

“Thus saith  
the Lord,  
cease your  
weeping and  
dry your  
eyes... there  
is hope...”



# Kentucky *memorial* for the unborn

OCTOBER 2007

## Share The Vision

Parents and family members who never had the chance to know and share in the life of their unborn baby will soon have a place to memorialize their child thanks to a new effort that has been organizing and planning since early in 2006. The Memorial, which seeks to reach out to family members who are experiencing unresolved grief after losing an unborn child, will honor all children who lost their lives before birth. Often, mothers and fathers who chose abortion wish they had taken a different path, experiencing more heartache and grief than anyone could have expected. The Memorial will serve as a place of remembrance to help release that burden. It will also serve as a place of rest for families who lost a child by miscarriage or accident, but who have never had a site committed to the memory of the child.

The *Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn* will offer healing and hope through an inspired garden journey. The garden will include an inscription from Jeremiah 31, "A voice was heard in Ramah, Rachel weeping for her children who are no more...but, there is hope."

The design leads visitors into an area landscaped in the general form of a womb – the hidden place designed by God to protect and nurture the beginning of human life. From there the walk moves to a resting place at a small pool that catches the tears of a life-size bronze of "Rachel Weeping for her Children." From this pool of tears, springs will come forth representing "living water" described in Revelation 7:17, where God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

"I believe the Memorial will provide a ministry of reconciliation that draws the hearts of fathers and mothers back to their children," said Kathy Rutledge, Memorial Committee chairman, referencing Malachi 4:6. "The memorial wall will allow individuals to express heartfelt love for their babies lost before birth, one child at a time. God calls each of us by name and does not forget a single one of us."

## Frankfort Cemetery Approves Memorial Location

At their July Board of Directors meeting, the Frankfort Cemetery approved the placement of the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn on beautiful cemetery grounds in a newly opened section overlooking the Kentucky River. The Frankfort Cemetery is an older historic cemetery at 275 Main Street where Daniel Boone, former governors and other dignitaries are buried.

In order to secure this location, the Steering Committee for the memorial will need to raise between \$13,500 and \$40,000, depending on the square footage needed to construct the monument.

At this point, we need persons with a construction background to help select the most suitable site in the new section and to redesign the memorial as needed to fit the site.

If you have an architectural or construction background and would like to volunteer in this capacity, please contact Kathy Rutledge at 859.230.5362.

# Prayer

In 2 Chronicles 20; Jehosaphat is alarmed as he hears the news of an enemy attack coming to destroy his land. His first reaction was to inquire of the Lord. There is power in prayer and all things should be placed before the Lord before we take action.

As you know; the building of the Kentucky Memorial is coming near. All of this ministry has been directed by God because of prayer partners; and now is the time to move up to another level of prayer as the purchase of property is close. We need to follow Jehosaphat's example and pray with faith that He will provide and protect. If you would like to be a part of the email prayer team for this ministry please contact Pat at [prohach@earthlink.net](mailto:prohach@earthlink.net)

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil 3: 13-14. (NIV)*

## My Story

By Kathy Rutledge

Growing up in a Christian home, I eagerly gave my heart to Jesus at a young age, but as a teenager in a new high school, I drifted into the unrestrained lifestyle of new classmates, trading Christian virtues for popularity, and ultimately, a crisis pregnancy. Being the granddaughter of a local pastor, my immediate family feared shame and ridicule and convinced me that an abortion was best for me.

Looking back, my heart whispered not to abort, but I numbly proceeded anyway. The choice seemed simple – get out of my predicament and get on with my life. But this “simple” choice would deliver me into an emotionally crippling tailspin of despair. The trauma of the procedure paled compared to the profound regret that I carried afterwards, overwhelmed with an undeniable realization that the spirit of the child had been with me and was now gone and that I could not reverse time.

Struggling to get over my secret, I rededicated my life to the Lord a year later and asked his forgiveness for taking my child's life. Forgiving myself was more difficult. I suffered in silence for ten years until I participated in a post-abortive healing conference where I learned that I was short-changing God by refusing to forgive myself, and a river of healing waters began to flow. Through God's grace, my aborted child now has a name and a special memorial to honor him as a person created in His image. I also look forward to our reunion one beautiful day when I meet our Redeemer and Healer.

## Abortion Recovery

In 1991, John Baker, with the help of Rick Warren, started a support group and called it *Celebrate Recovery at Saddleback Church in California*. Since 1991 the program has swept the nation and been introduced into thousands of churches. What is Celebrate Recovery? It is a Biblically and balanced program that is focused on helping individuals overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups.

The foundation of Celebrate Recovery is grounded on the words of Jesus rather than a psychological theory. Rick Warren identified the success of how many programs, like AA, have utilized the 12 step process and helped many lives. However, he was uncomfortable with the vagueness about the character of God, the power of Jesus Christ, and the role of the Holy Spirit. After intense study of the scriptures, Rick Warren discovered the 8 principles of recovery, spoken by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

So you may ask, “What does a 12 step program have to do with Abortion Recovery?” Most 12 step programs focus on overcoming addictions, abortion is not an addiction. However, addiction is just a symptom of deeper issues, or hurts. The underlying hurts must be healed. Just as with abortion there are many layers and recovery is so deeply needed. Realizing this, Southland Christian Church has asked a couple of its members to step up and lead this much needed support group. As you pray for the Memorial for the Unborn, could we ask you to add this request as well? The harvest is plenty of those hurting from abortion; they need the courage to step forward for healing.

To obtain more information on the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn or order a nameplate, contact our office at 859.255.2000. To book a guest speaker for your group or find post-abortive and grief recovery referrals, contact Kathy Rutledge, Steering Committee Chairman, at 859.230.5362. or, e-mail to [KyMemorial@aol.com](mailto:KyMemorial@aol.com)

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