



prenatal partners for life

Hope



THE NEWSLETTER FOR PRENATAL PARTNERS FOR LIFE

SPRING 2024

WWW.PRENATALPARTNERSFORLIFE.ORG

*Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:5*

Dear Friends and Supporters, Happy Easter! Jesus has risen from the dead and has conquered sin and death forever! The victory is won for all time! Sometimes it seems that the voices of darkness and death can be so loud and the forces against life so strong. We must remember Who the Lord of Life is and that we belong to Jesus! He is always faithful and is always with us! We must never give up on building a culture of life!

We are busy getting ready for our banquet on June 13 at the Saint Paul Hotel. We are excited to have the awesome Matt Birk back as our Master of Ceremonies and the phenomenal musician, songwriter, producer, and philanthropist, Mick Sterling, along with his beautiful wife, Cate Fierro and talented pianist, Rick Carlson.

For over forty years, Mick has been sharing his musical talents and helping others with his wonderful charity, The Thirty Days Foundation. I first heard Mick sing at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Andy and Bing Christmas. Mick, Cate, and Rick are wonderful entertainers and are very well known in MN and the US. This promises to be a fantastic evening!

If you have sponsored or purchased a table in the past, we thank you! Please consider supporting us again this year by being a sponsor or by buying a table. If you have never been a sponsor or have never attended the Prenatal Partners for Life banquet, please consider doing so this year. It is a wonderful, fun, and inspiring evening and our major fundraiser of the year. You can buy tickets and tables online at: www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org or by calling: 763-772-3868.

We will continue to help the families we serve embrace the life of their child and honor their child as a precious gift from God! Please help us continue to offer life affirming support, information, and encouragement to all! Thank you and know of our love and prayers!

Wishing you abundant Easter joy in Jesus,

Mary Kellett
Prenatal Partners for Life

Family Spotlight

The story of Abel... a little boy with a BIG mission

At 35 weeks pregnant with my twins, I spent a night in the hospital. I was getting ready for discharge and a c-section date was scheduled... I only had two more weeks until I met my babies! As I was getting ready to go home, a doctor came into my room and said, "I have bad news".

The next several minutes were a blur and it wasn't until a lady handed me some paperwork that I realized she had also been in the room the whole time. My tears fell on the papers that said, "Preparing for Funeral". The doctor had told me that one of my twins had Trisomy 18.

What the doctor proceeded to tell me about Trisomy 18 was unbelievably awful. They tried to convince me that I should hold my baby until he passed away, and at first, my husband and I thought that sounded nice, but it only took us a few seconds to realize what that truly entailed. He would suffocate in my arms. We promptly told them that we wanted our baby, Abel, to be treated just like any typical baby.

My C-section was pushed up a week and I only had a few days to process this news and tell our other children. The unknown was terrifying, and I scoured the internet for stories, or any glimmer of hope. This is when I found Mary, and Prenatal Partners for Life.

As I write this with tears in my eyes, we are beyond grateful for the late-night phone calls, the visits, the words of encouragement, the gift cards, toys for our other children, and a Funeral Grant to help with expenses. We did not have family support, and Mary really took on that role for our family.

Our twins were born a week later. Oren came home, but Abel remained in the NICU. My children all developed deep bonds with baby Abel. My husband, his twin brother and I visited him daily in the hospital. He was able to have a beautiful baptism, celebrate holidays, and he changed hearts and minds throughout the hospital.

One thing we did not anticipate with Abel was the medical discrimination of Trisomy 18 children. We fought relentlessly for basic care for Abel. Simple things were a big battle at the hospital, and we made a point to be in his room all day. As we worked to change the discrimination, we hung pictures all around his room of other children and adults alive with Trisomy 18. Providers told us that they didn't know so many children were alive, and we realized that much of the statistics on Trisomy 18 were based around these children not receiving adequate care, specifically for heart defects. This was the same stigma that Trisomy 21 children faced until the 1980s. Abel was denied heart surgery at 8 hospitals.

I started writing books for medically complex children while in the NICU and along with a friend, we started Abel's foundation: Born Abel. **(Continued on next page)**

Abel was preparing to come home with his VSD (hole in his heart), but he unexpectedly passed away from heart failure- on August 26 at 3:00am as I held him in my arms. Our family was beyond devastated but we are so grateful for the precious moments we forever have with him.

Abel now has over 20 books published and over 1000 medically complex children are illustrated in his books around the world. We also run a NICU program and a free baby closet in the Twin Cities.

Through his social media pages, his story has reached over 100 million people throughout the world. We do our best to advocate for children like Abel through the innocence of children's books. His 501c3 nonprofit is only a little over 6 months old, and he may have only had 210 days in this world, but he is changing the world and changed our family forever.

Thank you, Prenatal Partners for Life for all of the support and love.

Jessie, Abel's mom

www.BornAbel.org

www.BornMighty.org

www.BornExtra.org



Our Mission

Prenatal Partners for Life is dedicated to providing families (either expecting or those who have had a child with special needs, health issues, or a life limiting condition) with the support, information, and encouragement they need to make informed decisions involving their child's care.

We believe that these children are unique gifts from God and have a special purpose in life that only they can fulfill. We believe that these children are made in God's image, and that He has a plan and a purpose for every life He creates, no matter how long or short that life may be. We believe that these precious children are a blessing to their families, their communities, and the world.

Our goal is to provide honest, practical information and support by linking expectant parents or new parents with other parents who have had the same or a similar diagnosis for their child. We also strive to educate the world about the unique blessings that these children are. We call them "Teachers of Our Souls."

The support we provide can be given in person, over the phone, by email, or in written correspondence and may include a variety of practical assistance that is based on each family's individual needs.



Come Join us!

PRENATAL PARTNERS FOR LIFE ANNUAL BANQUET
THURSDAY, JUNE 13 AT THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL
FEATURING MASTER OF CEREMONIES MATT BIRK
MUSIC BY MICK STERLING, CATE FIERRO, AND RICK CARLSON

Live Auction Items Include:

Vikings Tickets with Free Parking, Bed and Breakfast Getaway, Twins Tickets with Dinner, Saint Paul Hotel/Ordway Theater Package, Timberwolves Tickets, **and more!**
