

A note from *Sandy's* Desk:

As I looked through my files - considering each of the clients we've helped in the last three months - I was deeply grateful for the part that we've been allowed to play in saving each baby from abortion. In every newsletter there's only space to share the stories of a few women, but actually, since beginning the Operation Moses project three and a half years ago, we have had the privilege of saving over 200 babies from abortion.

A new poster hanging in our office has a picture of an adorable baby with the words "To the world, you are just one person, but to one person, you are the world." Every new baby brings joy to his mother, his family, and those whose lives he touches. I believe that we have not just saved 200 babies, but we have been able to change the perspective of 200 mothers, their relatives, friends and acquaintances - so that we are widely known by reputation as a place of care and support for mothers in crisis pregnancy.

In this newsletter, you will read about former drug addicts, soldiers, impoverished families and others we've helped. These relationships continue to open doors in the army, with social workers and neighbors and with friends of our clients.

Also, we rejoice that after many years of intensive translation and editing work, Randy Alcorn's book has been published. Its title in Hebrew is *Abortion: Arguments For and Against*. Copies have already been sent to Knesset members, army officers and others. This book is a wonderful tool for promoting life and reaching influential decision-makers in Israel.

"Ladies in Waiting"

When Zohar and Hezi walked into our office about two months ago, we could almost feel the sparks. Hezi was very angry and blamed Zohar for purposefully not taking her birth control pills. She was weeping and swore that she'd faithfully taken the pills but had become pregnant anyway. Hezi was vehement about having an abortion. Zohar couldn't stop crying.

The couple had married earlier in the year and were still living with his parents. Hezi was trying to save money and hoped within a few years to buy an apartment. A baby was definitely not part of his plan. Zohar sympathized and agreed with her husband about saving money, but she had already seen an ultrasound of the baby, heard the heartbeat, and couldn't bear the thought of aborting their first child.

Our Jerusalem counselor invited them to our office so that they could view an ultrasound together. Zohar went into the examining room, but Hezi absolutely refused to get near the ultrasound machine. As our counselor accompanied Zohar, I stayed behind in our counseling room with Hezi. His attitude was harsh - even after seeing the photograph of the ultrasound image. Yet, he continued to talk with us. We talked for over three hours. They even went out for a lunch break, a treat from us, and came back to argue more. It seemed that Hezi wanted to be persuaded. At one point, I shared the scripture from Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness .. that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse, therefore choose life, that you may live and your seed." Zohar jumped into the conversation, crying, and said, "Yes, I also want a blessing for our family - that's what I've been telling you. Please let's choose life so that we'll be blessed."

When Zohar and Hezi left after spending most of the day with us, we had no idea what they had decided. Our counselor tried to call Zohar but for several weeks after that couldn't reach her. We continued to pray but felt very concerned.

Finally, the counselor reached Zohar on the phone. She said she'd been ill, experienced some bleeding and feared a miscarriage. Amazingly, this crisis caused Hezi to have mercy on his wife and he agree to let her continue the pregnancy! I truly believe that in the next months Hezi will get excited about the baby and that Hezi and Zohar will be wonderful parents. They are expecting their baby in early December.

Ladies in Waiting

Life
Gardens



On May 28th, a group of about 60 local women from around the country came together at the Life Gardens to attend a workshop taught by Chaya Mizrahi. They worshipped, wept and planted trees in memory of their baby who was aborted or miscarried. For many of these women, this was the first time they publicly acknowledged their abortion and opened their hearts for healing. One hundred more trees were planted for elderly women in the North of Israel who had aborted babies during the Holocaust or in the former Soviet block. These ladies were not physically able to attend but received photographs of the planting and certificates commemorating their babies.

One of the women who attended was from Tiberias. She recommitted her life to the Lord about half a year ago. Though a poetess, she had not written any poetry since then because she wanted to write what would be glorifying to God and felt somehow blocked. After planting a tree and prayer, she felt something had been repaired in her heart. That night, she received two beautiful poems, one of which she put to music. She is very grateful that after repenting, confessing, and praying for restoration, her heart is open to God's closeness and she can use her creative gifts to bring Him glory.

Galit's story:

21 years old Galit is the mother of a two year old and a baby nearly a year old. When she was sixteen years old, she had an abortion without telling her mother. When her mother later found out, she was deeply grieved and told Galit that she would have kept and raised her baby for her. She married hastily at eighteen after getting pregnant but soon miscarried. Three months later, she was pregnant again with her now two year old daughter. Her husband has a steady job in a hospital but the wages are minimal and not enough to cover rent and other living expenses. It's not feasible for Galit to work outside the home as the costs of daycare for their two children are too high. When she found she was pregnant again, Galit turned to Be'ad Chaim for help without which she couldn't afford another baby.

She is grateful for the supplies that we will provide for her and her baby through our Operation Moses project and is eagerly expecting the birth of her baby in October.

Amanda's story

A few months ago, I spoke at a congregation in Tel Aviv about our prolife work. After the meeting, a student from South America approached me and offered to take a pregnant girl into her home if we had a need. I kept her number for future reference.

About a week later, our counselor received a call from an officer in the army asking if we had any kind of living accommodations for a pregnant, single soldier who had just immigrated from South America. She had decided to keep her baby and was immediately released from army service. God's provision was perfectly timed - He supplied the solution even before the problem arose! Nineteen year-old, ex-soldier Amanda is now living with our South American friend and several students only blocks away from the apartment where she lived when she served in the army.

