

Miracles

Virginia's Story

by Lois Baxter

The phone rings and when I answer, the woman on the line does not speak English. The only thing I understand is “help me”. Fortunately, one of the workers from the daycare next door speaks Spanish and is able to talk with Virginia, get a phone number and promise that someone will call her back. My neighbor, Evelyn, speaks Spanish and calls her back and together we go see Virginia. When we meet, Virginia is a tiny woman, does not look pregnant at all. A few minutes after we pick her up, she shows us that her stomach is tightly bound with an ace bandage and as she unwraps it, she is very pregnant.

Virginia is undocumented. She was brought to America by “coyotes”; these men help men and women sneak into the country for high fees. In Virginia’s case, the trip not only cost her much money, but also she was raped by the men (coyotes) and told that it was their right. The result of this abuse was her pregnancy. She was hiding it from her brother and mother because she was afraid her brother would hurt her if he found out that she was pregnant and possibly could not work any longer.

It was arranged that Virginia would accept a “live in position” with my neighbor. She would live with me and Evelyn would help her get medical care and together we would work on a plan for her and her baby. We had to provide an income to give to her brother to pay him back for the coyote’s fees and to send to her three children in Guatemala. Virginia decided that the best plan for her baby would be adoption. She felt that she was unable to provide for a child, she needed to keep her pregnancy a secret from her family and needed to go back to work as soon as possible. Once we got her settled, she began to receive medical care. Virginia began seeing a doctor regularly. At her first ultra-sound, it was discovered that her baby was a close to full term baby girl that appeared to be developed perfectly in every way except...it appeared that less than half of her brain had developed. This was devastating for Virginia.

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Sweet Desires
AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE
Dessert Tasting & Auction

at

Mission Oaks Community Center

4701 Gibbons Dr.

(in Carmichael near Edison)

November 10, 2007

6:00 p.m.

What is BBB?

Baby Bottle Boomerang is a great opportunity for church families to have hands-on involvement in a simple project that helps babies and their moms and dads. The Birth Connection has been ministering to women and families since 1988 and with your support we hope to expand our ministry.



Here's how it works:

On a designated Sunday at your church, you make baby bottles available for families and individuals to take home and fill with coins and bills or even checks.

Anyone from 2 to 92 can take part by taking a bottle home to fill with loose change. The appealing bottles are also an ongoing reminder about the sanctity of human life.

If you are interested in coordinating a Baby Bottle Boomerang with your church, Sunday school class or small group, please contact Debbi at TBC (916) 451-9868 and your pastor. Debbi will send you detailed instructions and help you through the process.

While the doctors gave the baby not much of a chance to live or develop, we began praying for a miracle, for God's protection on both Virginia and her unborn baby. Virginia believes, as we do, that this baby was created in God's image and her future was His to plan, not hers.

Christina was born with everyone expecting her to be in need of assistance. Not sure that she would survive the birth, the neo-natal trauma team was ready. Then, a miracle, she was born with every indication that she was strong and healthy. However tests showed that Christina did not have a fully developed brain. Although Christina seemed to be doing well, it was



unknown what her future held. Virginia still needed to place her baby for adoption and families were contacted. Out of all of our families, Virginia chose the Kuzmich family. They met and it was a match. Christina now has a mom, a dad, and a big sister. Virginia stayed with us for a few weeks after leaving the hospital. She took care of the paperwork for the adoption, and then she left to go back to work, her plan was to leave the state. She calls Evelyn from time to time to see how Christina is doing, Virginia, and her family are in our prayers for God's protection and for Virginia to continue to seek God's plan for her life.

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Our Story

By Paul Kuzmich

Our phone rang on a Monday afternoon. It was Lois Baxter. Lois told me a baby girl had been born the previous Friday. She was doing well, but there were complications. The baby was missing a large part of her brain (hydroencephaly) and her prognosis was unknown. She might be normal with minor challenges or she might not walk or talk—or some combination thereof. The baby would most likely have a shunt surgically implanted in her head to relieve the pressure from the cranial fluid that was not draining properly. On the positive side, her APGAR scores were 8 and 9. Lois told me that she and her team at The Birth Connection had been praying for this baby for the past few months and they believed in the power of God to heal her. Finally, Lois told me that they were going to see the birth mother, Virginia, in an hour. Could I let her know if we were open to showing Virginia our profile?

I called my wife, Shannon, at her office. After a quick relaying of information, we began to pray. Shannon left the office and called me from the car. She said that she did not see us saying no to this. I agreed. She then asked if I had thought of any names. Names? I was still trying to digest shunts, hydroencephaly, and thoughts of the future. Shannon thought her name would be Christina. That sounded good to me. I called Lois and told her to go ahead and show our profile. Lois called back shortly; Virginia wanted to meet us the next morning.

We drove to Lois' home with our then 4-year-old daughter, Caitlyn, to meet Virginia. Caitlyn was very excited, as she had been praying for a little sister for months.

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*Shannon, Caitlyn and Christina Kuzmich
at UC Davis NICU*

After some more discussion, Virginia agreed to let us be the parents of her baby girl. Lois asked if we had thought of any names, and when Shannon said “Christina” the interpreter shrieked and told us that was name they had put on her birth certificate! We see it as one of the ways God confirmed to us the Christina was meant to be our daughter.

