

IPC Messenger

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office 912-236-3346 | Fax 912-236-3676 | E-Mail info@ipcsav.org | Website www.ipcsav.org

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PRAYER AND PROVISIONS

Nearly a year ago the session began to urge that we hire a church administrator. I was skeptical. Your elders were convinced that we needed an administrator to oversee both the physical plant and assist staff, officers, and members to carry out the ministry of IPC. This administrator would be available on Sundays to assist with the ministry. No complaints were expressed about Jeff Powell, only appreciation. Jeff managed our facilities for nearly ten years. We loved Jeff, found him easy to work with, and we were thankful to have a zealous believer in the position. Leave well enough alone, I thought.

Here was my concern: how would we ever find someone who would understand, appreciate, and love us? Is that so difficult to do? Actually, yes. Let's go back exactly 100 years to the beginning of World War I in August 1914. Hundreds of churches were just like ours. Thousands. Our Sunday service, for example, is essentially unchanged since then. So is our pattern of church life. We were normal.

No more. The church world has changed around us. When we interview potential employees, be they ever such sweet Christians, they find our practices surprising, if not incomprehensible. By today's standards, there's a lot to being a Presbyterian. It's *hard* to be a Presbyterian.

Think of all the disciplines which we emphasize. Not just the discipline of church discipline. That is strange enough. Who practices church discipline anymore? There's a Sunday night service *in addition* to Sunday morning. Much of the evangelical world has a Saturday night service that *replaces* the Sunday morning service. The Sunday night

service, typically, was canceled *20 years ago*. In our church, one is expected to go to both services plus observe a Sunday Sabbath *all day long*. One is expected to conduct daily family worship. One is expected to catechize one's children. The services themselves are no fun. There's no praise band. There's no light show. There's no drama team. There's no pyrotechnics. All the songs are between 100 and 3,000 years old. It's *hard* to be a traditional Presbyterian.

Director of Administration

Hiring employees from outside of the church means inviting people into the heart of our congregational life who are likely to see our various disciplines as harsh. Sounds "legalistic" to them. Sounds "narrow" to them. Are we to hire a church administrator, one who will oversee all of the hands-on ministry of the church, who won't get what we're up to and whose sympathies will lie elsewhere? Where in all the earth will we find someone who will understand, appreciate, and love us?

Yet, we did. We prayed for several months through the fall and winter. This spring we heard about Josh Espinosa. He served as the church administrator for Christ Church of the Carolinas for 13 years. Serving under the Reverend Det Bowers, Josh oversaw two building programs and basically ran the church, from top to bottom. He is a communications expert, a web-master, and a savvy user of social media. He shares our theological convictions and he has known and appreciated us for years. Josh is a remarkable provision for our church and a clear answer to the cries of our hearts. *Jehovah jirah*, the Lord has provided.

Minister's secretary

This spring we learned that Debbie Parker would need to retire due to health issues. This was a devastating blow to me. Debbie has struggled with serious health problems for years. Yet she has always been able to come back and do in a day what it takes others a week to do. She has worked for me for nearly 15 years. Few people understand the sheer volume and complexity of the work that comes through my office. I was crippled without her and dreaded searching for a replacement for the irreplaceable. I pleaded with God for either a miracle healing or a miracle replacement. We interviewed a possible replacement. I sensed a "are you people from Mars," lack of non-recognition as we discussed our church. Where in all the world would we find a replacement that would compare favorably with Debbie's patience, skill and professionalism?

Yet, we did. God heard our prayers and He has provided. Karen Hansill, wife of Bill, mother of Courtney, is a member of our church. She grew up at Hull Memorial and has been with us for five years since returning from Pennsylvania and was with us seven years before that(1994-2001). She gets us. She likes us. She is the consummate professional, having worked as an elementary teacher, school administrator, and reading consultant with Open Court/ McGraw-Hill and independently for the past 30+ years. She is smart, efficient, organized, and a gentle handler of people. As with Josh, this is an amazing provision, exceeding all expectations.

