

SAVING BABIES

CALVARY CHAPEL OLD BRIDGE'S ULTRASOUND UNIT HELPS WOMEN CHOOSE LIFE FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

Story by Margot Bass
Photos by Tom Price



This past March, Aaliyyah Oglesby was facing an unplanned pregnancy. “I was miserable, heartbroken, and I didn’t know what to do,” the New Jersey teen admitted. She planned to schedule an abortion for March 13. “Then the whole world shut down. It was like the COVID-19 pandemic saved me and my baby,” she added.

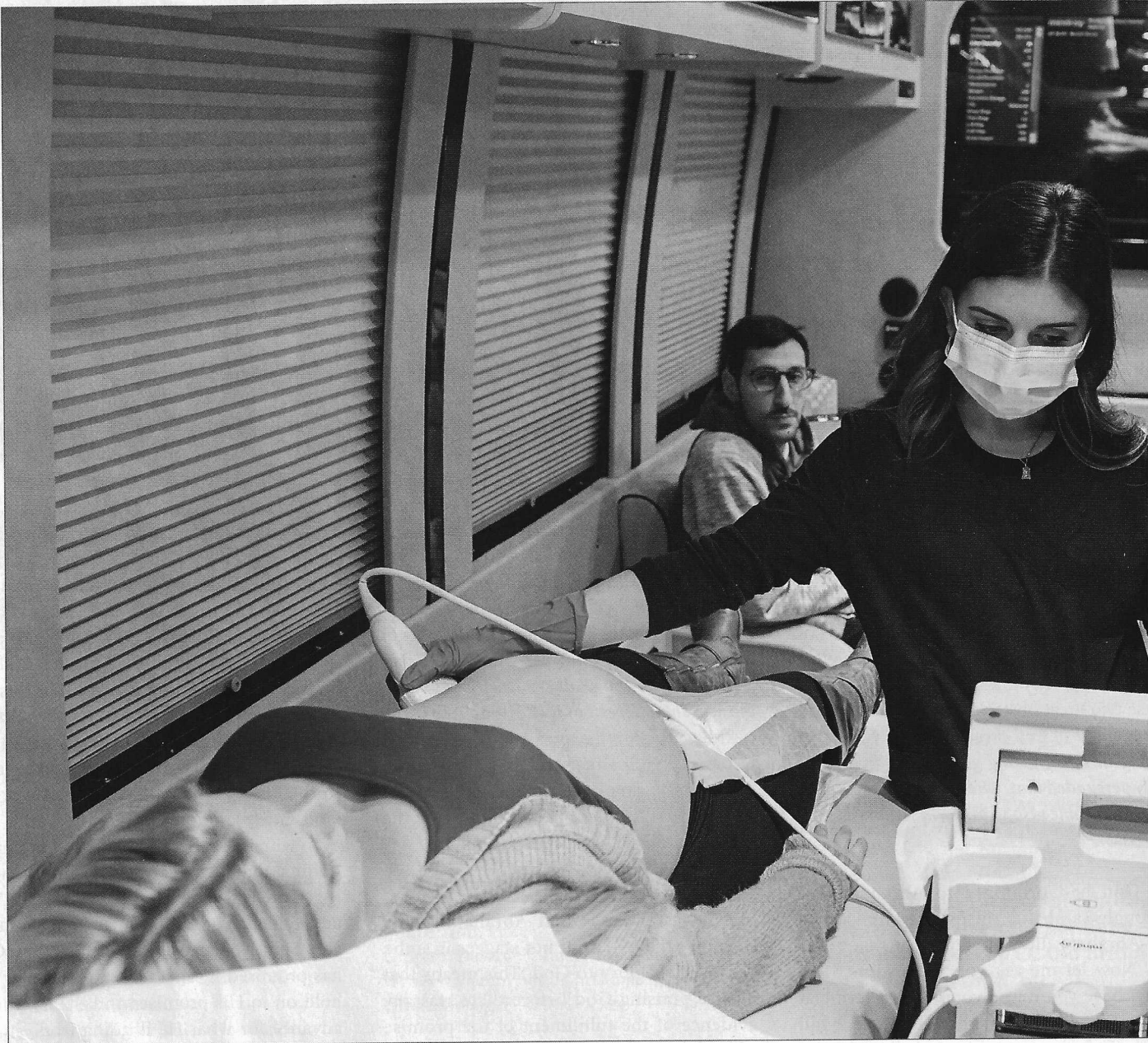
Aaliyyah had kept her pregnancy a secret from everyone. As a Christian, she knew her relationship with Jesus Christ needed to be restored. “I was very bitter. I got to the point where I was angry at the world, at everybody. I couldn’t look at myself in the mirror, I was so ashamed.” She felt alienated from God, knowing she was “deep in sin”, having had a sexual relationship before marriage. “I knew abortion was wrong, but I thought my life was over and that the only way I could fix this was if I got an abortion.”

