, KS	Portland, OR
Yuma, AZ	Bowling Green/Owensboro, KY	Allentown, PA*
Encino, CA (Interdenom)	Lancaster, KY	Clarks Summit/Scranton, PA
Fresno, CA *	Louisville, KY (Interdenom)	Doylestown, PA * (English & Polish)
Los Angeles, CA	Lafayette, LA	Philadelphia Area, PA
Los Angeles, CA (Español)	Lake Charles, LA	Pittsburgh, PA
Oakland/ East Bay, CA	New Orleans, LA	Pittsburgh/Western PA, PA (Interdenom)
Oakland/ East Bay, CA (Español)	Shreveport, LA	Lancaster County, PA *
Orange County, CA (Español)	Greater Boston Area, MA	North Providence, RI
Riverside County/Temecula, CA	Springfield, MA	Providence, RI *
Sacramento, CA *	Baltimore, MD	Charleston, SC*
Sacramento, CA (Interdenom)	Baltimore County, MD (Interdenom)	Rock Hill, SC *
San Bernardino, CA *	DC Metro Area, MD (Español)	Upstate/Greenville, SC
San Jose, CA (Interdenom)	Ocean City, MD	Rapid City, SD
Santa Clara/Alameda Counties, CA (Interdenom)	Temple Hills, MD (Interdenom)	Sioux Falls, SD
Santa Clarita, CA	Portland, ME	Knoxville, TN
Santa Cruz Valley, CA (Interdenom)	Ann Arbor, MI	Memphis, TN
Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA	Detroit, MI	Agnes/Fort Worth/Glen Rose, TX
Stockton, CA	Detroit, MI (Español, Interdenom)	Austin, TX
Stockton, CA (Español)	Grand Rapids, MI	Central Texas, TX (Interdenom)
Denver, CO	Lansing, MI	Corpus Christi, TX
Denver, CO (Español)	Petoskey, MI	Cypress/Katy, TX (Interdenom)
Hamden, CT	Saginaw, MI	Dallas, TX
Litchfield, CT	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	Dallas, TX (Español)
Georgetown, DE (Interdenom)	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Español)	El Paso, TX *
Wilmington, DE	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Interdenom)	Houston, TX
Doral, FL (Español)	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX (Interdenom)
Jacksonville/St. Augustine, FL	Great Falls/Helena, MT	Lubbock, TX
Miami, FL	Asheville, NC	Midland, TX
Miami, FL (Español)	Charlotte, NC	Rio Grande City, TX *
Palm Beach, FL	Morganton, NC (Interdenom)	San Angelo, TX
Palm Beach, FL (Español)	Winston-Salem/Greensboro, NC*	Richmond, VA
Tallahassee, FL	Hankinson, ND	Roanoke/Blacksburg, VA (Interdenom)
Tampa, FL *	Richardton, ND	Williamsburg, VA
Atlanta, GA	Blair/Omaha, NE (Interdenom)	Burlington, VT
Atlanta, GA (Interdenom)	Omaha/Lincoln, NE	Seattle/Western Washington, WA*
Columbus, GA (Interdenom)	Greater Boston Area, NH	Spokane, WA
Savannah/Augusta, GA	Cherry Hill, NJ	Central Washington, WA
Honolulu, HI	Newark, NJ	Fond Du Lac, WI (Interdenom)
Cedar Falls, IA	Paterson/Morris County, NJ	Janesville, WI (Interdenom)
Council Bluffs, IA	Trenton, NJ	Lake Geneva, WI (Interdenom) *
Dubuque, IA	Albuquerque/Santa Fe, NM	Madison, WI
Sioux City, IA	Las Cruces, NM	Stevens Point, WI
Chicago, IL (Interdenom)	Las Vegas, NV	Wheeling, WV
Chicago, IL (Polish)	Las Vegas, NV (Español)	<u>*Holds English & Spanish Retreats</u>
Joliet/Lemont, IL	Albany Area, NY *	
	Northern NY, NY	

International Rachel's Vineyard Sites

By Continent

Africa:

Tiko, **Cameroon**
Cape Town, **South Africa**
Johannesburg, **South Africa**

Asia:

China
Hong Kong
Beirut, **Lebanon**
Penang, **Malaysia**
Magadan, **Russia**
Vladivostok, **Russia**
Singapore
Incheon City, **South Korea**
Ba-Li, New Taipei City, **Taiwan**
Tai-Shan, New Taipei City,
Taiwan
Taipei, **Taiwan**
Vietnam

Australia:

Brisbane, **QLD Australia**
Canberra, **NSW Australia**
Melbourne, **VIC Australia** (Interdenom)
Perth, **Australia**
Sydney, **NSW Australia**
New Zealand

Central America:

Santiago, **Dominican Republic**
San Salvador, **El Salvador**
Lake Atitlan Region/San Juan,
Guatemala
Catedral, Juticalpa, Olancho,
Honduras
Kingston, **Jamaica**
Matagalpa, **Nicaragua**