~Continue on Page 3

Mission Savannah 2014

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers and students who made **Mission Savannah 2014** such a success.

I will attempt to identify five core values or convictions around which we attempted to design the event that is Mission Savannah. They are:

- 1. *The Word of God*—We believe that time spent in devotion with, in discussion of and under instruction from God's Word is essential to your sanctification (Jn. 17:4) and that life is nourished as we feast on His Word (Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4).
- 2. Fellowship—We believe that the extended time with the Body of Christ, while participating in a variety of service, recreational, dining and worship activities, provides a strategic context for your sanctification (Prov. 14:4) and that life is fueled by our stirring one another towards sanctification (Heb. 10:24-25).
- 3. Service —We believe being called of God is not merely a private blessing but designed to make us a blessing to others. Therefore, we have created opportunities of service to manifest sanctification through good works engaging with God's world (Gen. 12:1-2).

We believe life is found not in entertainment, but true happiness is in a life poured out and consumed in ministry (Acts 20:24).

- 4. *Teams*—While also a critical management component, we believe our team dynamics provide opportunities for confronting the self-absorption that opposes our sanctification (Rom. 8:13). Instead we desire to emphasize the corporate nature of the Christian life (1 Cor. 12).
- 5. *Wisdom and Safety*—We believe that in order for the first four values to be realized we must carefully prepare and plan, fence and shepherd (Eph. 5:15-17). Therefore our Rules & Policies are in place to be a fountain to life and an escape from the traps of the flesh (Prov. 13:14).

On the first night we had about 80 students and volunteers for dinner and small groups. 70 souls were present to hear Byron Johnson, the Founder & Executive Director of VISION 9:38, teach from Ephesians 3:1-13. Forty-three students and chaperons/leaders spent the night with us at Point Pleasant. During the mornings from Tuesday through Thursday, our students participated in service/mission projects with area organizations including The Living

Vine, Blessingdales, Fresh Air Home, East Broad Street School and the Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department and their Clean Sweep Program.

Our theme of "Inside-Out, Right-Side-Up" was taken from Acts 17:6 which says, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also." In this verse, non-believers are accusing Paul and his companions concerning their influence on the world. We want to provide opportunities for our youth for influencing God's world and 'righting it,' while also articulating that such influence is only the product of people who have been changed deeply and thoroughly by the gospel.

Again, thank you to so many who assisted in pulling off this event and who prayed so earnestly and fervently. Thank you also to all the students who gave, and continue to give, their time and life to our Father's cause in the world. I love you all.

Partnering with you, Paul Rodgers





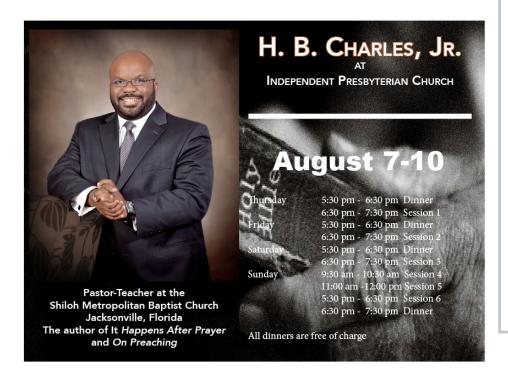








Communion Season 2014



Prayer and Provisions

~Continued from page 1

Did I say that it is difficult to find employees who understand and are in sympathy with our ministry? These two "finds" are tokens of God's goodness to us. Add to this the addition of Kay Heritage as Director of Communications, with the beautiful results that you're seeing in the *Messenger*; plus the unanimous vote to proceed with the renovation and fund-raising program; plus the addition of Paul Rodgers last August; plus Nick Bullock joining us as intern in February, and it seems to me that we are in a good place, poised for good things, should our Sovereign Lord be pleased to bless.

—Terry Johnson

Several years ago a call came to the office from a H.B. Charles, asking if he could visit with me. He was the newly called pastor of the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL. I had no idea who he was but agreed. His wife had said to him, "One of those men you read is just a couple of hours away. Why don't you go see him?"

