



Vine & Branches

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

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October/November 2024

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD. HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER."
PSALM 136:1



HAPPY
Thanksgiving

RACHELSVINEYARD.ORG

Rachel's Vineyard Team Updates & Announcements


As we near the beginning of another new year, we wanted to remind all of our teams to make sure to keep our main office up-to-date with scheduled retreats for 2025. We receive daily inquiries about upcoming retreats and want to make sure we have as much information as possible for people who are looking for healing.

Please note that we have updated the "Articles" section of our website to feature the latest articles from Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke. There are articles by other authors in our ministry, as well.

[All articles can be found here.](#)

Thank you all for everything you do for Rachel's Vineyard. From each of us at the

International Office to each of you, we wish you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Know that you're in our prayers.



**“Kindness is a language
which the deaf can hear
and the blind can see.”**

~ Mark Twain



Meet the Leaders!

The beautiful branches in our vineyard are filled with ‘grapes’ that have been pressed through difficulty and hardship. Remaining in Jesus, the true Vine, they help turn their adversity into ‘good fruit.’ We hope this feature of Vine & Branches can help other members of Rachel’s Vineyard get to know some of our phenomenal team leaders.



Shining the Light of Hope into Middle-Earth

They laugh readily, tease each other like life-long friends, and, with their warm welcome, put you immediately at ease. They’re Suzanne O’Rourke and Wendy Hill, the founders of our New Zealand team. And, on reflection, it’s not surprising you’d feel right at home with them.

New Zealand is not only a breathtakingly scenic, diverse country, it’s also the ‘home’ of the Hobbits. Middle-earth, the Shire, the entire Hobbit Trilogy was filmed in New Zealand. And while Suzanne and Wendy aren’t on a quest to destroy a ring or battle against Sauron and his evil forces, they’re companions on a journey of hope—beacons of light to people searching for healing.

Both women were born and raised in New Zealand, a country that’s roughly the same size as Colorado, but it took a number of decades for their paths to cross.

Wendy chuckles as she says, “Suzanne’s a farm girl. She lights up when she sees a cow. She knows the breed and all that, which I know nothing about.” Grinning, Suzanne explains that her childhood was surrounded by six siblings, parents, and “sheep, beef, and mixed crops.” Yet, as a young woman, she left her rural roots, moved to London, and spent time in New York, working in investment banking (within creative services and Change Management). Smiling, she says, “It was fun. I spent ten years of no sleep and all that kind of thing.” Her jobs also provided an insight into the financial world. “There were more employees at one of the banks I worked for,” she states, “than there were people in the entire province that I’d come from. And the assets the bank held were greater than the GDP of New Zealand. It was extraordinary.”

Although she loved the many people she met abroad, she knew she’d eventually return home. Unfortunately, the death of her father and one of her brothers brought her back sooner than she anticipated. “My mother was very ill, too.” she says quietly. “It took her a long time to recover.” That’s when Suzanne noticed that something seemed to be missing. “There was a real lack of generosity – a sadness – in the way that people spoke,” she notes. Drawn into pro-life

advocacy, she recognized that even there, “the language was missing the mark. It wasn’t sounding compassionate or hopeful.”

Then she heard about Rachel’s Vineyard.

A friend of hers mentioned a Rachel’s Vineyard Conference that was going to take place in Pennsylvania. It was an 8,000-mile (14,200-km) adventure, far exceeding the estimated 1,779 miles Frodo and Sam travelled from the Shire to Mount Doom. But it sounded worth it to learn more about the ministry.

They weren’t disappointed.

“The one thing that struck me more than anything was looking around and seeing a room filled with really beautiful people,” Suzanne expresses. “And it dawned on me that everyone in the conference had some connection with abortion.” She loved the optimism that was unmistakable in everyone’s sharing and planning. But what touched her the most was something even deeper. “The lovely spirituality of support and respect stayed with me long after I returned,” she explains.

