

A note from *Sandy's* Desk:

Since 1948, the beginning of the modern state of Israel, estimates show that the lives of over 2 million babies have been snuffed out by abortion. This number is huge when one considers that our present population is 7.4 million. Every one of these unborn children would have been a unique jewel in the treasure box of the people of Israel.

Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the U.S.A., wrote: "We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life." When one people group is denied the most basic right - Life - based on their size, status or location, we question the intrinsic equality and protection of every human being. When a baby is aborted, the doctors check to make sure that all of the body parts have been removed. The tiny arms, legs and other recognizable human body parts are "reassembled" to make sure that all parts have been accounted for. The question should be asked, "Does this tiny human being have the right to be protected?"

The two most basic signs of life - heart beat and brain waves - can be detected within the first weeks of pregnancy, yet the child is still denied protection under law. Science has proven that the pre-born child has his own very distinct set of chromosomes. His blood type may differ from that of his mother and it flows through his body and the amniotic sac in its own circulation system, yet his right to life is defined not by his distinctness but by his value to others. The question is not one of individual rights because science has proven that the baby is differentiated from his mother, the question is one of relative value.

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## "Ladies in Waiting"

*Etti's* story:

Etti is from an Ultra-Orthodox family. Her marriage was arranged for her when she was only 17. Although her husband was abusive even before the wedding, Etti thought that this was normal since her father had abused her mother. Her husband seemed to be the lesser of two evils. The couple had two children together, but when he began to physically abuse the children, Etti gathered her courage and left. Her mother later told her, "I wish that I'd had your courage to leave when I was abused."

Recently, Etti had a five-month-long intimate relationship with a man and used birth control. Because she continued to menstruate, she only discovered her pregnancy at 12 weeks (84 days). Her boyfriend told her that he would help her abort or that he would leave. Etti sought out her rabbi's advice. The rabbi told her that after 40 days, when many Jewish scholars believe that the soul enters the baby, abortion is not permitted. He also rebuked her for fornication and reminded her that intimacy is allowed only within the framework of marriage.

Etti is very concerned about the social ramifications of continuing a pregnancy as a single woman in her society, and particularly in her job with other Ultra-Orthodox women. She is a brave person and quietly stated her conclusion during our discussion, "I think that at first it could be hard and uncomfortable, but then people get used to it and it works out." Courageously, and without the support of family or community, Etti is continuing her pregnancy. Be'ad Chaim will provide her with all that she needs for the baby, due this summer, through our Operation Moses project.

She needs your prayers.



# Updates

## Jana's story:

Jana is now in her sixth month of pregnancy. In her early weeks, one of our new moms convinced her to come to the office. Jana is a successful Tel-Aviv career woman who had been living with her boyfriend for some time and hoped to have a baby with him. They had signed a rent contract and moved in together, but when she became pregnant, her boyfriend threatened to leave her if she didn't have an abortion. As she sat in our office, she told us she didn't want this guy if this is how he treated her and she would never reconcile with him. On the other hand, she felt that she couldn't possibly raise a baby on her own and was quite decisive about having an abortion.

We spoke with her for over two hours and seemed to make no impact on her desire to abort. Until, at one point, she told me that her mother had had numerous abortions. I asked, "How do you feel about the fact that you weren't aborted?" She began to say, "My mother wouldn't have..." Then her mouth dropped. "I could have had so many more brothers and sisters," she said. Silence. Then she asked, "Do you think that abortion is murder?" At that moment my phone rang, giving her time to answer her own question rather than hearing my opinion. When I returned from the phone call, she looked at me and breathed a huge sigh and said "I will keep my baby."

When I spoke with Jana last week she said that she can feel her baby moving inside. She saw her daughter on the ultrasound screen and described her as cute, and with a small nose ("My friend's babies had big noses in their ultrasound pictures"). She said, "I'm starting to get really excited." We thank God for the life of this little girl growing inside of Jana and look forward to seeing her when she's born this spring.

## Samuel and Sharon's story:

Last summer, I reported that when Samuel and Sharon visited our office, Samuel sat stone faced and Sharon was convinced that she couldn't continue the pregnancy unless he would marry her. She wept during the entire office visit. Sharon finally decided not to abort because she grasped that the baby inside her was alive, yet she was terrified of the future.

Last week, a radiant young woman with a gorgeous little two month old baby walked into the office. I hadn't seen her since the initial interview because she'd moved to Haifa. She reminded me that she was Sharon. I could hardly believe that this joyous, shining mother was the same broken woman we'd met months earlier. I asked her what course her life had taken. She repeated over and over, almost in a daze - "Everything worked out." She and baby Tohar are living with Tohar's father and his mother. The couple will soon be married and both love and care for precious Tohar. Sharon was deeply grateful for the HOPE that we gave her to believe that God would bless her if she chose life. She wants to tell other mothers in crisis pregnancy, "Just keep going, everything worked out for me and will work out for you."

