

EMBRACE

GRACE PLACE
FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



**THE CHURCH'S ROLE
IN ABORTION:
GRACE, SUPPORT AND ACTION**

Armando Grijalva

A LEGACY OF GRACE

Tammy Bacon

**A FAMILY'S JOURNEY
SHAPED BY GRACE**

2025 Edition



P5 PLUS



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P5 PLUS



"I am confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it"

Phil. 1:6

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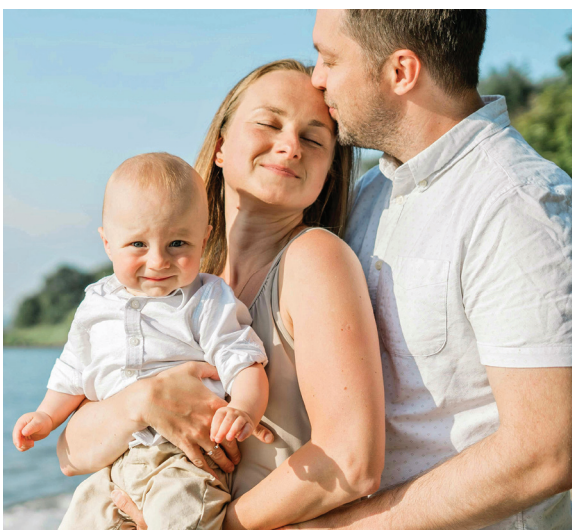
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Hello!

I am excited to help bring to you the 12th Annual publication of "Embrace Grace Place". First and foremost, I want to say thank you for all the dedication, generosity, and care that you provide to Grace Place. If it weren't for people like you who pray and support us, we would be unable to reach mothers and fathers in the Four Corners.

This past year for Grace Place has been marked by change. We have dealt with staff changes, changes in leadership, and the day-to-day changes that come with any organization. Throughout the changes, we have remained committed to our mission, "Saving lives by providing abortion alternatives through the power of the Gospel."

Our theme for this year has been centered on John 1:5. Amidst change, we have been able to fix our eyes on His proverbial light and know that the darkness has not overcome. Throughout all of this, we have remained resilient and are now prepared to run head-on into the upcoming year and continue to bring our fervent brand of compassionate care to all those in need in the Four Corners.

I give my sincere thanks to our staff, our board, our volunteers, our donors, our prayer warriors, and those who contributed their heartfelt stories to produce this magazine.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