Europe:

Vienna, **Austria**
Vienna, **Austria** (Interdenom)
Birmingham, **England**
Essex, **England**
Kent, **England**
Leeds, **England**
Stroud, Gloucestershire, **England**
Tórshavn, **Faroe Islands**
Mere de Misericorde, IDF, **France**
Oise, OIS, **France**
Hildesheim, **Germany**
Tiszaalpár, **Hungary**
Cork, **Ireland**
Bologna, **Italy**
Vilnius, **Lithuania**
Thorn, **Netherland Antilles**
Belfast, **Northern Ireland**
Piwniczna Zdroj, MP, **Poland**
Poznan, **Poland**
Szczecin, **Poland**
Warsaw, **Poland**
Lisbon, **Portugal**
Cluj-Napoca, **Romania**
Glasgow, **Scotland**
North-East Scotland(Interdenom)
Banska Bystrica, **Slovakia**
Ljubljana, **Slovenia**
Barcelona, **Spain**
Tenerife, Islas Canarias, **Spain**

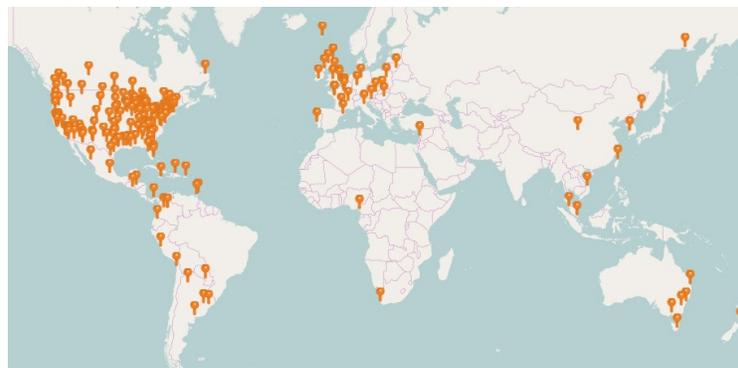
North America:

US Sites on Previous Page
Cache Creek, **BC Canada**
Kelowna, **BC Canada**
N.Battleford, **SK Canada**

Newfoundland, **Canada**
Ottawa, **ON Canada** (Interdenom)
Sherbrooke, **Canada**
Thunder Bay, **ON Canada**
Vancouver, **BC Canada**
Winnipeg MB, **Canada** (Interdenom)
Yellowknife, **NT Canada**
Culiacán, **Mexico**
Hermosillo Sonora, **Mexico**
Irapuato, **Mexico**
Mexico City, **Mexico**
Nogales, **Mexico**
Tijuana, **Mexico**
Zapopan Jalisco (Cercade
Guadalajara), **Mexico**
Provincia Colon, **Panama**
San Juan, **Puerto Rico**

South America:

Bahía Blanca, **Argentina**
Buenos Aires, **Argentina**
Mendoza, **Argentina**
Tucumán, **Argentina**
Iquique, **Chili**
Bogota, **Colombia**
Bogota Minuto de Dios, **Colombia**
Cajica, **Colombia**
Cali, **Colombia**
Cartagena, **Colombia**
Medellin, **Colombia**
Pereira, **Colombia**
Quito, Pichincha, **Ecuador**
Asunción, **Paraguay**
Lurin, **Peru**
Miraflores, **Peru**
Caroni, **Trinidad**
Montevideo, **Uruguay**



Dr. Theresa Burke, received this message from Pope Francis:



Dra. Theresa Burke,

Muchas gracias por su carta en la que me expone su trabajo en "Vinedo de Raquel" y "Del dolor a la gracia". Me consolò leer lo que me dice. Estas son obras fecundas, que sanan, que derraman misericordia. Gracias por lo que Usted hace.

Si puede enviarme màs material se agradecerè mucho. Por favor, no deje de rezar por mì.

Que Jesùs la bendiga y la Virgen Santa la cuide.

Cordialmente.
Francisco

Translation:

Dr. Theresa Burke,

Thank you very much for your letter in which you have described to me your work in "Vinedo de Raquel" (Rachel's Vineyard) and "Del dolor a la Gracia". (Grief to Grace)

It brings much comfort to me to read what you told me.

These are fruitful works, that heal, that pour out mercy.

Thanks for what you do.

If you can send me more materials, I will be very grateful.

Please, do not stop praying for me.

May Jesus bless you and the Holy Virgin take care of you.

Cordially.
Francisco

National Happenings

Beyond Abortion

By Sue Lani Madsen

(Jesse Tinsley/The Spokesman-Review)

Modern medicine recognizes a wide range of syndromes and disorders. Some are obscure, like the complex regional pain syndrome plaguing a neighbor. Some were once considered normal but are now labeled a disability, like obesity. And after almost two decades of war, society has become all too familiar with the acronym PTSD to refer to post-traumatic stress disorder.