Family issues led her to be placed into the home of Ray and Ruthie Dash in Newark, NJ. Ray is the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel affiliate The Rock Christian Fellowship in Newark. The couple prayed with her regularly, yet she still considered abortion. Then in June, after hearing a teaching at church, she knew she had to keep her baby. “It made me realize that [abortion] was one of the most selfish things I wanted for myself. Even if I didn’t have everything, I had a baby, and I knew he was going to be amazing.” Ruthie introduced her to Debbie Biskey, director of Calvary Chapel Old Bridge, NJ’s, Bridge Women’s Center—and to “Hannah”, the mobile medical unit of the ministry.

On board, Aaliyyah “met” her baby boy through a free ultrasound. “Debbie told me the baby was doing great and that she was there for me. I felt welcomed and loved in that unit that day,” Aaliyyah acknowledged. Debbie connected her with a doctor who would deliver her baby for free and helped her get insurance to cover hospital costs. Her baby, Jayden, was born on September 27. The Bridge Women’s Center, along with a network of other churches, has helped meet all of her practical needs. She attends The Rock and is growing in the Lord. “I am really excited to share with people my story, and I just want to inspire a lot of people, to let them know: Trust in the Lord. He has you,” Aaliyyah exclaimed confidently.

Top right: Over 70 women, many on their way to have an abortion, accepted the offer of a free ultrasound and opted to choose life after seeing their baby on screen. Calvary Chapel Old Bridge, NJ, purchased the ultrasound unit last year and is now investing in another unit.

Bottom: Sara Zaki and her husband, Matthew, view their baby on the screen as Ultrasound Technician Vanesa Formoso and RN Manager Jeannie Orsag (right) oversee the examination.



My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

PSALM 121:2, 8

Hannah, Saving Lives

Hannah opened her doors in late May, travelling to some of New Jersey's roughly 76 abortion facilities up to six days a week—gently, lovingly, and without judgement sharing the truth about abortion, offering women in crisis pregnancy a real choice, and making God's grace known through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pandemic has slowed down some of Hannah's destinations, including large college campuses and churches, as well as fundraising efforts.

But it hasn't affected trips to the larger Planned Parenthood clinics, according to Debbie. "If abortion is essential health care, then we were absolutely going to be out there," she boldly declared. As of mid-December, the lives of 70 babies have been rescued from abortion through the loving ministry of the medical staff aboard Hannah—a registered nurse, a registered medical sonographer, and counselors.

Lloyd Pulley, senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Old Bridge (CCOB), is fully invested in the church's pro-life ministry. "We know that women who have an abortion are going to be weighted down with all sorts of guilt and shame sorting through this stuff," he said. "We want to be there for them because many of them have been lied to. We want to bring the truth, show women some options, and let them know they're not alone."

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness,

longsuffering. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. COLOSSIANS 3:12, 14

Debbie emphasized the importance of going directly to the abortion clinics; the unit parks near the door or across the street. "They've already made the appointment to have the abortion. Once she sees that door, she's going for it. We literally have about a 2- to 5-minute window to get them on the unit. Four out of five women who get on board say *Yes to life*," Debbie said. "Every time a husband or boyfriend comes on with them, they choose life. That tells us how important the man [in the relationship] is."