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In Israel, we are seeing a growing number of "wrongful life" lawsuits - over 600 since 1987. A "wrongful life" lawsuit permits parents or a child to sue the doctor for allowing the child to be born rather than recommending abortion. In the U.S. and Canada, it is primarily parents who sue, but in Israel, the child demands compensation for his disability and basically for being alive. Imagine the consequences on the soul of the child who hears his parents testifying that they would have aborted him had they known about the handicap.

The prevalence of these lawsuits has caused doctors to become overly concerned that a child may have a disability or any abnormality. Israel is first in the world in the number of prenatal tests done during pregnancy. In cases where a problem is suspected, doctors will recommend abortion 75 percent of the time (as compared to US doctors who recommend abortion 25 percent of the time). More testing means more false positives, which mean more abortions.

The preponderance of prenatal testing has also created a confusing situation for mothers who have been persuaded that "good motherhood" means protecting your child from being imperfect in any way. In a study by Larissa Remnick (Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Bar Ilan University), she describes the Israeli quest for the perfect baby: "Women who did not comply with the excessive medical surveillance for whatever reason were considered 'backward' and received the disapproval of their social network who negatively labeled them 'irresponsible'. Women, particularly educated and of higher socioeconomic status, feel required to do the many prenatal tests that have become routine. Several television documentaries have been done on this topic including one entitled, "Recipe for the Perfect Baby" which

# Life Stories:

## Hila's Story

demonstrated the phobia many young Israeli's have of giving birth to a special-needs child. Mothers say that they would feel guilty for allowing a baby "to suffer" if allowed to be born with a handicap or deformity. This same mindset of what is considered "good motherhood" applies to the adoption issue. When we've asked clients who were not interested in keeping their babies if they would consider giving it up for adoption, they almost always responded "What kind of mother do you think I am.?" The general mindset is that adoption or handicaps are greater evils than taking the life of the child.

Malcolm Muggeridge, an English writer, said: "Either life is always and in all circumstances sacred, or intrinsically of no account. It is inconceivable that it should be in some cases the one, and in some cases the other."

We, at Be'ad Chaim, believe that every human being is an individual created in the image of God from the moment of conception, and therefore has an intrinsic right to life. It is our goal to help provide mothers in crisis pregnancies with everything that they require so they choose life for their child. Between September 1st and the end of November, we have seen the miraculous birth of another 27 children. We have helped mothers in various crises, including some who were told that their baby would be severely handicapped. We hope that the few stories that we share in this letter will be of encouragement to you. Thank you for being a part of the life stories of each of these precious, unique children.

Hila is a beautiful Ethiopian young woman. She is from a traditional family, so when she became pregnant out of wedlock, her family felt disgraced and urged her to have an abortion. No one stood with her. Her boyfriend left her, her parents rejected her, and she felt afraid and alone. Through counseling, we helped her choose to continue her pregnancy, but she needed a place to live. Our Tel-Aviv counselor, Roberta, very graciously allowed Hila to live with her. Hila was often deeply troubled and questioned whether she should continue the pregnancy. Even in her 7<sup>th</sup> month, she would threaten to abort saying, "I don't know how I can make it on my own." We prayed for her often. Shortly after, we saw the fruit of our prayers when she was able to rent her own apartment and get settled. Hila's son, Adam, was born on October 25<sup>th</sup> weighing 3 kilos (6.6 lbs). Hila breastfeeds him and is a loving, caring mother. Roberta has continued to be in close contact, visiting often and bathing little Adam. Through our Operation Moses project, Hila received all of the baby furniture for Adam including the bed, stroller, bathtub and bed sheets. She also receives monthly provision of basic baby needs such as diapers and other items.

When I called Hila to congratulate her on Adam's birth, she couldn't stop thanking me. Here are some segments of her flowing torrent of thanksgiving:

"I have tears in my eyes when I see Roberta. I made her life very difficult at the beginning. I can't tell you how much trouble I made for her, she's an amazing woman. But what a huge blessing I've received. I'm so happy today. I'm finally able to say (over and over)

I'm so happy! Living with Roberta, getting new furniture (which my friends think that I bought myself), and all these nice clothes – It is like a dream...