Wyatt Hardy
Development Manager

2025 Issue

EMBRACE



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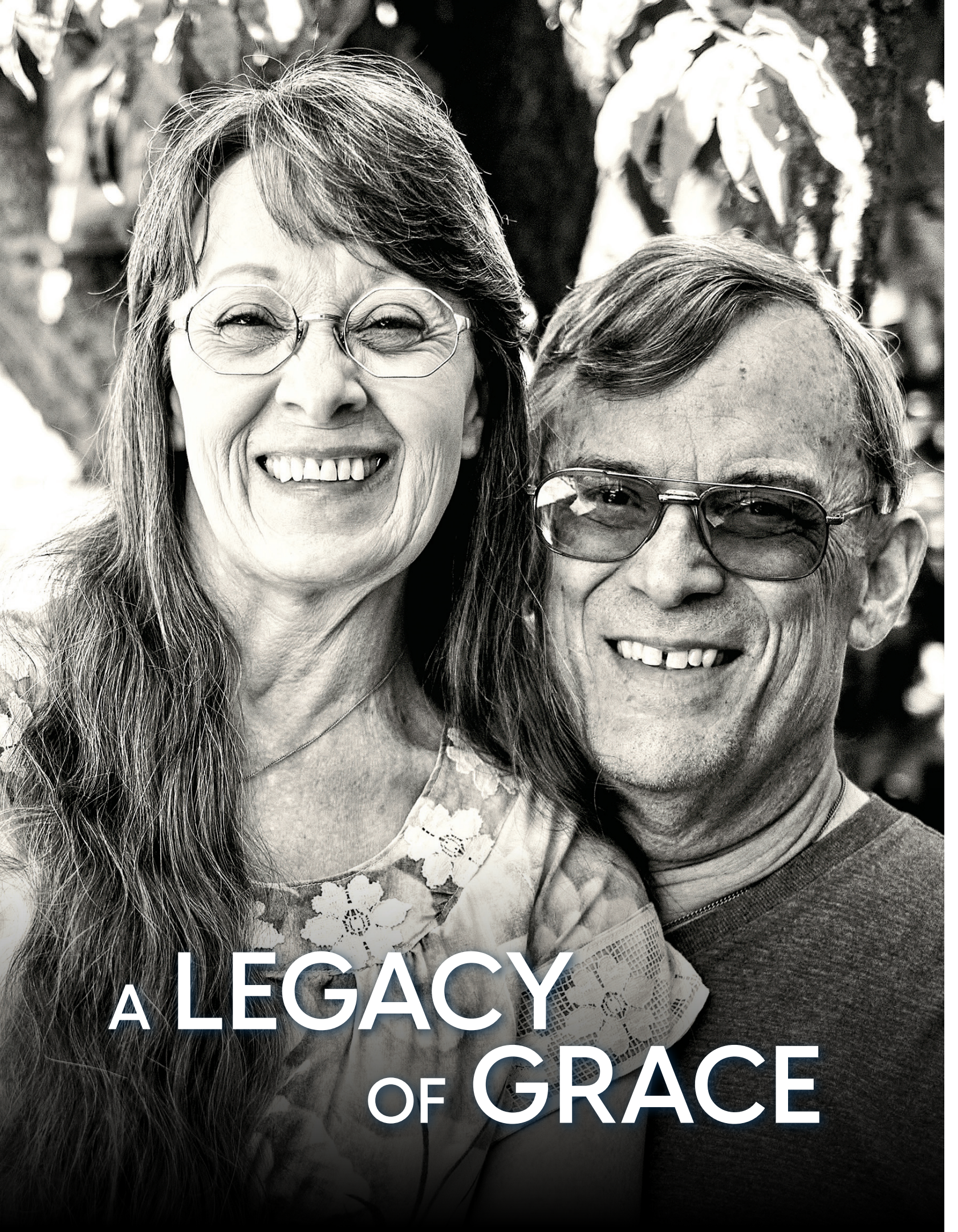
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A LEGACY OF GRACE

BY: TAMMY BACON

When I look back now, I can hardly believe how it all began. Before the founding of Animas Crisis Pregnancy Center, what would later become Grace Place, Farmington had only one organization serving women in unplanned pregnancies, Birthright. They offered counseling, baby clothes, and practical support. It was good, important work, and they had been faithfully serving for years. Yet something was missing.

Many in our community still had little understanding of abortion or the pro-life movement. Some pastors were pro-life, others pro-choice, and still others seemed to hold no opinion at all. Most OB-GYNs in Farmington said they would not perform abortions because of the "moral climate" of the community, but abortions were still happening every week. Doctors from Durango would drive to Aztec, where San Juan Regional Medical Center owned a clinic, and they quietly performed abortions there. Each week, a small but faithful group of pro-life Christians gathered outside, holding signs, praying, and speaking with anyone who would listen.

I was not among them, not yet. In truth, I was largely uninformed about the issue. I had never even heard of Birthright until one afternoon, while driving and listening to KNMI, a Christian radio station, I heard an urgent announcement. Birthright might have to close due to a lack of volunteers. I can't explain it other than to say that I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to attend that meeting.

I was a young mother then, with a newborn in my arms, and no real idea what I was walking into. But when I arrived, I found three others who had also responded to that broadcast. We were strangers at first, but God was already knitting together something much bigger than any of us could see. This began my volunteering at Birthright and marked my start in the world of pregnancy care ministry.

That meeting changed my life. Birthright did stay open thanks to the wave of community support that followed. But I quickly realized that, as much as I loved counseling there, something more was needed. Birthright's rules didn't allow us to pray with clients or share the hope of Christ. We longed for a place where women could not only receive practical help, but also prayer, love, and the truth of the gospel.

