

# Julie's Heart Cry

*Bringing Hope to Women Globally*



## The fear of God

**D**ear Friends & Partners,

The following is part one of an interview I conducted with "Christine" (not her real name) when I stopped in France on my way to Africa this past November. She is a 35-year-old single mom of three boys.

At times, we are quick to throw stones or give harsh opinions without realizing there are simple acts of kindness that can literally save a life. All Christine needed was a support system. Someone to love and encourage her in her time of need while pointing her heart to God.

This is her story about God's grace as she was contemplating abortion.

*~ Julie Mad-Bondo*

**JHC: Tell me about yourself.**

**Christine:** My mom and dad separated when I was a baby, but they decided it would be best for me at age 6 ½ to live with my dad. As an adult, I worked two jobs to provide for my family when my son was diagnosed with autism. My mom

was dying of cancer, and I found myself looking after my dad – whose method of waking me up in the morning when I lived with him was urinating on me. I had to forgive him, or I would not be able to do what I do for him. But that is another story for another time. There is so much going on in my life.

**JHC: What caused you to contemplate an abortion?**

**Christine:** I had someone to help me with my last pregnancy. With this one, I had no one. I suffered from chronic morning sickness; physically and emotionally, I was not doing well. You are in that zone where there is no relief from constantly vomiting, no one to talk some sense into you, and your doctor's second option for you is an abortion.

**JHC: Tell me about your morning sickness.**

**Christine:** This morning sickness was much worse than I experienced with my first two pregnancies. I was not able to eat or drink anything. I would constantly

*(over)*

dry heave. I would drink water while making my way to the bathroom. I asked God to remove this pregnancy from me. I was at the end of myself.

**JHC: What kind of help did you need?**

**Christine:** To have someone in my life who cared about me and would give some emotional support.

**JHC: What moved your heart to choose life?**

**Christine:** The fear of God. And I understood the personhood of my son. I called you and my mom. You kept telling me this is a person – a human being. I never knew that a 10-week pregnancy was a person. I've always heard that pregnancy at this stage was not a person yet. When I chose life, though, I never anticipated my child would be diagnosed with autism.

**JHC: Have you ever regretted choosing life?**

**Christine:** No.

**JHC: You said you had no desire to touch your son after he was born.**

**Christine:** Yes. After giving birth, the nurse wanted to help me hold the baby, but I refused. I suffered so much. Emotionally, I was broken.

**JHC: How old was your son when you noticed something different about him?**

**Christine:** When we returned from a trip to Tunisia, my son's health took a turn I did not anticipate. He went from a seemingly healthy child to sleeping maybe one hour in 24. He became this 18-month-old who did not smile, who was in his own world and wouldn't look at you. Our life started spinning out of

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control. The sleepless nights went on for about a month before I decided to take him to the doctor. I knew something was wrong, yet, at the same time, I did not want to know. I was scared.

I really had not wanted to keep the pregnancy, but somehow, I understood the fear of God.

**JHC: What were your feelings and thoughts when your son was diagnosed with autism after choosing life out of fear of God?**

**Christine:** I blame myself for my son having autism. At times, I think God is punishing me because of my anger, for the fact I wanted to have an abortion. I've asked my God and my son for forgiveness. I believe my son could tell I didn't have any love for him at first. I apologized for rejecting and not wanting to hold him. I told him I was sorry for not wanting to give him love and not believing God gave him to me.

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you ..." Exodus 20:13*

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**Check out our March newsletter next month for the conclusion of my interview with Christine.**