Journeying back to New Zealand afterwards, Suzanne and her friend discussed their experience and the need for something similar in their own country. “Abortion is a real issue in New Zealand,” Suzanne relates, “but there wasn’t much of a coherent support for women then.” It was during this time that her path and Wendy’s crossed. That was the beginning of a decades-long friendship—and the quest of bringing hope and light into women’s lives.

Wendy’s background was substantially different from Suzanne’s. Instead of cultivating the land, her youth was spent tilling the field of pro-life activism. As the daughter of a woman very active in Operation Rescue, Wendy’s early life was filled with politics and protests. “I really admired my mother and her willingness to stand up and speak,” Wendy declares. “Mom and one of her friends went to jail for three months because they kept protesting at the clinic. The police tried not to arrest them because they were very sweet, lovely ladies, but finally, they had to.”

At the age of 18, Wendy learned first-hand the difficulties of being a pregnant, unwed mother. Although she was “offered an abortion,” she chose to follow the principles she was raised with. But it wasn’t necessarily easy.

Eventually, she trained to become a social worker and then studied to become a counsellor. Amidst that—and being a mother of seven children—the background of her life was filled with helping young pregnant women in difficult situations—and doing that gently, without coercion.

When they met, Suzanne and Wendy became instant friends. Starting a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in New Zealand seemed a natural next step.

They contacted the Australian team to learn how they could reach out to women living in a culture permeated with skepticism. “New Zealand is a really secular society, so there’s not a great literacy around spiritual matters,” Suzanne states. “There’s a real push against Christian spirituality. It’s easy to engage people if you talk about respecting the planet and creation. Then they’re with you. But the minute you mention respecting each *other* and everyone’s right to life, they’re not. It’s the Western world.”

Trained by their Australian counterparts and Dr. Theresa Burke, the new, enthusiastic team learned how to be counter-cultural **and** compassionate. But first, they had to experience their own retreats.

They decided to attend different retreats, and team members who hadn't experienced an abortion were told they could bring a distressing or heartbreaking experience. Wendy, whose partner had recently passed away, went on her retreat in Melbourne. But before she got there, she had already made up her mind. The death of her husband was not a subject she wanted to discuss.

"The first song they played on Friday night to lead us into the retreat was Michael Jackson's 'Gone Too Soon,'" she says. Unbeknownst to the Melbourne team, Wendy had chosen lyrics from that song for her spouse's headstone. "I remember running upstairs and down the corridor," she says. "I locked myself in my room. Later, I opened the pack on my bed. One of the things inside was a picture." It was an artist's rendering of a woman sitting in the darkness of a cave, with light that was streaming through the shape of the cross. Wendy recognized the picture immediately. She had the exact image when she was a teenager; it was one that spoke to her heart through some of her most difficult moments. With a sigh, Wendy realized both 'coincidences' were coming from God, so she pulled herself together and went back downstairs.

After their retreats, Suzanne, Wendy, and the rest of the team looked at the different ways they could keep a small ministry financially afloat. The decision was made to set up a charitable trust. To keep everything clear and simple, the Rachel's Vineyard (NZ) Trust was established with only two objectives.

"One is to fundraise to support the retreat program. We decided to not charge people to attend the retreat, so we rely on donations. The other objective is to grow the ministry. There have been times when those goals have been a challenge, but we've never looked back," Suzanne says, smiling.

Their first retreat was held in 2010, and since its beginnings, the number of participants was kept purposely small – with no more than six women per retreat.

In New Zealand, many women never talk about their abortions. Their grief remains buried, and they struggle alone—in silence. Frequently, the first time they think about their abortion from a perspective that's different from the cultural narrative is when they first contact the team. So keeping the retreat small gives each woman the freedom to open up and share her story with as much detail as she wants. This decision has proven to be helpful. Suzanne and Wendy consistently see that in making the space and time available, tremendous healings have occurred.

"The retreat is amazing," Wendy exclaims. "You can actually see what the process is from a counselling point of view, and then you see the Holy Spirit's work."