We met Christina in the hospital and fell in love with her immediately. When she was a week old, the shunt surgery was performed and Christina showed us her fighting spirit. She amazes us daily with her ability to overcome. We are blessed by her presence in our lives, as she reminds us daily of what is possible with God. He never disappoints!

We met Virginia and she did not say much as we introduced ourselves and described our lives to her. I asked her if she had any questions for us. After a lengthy pause, she said, “I just want someone to love my baby.” I was overcome with emotion (and still am nearly 2 years later as I write this) at her statement and it was all I could do to hold back my tears and say to her that we would not be here if we were not ready to love your baby.



Pray for the Ministry

- ✿ Women in need
- ✿ The Unborn
- ✿ The Staff
- ✿ That Financial needs will be met
- ✿ Sweet Desires
- ✿ Volunteers
- ✿ Partners in Prayer
- ✿ Expansion of the Ministry
- ✿ Funding for necessary roof repairs and exterior paint.

Making a Difference

We need your help. The Birth Connection is experiencing a financial shortfall, and are asking for your help. Each year, we prepare our budget based on what the operational expenses are and as most faith-based ministries, we have most of our budget funded by pledges and gifts of our supporter. Some years, we have been blessed with gifts and pledges that have allowed us to not only meet our basic budget, but to assist our clients with additional services and do needed repairs, purchase needed equipment and educational supplies. The first half of 2007 however, we find that giving is down in all areas of our projected budget. Gifts, fundraising, and pledges have all shown a significant decline this year

and, as we trim our budget where we can, we are asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give to the support of this ministry to women and the unborn.

It is the regular financial donations from a combination of sources that sustain this work. As a Faith Based ministry, we do not charge the women and families that we minister to in unplanned pregnancy. We depend upon the support of churches, private donations and two fundraising events each year. We have assisted hundreds who have formed their families through adoption. As we are looking to the future, I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider becoming one of our regular supporters both with your prayers and

finances. If each adoptive family that has been ministered to through The Birth Connection gave, \$25, \$50, or \$100 a month, our ministry would be fully funded and staffed. As you pray for this work, and as you celebrate the precious gift of life, I would ask that you fill out the enclosed card and return it to The Birth Connection to become a part of our work.

I also would like to thank those of you who give regularly. Your faithfulness sustains the ministry. You are making a difference each time a young woman comes through our doors. Continue to pray for the Salvation of each woman, the precious lives of their babies, and the staff that is called to minister to each of them.

Letter from the Director

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to our fall event. Each year, we have an auction and dessert tasting event that gives us an opportunity to celebrate the ministry, have great desserts to taste, auction items to bid on, and raise money to help continue to work of The Birth Connections.

When one of our board members, Irene Wurster, first presented the idea of an auction, The Birth Connection was just a few years old. We only had two monthly supporters and were provided with office space, at no charge, by the New Hope Free Methodist Church. Our first event was held in a closed restaurant at a local hotel, they donated the space. We had very few items, about twelve desserts, and a really big donation of a parlor grand piano, which was the a true gift from heaven.

We continue to offer great desserts to taste, we have great items donated each year, what we need is you. We need you to come, bring your friends, plan to support the work with your bids, and learn more about the ministry, the stories of lives changed and how you can help us make a difference.

I hope to see you there, November 10th.

Lois Baxter, Executive Director

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Partner in Prayer

The Birth Connection has just passed its 19th anniversary and we are already planning for what our celebration will be for 20 years of ministry. For me personally, I think of 20 years of the stories of women, babies, adoptive families, grandparents. Now, in the springtime, we receive graduation announcements for the babies that it seems like were born just yesterday.

In July, my dad passes away and although we as a family miss him, even through the grief, we celebrate the life of a servant, who for most of his adult life served the Lord in full time ministry. He and my mom showed us as a family how to live for the Lord. He left behind a great legacy and my mother, myself, my brothers, and sister, our children and grandchildren have memories that give us daily a pattern, an example of a life well lived. As I think about how I can best honor my dad, only one thing comes to mind, to live well before the Lord, and make my life count by Kingdom standards.

As I think about how this applies to The Birth Connection, I suddenly have a new drive to make each contact I have with women and families count for eternity, not just the crisis of the moment. I get quite excited when I begin to think about what that could mean on a larger scale, if say every board member and adoptive family had that desire. The lives that would be touched, the stories the next 20 years might bring would far exceed what we can imagine.

I would like to invite you on this journey with me. Commit to prayer, and as the Lord directs you, act on it. I am sure that as we intentionally seek His direction, it will come and it will amaze us. Imagine the women, the children, the families God has yet to complete. Think about eternity, about our legacy, and pray with these things in mind.

On the third Thursday of each month, I have set aside the lunch hour to pray and fast specifically for the needs of The Birth Connection. If you can, join me, if not, find a time to set aside and pray for the work to be done, the women we are ministering to, and the future of their children.

The Birth Connection needs you. God has the plans, let's join Him and see what happens.

In His Service

Lois M. Baxter
Executive Director

As you pray for the Birth Connection, please remember the following areas of need:

- God's divine guidance to the volunteers and counselors
 - God's hand of protection over the women and the unborn
 - The Salvation of clients
 - Wisdom for the board of directors
 - The financial needs to be met
- I am committing to become a Partner in Prayer, to pray for the ministry of The Birth Connection as they continue to assist women in unplanned pregnancies.

Sign _____ Date _____

Please add me to your email prayer list. _____@_____