Amanda told us her quite remarkable story:

"I was faithfully taking birth control pills and hadn't missed any periods so when I had stomach pain and went for an examination, I was shocked to find that I was 17 weeks pregnant. I have always been opposed to abortion, but saw no other option. I became depressed, stayed in bed for days and didn't report to the army. After what I thought was a few weeks, I went to the army social worker to ask her for help to have an abortion. Again, I was shocked to discover that two months had passed and I was now 24 weeks pregnant. The social worker, though not in favor of an abortion at this stage, helped me arrange a late-term abortion.

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Life Stories:



Orli's Story

Last February, Orli, 22 years old, gave birth to her beautiful baby girl, Talia. We shared her story in our December 2009 newsletter. After having three abortions her doctors told her that she would never conceive again. But Orli did get pregnant and this is her miracle baby.

Today, during our monthly group meeting for new mothers, Orli encouraged the other mothers, She told them that life is full of choices and that when we choose the right path, we will have blessing in our life. She shared that she'd been sent to a boarding school during Junior High where there were many positive opportunities, but that she had chosen bad friends, drugs, promiscuity and ultimately, abandoned school. Two years ago, she began to see the emptiness of her wild lifestyle, but it was the pregnancy with Talia that turned her life around.

Orli has distanced herself from her old friends. She spends her time caring for her baby. Her parents will soon be evicted from their apartment, and she will move in with her divorced sister and 14-year old nephew. I encouraged Orli to take positive steps into the future. She hopes to finish her education and acquire a profession. Please pray that she moves ahead with her life, raises Talia well, and learns to know that there is a Father in Heaven who cares for both of them.

Tina's Story

Tina was referred to our office by an organization that helps battered women. When we first met her, she was still living with her husband and very much afraid of his anger. She tried to keep away from him as much as possible. Tina and her two year old son comes to our office often for our prenatal classes and our new mother's meetings - coming early and staying late. Her young son is unable to speak and rarely responds when called. He has had developmental testing but has not yet started therapy. Please pray for him.

Tina's husband did not provide for her financial needs so when we told her that we would provide for the baby, early-on in the pregnancy, she was overjoyed. In January, she gave birth to her second son Maxim, who is a bright-eyed little boy.

For Tina, the emotional support and care that Be'ad Chaim has provided have been even more important than the practical help. She is now living with her two sons in a women's shelter.



Sylvia's Story

Sylvia is a 37-year-old mother of four. Her eldest are eight, three, and two years old. Her most recent child, Avraham Chaim, was born very prematurely last October. Last year, when her social worker discovered that she was pregnant, she urged her strongly to abort telling her that she wouldn't receive assistance if she gave birth to another child. Despite the pressure, Sylvia chose to continue her pregnancy, encouraged by the commitment of Be'ad Chaim to support her baby for one full year through our Operation Moses project. Though she was initially pregnant with twins, Avraham's twin brother was tragically miscarried in the womb at 18 weeks. Since his birth, Avraham has had numerous health issues, and Sylvia spends a good deal of her time caring for his needs.

Recently, when Sylvia asked the social worker for aid to move to another apartment, the social worker suggested that she give one or two of her children up to foster care "until her life becomes easier". Although Sylvia's financial situation is difficult, she is a devoted, loving mother and was very offended by this suggestion.

She turned to us for help, and through cooperation with another nonprofit organization, we will be able to help her with her move.

Prayer Requests



New Babies!

It is a pleasure to report the births of these new additions to our Be'ad Chaim family:

March: Baby boys Daniel, Yosef-Chaim and Liav and baby girl Eden.

April: Baby boys Avi-Or, Avraham and baby girl Noa.

May: Baby boys Ariel, Omri-Yehuda, Daniel and Ram.

June: Baby boy Rambam and baby girls Oria Leehee, and Noa.

Several clients are due very soon and we thank you for your prayers for healthy, safe births.

Amanda's story continued from page 2

As I lay on the operating table, I saw the doctor above me with a large needle in his hand. I saw my baby moving on the ultrasound screen and I heard the baby's heartbeat on the monitor, and I began to weep and beg the doctor to stop the procedure. My social worker was waiting outside and comforted me."

Amanda's social worker contacted the officer who placed her in Be'ad Chaim's loving hands. When she gives birth, in two more months, Amanda hopes to move into the new womens' shelter opening in Acco where our counselor will be the housemother.

Thank you for supporting us in prayer. Here are our current needs:

- Please pray for distribution of "Abortion – Arguments For and Against" to medical staff, politicians, social workers, school personnel and others so that we can change public opinion about abortion in Israel. Pray especially for members of the Science and Technology committee to read and be influenced by this book. This committee makes decisions regarding abortion.
- Pray that local women who have had abortions and miscarriages will find healing and restoration through the Life Gardens.
- Pray as we prepare for a national radio campaign this summer
- We thank God for an anesthesiologist who refused to do abortions and pray for other medical staff to take a stand against abortion
- We thank God for army personnel who have begun cooperating with Be'ad Chaim and for an increase in army contacts
- We thank God for increased positive contact with the social welfare system, but realize that many of them are abortion-minded. Please pray for hearts to be changed for Life.
- Please pray for protection for our staff and volunteers from accidents and injury. Several people had car accidents, accidents and physical issues.
- Please pray for several clients who need help to mother their children. Pray especially for Rinat (Spring 2010) a former heroin addict who is now 9 months pregnant. She will enter a special government program to train her to be a competent mother.
- Pray for additional staff and volunteers, especially for an ultrasound technician.
- Pray that the hearts of the nation would turn toward their God, recognize that we are created in His image and value life. May our nation repent of the shedding of innocent blood.

I am deeply grateful for you, our friends, for your prayer support, your contributions, and your faithful expressions of love and encouragement without which we would not be able to continue our labor against the shedding of innocent blood in Israel.

With gratitude,

Sandy Shoshani
National Director
Be'ad Chaim