In the case of post-abortion stress syndrome, politics has superseded medicine. Formal recognition for PASS has been vigorously opposed by the pro-abortion lobby lest it poke a hole in the “abortion is no big deal” narrative of the left. And PASS has admittedly been over emphasized by some anti-abortion groups using it to scare women facing unplanned pregnancies with unreasonably high statistics on its prevalence and acuity.

The problem is there are no reliable statistics. Both women and men suffer from degrees of post-abortion stress, but it's not possible to accurately measure the frequency of something which is not named. Common sense tells us it's real. Everyone has experienced regret over even relatively minor decisions and understands that regret can turn into a heavy burden.

Help is available for those who find themselves struggling with the symptoms of this special kind of PTSD. Path of Life has been serving the Spokane area since the 1980s. “All of our leaders are post-abortive and we're not judging you,” said Sheri Olsen of Path of Life. “We understand the post-abortion experience is a grief process, and it's important to give both men and women safe space to grieve that loss.” Path of Life offers an eight week group program using the Bible as a resource, although being a Christian isn't necessary to join a group.

Rachel's Vineyard of Spokane, a local chapter of the national organization, grew out of a Catholic outreach to women who have experienced abortion – as many as one in three women in the United States, according to some estimates. “If we can get one message across, we want people to know this is a place for healing and not for politics. We all have regrets in our lives, regret come with perspective,” said Julie Olson of Rachel's Vineyard.

The three day intensive retreats welcome all women who have had abortions as well as partners, parents, siblings and children affected by an abortion choice. According to Olson, most of their participants are 40 years old or more and have anniversary dates haunting them every year. The retreats provide a safe, non-judgmental place to tell their story. “So often people say they felt they had no choice, and no one will just listen. Our process acknowledges that we are all loved, and no sin is too great for God's forgiveness.” PASS is generally identified by symptoms of guilt, anxiety, numbness or depression, flashbacks and occasionally suicidal thoughts. All of these are closely identified with PTSD, a normal reaction to physical or emotional trauma. Suppressed trauma plays out in self-defeating behaviors including perfectionism, alcoholism, over-eating and a pattern of broken relationships.

Julie Olson recalled a woman in her 80s who attended a retreat and confessed regrets that while her pregnancy would have lasted 9 months, the abortion had lasted a lifetime. She had experienced six bad marriages, repeatedly setting herself up to fail. Olson recommended “Forbidden Grief” by Theresa Burke and David C. Reardon as a resource for those who feel isolated by their abortion experience or know someone who is struggling.

National Happenings

Olson also emphasized the power of our words. “All of us know women who have had abortions, whether we know it or not. How we talk matters,” she said. It’s the in your face #ShoutYourAbortion campaign, or a thoughtless comment at a neighborhood coffee klatch questioning how anyone could ever abort their baby that condemn those who are living with PASS to isolation and silence.

Spokane’s Walk for Life on Saturday morning in Riverfront Park will include survivors of PASS. Julie Olson said volunteers will be ready to block, if necessary, any protestors waving graphic posters. “Yes, that’s what it looks like, but it re-traumatizes those who are post-abortive.”

We no longer condemn the war weary soldier with PTSD to silence. Neither should we impose silence on those struggling with PASS. “Hope, help and forgiveness is available, and it’s free. Our focus at Path of Life is healing,” said Sheri Olsen.

***<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/jan/12/sue-lani-madsen-beyond-abortion> ***



Rachel's Vineyard South American Leadership Conference



The Leadership Conference in South America was a massive success!
It took place on **February 25-March 1st in Quito, Ecuador.**

We had representation from 10 countries: Argentina, Chili, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay Peru, USA, El Salvador, Venezuala, and Panama!

The fruit from this conference has manifested into 4 new sites in Latin America!!



Bishop Danilo Echeverria of Quito, Ecuador, giving his keynote during the conference!



Bishop Danilo Echeverria, Fr Victor Solomon with 5 other priests celebrating Mass during the Conference.

Rachel's Vineyard team from Loja, Ecuador



Fr Victor Solomon, Ana Julia Hill, Lorena Bolanos de Abrego, and Amparo Medina, members of the Ecuadorian Rachel's Vineyard site with new site sisters from Panama

Rachel's Vineyard Eastern European Leadership Conference



On **October 26th**, we held the Rachel's Vineyard Eastern European Leadership Conference in Slovenia.

On **November 3rd**, Dr Theresa Burke held a training event in **Graz, Austria**.

On **November 4th**, the sisters of the Marian Convent in **Vorau, Austria** (Kongregation der Schwestern von der Unbefleckten Empfängnis, CCIM), under the Leadership of Mother Superior Sr. Marianne Schuh, welcomed Theresa to conduct a specific training & reflection event for the Austrian team.

In Slovenia, as well as in Austria, Theresa was invited by the local bishops to discuss the work of Rachel's Vineyard.