Suzanne nods in agreement, "We work hard to create the space. And there have been some tough characters with really difficult stories—really tough. Unfortunately, that's what this issue does to people. But it's amazing to see that no one is beyond reach of the Holy Spirit. And that means us, as well."

The team members are, indeed, touched by the retreats, too. Sometimes in ways they never would have imagined.

“Rachel’s Vineyard has really helped me personally,” Suzanne continues, “It’s helped me discover my spirituality. Our spirituality is one of compassion—of sitting with other people and just allowing them to be.” Then she adds, revealing her down-to-earth, agrarian origins, “It’s the spirituality of knowing that God is the ground from which you grow.”

This spirituality extends even to the materials that are used on the retreat.

“After our first retreat, we wanted a way to connect people through the whole story, the whole lifetime, of this ministry,” Suzanne mentions. “A woman volunteered to sew a quilt and said she could make a tree of life. Then every retreatant could pin a leaf on, so over the years, the tree would fill up with leaves.”

Wendy adds, “Every leaf or butterfly has written on the back the name of the retreatant’s unborn child. If a woman has had multiple abortions or miscarriages, she’ll cluster them together.”

The quilt visually symbolizes the ministry and the women who have found healing. It represents each person who has attended; each child lost to abortion; each team member; each person who has worked behind the scenes preparing food, arranging flowers, helping with transportation, or cleaning; each person who has prayed throughout the weekend for the participants; each person who has been a part of making the retreat work. It’s a tangible image of the people who have been affected by abortion—and a reminder that they’re all connected.

But the quilt is not merely displayed at each retreat. In 2023 it was part of a roadshow that traveled throughout New Zealand. The tour, which was open to the public free of charge, included the quilt as well as displays from the [Buttons Project](#), which was founded by Marina and Peter Young.

Marina and Peter have received thousands of buttons from people in New Zealand, each button commemorating a child who was lost through abortion. Many of the buttons come with notes that memorialize their child. Some of the buttons are displayed in glass jars. Others have been used to create artwork—like the image of an unborn baby.

During the three-day exhibit, speakers gave workshops about abortion and healing. “This has to be talked about,” Wendy exclaims. Through the roadshow, Rachel’s Vineyard and the Buttons Project were able to raise public awareness about the grief that men and women experience after an abortion. Their roadshow format helps start the conversation, provide resources, and offer hope to the men and women who stop by.

For Suzanne and Wendy, what must have seemed like a random meeting over 15 years ago has evolved into an epic quest against the darkness that so many women and men face after their abortion. It’s developed into a rich friendship that has helped them persevere through the challenges they’ve faced individually and together. It’s shown that God’s Light still shines and, to quote Samwise Gamgee, “it’s worth fighting for.”



Wendy Hill (Counsellor & Retreat Coordinator) with Suzanne O'Rourke (Site Leader)



The Rachel's Vineyard New Zealand Quilt



Part of the Buttons Project display

“As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that
the highest appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them.”

~ John F. Kennedy

Miss the Leaders: Eugenia Hadley Retires

We're having a special 'Leaders' segment in this issue, which we could aptly name **Miss the Leaders**. As a way of thanking and honoring Eugenia Hadley, who will be retiring at the end of this year, we're highlighting a bit of her background and giving her the opportunity to thank all our teams, especially those in South America, who have been such a huge part of her life **and** her heart.

Eugenia and her four sisters grew up in Mexico City. Their childhood was a happy one. Both her parents had strong characters, which could lead to loud discussions, but overall, they were very good parents, and the home was a loving one.

Their mother was an incredible homemaker who always had an immaculately clean house and delicious meals. As an excellent seamstress, she sewed most of their clothes, and the girls always went to school with perfectly ironed uniforms. But it was hard keeping Eugenia clean and neatly ironed. She was a tomboy who loved riding her bike and going to the park every day with her sisters and their nanny, Maria de Jesus, who loved and played with them.