So, we began a chapter of the Christian Action Council (CAC). We started small, organizing surveys, educating pastors and doctors, distributing literature, marching outside the Aztec clinic, and writing letters to the editor. We even held pastors' breakfasts to open dialogue. Slowly, the community began to awaken. Support grew, finances trickled in, and friendships were forged around kitchen tables where we prayed and dreamed of what could be.

From the very beginning, our goal was to open a pregnancy center. After years of groundwork, the CAC dissolved to make way for a new committee focused solely on that mission. I'll never forget the day Sue Schlauger timidly stood up during a presentation at Bethel Baptist Church and said she felt God was calling her to be the director. That moment was the seed of what became the Animas Crisis Pregnancy Center, which opened its doors in 1990 on Locke Street.

The early years were full of challenges, finding volunteers, raising funds, keeping the lights on, but I never doubted the center would survive. It wasn't ours, it was God's. And over and over again, He provided every resource and every person we needed.

For me personally, the work became very real on the hotline. For 23 years, I answered calls at all hours of the night. Sometimes it was a mother who had run out of diapers. Other times, it was a young woman in tears,





overwhelmed and afraid. Once, just weeks after my sister had taken her own life, I received a call from a suicidal girl who had dialed the number simply because she saw the word crisis. I don't remember everything I said that night, but I do know God gave me words I didn't have on my own. By the end of the conversation, her tone had softened, and hope had returned. Those nights taught me to rely completely on the Holy Spirit.

I'll never forget the first time a client told me she had decided against abortion because of our conversation. I was nervous and unsure of myself, but God used my weakness. That single life affirmed for me what I already believed: if even one baby was saved, one heart touched, one mother helped, then every effort was worth it.

As the years went on, the ministry grew. We celebrated the donation of our first ultrasound machine, the move into a larger building, the start of parenting classes, and the Baby Bucks item store. Volunteers poured in, churches

that had once been silent now stood with us, and financial provision always seemed to come just in time.

The work wasn't easy. There were moments of exhaustion, seasons of uncertainty, and times of grief. But alongside

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the challenges came deep joy. The friendships formed in prayer, the sight of thousands standing together at the Life Chain, and the privilege of seeing clients receive not only help but hope, sustained my heart through it all.

Looking back now, I see God's fingerprints on every step. What began with a radio announcement and a handful of people in a room has grown into a ministry deeply rooted in this community. I see younger generations rising up, including my own son, who now serves on the board. That is perhaps the greatest joy of all, knowing the baton is being carried forward.

If I could tell future staff, volunteers, and board members one thing, it would be this: never forget the reason for why there is a "Grace Place" and that they will remember who it belongs to. There is a reason why "grace" is part of the name: grace towards every person who steps through the doors, grace towards each other in their interactions behind those doors, and all by the faithful grace of our Father God who opened and keeps those doors open.



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UNBORN – WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE
VALUE OF ALL HUMAN LIFE."
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THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE *Dark*

reach

When you support Grace Place, you help us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a broken world. Consider the facts:

- New Mexico is home to 17 virtual abortion providers and 11 in-person providers.
- New Mexico is an abortion tourism state. Abortions are legal through all months of pregnancy, and we do not have any state-level abortion restrictions- such as waiting periods, ultrasounds, parental notification, mandated parental involvement, or limitations on publicly funded abortions.
- New Mexico as the most lenient laws regarding abortion in the world. We are right up there with China and North Korea as far as the killing of innocent child is concerned.
- The number of abortions performed in New Mexico has increased by more than 400% since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. That's according to a study that says interstate travel across the country continues to grow for the procedure.
- New Mexico has remained an abortion destination. In 2024, 18,310 abortions were provided by clinicians. Of those 18,310, 69% or 12,634 abortions were from out-of-state women.
- In 2024, 98% of moms who came to Grace Place to receive compassion, help, and hope CHOSE LIFE!

serve

Our professional staff and volunteers serve our clients day to day through a variety of services at no cost to our clients, thanks to the generous support of our donors.