Meeting with Bishop Wilhelm Krautwashul



Rachel's Vineyard Teams from Austria



Rachel's Vineyard Team from Slovakia



Rachel's Vineyard Team from Italy



Rachel's Vineyard Team from Hungary



Rachel's Vineyard Team from Slovenia

International Happenings

Rachel's Vineyard Offers Post-Abortive Healing in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada By: Allen Macartney

One-in-four women have had an abortion by age 45. More than half these women report having thoughts about suicide after their abortion. Many women quietly bury the psychological pain of abortion, but ministries like Rachel's Vineyard are helping them find closure and receive healing.

"After abortion many people feel shame, guilt, and loss," says Lynda Munroe, who organizes Rachel's Vineyard retreats, with her husband Terry, in the National Capital area. "If [these feelings] continue for more than three months they can develop into Post Abortion Stress Syndrome—a lot like PTSD. Depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, sleeping disorders, anger, and panic attacks sometimes follow."

Terry adds that post-abortive men also experience many of these same emotions. He says they sometimes bury the feelings by becoming angry, abusive, or workaholics.

"These retreats create a place where people can share, often for the first time."

"Abortion involves violence," says Lynda. "It causes long-term emotional trauma that often ripples outward and affects relationships in families, friends, and colleagues. It can unleash a lot of other violence, anger, and depression in people."

Rachel's Vineyard was designed by a counselling psychologist in the early 1990s. Each year more than one thousand of the retreats are offered worldwide.

"These retreats create a place where people can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about their abortion experience," says Terry. "It all happens within a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment. The result: it starts a process of restoration, renewal, and healing."

"Talk therapy isn't enough often to bring healing to post-abortive people," Lynda adds. "So we build in a wide range of healing methods [like creating ambiance with candles] that involve all senses."

Lynda and Terry most recently hosted an Ottawa retreat the weekend of May 31.

"Immediately after my first abortion I felt that I had done something wrong."

"We start the weekend by sharing dinner together," says Lynda, "then move into a 'Living Scripture' exercise time where we read a Bible story."

"Then someone reads it again in the first person, as if he or she is experiencing it directly," adds Terry. "It helps people sense God's compassion and mercy for them, process unresolved grief, and accept God's forgiveness and healing. It's very moving."

The retreats help participants see God as loving and forgiving. Healing is a process and participants do not go home fully healed, but the process has begun. Hearing the stories of others working through post-abortive grief helps participants realize they are not alone in their pain. It breaks the isolation that secrecy can cause.

International Happenings

Malinda Tibbitts experienced this grief personally, after having two abortions as a young adult.

“I trusted what newspapers and television said about abortion. The medical profession and our government said it was so easy, free, and safe. But immediately after my first abortion I felt that I had done something wrong. After my second abortion I felt a greater sense of loss and shame. They lied to me. These were not the mere ‘lumps of flesh’ I had been told. I buried the guilt for 30 years.”

“Stay open and communicative with your teen.”

Then she heard about Rachel’s Vineyard and attended a retreat.

“Before attending I was afraid of what might surface inside me. I really didn’t want to face more pain.”

Yet, Tibbitts says the retreat offered thoughtful and helpful illustrations that led to deep healing.

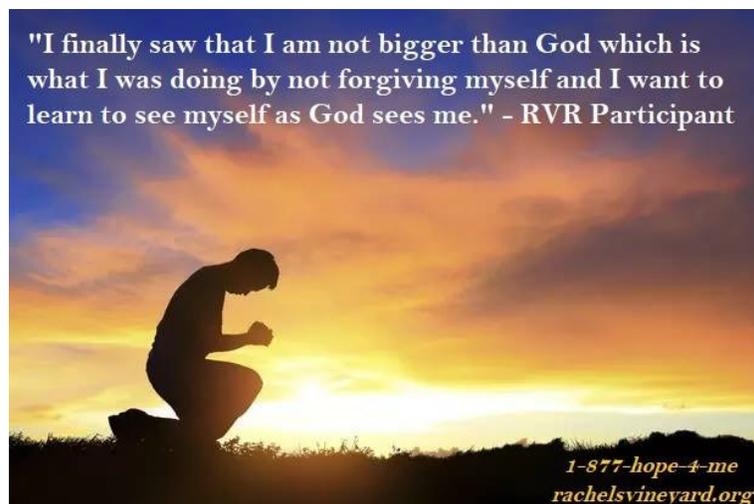
One past participant told Lynda, “For the first time in 10 years I don’t hate myself.” Another shared, “The communication has reopened between my husband and me.”

While healing ministry is important, avoiding abortions is a far easier route. Lynda and Terry say that parents of teens can play a key role.

“Stay open and communicative with your teen. Don’t threaten. Educate them about sex education and abortion so they know the real emotional risks.”

If a teen ends up pregnant, Lynda emphasizes that “an unplanned pregnancy is not a tragedy. Life is a gift from God. That’s what parents should say to teens. If it happens, come and tell us. We’re here for you. We’re going to help you walk through this.”

