



You Are Beautiful

A Newsletter By and For Women in Prison

Summer Issue

August 2012

"Life is a journey and a spiritual unfolding is its purpose."

SOMEDAY

By Sasha

*Someday there will be peace
Where the following won't be a wish
Because it would be true:*

*Someday someone won't be murdered—
whether an innocent person on the subway
or a gang member on the wrong street.*

*Someday school will be safe from bullies--
For the kids who can't afford new clothes
and the kid who has rich parents.*

*Someday no one will kill themselves.
They won't have a reason to be depressed
because they won't be judged, they will be
welcomed.*

*Someday no one will be raped.
No woman's or man's innocence will be violated
by another person.*

*Someday every person will be accepted.
We won't have to be afraid of being gay-bashed.
We won't have to worry about getting killed
for our religion.
We won't be the first to get looked at
by the police for our race.
We won't have to be scared for our safety
for being us!*

Thanks to Nicole for sharing this insight:

*"The devil, he's slick, but God's the father
of light. And in the midst of the darkness
that seems to consume a lot of women, if I
can, I want to be a flashlight for God. I want
to be of maximum use."*

MOM

By Dana

When I was little,
you always were there.
You worked a lot to keep
us warm and sacrificed
the world.

You say you were
a bad mom, but I see the
best out of my mom.

You've taken on the task of being a savior
For all I have done in the past.

So, don't think your love has been little
Because all I know is the greatest love
you give to all of us!

I love you, Mom.



Are You Hurting After an Abortion?

Please Let Us Help You Find Healing

If you or someone close to you has had an abortion, it can cause deep and complicated suffering. Guilt and grief can lead to many problems in our lives, as we try to sort out and cope with the trauma. Often, it is very hard to share these painful secrets with anyone else.

Rachel's Vineyard is a healing ministry for those who are hurting after abortion. We are compassionate and non-judgmental. My name is Lisa, and I understand what you are going through. If your heart is heavy with pain that just does not seem to heal; if you are struggling with making sense of God's Will or His Mercy in this situation; if you would like to begin the healing process, please write to:

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For Women in Prison

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MINISTRY

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Mary, Model of Strength and Courage



*Biblical images of Mary's strength
touch all mothers and daughters*

(Luke 1:26-29 & MT 1:18-25) When the angel Gabriel told Mary she was to give birth to the Jesus, she was understandably troubled, but said, "Yes." Then she had to tell her parents and fiancé, Joseph, of her pregnancy. Imagine their incredulous stares until love overcame disbelief.

*God, make me worthy and willing to hear your call.
Bless my own parenting with listening and understanding
when my child tells me the unbelievable.*

(Luke 2:6-7) How frightening for Mary to bring her baby into the world miles away from her usual female support network (mom, aunts, girlfriends) to soothe and guide her labor.

*Loving God, strengthen me to persevere through difficult
times when support is not nearby.*

(John 2:1-11) At the wedding in Cana, Mary sits with 30-year old Jesus. Help is needed; the wine's run out.

Mary looks pleadingly at Jesus, but he rebuffs her. Ignoring his unwillingness, Mom Mary tells the waiter, "Do what he instructs you to do." She knows what she is starting, pushing her son towards his first miracle and the start of his ministry—the start of the end. She showed such strength in letting go, overcoming her own wants to keep her son safe, and at home.

*Powerful God, help me to have courageous strength to let
go for the good of my child, who must become an adult,
and be independent.*

(John 19-25-27) After three years of only hearsay (phones and email not an option), Jesus returns. Mary's joy is quickly overpowered by his arrest, persecution, death. Watching at the foot of the cross as Jesus arranged for John the beloved to care for his mom did she weep or stoically understand that this was all part of God's bigger plan?

*Holy God, open my eyes to keep sight of your greater plan
for my life and my child. Loving God, bless all mothers and
daughters with Mary's strength, faithfulness, and deep
love so we may serve your kingdom in raising our children.*