A young, stout black man strolled in on the appointed day. We talked for several hours, mainly about how to handle a new pastoral charge, how to make necessary changes, and at what pace. He was quiet, meek, gentle, eager. The other pastors joined us for lunch, and then we returned to my office to chat a little further. H.B. told me about the tragic death of his father when he was 17 years of age. The small church in Los Angeles of which he was the pastor then voted to call H.B. to be their new pastor! Over the years he cobbled together a theological education, first at a Pentecostal seminary in Anaheim, then at The Master's Seminary, associated with John MacArthur, in Sun Valley.

MacArthur had a molding influence on H.B., who came to adopt his expository preaching and Calvinistic theology as a result. After about ten years in Los Angeles, H.B. was called to Jacksonville in 2008.

We enjoyed lunch together with our other pastors. Finally I asked, "What size is your congregation?" he answered slowly, "Right now, I think we're at between seven and eight thousand." "Thousand?" "Yes, between seven and eight thousand." "And you are here seeking counsel from me because....?"

H.B. has become one of the most popular African-American preachers in America. After H.B. left my office, we went to YouTube to watch a couple of video clips of his preaching. Oh my goodness! The quiet, meek man turned into a volcano! We are privileged to have him join us for our annual communion season. For generations, the communion season was the vehicle of revival for the Reformed churches (Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist). Pray that H.B.'s preaching will be all of that for us, as we prepare to dine with our Lord Jesus August 7-10.

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FAMILY CORNER

AUGUST 2014

YEARS 11-15: PSALM OF THE MONTH

PSALM 74

Based on *Scottish Psalter*, 1650 Verses 1–11

- Why, God, forever cast us off?Why does Your anger burnAgainst the flock of Your own field;
- 2 Recall Your congregation which You purchased from of old.

Remember them that You redeemed, Your tribe and heritage, And Zion's mount where You did dwell.

O turn Your steps to walk about Where endless ruin is.

Your foes laid waste the holy place;

- 4 They shouted in Your halls; They set their alien emblems up;
- 5 They swung their axes as if they Were clearing woods of trees.
- With pikes they broke the carven work; The holy place they burned.
- 7 The place You made Your name to dwell, Now even to the very dust They have profaned and razed.
- 8 "O let us bring their strength to naught!" So did their hearts declare. They burned each God-appointed place.
- 9 There is no prophet now, no signs And none who knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, will foes insult And scorn Your name always?
- O why do You hold back Your hand?
 Why not stretch forth your strong right hand
 To end and to destroy.

TUNE: REST 8.6.8.8.6. (The Hymnbook, p. 416) ("Dear Lord and Father of Mankind") Altered 1994

YEARS 1-10

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain: It is well with my soul;

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And has shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!— My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so"—it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

TUNE: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9.ref. Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Psalm 74

Kidner calls this a "tormented Psalm," lamenting national, not personal, disaster. Like Psalms 79 and 137 and the book of Lamentations, it is probably set in the context of the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. The desecration of the temple is probably in view in verses 3-7, "The deplorable case of the people of God, at that time, is here spread before the Lord, and left with him," says Matthew Henry. Even in the midst of the Psalmist's cries hope shines through in verses 12-17.

When 900 Covenanters were cornered by 3000 government troops on November 28, 1666, they sang the 74th as their plaintive cry before offering a gallant but futile resistance. "When we see how the faithful trusted and wrestled with their God in times of dire distress," says Spurgeon, explaining the usefulness of this Psalm, "we are thereby taught how to behave ourselves in similar circumstances."

Music Ministry

Over the summer, we have enjoyed hearing musical selections from a variety of our young people. We have very talented children! If you have a child interested in singing or playing an instrument for our worship, please notify me.

Soon it is time to shift our attention to our fall semester.

TO ALL PARENTS of 1st-6th grade children!