Debbie shared about a married couple approaching a clinic for an abortion this past fall. "The wife went in to have the abortion, and our driver, Leo, started talking with the father for about 20 minutes, praying with him. When they finished praying, they turned around, and the wife was walking out of the clinic, got on board, and chose life."

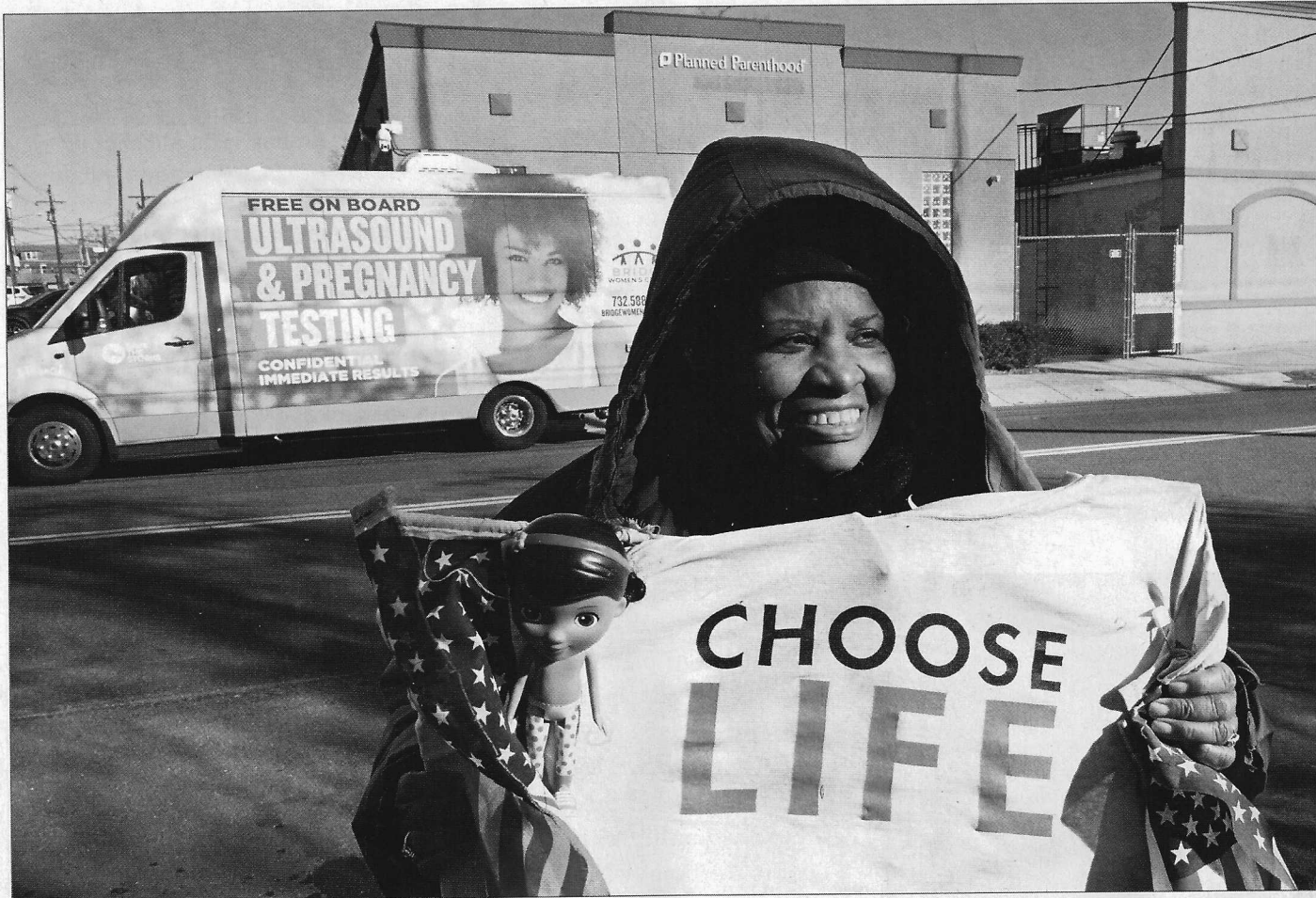
One woman chose life, Debbie recounted, after her boyfriend came on board with her; the staff spent four hours with them. "She'd had 11 abortions by the age of 18. She felt she had no value, and that God would never forgive her. She wondered how she could be a mother because of her past."