*** Article first appeared in SpurOttawa on June 11th , 2019*



News From Around the Vineyard

International Office

In the office located in King of Prussia, PA we have Dr. Theresa Burke, founder; Katie D'Annunzio, office manager; Lairen Vogan, executive assistant; and Kate O'Donnell, administrative assistant.

On the Radio:

On **January 14th**, **Dr Theresa Burke** was interviewed on Sacred Heart Radio.

Kevin Burke was interviewed on **Radio Maria** on February 5, April 30, June 11 and December 10, 2019



Interviews from around the world:

02/15 - Healing Path of Life Wounds—France Program

<http://www.13car.net/vignederachelecoutedanslanuit15022019.htm>

Rachel's Vineyard was featured by a number of media sources this year:

02/05 - Catholic Outlook

Healing Lives Broken From the Secret of Abortion

<https://catholicoutlook.org/healing-lives-broken-from-the-secret-of-abortion/>

04/17 - National Catholic Register

[The Apostle and the Revolutionary: How grief shaped two men who changed the world.](#)

04/23 - The Signal

Letter to the Editor Students for Life Respond to Controversy

<http://www.tcnjsignal.net/2019/04/23/letter-to-the-editor-students-for-life-respond-to-controversy/>

05/09 - Catholic Philly

<https://catholicphilly.com/2019/05/news/local-news/post-abortion-retreats-offer-healing-in-multiple-languages/>

07/31 - National Catholic Register

4 Catholic Missionaries on the Mission of the Church

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/jimgraves/4-catholic-missionaries-on-the-mission-of-the-church>

10/30 - Live Action

Look Inside the World's Largest Post-Abortion Ministry

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/look-inside-worlds-largest-post-abortion-ministry/>

11/20—Life News

Studies Show Suicide Rate for Women Having Abortions is Higher than Women Giving Birth

<https://www.lifenews.com/2019/11/20/studies-show-suicide-rate-for-women-having-abortions-is-higher-than-women-giving-birth/>

Training and Education in 2019

Clinical Training

Rachel's Vineyard offered clinical trainings to counselors and therapists, social workers, nurses, CPC workers, clergy and laity to educate them on the affects of abortion and present an overview of Rachel's Vineyard.

Those trainings were held in: **Columbia, PA; Mundelein, IL; Chicago, IL**

Regional Training

In addition to the clinical training, some groups opt for a day training for their Rachel's Vineyard team and teams from the surrounding areas. A regional training offers support and guidance for the team(s) by Theresa Burke. She covers facilitation skills, runs through any exercises the teams are struggling with and answers any questions team members may have.

Regional trainings were offered in: **Columbia, PA; Aston, PA; Newark, NJ; Lake Charles, LA**

Clergy Trainings:

Dr. Theresa Burke also held trainings for the clergy.

Those trainings were held in: **Columbia, PA; Mundelein, IL; Chicago, IL**



Other Speaking Events:

On **January 8th**, Dr. Theresa Burke was a speaker at The Order of the Two Hearts in **Norristown, PA**.

On **January 18th**, Kevin Burke, LSW spoke at the 2018 Summit - Mobilizing the Church For Life hosted by Anglicans for Life in **Washington, DC**.

On **March 30th**, Kevin Burke, LSW met with the Rachel's Vineyard retreat team from **Doylestown, PA**.

On **March 28th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with the teams from **South Florida**.

On **April 27th**, Dr. Theresa Burke was a speaker at the Institute of Religious Life in **Mundelein, IL**.

On **May 25th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with the Rachel's Vineyard teams in **Lake Charles, LA**.

On **May 30th-31st**, Dr. Theresa Burke was at the Priests for Life office in **Titusville, FL**.

On **June 4th**, Dr. Theresa Burke met with Karen Patota the Founder of A Baby's Breath in **King of Prussia, PA**.

On **June 12th**, Dr. Theresa Burke was a speaker at the Catholic Medical Boot Camp in **Mundelein, IL**.

On **July 25th**, Kevin Burke, LSW was a speaker at the Survivor's Camp: Pro-life Youth Training and Activism Camp in **Washington DC**.

On **September 10**, Kevin Burke, LSW visited Congressional Offices in Washington DC to rally support for Born Alive Bill - H.R. 962.

On **October 20**, Kevin Burke, LSW spoke at Masses at the Immaculate Heart of Mary in **Wilmington, DE**.

On **October 27**, Kevin Burke, LSW was a speaker at the "Impact of Abortion on the Family" Pro Life Forum in Hicksville, NY.

On **December 2**, Kevin Burke, LSW was a speaker at Pro- Life Family Night at Sacred Heart Church in **Bath, PA**.

On **December 13th-14th**, Dr. Theresa Burke recorded trainings at the Priests for Life office in Titusville, FL.