Sunday, August 24

I would like to meet with you briefly after supper at Point Pleasant regarding our Children's Choirs. Please attend, especially if you are a new member.

The Men's Choir and Women's Choir in August are great opportunities to explore choir. The choirs are open to all, high school students, college students and adults.

Your participation would be valued and appreciated. An audition is not required, but the ability to sing a tune is mandatory.

Chapel Choir and Youth Choirs will begin September 7. Youth Choir is available to Jr. High-High School age students and meets at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday noon. Chapel Choir is available to students 2nd-6th grade and meets at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening.

Please continue to pray for the effective Ministry of Music in our church.

In Christ's Service, Kathryn Van Eck

Summer Schedule Sanctuary Choir

	Date	Time
Women	July 30 August 3 August 6 August 10	Rehearsal: 6:30 pm -8: 30 pm Sing Morning Worship Rehearsal: 6:30 pm -8: 30 pm Sing Morning Worship
Men	August 13 August 17 August 20 August 24	Rehearsal: 6:30 pm -8: 30 pm Sing Morning Worship Rehearsal: 6:30 pm -8: 30 pm Sing Morning Worship
All Singers	August 27	Rehearsal: 6:30 pm -8: 30 pm

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



As we look to school starting again, it seems our summers keep getting shorter and shorter! Our fall quarter for Sunday School will begin September 7. All children will be promoted into their "new" classes. Children moving into our four year old or kindergarten classes will be on the first floor of the Wilson/Axson building in rooms 10 and 11. First and second grades will be in the Whitaker Street building on the first floor as well as the third and fourth grades. Our fifth and sixth graders will meet on the second floor of the Whitaker Street building in the smaller classroom.

Attendance in our Children's Church has had a growth spurt! This ministry is for our four and five year olds to help prepare them for worship.

The children are dismissed during our morning service where they recite the elements of our order of worship and hear a wonderful Bible study.

Many thanks to Allison Kelly, our Children's Church director, and our Diaconate for teaching our covenant children.

Please be mindful of the age guidelines for this ministry as we have had tremendous growth for this class.

Thank you to our summer Sunday School teachers, Cindy Sutlive, Linden Helmly, Jamie McKee, Candace Sutlive, Kevin and Kay Heritage, and Charlie Martin. Their willingness to serve in this ministry has not only benefited our children, but has also given our other servants a much deserved rest!

Amy R. Martin

Announcements & Events

CHURCH IN BEREAVEMENT

Mrs. and Mrs. Frank A. Chisholm, Jr. and family on the death of Alice's father, Lt. Col. Sidney George, who passed away on Tuesday, July 2, 2014, in Springfield, VA.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Campbell and family on the death of Peggy's brother, Robert Burton Miller, who passed away on Friday, July 4, 2014, in Elizabethtown, KY.

CHANGES IN ADDRESS

THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES in members' address and/or telephone information. Please note them in your directory.

Mrs. Sarah Miles 132 Steeplechase Road Savannah, GA 31405

Mrs. Carolyn Hodges 5 Rivault Lane Savannah, GA 31411

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Brown 509 East 61st Street Savannah, GA 31405

Mrs. Natalie Bauer 34 Moon River Drive Savannah, GA 31406

Mr. Mark Holyfield 2853 Sweetleaf Lane Johns Island, SC 29455

Miss Dana Bailey 8 Crosswinds Estates Drive Pittsboro, NC 27312

Mrs. Kathryn Van Eck 8 Broadmoor Circle Savannah, GA 31406

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rustine 7 Cornus Court Savannah, GA 31406-7551 Mark's cell: 912-574-1033 Barbara's cell: 912-306-9876

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sasnett, III 711 Milledge Road Augusta, GA 30904

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Sullivan 155 Kingfisher Circle Pooler, GA 31322-9763

Miss Megan Mullininx 103 Baymeadow Point Savannah, GA 31405

E-Messenger

IPC's Weekly Messenger will be emailed to you beginning August 1, if you do not have an email, IPC office will be happy to send a printed copy to your home!