Hannah is a safe place, Debbie stressed. "We just start talking to them. We say, 'Just gather some information and know what you're doing—that's true choice, having all the facts.' One of the things we hear when they come on board is, 'Thank you for being so kind and loving towards us.'"

One woman coming for an abortion told Hannah's staff that she had been praying for a sign from God about

"I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS OVER AND THAT THE ONLY WAY I COULD FIX THIS WAS IF I GOT AN ABORTION."

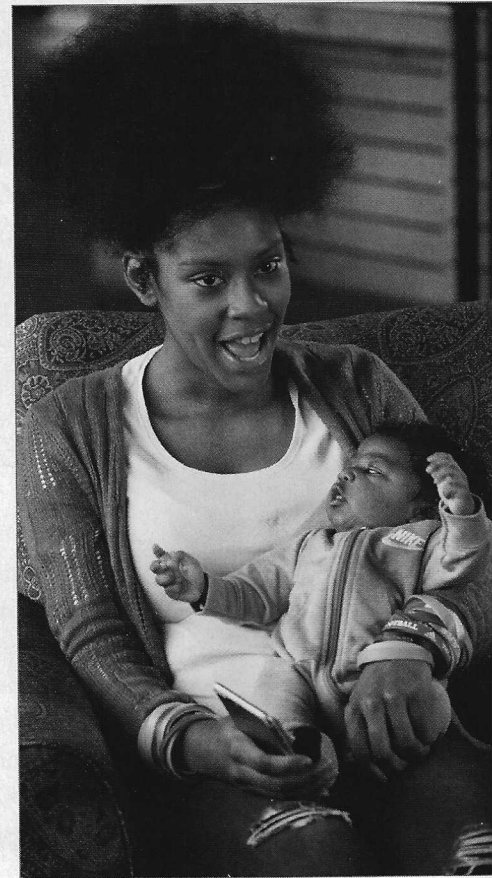
AALIYYAH

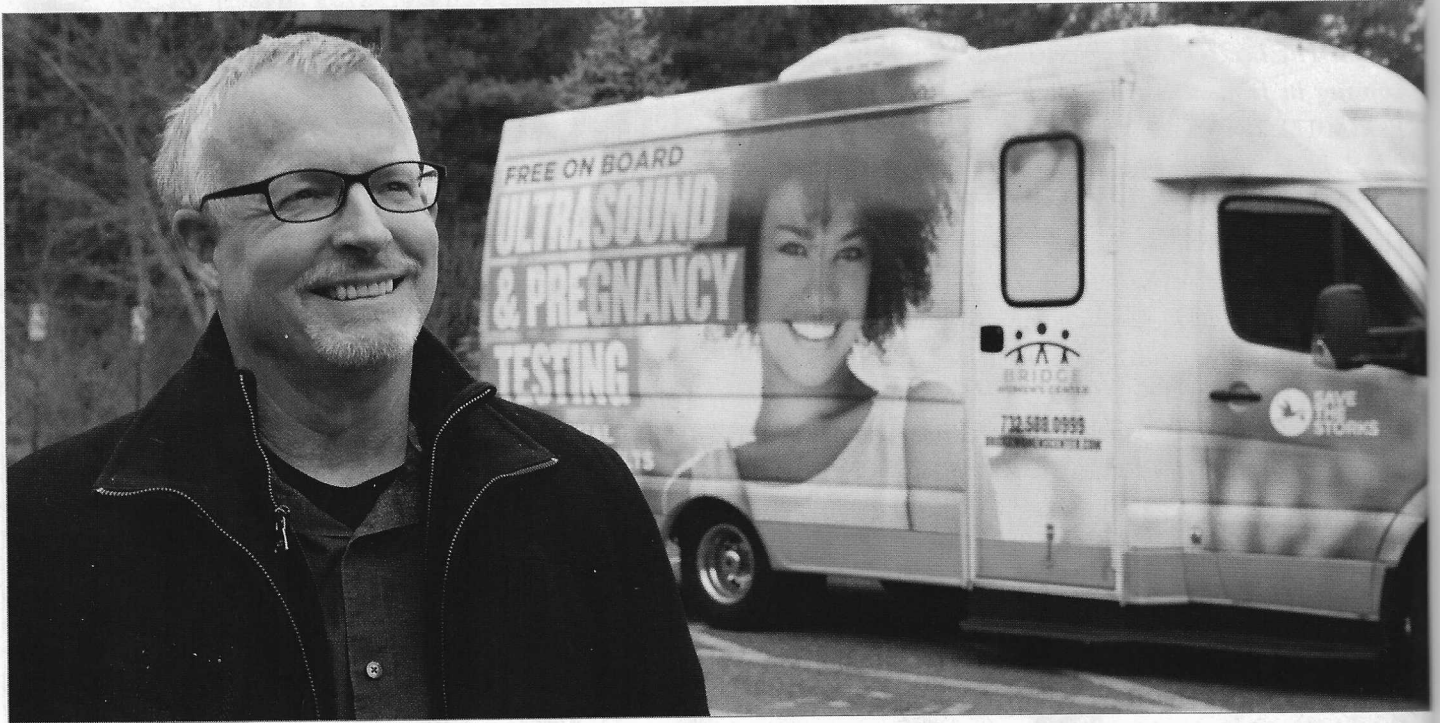


Top left: Patti Thomas, often a lone protestor in Perth Amboy, NJ, praises God when the ultrasound unit parks in front of Planned Parenthood, knowing that the free ultrasound gives women a realistic look at their baby and that they often decide against abortion.

Bottom center: A young woman looks into a Planned Parenthood facility where abortions are performed.

Bottom right: Seventeen-year-old Aaliyyah Oglesby holds her son while being interviewed. She saw her baby through the ultrasound unit and is thankful she chose to keep him.





whether or not to keep her baby. Debbie related, “One of our intake counselors went up to her, and she started crying. We got her onboard, prayed with her, gave her an ultrasound, and she chose life.”

A Gentle Ministry of Grace