When Eugenia was 13 years old, she met a young religious sister whose name was Rocio. Sr. Rocio invited Eugenia to do mission work in the Mesquital, a very rural and poor place. She gave her heart and energy to the people and the mission. Like so many people who serve selflessly, she believes she got more from them than she could have ever given. One incident in particular remains with her. A little boy “gave up his own meal of a tortilla and frijoles” for her to enjoy.

Fast forward to her adult years, when she moved to Washington, DC, for a year to learn English. There, she met her future husband, Terry, “who has been my biggest support for my training teams in other countries.” They eventually married and had four wonderful children: Chris, Stephen, Lauren, and Kevin.

While working at Centro Tepeyac Women's Center in post-abortion and crisis counseling, Cecilia Ryan (who was well known in our Rachel's Vineyard family) invited Eugenia to help her with a post-abortion support group. It was there that Eugenia learned about Rachel's Vineyard. She "immediately fell in love with it" and recognized how valuable it would be for the Hispanic community. With a sad smile, she says, "Later on, an incredible spiritual friendship between Celia and I blossomed. I miss her."

Approximately two years later, Eugenia helped start the first Spanish Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Viñedo de Raquel). She also represented the ministry at the World Pro-Life Conference in Chile. It was a life-altering experience for her. "Many of the attendees asked me if I could come to their country and help them start a Viñedo de Raquel," she says. Most people would find that intimidating. Not Eugenia. Undaunted by the number of requests she received, she jumped in and flew to wherever she was needed.

But her worldwide travels were not mini vacations filled with sightseeing and luxury hotels. The people who asked for her help had very limited funds, yet they always managed to raise enough money to pay for Eugenia's airfare. While she was there training their newly formed teams for a week, she stayed in the homes of team members. At the end of her stay, she assisted them in hosting their first retreat. It wasn't easy, but her love for the many women she worked with is evident in the tone of her voice. "I have always been so touched by the hard work the teams have done to be able to establish their own Viñedos de Raquel retreats," she states gently.

Off the top of her head, Eugenia can easily name at least sixteen Spanish teams that she personally helped start:

- One in Argentina
- One in Arizona
- One in Chile
- Two in Colombia: Bogota and Cali
- Two in Ecuador
- One in El Salvador
- One in Washington DC
- One in Madrid, Spain
- One in Mexico City
- One in Miami
- One in Puerto Rico
- One in Peru
- One in Tenerife, Spain
- One in Uruguay

These new teams were like seeds, quickly rooting in the rich soil she helped prepare. And some of **them** became sources of new seedlings, training other new teams to spread the vineyard throughout their own countries and beyond.

During her two decades of training and supporting Spanish teams, even when she was tired from her many journeys, she kept pushing forward, knowing "that there are many people around the world in need of the healing that Viñedo de Raquel provides." She treasures her experience of helping women who were suffering from their abortions "feel safe, heard, and loved."

Eugenia's efforts in spreading Viñedo de Raquel throughout South America were monumental. Many of the women she has trained consider her their "big mama (as Theresa calls me)," she says laughing. Like a "mama," the teams know that they can call her whenever they need help—she's there with a listening ear and gentle guidance. "They are always going to be in my heart and my prayers," she concludes.

When asked what parting words she'd like to express to the many teams she's helped form, Eugenia thinks for a few minutes and says, "Get together at least twice a month as a team to pray and practice together." Then she adds, "And don't forget to say 'thank you' to God for this incredible invitation of being part of Viñedo de Raquel. Valla con Dios. Solo el amor es real."¹¹

Thank you, Eugenia, for your 20 years of love and service to the women in South America who suffered after their abortions, to the team members you helped and nurtured, and to all of us in the International Office. We truly appreciate your *selflessness* to ensure Rachel's Vineyard would be rooted throughout the continent. We pray that you'll be able to enjoy your retirement—and spend ample amounts of time with Terry and your precious grandchildren: Zachary, Elora, Gideon, Isabel, and Luis!