Annual Low Country Boil

Our Annual Low Country Boil will be held on Sunday evening, August 31, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Point Pleasant. Anyone interested in providing churned homemade ice cream (your favorite flavor) for dessert for our Annual Low Country Boil, please call Tricia Barrett at 912-713-5040.

THE LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in our morning service on Sunday, August 10, the climax of our Communion Season. Because of the exceptional blessing we have in this sacrament and the danger of eating and drinking unworthily, it is necessary that we come to it with knowledge, faith, repentance, love and with hungering and thirsting souls after Christ and His benefits. The congregation is encouraged to use all appointed means, public and private, to come to the Lord's Table, depending upon God for the gracious preparation of the heart according to His promise (Psalm 10:17).

SESSION/DIACONATE MEETING

Our regular Session/Diaconate meeting will be held on Monday evening, August 18, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

MEN'S READING CLUB

The Men's Reading Club will meet on Thursday, August 28, 12:00 p.m. The assignment to read is: Institutes, IV.xii.1-IV. xiii.21, pages 1229-1276. Bring your brown-bag lunch and join Reverends Parrish and Johnson in the Administration Bldg., in the upstairs classroom.

From the Rustines

Dear IPC,

As we walked into our rental home here on Isle of Hope, we were astounded by the outpouring of love we found waiting for us. Not only did we have beds and a table, but there were sheets and blankets on the beds, and delicious food to place on the table. The multitude of thoughtful items provided for us was overwhelming and humbling. We know that this loving welcome was a joint effort of the body of Christ here at IPC, and we thank everyone of you who contributed to provide us with all we need and more.

We'll be working remotely from Savannah this year for The Seed Company/Wycliffe Bible Translators. We look forward to sharing more with you all soon about the work God is doing in Bible translation. But for now we are thanking Him from the bottom of our hearts for His care for us through you.

By His grace alone, Mark, Barbara, Amy, Elise and Michael Rustine

August Birthdays

- 1 Donna Loyd
- 2 Avant Edenfield
- 3 Matt Haddad
- 4 Geoffrey Borgelt
- 4 Grace McAllister
- 4 Wil Saleeby
- 5 John McCleskey
- 5 Adam Woernle
- 6 Patrick Brodmann
- 7 Laura Dantin
- 7 Andrew Gibson
- 7 Reid McKee
- 7 Robert Meng
- 9 Pam Maxey
- 9 Drew Rodgers
- 10 Carolyn Hodges
- 10 Robert Saleeby

- 10 Breck Van Puffelen
- 11 David Goeser
- 11 Bill Seymour
- 11 Dottie Mitchell
- 13 Paul Johansen
- 13 Rachel Garnett
- 12 D. I.I. I. I.
- 13 Debbie Laing
- 15 Emily Polgardi
- 16 Joan Herbst
- 16 Madeline Klajnbart
- 16 David Gross
- 16 Naomi Flanagan
- 18 Will DeMott
- 19 Caroline Hosey
- 19 Ty Robinson
- 20 Larry McAlpine
- 20 Laura Jackson

- 21 Jamie Bates
- 21 Simon Steward
- 22 Kirstie Brodmann
- 23 Cindy Fletcher
- 23 Chris Flanagan
- 23 Michael Helmly
- 25 Tom Maganini
- 25 Hugh Helmly, IV
- 25 Brenda Simpson
- 26 Don McLaurin
- 27 Leah Nyce
- 28 Michael Moore
- 28 Amy Henderson
- 29 Debele Maner
- 29 Neal Davis
- 29 Greg Brunson
- 29 Caroline Moore

- 30 Nate Brunson
- 30 Ron Morris
- 31 Dale Gibson
- 31 Sue Hinely
- 31 David Parrish

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Congregation,

Many thanks to the deacons, choir members—including Youth Choir boys—and treasured friends at IPC for the care and help you offered me over my recent move. You have truly extended a warm hand of fellowship and blessing to me. In every way, I have seen the body of Christ in action. Thank you for your many acts of love and mercy.