Grace Place offers confidential care and support through the following free services:

- Pregnancy Testing
- Options Education
- Abortion Information
- Adoption Agency Information and Referrals
- Medical Referrals
- Ultrasound
- STD/STI Information and Testing
- Parenting Education and Support
- Maternity & Infant Supplies
- Abortion Recovery
- Support for Men
- 24 Hour Helpline

love

As a volunteer or donor you are participating with us to love the moms, dads and babies of the Four Corners Region unconditionally.

As a volunteer or donor you have the opportunity to offer hope to those who feel they have no hope.

As a volunteer or donor you are helping to save the lives of future generations.

Sources for statistics used: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NM Department of Health, Care Net, NM Women's Indicator Report, and Guttmacher Institute.



SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Own a business? Consider being an Annual Partner (advertising is 100% deductible)
- Become a Monthly Donor.
- Prayer! Join in 1 of 3 ways:
 - Prayer Team
 - Prayer text
 - Commit to praying for us daily as our intercessor.
- Donate your time as a client advocate.
- Donate your time as a fundraising volunteer.
- Donate your time as a sonographer.
- Donate your time as a nurse.
- Donate your time as a Men of Valor Mentor.

Love the Children Learning Center



CRYSTAL JACQUEZ-AGUILAR (OWNER)

"... BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE"

- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

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THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN ABORTION: Grace, Support, and Action



BY: ARMANDO GRIJALVA, PASTOR

Debates about a woman's right to choose often frame abortion as a personal choice or a political issue. This is why many within the church context decide to stay out of the debate altogether. The point is that abortion is more than politics or choice. It's a life issue and a deeply spiritual one. The life of the unborn child, as well as the lives of the parents, are in the hands of the local church. These parents should be free from the fear of judgment and be able to turn to the local church for grace and support. As a pastor, I would love to think that the message of abstinence is in everyone's hearts, and the idea of sexual sin is absent from the church. The reality is that we live in a world where sin is real. When a young lady or a young couple find themselves in a situation

where they have crossed the lines of sin and discover that a life was conceived, fear can begin to trickle in. Thoughts such as "What is my Bible study group leader going to think?" or "How are my youth leaders going to treat me?" In addition to the questions, there is a fear of being told they did something terrible, or the fear of being shunned by the people who should be there to uplift them. The local church should continue to preach sexual purity, including abstinence, while recognizing that not everyone follows this Biblical principle. Sin is a reality, and the church needs to be prepared to handle difficult and uncertain situations. The fearful thoughts about the church's reaction to an unplanned pregnancy can lead men and women to decide that an abortion is the best escape plan for their current situation.



In 1994, Planned Parenthood formed the Clergy Advocacy Board (CAB). The CAB was formed to provide resources where people of faith could speak with spiritual leaders or ordained pastors. The CAB is made up of clergy and faith-based leaders from various denominations across the United States. Planned Parenthood understood the need for spiritual support from the church. The problem is that Planned Parenthood isn't giving spiritual support to save the life of the child in the womb, they are guiding scared individuals towards ending it. One of the CAB board members said, "One piece I recognize that is incredibly important is providing for the spiritual need of abortion providers and their staff." There are nearly 600 Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide that offer spiritual guidance for getting an abortion. A person in crisis has access to get guidance from a Pastor to justify the taking of a life. Rev Katey Z. said she found her calling while she was holding the hand of a young woman who was receiving an abortion. "I got to see the sacred work that was performed by the doctors and the staff. I realized this

is where the sacred work is happening, inside the facility, not outside of Planned Parenthood yelling at the patients." So the question I have is, why wouldn't these young men and women be willing to go to their own Pastors instead of Planned Parenthood?

I will share a story that helps me answer this question. There was a young lady who found herself pregnant and struggling internally. She attended a local church but didn't think she could go to her pastor for guidance, instead ended up here at Grace Place because she heard that she could talk to the pastor on staff. She came in, and we sat down for a pastoral care session. It was a milestone in the pregnancy center because it is not common for a pregnancy center to have pastoral staff. On occasion, there might be a chaplain or a pastor who might volunteer, but generally not an option for most pregnancy center clients. When we look at the numbers, it is heartbreaking. More than 4 in 10 women who have had an abortion were attending church when they ended the pregnancy. As women considered

their abortion decision, the most topical reactions or expectations from a local church were “judgmental” or “condemning”. 51% of women agree that churches do not have a ministry prepared to discuss options during an unplanned pregnancy.

