

AROMA OF LIFE

Brokenness | Worth the Fight | Looking Back & Looking Forward



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Brokenness

Something that God has impressed on my heart and mind lately, is the importance of "brokenness". We live in a time where nothing gets fixed - if it is broken throw it away and get a new one. Nobody wants anything that is broken or in need of repair, it is easier to just throw something away than to get it fixed. The candidates who ran for President this year all wanted to impress us with power, perfections, vast experience, and a lack of mistakes. You see ads on the TV for scratch and dent sales where you can get a brand new product at a great savings just because of a minor imperfection. When people buy a new car, it cannot have miles, dents, or even dirt, because it is seen as undesirable. In fact some high end car dealers will roll the car off the truck on to mats to keep dirt (imperfections) from getting on the tires. Thankfully God, on the other hand, wants us "broken". We have seen a lot of brokenness in people at the altars this year. I know in our ministry God uses us more in our brokenness. Like the Superchick song, *Beauty From Ashes*, He and only He can take the ashes of our lives and make something beautiful. A broken vessel or a puzzle can only be put back together by Someone who knows what the vessel is supposed to look like. God is the great Puzzler, He takes the pieces and makes a work of art.

Written by Doug Cullen

Worth the Fight By Joli Cullen

In Joshua chapter one, after Moses had died, God told Joshua that Joshua would lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God told Joshua that he would give to the Israelites every place where the sole of their foot would tread.

I heard a sermon on this passage recently that greatly encouraged me. God gave Joshua a promise of victory, but Joshua still had to go into battle. Even though God told Joshua that He would give them the land, He went on to instruct Joshua to be strong and courageous. In fact, God told Joshua to be very courageous. Why would Joshua need courage if God was giving them the land? Skip over to Joshua chapter twelve and you will see that they fought thirty-one battles in order to possess what God had promised to give.



I know in my life as I have been traveling this road sharing a biblical view of life for eleven years without a home, there have been many times I wanted to quit or felt the battle was too much. This year I was forced to
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Because of Your Support...



Choose Life Ministries was able to take a stand for LIFE with other Evangelicals at the first ever Evangelicals for Life Conference at the March for Life in Washington DC this past January. We have also been able to travel and spread the message of life in over sixty-five churches in four states in 2016. We saw many people at the altar and lives changed as they responded to the message of LIFE, and six people accepted Jesus as Savior.

Because you have been taking a stand for LIFE, abortions are down 12% in the US, and more people are taking a stronger stance on LIFE.

Testimony Time

Just a short note of how our Father God is working in the souls of the men in prison. I have been sharing with the men how they can win in this battle called life. The truths that Choose Life uses are all from Almighty God. And the truth can and will set us free (John 14:6). We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

The men are realizing when they first admit to having a problem and not blaming anyone else, help is available.

These guys search the scripture and then put on the whole armor of God which teaches and shows how to defeat the enemy (Ephesians 6:13).

God Bless,

Brother Russell Pierce

Pray for men to rise up and take their place as fathers to their children. Check out Todd Smith's new song *Calling all Fathers*

step down from my part in the ministry of sharing with children due to ongoing health issues. I felt like I needed to just let go of every part I had in the ministry, but at a service on October 30th, something struck me in the message as I listened to Doug preach. One of the points he makes is how we as a nation care more about our plants and animals then we do our unborn children and how that needs to change and that the church, God's people, need to lead the way. I realized how important the battle for life is. I already knew this to be true, but it just really went to the core of my being the importance of the battle and that the battle is worth the fight, no matter how difficult. No matter what opposition we face. No matter if our resources are running low or we don't have a place to call home. The battle for life is worth the fight and God has promised victory!

"We are not fighting for victory, we are fighting from victory. The victory has already been won, we just need to get in the battle!"

Please continue to pray for Joli's health.



believe if change is going to happen in our nation, it won't come through Washington DC, but through the local church taking a stand for LIFE.