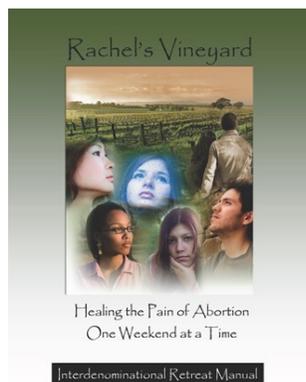
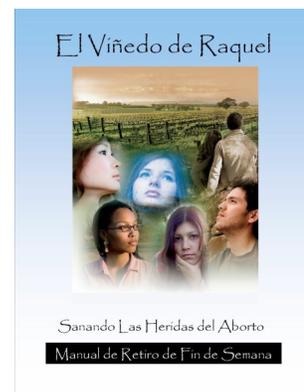
Retreat Manuals

Spanish Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual

Our newly revised and translated manual is available for approved Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites. Some of the changes include a more detailed anger exercise, and more specific instructions/cues, including a list of materials needed for each exercise.

We are also able to offer the Spanish online appendix with downloadable handouts to accompany the manual.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

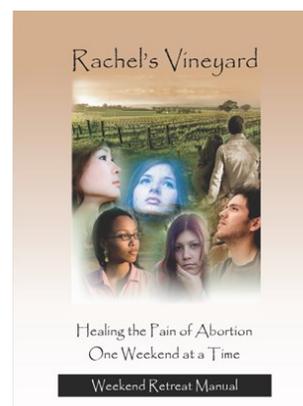


Rachel's Vineyard Interdenominational Retreat Manual is for Retreat Leaders to guide them through facilitating the psychological and spiritual journey of post-abortion healing.

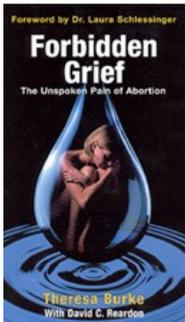
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat Manual is for Retreat Leaders to guide them through facilitating the psychological and spiritual journey of post-abortion healing. It is available in an Interdenominational edition as well as Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



Other Books Available

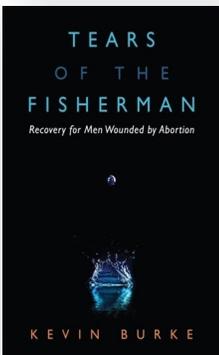
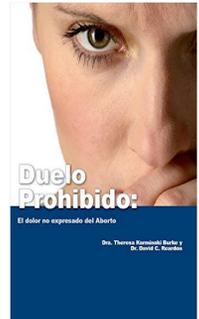


Forbidden Grief: the Unspoken Pain of Abortion is considered a definitive work on the study of traumatic reactions following abortion.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Duelo Prohibido: El Dolor No Expresada Del Aborto is the Spanish version of *Forbidden Grief*.

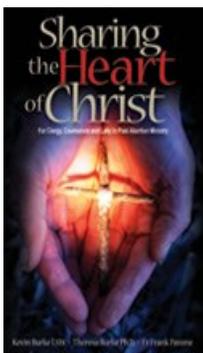
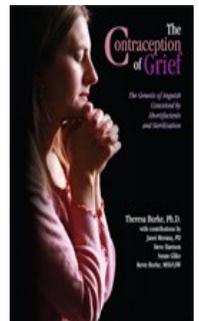
by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



Tears of the Fisherman, by Kevin Burke, LSW will help readers understand the wider impact of abortion on men, their relationships, families, faith and work lives. Through case studies, personal testimony, and the author's 30 years of experience in post abortion counseling, you will encounter men devastated by unwanted abortions, the burden of shame and guilt carried by men who were passive at the time of the abortion decision or pressured their partners to abort, and the impact of abortion among the male prison population.

Contraception of Grief exposes the pain that so many women endure when they realize that the contraceptives they used caused the deaths of their children. This book is for women, men, pastors, doctors, and all who minister to the family.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.



Sharing the Heart of Christ presents abortion as a relational wound exploring the impact upon marriage and family life. It also explores the vital role post abortion healing fulfills in realizing the New Evangelization in the life of the Church. Special chapters address unique issues faced by clergy when ministering to individuals who suffer from other trauma in their histories; couples who abort due to fetal abnormalities and practical preaching tips and sample sermons on post abortion trauma and healing.

by: Kevin Burke, co-founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, and Fr. Frank Pavone, Pastoral Director of Rachel's Vineyard.

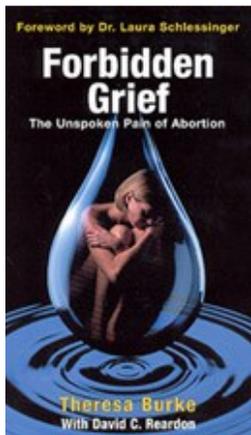
Auf Erstehung

Frauen und Männer berichten über ihre Heilung nach Abtreibung

This is a collection of Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More Testimonies compiled in German.



