

# Words of Life

## October 2017

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Have you ever found yourself in a situation that left you desperate to change the circumstances? Such was the case for this young couple...

They couldn't tell her mom, she was so upset the first time this happened. They couldn't financially afford another child. They had no faith beliefs. They wanted an abortion because "neither of them was ready to raise another child". They had already made up their minds. There were no circumstances that would change their mind to have an abortion.

She said she had a little fear of not being able to have other children if she aborted this one but she wanted the abortion anyway. She thought adoption was a good idea but didn't fully trust the adoption process. She said already being a parent was great but it was also stressful at times. She wanted the abortion pill.

We advised her in case the pill didn't completely abort the baby, she would still have to have a surgical procedure. We explained the risks for complications if she had an STD since she was considered high risk from exposure to multiple partners. She agreed to be tested for STD's at our clinic and we offered an ultrasound. The ultrasound revealed a tiny 8-week-old baby with a strong heartbeat. She was still 2 weeks within the time frame that the abortion pill is provided. She left saying she would return for her STD and ultrasound results before she decided what she would do with her baby.

She kept her word.

She returned about a week later and learned that her STD results were all negative and her baby was a healthy baby at this point. We offered her a take home, non-graphic DVD on surgical abortion procedures so she would know exactly what she would be going through if she did not get the abortion pill in the next week or if it didn't work. She took the DVD. She said her mind was still made up to have the abortion.

We talked with the father of the baby and explained that even though he had no legal rights to make the decision about what happens to his baby, he needed to realize that the baby his girlfriend was carrying was half of his DNA and if he really didn't want her to abort he needed to tell her that. He mentioned that he would have regret if she had the abortion. They were encouraged to talk about this in great detail before any decisions were made.

Even after being at our clinic twice, she was still a 10 on our abortion scale. She told us she had called Planned Parenthood in Memphis but only got a recording.

We followed up with her a week later and found out she and her boyfriend decided to keep their baby! What a difference it makes when one is given the opportunity to sort through their own unique situation and be empowered with the information they need to make an informed choice.

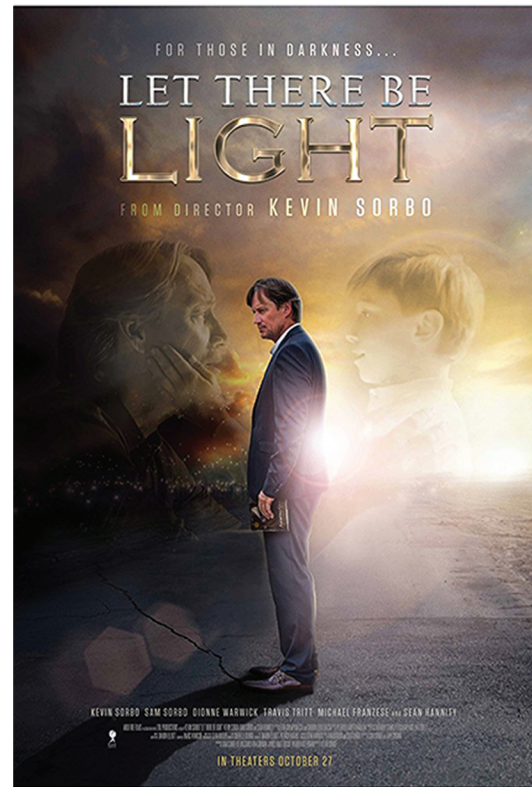
This young couple now has a sweet baby they love very much and all are doing well!



Greetings from Agape House!

From a Director's Heart

We are so excited to have Kevin and Sam Sorbo coming to serve as the guest speakers at our Annual Spring Fundraising Event March 22, 2018. Many of you will remember Kevin as playing the role of Hercules or as the professor in "God's Not Dead." To add to the excitement, Kevin is starring in a new movie, "Let There Be Light." The movie will be showing right here in Martin at the Cine Theater October 27th through November 2nd! We hope to see you and your family at one of the showing of this family friendly movie!



I wish all of you could have witnessed our recent #goals event for high school juniors held on the UTM campus. It was priceless watching our volunteers and staff engage with the next generation! Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents to make this happen.

Volunteer Orientation time is almost here, October 20-21, 2017. If you would like to explore ways in which you can help, I encourage you to join us! Please contact Barbara for more information at 731-588-0339. It is a joy to partner with you in protecting the sanctity of human life. Together we are making a difference for life!