Pastor Lloyd is adamant that the ministry is not about protest of any kind. “Back in the day, a lot of pro-life ministry seemed to be a lot of yelling and screaming. I became a little burnt at some of the over-aggressive people who were feeling it was their job to show how bad these women are and how guilty they should feel. But it’s the kindness of God that leads us to repentance,” he contended.

Stuart Migdon, one of the CCOB elders, had a passion to save the unborn and encouraged Lloyd. “Stu ignited our sporadic pro-life ministry, became our connection to purchase the unit, and simply inspired others to make Hannah a reality,” Lloyd remembered. Stuart produced a major film on the abortion issue called *Voiceless*. “It shows how one individual can inspire an entire ministry.”

Lloyd continued, “I just want to sow seed, and I think the biggest field that has been [left] unsown is the guilt of a nation; men and women who are complicit in abortion, ripe for picking by the lovely Gospel of grace. Not to shame them, bury them in guilt for what they have done, but to be there as a loving resource to rescue them from decisions they’ll regret the rest of their lives.” He marveled at a surprising result of Hannah’s work: “The

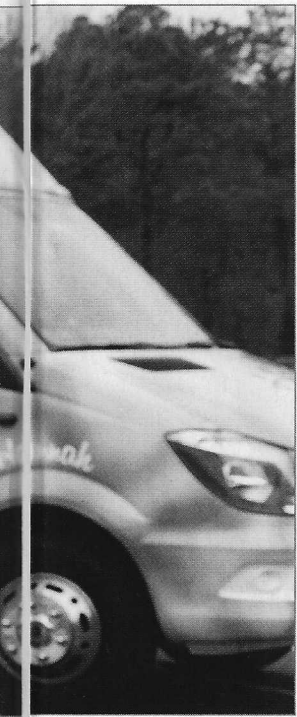
powerful thing is, we’re actually getting referrals from universities ... they’re actually sending some women to us. That’s just blown our minds.”