Called to the Church

Choose Life Ministries has been blessed by many of God's people. Through the love, prayer, and financial support of YOU, we have crossed the United States 3 times, spoken in over 1100 churches in 34 states, and seen countless lives changed, all on your monthly support and love offerings. We feel the call stronger than ever, we still need your help in getting this very important message to churches across our nation, because we

What Can You Do to Stand for LIFE?

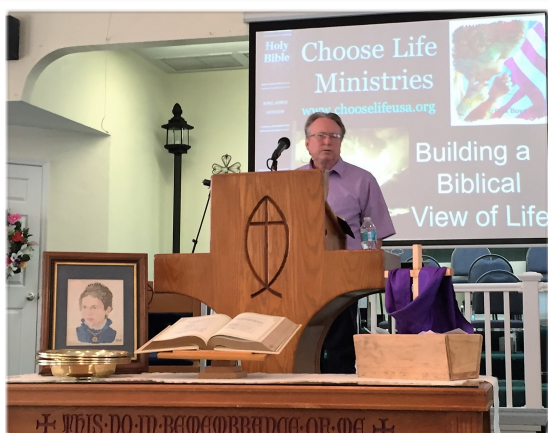
- Pray - especially for our nation and new president
- **Participate in the March for Life in Washington DC this January, and the second Evangelicals for Life Conference. Find out more at marchforlife.org and evangelicals.life**
- Donate to help us get this message to more churches across our nation, and to other ministries out there taking a stand for LIFE
- Educate others on what God's Word says about the sanctity of LIFE by speaking the truth in love

Vision for the Future

By Doug Cullen

Over this past year Choose Life Ministries added a new ministry of sharing prayer requests and encouraging words via text message, and we are looking to expand this by also sending out updates via text message to those who prefer this method of staying in touch. If you would like to be added, please text Doug at 606-269-3099. We have also been increasing our social media output via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, & Instagram.

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Vision for the Future (continued)

In 2017, Choose Life Ministries will be bringing the message of LIFE to churches in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

With the coming New Year, CLM is also seeking God's guidance for new ways for you to partner with us in the Ministry, and also new avenues of ministry due to the decline in churches having Sunday and Wednesday night services and our increasing health issues. One of those avenues is the addition and expansion of the text message, online mentoring, and social media ministries. Other possibilities we are praying and seeking God's wisdom about are a blog with guest bloggers, podcasts with guests sharing their testimonies, volunteers to help with Newsletter and Thank You distributions, and associate speakers to help us get the message of LIFE out to even more churches. Another change we are looking at in the way we do ministry, due to health issues, is to find a home in the area of the Carolinas, and travel from there to speak mostly on the weekends.

We covet your prayers for us in the upcoming year as we seek God's wisdom and vision for the future of CLM. Especially as we seek to expand the ministry in new ways and involve others as partners in the ministry, as we look for a home, and as we deal with declining health. Thank you! We could not do this without your faithful prayers and support!



Family Update:

Cliff graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary this past June, with his Masters degree in Intercultural Studies. He and his wife Marjorie are still living and working in California, while Marjorie pursues a Masters degree in ESL from Fuller.



Caitlyn returned safely in August from her two year term serving with the IMB among the Deaf of Bangladesh. She is currently helping Choose Life Ministries while she seeks God's direction for her future. She is available to share about Deaf Missions, if you are interested, you can contact her at 704-300-8020.



Crystal's husband Michael graduated this past May from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College with his Bachelors degree in Biblical Studies. Crystal, Michael and their son Luther Graham are currently living with us while Michael seeks to pursue his Masters degree and a teaching career, and they look for a house.

This ministry (BGEA) has always been a Team effort... a band of brothers and sisters committed to Christ and to our ministry, whose support, advice, counsel, work, and prayers through the years have made it all possible, and without their loyalty and dedication little could have been accomplished.

- Billy Graham