There are approximately 350,000 - 400,000 churches in the United States. There is no reason people should go to Planned Parenthood for spiritual guidance. The book of James emphasizes that the church should be a community where believers can find joy, encouragement, and support, especially during trials. James condemns favoritism and calls for the church to recognize the image of God in all individuals and treat them with respect and love, not just for the perfect, but for the broken, the hurting, and those facing difficult choices. We are called to be more than just hearers of the Word; we are called to be doers. This means creating a church culture where those considering abortion feel welcomed, loved, and supported.

There is an urgency for our local churches to get involved. James 1:22 challenges us to take action. “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” There are programs such as Care-net’s “Making Life

Disciples” or Life International’s “The Journey of a Life-Giver” that can help empower our local churches in serving those affected by unplanned pregnancies who might be considering abortion or are at risk of seeking out an abortion. Abortion is not a political issue, it’s a life issue. I truly believe that the church should be the first place a person turns to for guidance, care, and support. It’s time for the church to step up, not just with words, but with action. It’s time to make sure that people in crisis know they have a place to turn for real help, healing, and hope.





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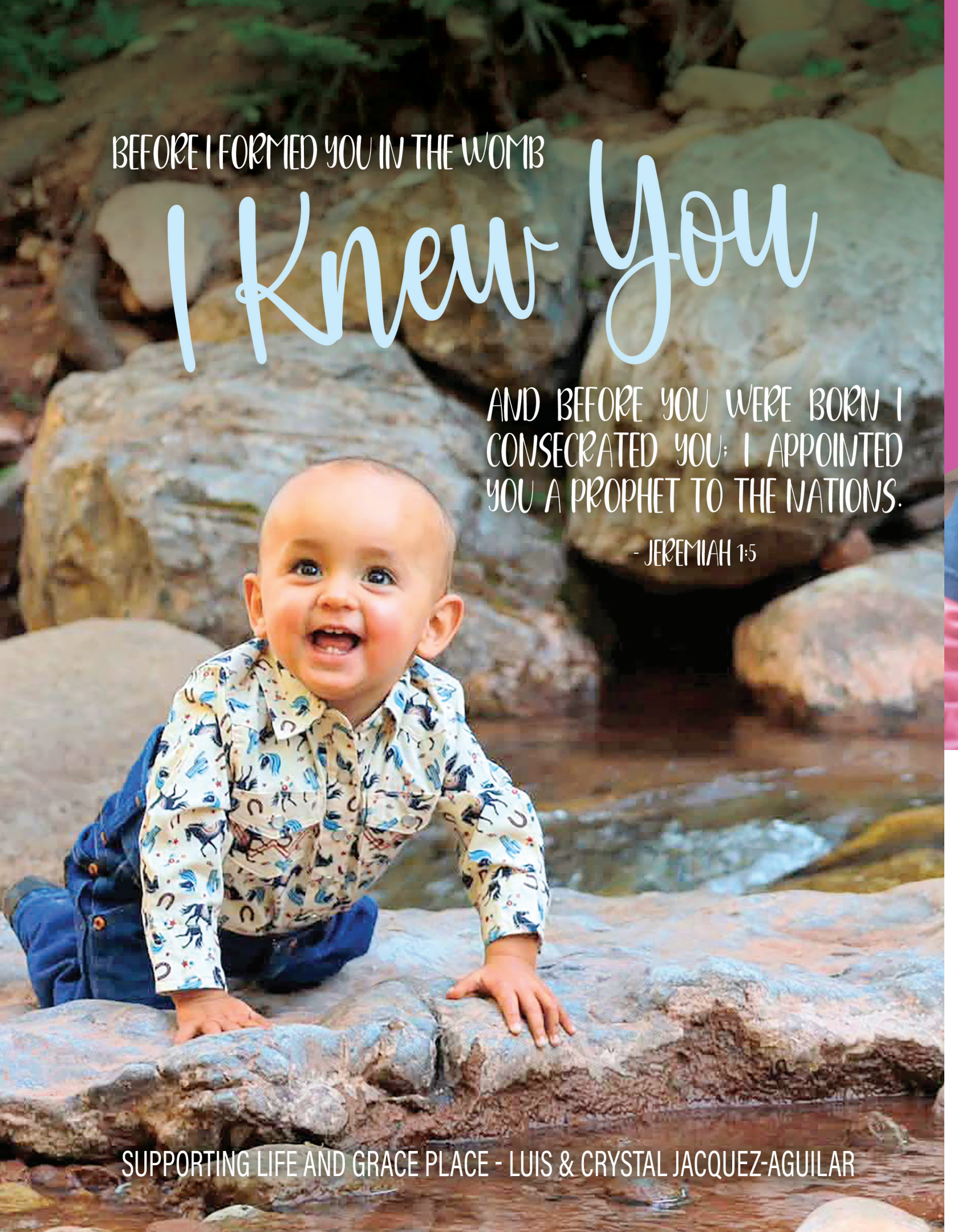