The goal is to meet the women where they are, Debbie explained. “They’re very stone-faced when they come in; there’s really not much emotion. But as soon as they see the baby on the 42-inch flat screen, they’re crying. Men will cry just as hard.”

Rescue from Chemical Abortions

An unexpected aspect of their work is helping women who have taken the abortion pill to reverse their actions. Debbie expounded, “We found a doctor who provides the reversal pill, progesterone. Usually they call us between 5 to 24 hours after they take that chemical abortion pill, and they are a mess because they want to stop it.” Aboard the Hannah unit, after a woman takes the reversal pill, the doctor will monitor the baby’s heartbeats per minute. “We’ve had three babies where it worked and three babies who passed away. It has a 68% chance of working.”

Lloyd warned of Planned Parenthood’s deception. “One woman who had taken the abortion pill called frantically and wanted to get the reversal pill. She got word that we could do it. We were trying to set it up and meet her, but she panicked and went back to Planned Parenthood because she wanted to get something quicker. They lied, saying, ‘There is no reversal.’ The delay cost her twin babies. That was a heartbreaker.”



Top left: CC Old Bridge Senior Pastor Lloyd Pulley was instrumental in negotiating the deal to purchase the ultrasound unit from "Save the Storks." Lloyd is overjoyed that the church board recently voted to purchase an additional unit in 2021.

“WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE HOW GOD WAS GOING TO USE THIS SO POWERFULLY AND IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.”

PASTOR LLOYD PULLEY

The Entrance to Ministry

Lloyd addressed the concerns of many pro-choice advocates who claim, “How disgusting are you people? You get out there in front of the clinics, guilt women into having the baby, and then you abandon them when they can’t take care of the baby.” He remembered a recent note he received from a woman who chose to keep her baby after getting an ultrasound on Hannah. “It was a picture of her baby, ultrasound-scanned now a couple of months later—this big, beautiful girl in her womb. She just gushed, ‘Thank you!’ That was powerful and answers the lie that this is all about ‘guilting women.’ They’re thankful that we’re there to give them an option.”

Debbie also encouraged, “For the woman who has had the abortion, we love her just as much; we want her to find Christ—we have a healing program for her, too.”

Hannah is just the entrance to further ministry, Lloyd and Debbie emphasized. “We save the baby’s life, but how are you going to disciple these women?” Debbie asked. Three things that abortion-minded women worry about are health insurance, housing, and finding a job. The Bridge Women’s Center is answering all of them, including helping them find insurance to cover the costs of the pregnancy and delivery of the baby.

Debbie added that the center is partnering with an organization to find low-income housing—a 12-month program operating on a sliding scale and requiring

employment. She elaborated, “We want to [help] and teach these families and moms. It also involves getting the church body involved. How do we sponsor these women, come alongside them? That’s where a lot of our money and donations will be going.” CCOB also plans to open a high-end thrift shop to employ the women in 2021.

Other programs include pregnancy care, parenting skills, single-parenting concerns, and GED and ESL training. “Each one of those programs offers discipleship,” Debbie assured. “We pray with them, ask them what’s on their hearts, and have Bible studies. That’s the whole mission.” She stated that 12 families have accepted Jesus as Savior because of the Hannah ministry. “We’ve given them Bibles and stay in relationship with them.”

Lloyd affirmed, “There are a lot of women who are going to be having babies at the same time. We’re going to be very strategic in helping them.”