Translations of Forbidden Grief

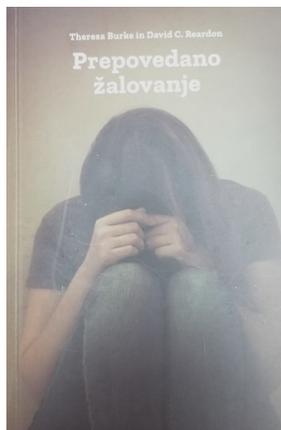
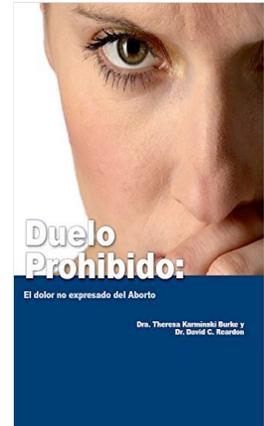


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The Slovenian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010

The Slovakian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010

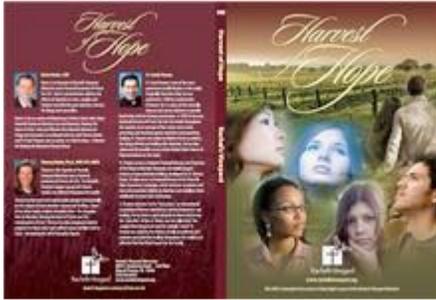


The Russian version of *Forbidden Grief*.

by: Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

Published in 2010

Other Resources Available



Harvest of Hope

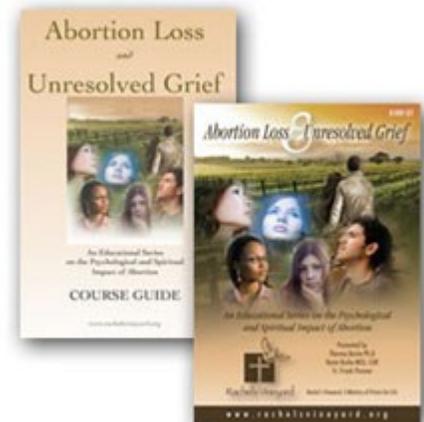
by Theresa Burke, PhD, Kevin Burke, MSS and Fr. Frank Pavone.

Harvest of Hope is a 30 minute DVD presentation intended for use on Rachel's Vineyard retreats. It offers a brief explanation of trauma, traumatic repetition, and other post abortion themes that are helpful for retreat participants to understand as they continue on their healing journey through the weekend, a special welcome to men and couples, and a pastoral message of encouragement and hope from Fr Frank Pavone.

Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief

DVD series and Course Guide

An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion. The set includes a collection of professionally produced DVD's of many of Kevin and Theresa Burke's presentations frequently given in clinical and pastoral trainings along with a number of talks by Fr. Frank Pavone including "The Parish-Home for Healing, Healing for the Abortionist, and Facing the Need for Healing." A Course Guide has been developed to use with the DVD set that provides an outline of each talk to help facilitate discussion as well as a course syllabus and sample exams. This set was made possible by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor.

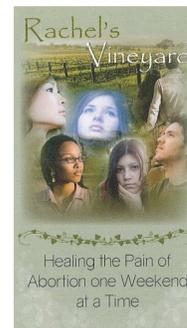


Promotional Materials

The Rachel's Vineyard Brochure has been updated to include the image from our website. It contains information about our ministry, symptoms of post abortion trauma, testimonies, and contact information to find a retreat in your area.

Bookmarks and Bumper Stickers are available. The Rachel's Vineyard Brochure is now available in Spanish!

We are thrilled to include Rachel's Vineyard DropCards as a new available resource!



For ordering, and for more information about our materials, please contact Kate O'Donnell at 610-354-0555.

Online Resources/Social Media

Website

Our website offers several resources that can be very useful for women and men looking for help after an abortion. We have several ways that an individual can contact us: email, ask the experts, online forums, and phone numbers for our hotline and each of our sites. The Ask the Experts sections is a good method of communication and has been a very useful tool. Individuals can browse questions or ask their own under categories such as: relationships, legal, mental health, men, spiritual, grief and loss, abuse, the Rachel's Vineyard retreat experience, and several others. We also have plenty of information to help people get a better understanding of post-abortion trauma and the mission of Rachel's Vineyard.

You can view our website at: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Newsletter: *Vine & Branches*

Our newsletter, *Vine & Branches*, goes out on the 1st of each month. It highlights news from our international office or around the vineyard, honors or awards received by our volunteers, articles written about post-abortion trauma and healing or Rachel's Vineyard, book reviews, and any other information or resources that would be useful for people involved with the post-abortion or pro-life ministry. We send it out via email and also post it to our website for anyone visiting our site to access. Also, old issues are available in an archive on our website.

You can view our newsletter archive at: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/resources/vine-branches.aspx>

Youtube Channel

Last year, we began posting weekly videos to the Rachel's Vineyard Channel on Youtube. We are able to reach the millions of people who cruise Youtube each day with inspirational and educational messages about abortion trauma and healing. These videos are a wonderful way to equip people with a resource they can quickly share with friends and family in need of healing by emailing or posting the link. The videos feature Kevin and Theresa Burke, founders of Rachel's Vineyard, Fr. Frank Pavone, Pastoral Director for Rachel's Vineyard, and other supporters of our ministry.