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A photograph of a baby crawling on large, wet, grey rocks next to a shallow stream. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a colorful pattern of horses and blue overalls. The baby is looking up and smiling. The background shows more rocks and some green foliage.

BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB

I Knew You

AND BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I
CONSECRATED YOU; I APPOINTED
YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS.

- JEREMIAH 1:5

SUPPORTING LIFE AND GRACE PLACE - LUIS & CRYSTAL JACQUEZ-AGUILAR

A FAMILY'S JOURNEY

Shaped by Grace

When Jewelina found herself unexpectedly pregnant, life felt overwhelming. At just 24, she was navigating instability, family tension, and uncertainty about the future. The pressure from those around her pushed her toward abortion, but deep down, Jewelina wanted something different.

Her father, Brent, stood by her side. "I disagreed with abortion anyway," he said. "So I told her to come back home, and we went through the pregnancy together." Still, both father and daughter knew they couldn't face this season alone. That's when a relative told them about Grace Place Family Health Center.

Walking through the doors for the first time, Jewelina remembers being welcomed warmly. "I liked it. The ladies were really nice," she said. From that first appointment, the Grace Place team became more than just staff, they became companions. They provided parenting education, medical support, and essential resources like

baby clothes and cribs. But perhaps more importantly, they offered encouragement.

"For me, I was overloaded," Brent admitted. "I didn't know what to expect or how to go about it. Grace Place was very helpful and very informative."

The heartbeat of Grace Place is family, both the families who come through its doors and the family that staff and volunteers create around them. For Jewelina, that sense of belonging made all the difference. Through ultrasounds, she saw her baby growing and felt reassured in her choice for life. Through guidance and classes, she grew in confidence as a mother.

When baby Colin arrived, unexpectedly at home, in the middle of the night, Brent recalls the shock and joy of hearing his first cry. "I thought I was dreaming. Then I heard a baby cry, and there he was, right in the bed." Emergency responders helped stabilize Jewelina, but the



memory of Colin's birth remains a vivid reminder that life is full of surprises, and blessings often come in unexpected ways.

Looking back, both Brent and Jewelina see how Grace Place shaped their journey. Jewelina is learning the patience and responsibility of motherhood, and she dreams of homeschooling Colin one day. Brent beams with pride as Colin works alongside him, eager to learn with his hands. "He's already out there, curious about tools and equipment. He's not going to be a computer type of

person. He's going to be outside, working, and learning a lot."

When asked what they're most proud of since coming to Grace Place, Jewelina's answer was simple: "This little one."

That answer embodies the mission of Grace Place Family Health Center. By walking with families like Jewelina and Brent's, providing education, resources, and community, Grace Place helps parents not only choose life but embrace it. It's about more than health care; it's about strengthening families so that children like Colin grow up



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Brent put it best: "The support and the information we got was excellent. It encouraged us and helped us a lot."

For Jewelina, Brent, and Colin, Grace Place isn't just where they went for help – it's where their family was given the tools to grow stronger together.



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