CCOB also counsels women who do not board Hannah and throws huge baby showers for expectant mothers. Katie Linzer received help during her crisis pregnancy through the church’s pro-life ministry. She enthused, “What was really nice is that everybody was there to support me. They asked me all the time if there was something I needed, anyone I needed to talk to, or if I had any questions.” Because of COVID-19 restrictions, she didn’t expect a baby shower. Through tears, she continued, “I was getting everything [I needed] together myself. And

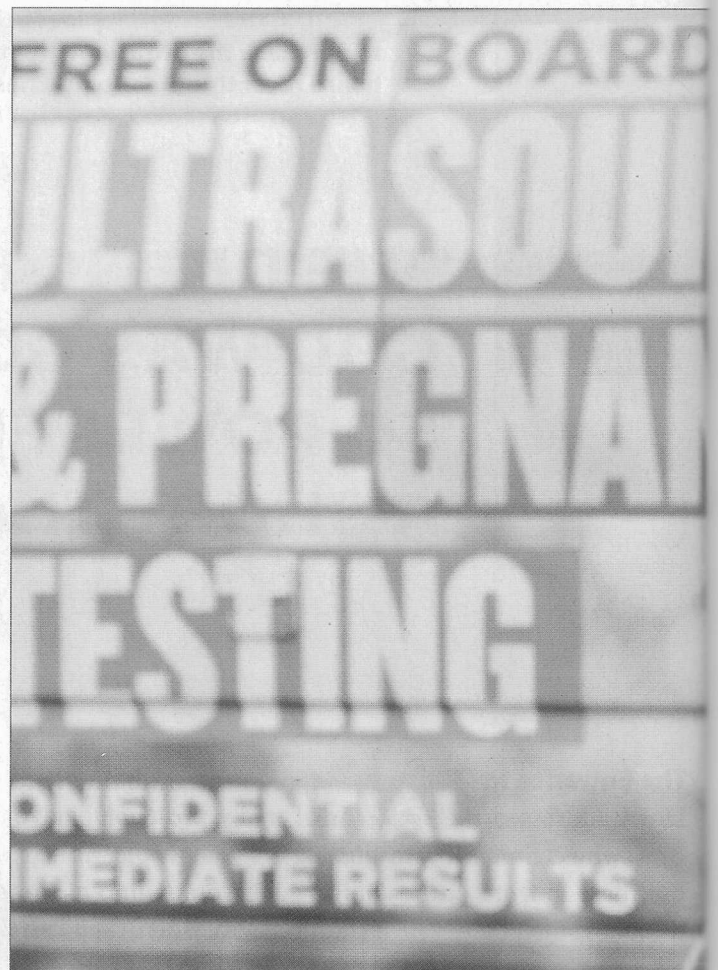
“ONE OF THE THINGS WE HEAR WHEN THEY COME ON BOARD IS ‘THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND AND LOVING’”
DEBBIE BISKEY



Bottom left: Katie Linzer is brought to tears as she relays what she endured when she opted to keep her baby, Khloe. She was thankful for the encouragement of women from CC Old Bridge.

Top right: Debbie Biskey oversees the ultrasound unit as well as the Women's Outreach at CCOB.

Bottom right: The ultrasound and pregnancy testing unit often parks in front of Planned Parenthood.



then they did the whole baby shower! I thought that was the most generous thing anyone had ever done, that it was God listening to our prayers.”

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” MATTHEW 7:7, 11b

Katie had received no support from her boyfriend or his family during her pregnancy to save or even keep her baby girl, Khloe. “Many things were said to me: *How are you going to afford this? What are you going to do? Where are you going to live?* A family member said I did this on purpose. Everything got put on me to make me want to choose an abortion. But I actually refused, and it was completely my choice to keep her,” she proclaimed. “I needed a lot of support because it is overwhelming. Debbie was always my go-to person. I always texted and called her.” A family from the church offered much support as well.