¹¹ "Go with God. Only love is real."



Eugenia and Fr. Victor Salomon



Eugenia in Peru, 2016



Graduation celebration!



Dr. Burke and Eugenia presenting together



Dr. Burke and Eugenia



"Often when you think you're at the end of something,
you're at the beginning of something else."

~ Fred Rogers



Media Around the Vineyard

Theresa will be on EWTN's @ Home with Jim and Joy, Wednesday, November 20, and Thursday, November 21 at 1:30pm EST.

You can watch via **EWTN** (On Demand: <https://ondemand.ewtn.com/> and scroll down to LIVE SHOWS, then @ home with Jim & Joy) or **YouTube** (<https://www.youtube.com/@EWTNcatholicv/videos>)



Rose Romant Todd (our Rachel's Vineyard site leader in Fairfield, CA) was recently interviewed on Salem Sacramento Radio! You'll enjoy listening to her wonderful interview. You can also read about Rose from her feature in our June 2023 Vine & Branches!

Both links can be [found here](#).



Shannon Faith is the creator of the website, *Fired by Faith and Fury*. Their mission is to create and foster a culture of life in Florida, the country, and the world. One of the features on *Fired by Faith and Fury* are their daily Master "Peaces." Each day a pro-life author is highlighted, and they read a scripture followed by a poem of the day, a truth of the day, and a song of the day. This month's scripture reading is from Ephesians 6:10-20, putting on the armor of God.

Dr. Burke was asked to have her book, *Forbidden Grief*, placed on the website for Day 16; you can hear her read from Ephesians 6. To check it out see the links below:

<https://www.firedbyfaithandfury.com/>

<https://www.firedbyfaithandfury.com/post/day-16>



A new peer-reviewed report indicates the Turnaway Abortion Study violated women's privacy rights. In an effort to prove that women who are denied abortions suffer economic harms, ANSIRH (a department at the University of California San Francisco dedicated to advancing abortion access both domestically and abroad) provided the personally identifying information of the participants to Experian to retrieve their credit history data, including a summary of court appearances. Based on ANSIRH's published reports, David Reardon's study was able to document that the study participants were never informed that their credit records would be pulled or examined, much less asked for permission to do so.

[To read the report, click here.](#)



**"All this is for your benefit,
so that the grace that is reaching more and more people
may cause thanksgiving to overflow
to the glory of God."
~ 2 Corinthians 4:15**



Auxiliary Bishop Helps Celebrate 25 Years of RV Dallas



Auxiliary Bishop Gregory Kelly (of Dallas, TX) once again attended and assisted on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. This the 25th year of offering Rachel's Vineyard Retreats in Dallas! Bishop Gregory Kelly also helped celebrate their 25th Anniversary Mass.

Dr. Burke shared the following words of encouragement:

What a tremendous blessing to be celebrating 25 years of ministry in Dallas!!! I send my heartfelt Congratulations and prayers for all of you!

It is so important for us to be radically committed to healing if we want to see transformation come alive in this culture.

When pain is not transformed – it is transmitted from one generation into the next. We see evidence throughout the culture that when the conscience is aborted, the truth becomes quite distorted.


But the truth can be found when we experience Christ in the midst of our pain. Truth comes when we recognize that we are loved; when isolation is replaced with compassion and community. The truth is found when we walk in communion with God and each other, together building a bridge toward wholeness and holiness.

This makes a tender space for the sacred work of healing.


Recovery allows the soul to sink into what is true. Not so that we fall into despair, but to give ourselves permission to grieve and reconcile with God, with ourselves, and our lost children. This opens the door to true, authentic hope and joy. Healing helps us reclaim peace in our own lives first, so that we can reflect this toward others in our families, and our community.

Thank you. Thank you for helping so many women and men take that journey into love and freedom.

I wish you many blessings as you celebrate a quarter of a century--transforming so many lives--as you pour so much love into beautiful works of mercy and grace! I pray you continue to serve many new generations in the years ahead. May God bless all of you!