Yours for LIFE,  
Linda DeBoard, CEO

This newsletter is reaching you thanks to the continued and generous support of Southern Printing N Graphics of Dresden, TN.

If you feel God is calling you to use your skills for His glory we encourage you to attend our upcoming Volunteer Orientation

Oct 20th & 21st  
Friday 5:15pm - 9:00pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00pm

Cost \$30.00  
This covers your materials that you will take with you.

Light Meals will be served:  
Friday - Dinner  
Saturday - Breakfast & Lunch



Agape House says **THANK YOU** to our Walk for Life Sponsors!

- Baptist Memorial Hospital
- Christie's Photography
- Color Shop
- Curtis Monument Co.
- EllaKate's Quilt Shoppe
- E-H Refridgeration
- First Community Bank
- Kenneth W. Carr - MD
- Kenton Chevrolet
- Kizer Pharmacy
- La Cabana
- Lighthouse
- Martin Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic P.S.
- The Sideline
- Tuck's Discount Sales
- Vincent Outfitters
- WoodmenLife

# Lois Emr Blackwell

**W**hat in the world is a Costa Rican woman doing living in hillbilly country?!! Only God Knows! I was born to missionary parents, David and Georgina Solt, and lived 17 years in Central America. I am a registered nurse and was married to Doug Emr for 31 years. After serving in pastoral ministries in Pennsylvania our family with four children moved to Ukraine in the former Soviet Union. Doug started a Bible College and founded 8 churches pastored by nationals: 1994 to 2002. At age 54 he died suddenly in July 2002 of cardiac problems. I returned to Pennsylvania to my adult children.

In 2004 I married Pastor John Blackwell after meeting him on a Christian website. We were near Nashville for 10 Years Pastoring Ridgetop Baptist Church. In April 2014 we moved to Martin where John had lived for 40 years and now pastors Mt. Pelia Baptist Church. I tried to find a nursing job but God closed the doors. God led me to Agape House in 2016 where I am a Patient Coordinator. I love this ministry where I can encourage young people in life's challenging problems.

Life is precious to me because I have a special grandson who was born in 2009. My daughter was encourage to abort him by four doctors. Isaiah Miller was born 8 years ago and is bright with a love for life in third grade! He has had 20 surgeries and I have traveled to Pennsylvania to help with his care. Two years later baby girl, Vera Emr, died at 2 weeks from brain anoxia. In 2013 another grandson, Jude, was born at 25 weeks and weighed 1 pound 11 ounces. He spent 6 months in a hospital and now is now a thriving 4 year old. Yes, life is very precious to me! Agape House allows me to use my Spanish, nursing and love for Christ with young people.

## Volunteer spotlight



Lois with husband John

## Pastor's Corner

## First Baptist Church Martin, TN

**What is your favorite part of being a pastor?**

One of my favorite parts of being a pastor is sharing with others the good news of God's love, hope, grace, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ. My other favorite part is getting to be a part of people's lives who are being radically transformed by God's love, hope, grace, forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

**With so many wonderful ministries needing support why do you make it a priority to support Agape House?**

The reason we are such big supporters of Agape House and its ministries is because it allows us to be a part of being a voice for the unborn whose voice cannot be heard. God is the Creator and giver of life. Every child, even in his/her mother's womb, is the marvelous and wonderful creation of God Himself. God has a purpose and plan for that child's life. We want to be a part of seeing that purpose and plan realized. We also want to be a part of ministering to moms and dads who are confused, hurting, and/or deceived into thinking abortion is an answer or solution to whatever they are going through. They have no idea the guilt, shame, regret, and pain they will deal with the rest of their lives if they choose to abort their child. In short, we believe Agape House is helping to save both the unborn as well as the parents of the unborn giving both the opportunity to realize the incredible gift of life!

**Do you have any advice for individuals or organizations thinking of partnering with Agape House?**

Visit the clinic. Talk to the staff. Let them share with you and your church the good work God is doing through AH. Then pray. Ask God how He wants you and your church to get involved. There are many ways you can partner whether it be through giving, prayer, and/or volunteering.

**Anything about you or your life you would like people to know about you?**

Most people know this but I am a Kentucky boy so that makes me a HUGE KY Wildcat basketball fan. I have taken up golf, but I'm not very good. I love music. My favorite thing to do is spending time with my wife and kids.