Sincerely, Kathryn Van Eck

Friends at IPC,

Greetings from Boone, NC and RUF at Appalachian State University! We are grateful for y'all's encouragement, prayer and financial support over this past year. God has definitely been at work drawing students to His Son and growing believing students in grace. What a privilege it is to witness God's transforming power each day! Thank you for loving our family and enabling us to labor at App State. We remember fondly our time at IPC and RUF SCAD and enjoy keeping up with the Messenger. Please keep in touch with us (chris.horne@ruf. org) and stay updated on the work here (www.appstate.ruf.org). Grace and peace to you!

With gratitude, Chris and Sara Jane Horne

Dear IPC,

Thank you to all the folks who showed up to help me move on Saturday! Many hands did indeed make light work and I could not have done it without you!

Gratefully, Sarah Miles

To the Loving Hearts at IPC:

I thank each of you for the loving walk you made with Bob and me over the past nine years. As things became more difficult you were there with your love and prayers, supporting us, even carrying us through all the ups and downs. The cards, calls, visits, food, flowers, prayers, prayers, and prayers spoke of your love and faithfulness. This caring ministry is certainly of our Lord and The Lord in His gentleness answered our prayers. I pray that all the ministries of our church will be blessed and be a blessing. To God be the Glory and may His Grace be upon us all.

I am so grateful.

With love to you in Christ, Sylvia Wickwire

Tithes/Offerings				
Month	Received	Needed	Over/Short	
lst Quarter	\$440,827	\$508,495	-\$67,668	
2 nd Quarter	\$459,542	\$508,495	-\$48,953	
July**	\$ 85,501	\$117,345	-\$31,844	
Totals	\$985,870	\$1,134,335	-\$148,465	
**3 Sundays only				

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The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH P. O. BOX 9266 SAVANNAH, GA 31412

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Moral Concerns

LIVING STONES

Ι

The cinder block building seems innocuous enough...but within its walls, innocence is destroyed.

"The evil presence in those clinics feels so thick you could cut it with a knife," says a young woman. This young woman knows. She's had two abortions.

An aborted baby has no grave.

Nobody heard the baby's cries. Nobody even knew about the baby.

The cinder block building sits, with the world oblivious to what goes on inside. Blood is shed every day, in the name of "choice."

II

"I can only conclude that many of you have never made the choice that I did," the young woman says. "You" means the people of the pro-choice movement, the people who fight to keep abortion legal."

"If you had," the woman says, "wouldn't you have told me more?...because you care about me, right?"

"You would have told me that they make post-abortive patients leave out of the back door because they don't want anyone coming in to know what someone looks like going out."

Yes, blood is shed every day, in the name of "choice."

III

On the cross, the blood of Jesus Christ was shed once for all time (John 19:30; Hebrews 10:10-14). The Man who knew no sin became sin for the salvation of His people (Matthew 1:21; II Corinthians 5:21).

The blood, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ ensure that truth exists in the world. Because truth exists, justice is possible. Men and women who have been made alive in Christ are commanded to shine as lights (Matthew 5:14-16; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5:16; Philippians 2:15).

Part of our ministry is mourning. Christ says, "Blessed are they who mourn" (Matthew 5:4). Do we the people of God mourn for aborted babies? Do we mourn for their mothers?

IV

The Word of God says we are living stones, stones that rest upon the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ. God is building a church, forming a people who will glorify Him (Ephesians 2:19-22; I Peter 2:4-5).

The angels of Heaven and the shepherds in the field rejoiced together over the birth of a baby—a baby who would become the Savior of His people (Luke 2:8-20).

There are babies yet to be born. May God raise up living stones who will work, speak, and pray to make sure those babies have a chance to live for Jesus Christ.

To be continued....

Matt Haddad (formerly pro-choice) The Right to Life Committee July 2014

Note: The words spoken by the young woman are taken from the article, *You Care About Me, Right?* The article can be found on the website, Abort73.com.)