**"The Lord is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song
I give thanks to him."
~ Psalm 28:7**



Madrid *By Emily Babilonia*

A Colombian couple and their friend decided to move to Madrid, Spain, because they felt God's calling to help in respect-life ministries and to open a new Viñedo de Raquel (Rachel's Vineyard site). All three, Luis Gabriel Montañez, Yomar Barreto, and Alex Quintanilla, started praying for guidance from the Lord to show them the way. They had been serving in Rachel's Vineyard Bogota, Colombia, for many years. After a few months of prayer, they went to their priest, who listened to them carefully. He was open to a new site and knew it was much needed in Spain, but he first wanted the approval of Madrid's bishop. With the bishop's blessing, they contacted me to help in the process of paperwork and permission from the International Headquarters of Rachel's Vineyard, who immediately said yes!

My team (Nilda Sepúlveda, Luz Peña, Marisol Rodríguez, María Luisa Figueroa, and myself) started to pray so that Our Lord could also guide us, too, because we knew that plane tickets to Spain weren't cheap. I invited team members from other sites that we have opened, as well. Claudia Argueta from Honduras and Bernardita Eusebio from Dominican Republic came with us. We also have a site in Tenerife Islas Canarias, so Luis Gabriel contacted Silvia Gonzalez and asked if she could come. She immediately said yes, too. We also invited Montse SanMartin, from our site in Barcelona, which hasn't been active for a few years. She and a fellow team member, Juan Luis, both accepted.

The bishop assigned Fr. Manuel Navarro to be the priest at the retreat, and Luis Gabriel invited Fr. Alvaro Jaramillo, who serves in our Rachel's Vineyard Bogota, Colombia, team. This completed our team! We began the preparation, starting with prayers, Rosaries, novenas, Masses, and Adoration. We also had many meetings and trainings.

Locally, my team and I decided to hold a fundraiser to help us with the cost of the plane tickets and supplies we were donating to the Madrid team. We received money from many people who wanted to help us.

The retreat was held last month, October 11th through 13th. We had 22 participants, including two couples, and we honored 93 babies (I think that's a record). As always, God's mercy and love showered our participants. They were so different on Sunday; it really **was** the Resurrection of Our Lord! He did the

miracle work of healing. He put his hands on their hearts, and He restored them. Only Jesus can do that! He also showered all of us – the team members – with His grace.

We are so grateful to Our Lord for calling us to serve him. He always surprises us, and this time, He inspired Montse (the leader of the Barcelona team) to begin retreats again next year! There are already talks to open even more sites in Spain. We're delighted and open to go wherever Our Lord wants us to go. As always, the honor and glory go to Him.



Madrid, Barcelona-Tenerife Isla Canarias RV Leaders





Emily, Fr. Manuel, and Nilda Sepulveda

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name."
~ Psalm 100:4

United in Prayer

During November, the month of All Souls, we're recognizing and praying for all the team members in our ministry who have passed away, as well as anyone who was influential in helping our teams. We invited our teams to give us a list of deceased members and friends; the names that were submitted are below. There are many people who can be included in this list, including the people who were instrumental at the start of Rachel's Vineyard, so we're holding everyone who has ever been part of our ministry in our hearts and prayers.

Joanne Forgue	5/4/03	Oklahoma City
Janet Kormish	2014	Kelowna, BC
Ita Duncombe	2015	Kelowna, BC
Fr. Don Wilson	2015	Kelowna, BC
Msgr. Charlie Mulvihill	2016	Kelowna, BC
Peter Weiler	2022	Kelowna, BC
Russ Radi	2024	Kelowna, BC
Fr. Will Prospero	2014	Western Dakotas (Rapid City & Bismarck Dioceses)
Terry Krenz	2018	Western Dakotas (Rapid City & Bismarck Dioceses)
Imogene Wittenhagen	2023	Western Dakotas (Rapid City & Bismarck Dioceses)
Fr. Casimir Paluck	2023	Western Dakotas (Rapid City & Bismarck Dioceses)