Dr. Mike Sams

# #goals 2017

Over 500 High School juniors from 7 different area high schools recently attended the first #goals event at the University of Tennessee at Martin. This was another piece of our education program, GROW, that is already being presented to 6th - 9th grade students. It was three fast-paced, high-energy, fun-filled days that included relative skits, personal life stories, a panel of professionals to answer questions, games and food. Teens heard ways to build healthy relationships and make wise choices. Agape House believes that empowering young teens to make wise choices is a valuable investment of our time and resources. A special thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals that donated to make this event a success!

## **EDUCATION TEAM NEEDS**

Snack Crackers	Air Heads	Blow Pops
Life Savers (Hard)	Smarties	Dum Dums
Chips (Individual Bags)	Slim Jims	Peppermints



## A New Generation

**This years Walk for Life helped to raise over \$8000! Praise and glory to God for such a wonderful blessing.**

**This year over 30 walkers representing 23 churches walked to support our local ministry that is pro-life and pro-eternal life.**

**Our supporters that value the sanctity of human life come from many different backgrounds. Meet Zowie Tipton, age 11. Zowie's first walk was in 2010 with her aunt Reba Spain, our church representative from Ruthville Baptist Church. It was then she asked why they were walking. Reba then explained the mission of Agape House and the funds would help women who were experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.**

**That was all she needed. Since then it has been on Zowie's heart to be a part of the Walk for Life. This year Zowie decided she wanted to do more than walk, she would ask for support and raise funds. With Zowie's passion for the event and what it represents she was able to meet her goal of \$200!**

**Zowie represents a new generation of people willing to stand for those who have no voice and pour into them with love and compassion.**

*Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*



**Mission Statement:** Agape House is a Christ-centered ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life through education, medical services, and spiritual restoration.



**Financial Gifts**

**In Memory of: Mrs. Julie Ketterman**  
**Ms. Corrine Stewart**

By: Wednesday & Thursday Morning  
Men's Prayer Group & 2nd Baptist UC  
By: Mrs. Kay Jackson

**Current Needs**

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Mr. Clean Multi Purpose Cleaner
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Copy Paper
- Standard #6 3/4 Size Envelopes
- Individually Wrapped:
  - Crackers
  - Cookies
  - Granola Bars
  - Cereal Bars
  - Chips

**Amazon Smile**



is a simple and automatic way to support Agape House every time you shop, at no cost to you!

To shop go to  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1549150>  
from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

**January - August 2017 Statistics**

Initial Patient / Ongoing Client Visits	215
Pregnancy Test Given 42 (+) ; 30 (-)	72
Abortion Risk Patients with (+) test	22
Abortion Risk Patients with final stated intentions to carry	14
Abortion Risk Patients who aborted	2
Abortion Risk Patients who miscarried	1
Abortion Risk Patients with unknown outcomes	5
Patients Receiving STI Testing	67
Purity Commitment	10
Spiritual Discussion	152
Bibles Given	14
Students Attending Abstinence Education Program	1624

**Medical Director**

**Dr. Karen Davidson, MD**

**Clinic Staff**

- Linda DeBoard - CEO
- Amanda Hicks, RDMS -Clinic Services Director
- Barbara Mullins, RD (R) - Client Services Director
- Autumn Smith - Director of Development
- John Hamrick - Education Team Director
- Maci Reaves - Director of Finance

**Board of Directors**

- Mark Dowdy- Chairman
- Alex Britt - Vice Chairman
- Denise Mathis - Secretary
- Beverly Carr, RN - Treasurer
- Kay Wilkes - Advisory Board
- Fred Hancock - Member
- James Burdette -Member
- Linda DeBoard - CEO

**Medical Volunteers**

- Lauren Jackson, PharmD
- Morgan Stone, NP

**Men's Client Coordinators**

Ed Hill

Jim Barnhouse

**Office Support**

Pat Harman

Denise Burdette

**Patient Coordinators**

Jane Ogg

Becky Lister

Lois Blackwell

Mariallie Smithson

Penny Petty

**Renew Coordinators**

Angela Hughes

Martha Hopper

**Resource Room Coordinator**

Paula Garner

**S.T.E.P.S. Client Coordinators**

Tia Barnhouse

Halina Brown

Reta Hancock

Lois Sylvia

**Prayer Coordinators**

Jane Ogg

**Support Services**

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Marvin Downing

Sherry Hatchel

Chad Jimerson

Betsy Ducworth