You can view our channel at: www.youtube.com/rachelsvineyard

Rachel's Vineyard Facebook Fan Page

Rachel's Vineyard joined the world of Facebook during the summer of 2009 with the creation of our Fan Page. Since then we have accumulated over 8,590 fans with new people joining everyday! It is a great way for the ministry to promote upcoming retreats, reach people with our newsletter and other resources, and promote our training events and conferences. It also gives people a chance to learn more about our ministry and meet others who are already involved or looking to get involved. We post our newsletter and list of upcoming retreats each month, report all trips followed by a post-trip overview, and share links and articles we feel support and reaffirm the mission of Rachel's Vineyard.

You can view our fan page at: www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard

Social Media

Twitter

We are excited to have joined the Twitter community this year. Through social media sites like this, we are able to expand our reach and communicate with people in a new and exciting way. After only a few months, we've gained nearly 2,000 followers. We share encouraging posts, graphics, and quotes from those around the world, and share things that we hope will help and inspire our audience.

You can view our Twitter at: www.twitter.com/rvhealing

Instagram

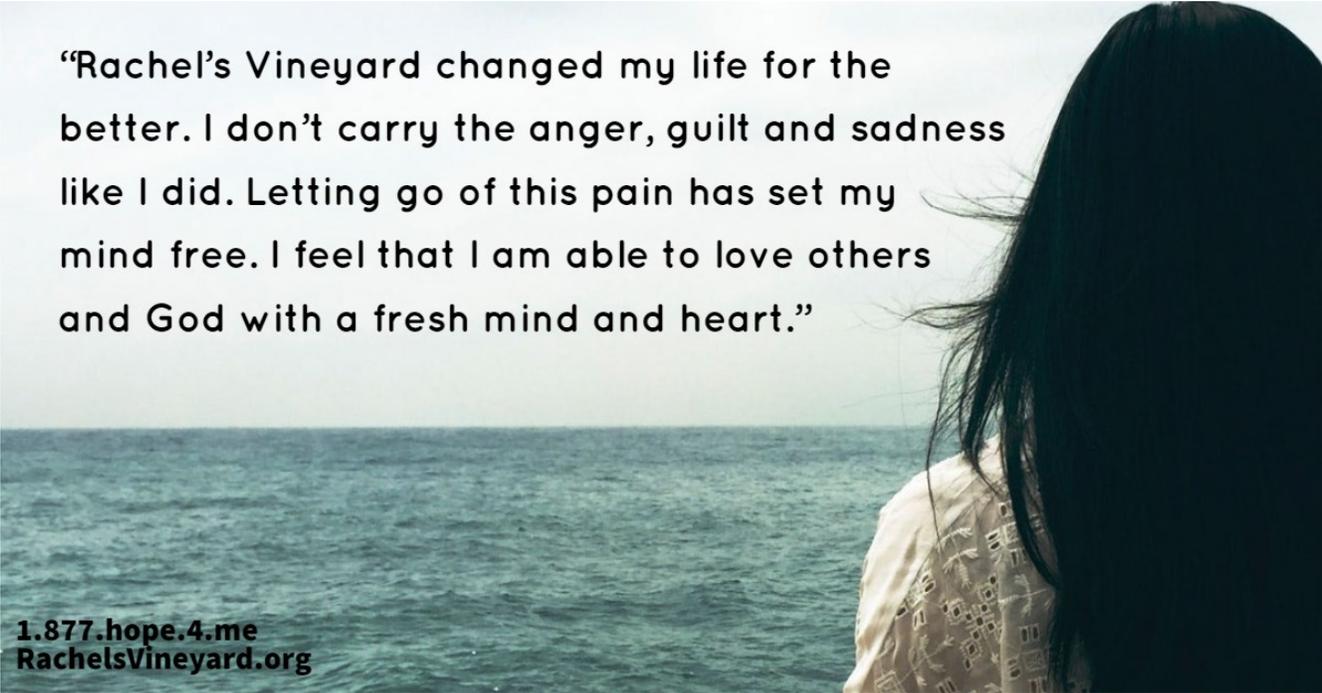
Just a few months ago, we became a part of the Instagram community. We are up to over 1000 followers and counting. We share beautiful pictures along with messages of hope, love, support, and healing. Instagram is a beautiful way to share out message of healing with the world.

You can view our Instagram at: www.instagram.com/rvhealing

Pinterest

Pinterest is another form of Social Media that we utilize to spread our ministry. We post graphics that people can save and use on their own. These graphics include pictures and quotes from our Rachel's Vineyard retreatants.

You can view our Pinterest at: www.pinterest.com/rachelsvineyard



“Rachel’s Vineyard changed my life for the better. I don’t carry the anger, guilt and sadness like I did. Letting go of this pain has set my mind free. I feel that I am able to love others and God with a fresh mind and heart.”

1.877.hope.4.me
RachelsVineyard.org