Katie exhorted, “I think that a lot of women feel that they are alone. But you are never alone. There are always



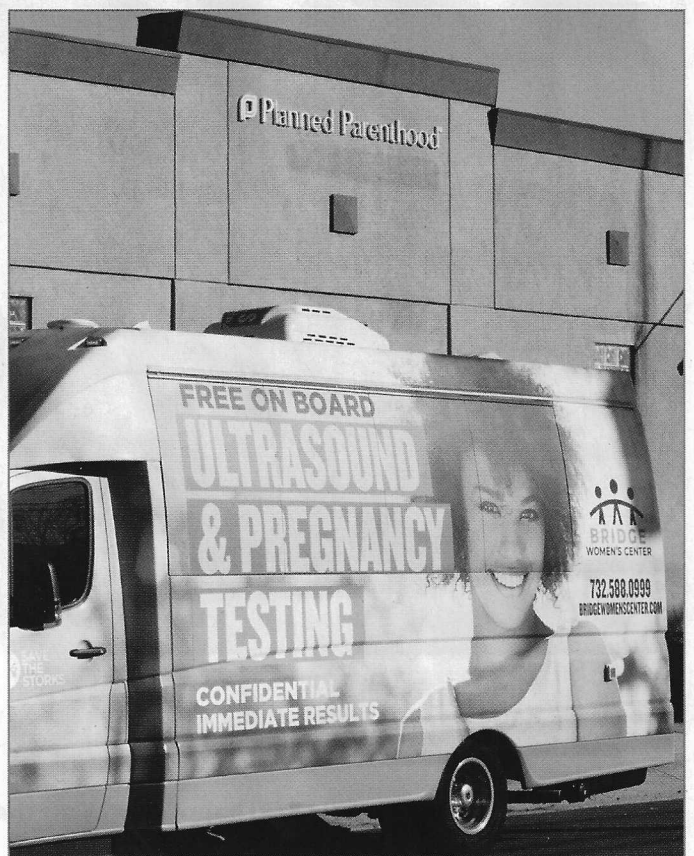
people who want to help. Life is very, very precious. There is always a resource, a way to make it work. There is no reason to choose abortion.”

Looking to the Future

Lloyd admitted that his early expectations for Hannah’s outreach were good, “but we did not anticipate how God was going to use this so powerfully and in such a short time. The most exciting thing about taking this crazy venture of faith in the middle of COVID, this long adventure we’ve been on to get Hannah, ... has been the beautiful picture of the babies that God is saving.”

There were concerns, he noted. “If you look at the political climate, at all the unrest that’s going on, we didn’t know if people were going to stone the medical unit coming into some of these neighborhoods. You know, we prayed and went out there, and God has—beyond words—blessed it.”

While it was tempting to “play it safe” during the pandemic, Lloyd reflected, “The Lord convicted me in Ecclesiastes 11:4 that, essentially, he who observes the wind will not sow. If you’re worried about the storm,





you're not going to sow your seed. And if you don't sow your seed, you're not going to have a harvest. So the Lord just convicted us: *Let's go for it.* And He's been so faithful."

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ECCLESIASTES 11:4

Regarding growth of the ministry, Lloyd's board has approved the purchase of a new mobile medical unit that will take a year to build and prepare for service. Lloyd relayed, "We have enough people now who are so excited about this and resources coming in that we never anticipated." He described a day that showed him that Hannah's ministry was going to be much bigger than expected. Hannah had gone to a location in response to a request from a woman. "The lady came on, then two other ladies came on, and then there were three other ladies who couldn't get on because there was no time to scan them. But the crew ministered to them outside the medical unit, and all six women kept their babies that day."

Even more, Lloyd urges other Calvary Chapels, even small ones, to take the necessary step of faith into active pro-life ministry. "I don't want to be the only one doing this," he challenged. "You'd be surprised how many resources are out there, and that people really want to be a part of something like this because they know the impact. In fact, a large response comes from women who have been down that road. They want to undo their abortions,

which they can't. But they can pay it forward to that next generation and help rescue them."

Debbie summed up the ministry: "Women are coming to Christ, babies are being saved, and we're not just pro-birth. We're continuing the mission of walking with the women after they choose life, helping them with the necessities, always bringing them back to Jesus. We're here for the long-term." ✨

The Bridge Women's Center is planning a fundraising event on May 13, 2021. Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, will be the guest speaker.

Calvary Chapel Old Bridge
ccob.org

Bridge Women's Center
bridgewomenscenter.com



Scan this
 code to
 watch the
 video