Nancy Rodrigue	4/13/21	New Orleans, LA
Shirley Carpenter		Oregon
Jim Eckstine		Oregon
Lucy Eckstine		Oregon
KayMarie Geiger	2014	Richmond, VA
Joe Geiger	2011	Richmond, VA
Diane Marinacci	2011	Richmond, VA
Gordon Frantzich	2014	Fredericksburg, VA
Patricia Lometti	5/28/2024	Fresno, CA
Danny Heim		PA
Rosemary Heim		PA
Pat Reynolds	12/15/2016	Dallas, TX
Fr. Lloyd Morris	1/14/2024	Dallas, TX
Ed O'Brien III	7/10/2013	Dallas, TX



Please pray for **Marjorie Long and her family** (Lake Charles, LA) after the unexpected loss of her son-in-law. We pray for strength and peace during this most difficult time.

Gordon Frantzich passed away on October 27, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He and his beautiful wife, Deborah, were a ministry dream team! They were valuable members of our Rachel's Vineyard Richmond, VA, team and were instrumental in starting an interdenominational retreat team in Fredericksburg, VA. Gordon was a gentle man with such a caring heart. He and Deborah came to almost every leadership Conference we had and were influential in helping other non-Catholic sites by sharing sample letters for pastors and answers to frequently asked questions. Through their selflessness and commitment, they've touched countless lives and are deeply treasured in their community. Gordon will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him.

You can [read his obituary here](#) and watch [his Celebration of Life here](#). Condolences can be left [here](#) or [here](#).

Below is a reflection Gordon sent to Theresa in 2004:

I had never thought about the fact that the very nature of our memories can provide a whole different perspective on what we really struggle with. We have found very beneficial application within our own family.

It's much like a painted picture; given a core subject matter, all will paint it differently. And while we as observers (and at the same time painters ourselves) often only consider and wonder about the subject matter, we do not always stop to contemplate the nature of the painting, considering the type of brush strokes, choices of colors, relative size, proportion and juxtaposition of the various parts of the composition, etc.

Thus, the nature of our memories reflect much concerning our past and present relationship with those whom we deem should be and should have been in the position to provide protection, care, and nurturing, including those who were and are supposed to love us, and ultimately including God Himself.

We will make his *Frequently Asked Questions* and his *Introduction Letter to Pastors* available to anyone who would like them. Please contact Office@RachelsVineyard.org if you would like them emailed to you.

"Continue steadfastly in prayer,
being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

~ Colossians 4:2

**Connect with us!!
RV Social Media**

"Coming
through the
retreat,
I found
that God
forgives."

RachelsVineyard.org

Social Media provides a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our teams, retreatants, and ministry supporters from around the world!


Please follow us to stay up-to-date with the latest from RV:

[Facebook.com/RachelsVineyard](https://www.facebook.com/RachelsVineyard)


Instagram [@RVHealing](https://www.instagram.com/RVHealing)

Twitter/X [@RVHealing](https://twitter.com/RVHealing)

[Youtube.com/RachelsVineyard](https://www.youtube.com/RachelsVineyard)



"Reflect upon your present blessings,
of which every man has plenty;
not on your past misfortunes,
of which all men have some."
~ Charles Dickens




Additional Healing Programs from Dr. Theresa Burke


The founder of Rachel's Vineyard, Dr. Theresa Burke, has developed two additional healing retreats:

- Grief to Grace: Healing the Wounds of Abuse, Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity
- Duty to Heal: Finding Peace for a Soldiers Heart.

To see the retreat schedule for Grief to Grace, [click here!](#)
For more information about Duty to Heal, [click here!](#)



"You are never too old
to set a new goal
or dream a new dream."
~ C.S. Lewis



Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends

There are 42+ retreats happening around the world throughout November and December. To see our full retreat schedule, [click here!](#)