Before, everything in my life was dark; but now I have a blessing. My life had been so horrible; but now, I'm stronger emotionally. I can get up in the morning with purpose. Before, I'd been thinking of suicide; not anymore. Having this child has turned my life around. My mother is in relationship with me again and helps me. Lots of friends visit and are supportive...

What if you (Be'ad Chaim) had given up, what would have happened? It's not just all the phone calls or the patience you showed, this baby is alive not because of me, or my friends, but because of Be'ad Chaim. I hope that he'll grow up and bring a blessing to others and contribute to the community...

What a privilege you have to get up in the morning and save lives. Not to say, 'today I'll make some money', but 'today, I hope to save a life'. You show kindness to people whom you've never even met. I want to feel what you feel. I want to help and make a difference. Today, when my friend says that she's pregnant, I don't say 'have an abortion', I say 'don't do it!' Never again will I tell someone to abort."



Our 2012 Calendar is nearly sold out

to order your copy, please contact us at [prolife@netvision.net.il](mailto:prolife@netvision.net.il)

# Life Stories:

## Update on *Ina*:

Many thanks to the many people who have prayed over the last months for mother "I's" baby. Ina's baby, Adam, was born a month ago. Last May, during a routine ultrasound exam, the doctor discovered that the baby had cataracts in both eyes. He said that this could indicate more serious problems and recommended further prenatal tests. Ina did the many tests only to grow anxious and confused as doctors told her that the baby had serious brain damage, and recommended that she abort him.

When I first met Ina, I asked her if I could pray for her and bless her. She looked at me, confused, and asked what I meant. I then asked if she believed in God. She didn't have an answer to that question. But in May, when the doctors began to recommend abortion, she came for counsel and prayer. I told her that we didn't have the answers but that a loving God would care for her and her children no matter the circumstances. Her faith began to grow. Over the months, she would often come into the office just to ask for prayer – urging me to keep her baby on our international prayer list. During the last month of her pregnancy, hospital staff called her almost daily, causing her terrible anxiety. She often came to us crying, looking for compassion, encouragement and hope.

When Adam was born several weeks early, he was strong and able to nurse despite his small size. Ina was happy but waited for further tests to confirm his health. Two days later, she phoned to say that the MRI test showed that Adam's brain is normal. Since his birth, Adam underwent two surgeries to remove the cataracts from each eye. Each time, Ina asked for prayer that all would go well during the surgery. She is deeply grateful for the hope that was planted in her heart through our prayers; the hope that enabled her to continue the pregnancy despite tremendous pressure to abort.

Another nonprofit organization has graciously offered to pay for Adam's very expensive glasses which need frequent lens changes. Ina reports that Adam is responding well to his environment and is more alert since the surgery. The glasses really help. Please pray for his eyes to be perfectly healed by the loving God who cares for this family.

## *New Babies!*

We welcomed 27 new babies into our Be'ad Chaim family since the summer:

**September:** Six baby girls (including one set of twins) and two boys.

**October:** Four baby girls and six boys.

**November:** Six baby girls and three boys.

We thank God for each of these precious children whose lives were spared from abortion.

# Prayer Requests

*My* friends, I believe that God is calling us to stand in the gap as intercessors for His people. The heart of God grieves over the nearly 150 daily abortions, the sexual immorality, the homosexuality boasted of in our streets, and the evil that is being called good. If we will not stand in the gap, who will? Let us call out to God for repentant hearts and for brave individuals who are sold out for Him and will speak the truth.

- Pray for measures to be taken against illegal, unregulated abortion clinics, which account for half of the abortions done in Israel.
- Pray for social workers, army officers, guidance counselors, doctors and nurses who will recommend alternatives to women in crisis pregnancy and not coerce them to abort.
- Thank you for praying for 3-year-old Anava, who successfully and miraculously underwent open heart surgery this month. Pray for total healing, especially for stabilized blood pressure and that the leak in her aorta would heal.
- Pray for our upcoming teen conferences January 27 & 28 and February 3 & 4. May their hearts be passionate to serve God and to walk in moral uprightness.
- As the rent increases on our Jerusalem office, please pray that we will have wisdom to know whether to continue renting, or to purchase another property.
- Pray for protection for our staff and volunteers, especially as we increase our street outreaches and use more visual images to influence public opinion about abortion.
- A request: Additional baby clothes are needed for the many new babies whom we serve. We are very grateful for donations of clothing, and other baby supplies.

Weekly, specific prayer requests are available from our office by email.

We sincerely thank you for praying for us, caring about the babies and supporting us. We thank God for the privilege of praying and working together with you to save lives.

Wishing you a very blessed Feast of Lights and a peaceful holiday season,

*Sandy Shoshani*  
National Director  
Be'ad Chaim