

# THE GOOD NEWS FREE

*Just Keeps Coming*



“...GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU AND HOW MERCIFUL HE HAS BEEN.” MARK 5:19

Volume 12, Issue 2

Non-Denominational, Non-Church Affiliated

February 2017

## Amy's Blessings

In 1982 I found myself a single mother with four small children ages 3, 5, 7, and 9 to raise alone. When I met Jim Malugen, he was a single dad with three children ages 14, 15, and 17 to raise alone. We instantly became friends as we had so much in common.

I was raised in a Christian home and so was he. It didn't take very long until we fell in love and one year later were married. We continued to teach all of the children

about Jesus love for us and I know it was God's love that helped us feel like we had always been a family. Jim was truly the spiritual leader of our family and served as deacon of the churches we've attended over the years. He was a man of integrity and faith and instilled that in each of our children. We enjoyed our family and spending time together. God truly blessed us with a wonderful life together.

Thirty-three years later, we now have all our children, 17 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren and they are all such a joy to us. We enjoy all the time we spend together and still try to have a family meal at our house at least once a month.

Two years ago Jim was diagnosed with lung cancer. He has endured all types of treatment but the cancer just kept spreading. Last fall the doctors said there was nothing else they could try, but they did give him medicine to make him more comfortable and told him to enjoy the life he had left.

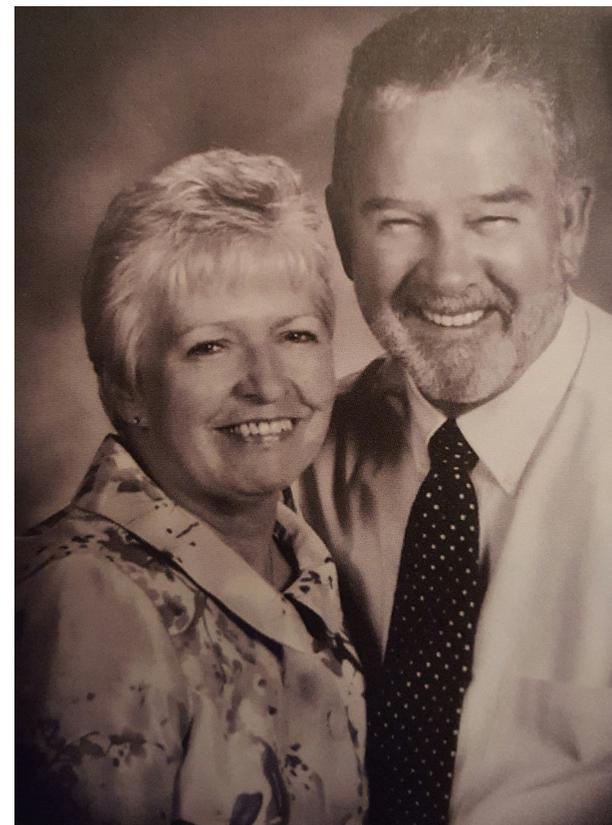
One of our granddaughters, Nicole's daughter, Maysen, just turned five in December but acts like she is least 30. They attend

church regularly and Nicole is teaching Maysen what God's word says and how people who have asked Jesus to forgive them of their sins and ask Jesus to come into their hearts, like Papa did so long ago, will go to live forever in heaven with Jesus when they leave this world. Nicole told Maysen that Papa would be going there soon.

While Maysen was visiting us one day, after learning this truth, she had questions for Papa. Papa was on the couch and Maysen crawled up beside him and asked him if he was afraid. (An insightful question for a four year old, I thought.) Papa told her he was not at all afraid because he knew Jesus would always take care of him and he had no reason to be afraid.

Our preacher, Reverend Donald Wilson was so faithful to visit Jim. He would come often and sit by Jim's bed, sing hymns and read John 14:1- 3, 27

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>al</sup>; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am go-*



**Jim and Amy Malugen**

*ing there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Jim's health began to decline very quickly in December and the week before Christmas, he was put

*(BLESSINGS continued on page 7)*



**Jim and Amy's five year old granddaughter Maysen.**

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# Innocent Eyes

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*

Proverbs 17:22

A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking.

The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large".

Then they walk around the ranch a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows".

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a group of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what are those?"

The Aussie replies with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"

Four expectant fathers were in a Minnesota hospital waiting room while their wives were in labor.

The nurse comes in and tells the first man, "Congratulations, You're the father of twins."

"What a coincidence!" the man exclaims. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!"

The nurse returns a short while later and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets."

"Wow, what a coincidence!" he replies. "I work for the 3M Corporation." When the nurse comes again, she tells the third man that his wife has given birth to quadruplets.

"Another coincidence!" he tells her. "I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!"

At this point, the fourth guy faints. When he comes to, the others ask him what was wrong.

He moans, "I work for Seven-Eleven!"

Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third in-

sisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer.

"Hey, fellas," he interrupted, "the best prayin' I ever did was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

Two gas company servicemen, a senior training supervisor and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood.

They parked their truck the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house, a woman looking out her kitchen window watched the two men as they checked her gas meter.

Finishing the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger co-worker to a foot race down the alley back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one.

As they came running up to the truck, they realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong.

Gasping for breath, she replied, "When I saw two men from the gas company running as hard as you two were, I figured I'd better run too!"

A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable at all.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work.

When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Discipline was not a problem from that day forth!

## WHAT LOVE OVERLOOKS

A woman celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband. She was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother, and on this special occasion, one of her grandchildren asked her the secret to her happy and enduring marriage. She smiled and said, "Well, sweetheart, when your granddaddy and I married, I made a list of ten things I would overlook in



his personality. Just ten things I didn't like, but was willing to forgive. I decided on that day that anytime one of those ten things would come up, I would overlook it for the sake of harmony in our marriage." One of the grandchildren said, "Granny, tell us the list. We want to know what was on the list." She paused and said, "You know, to be honest with

you, I never really wrote them down. But every time your grandfather would do something that made me mad, I would think to myself, 'Lucky for him that's one of the things on my list.' "

Relationships are hard work, and difficulties and conflicts will come. But they are not the end of the world. Real love is willing to overlook slights,

annoyances, and petty disagreements, choosing instead to take a long term view. "We love," the apostle John wrote, "because He first loved us." Our only hope as human lovers is to allow the love of Christ to flow through us. We can hope, believe, and endure because we have been perfectly loved.

## The Perfect Response

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

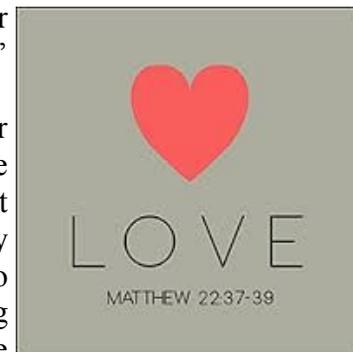
Have you ever known one of those people who knew just the right thing to say on every occasion? No matter how puzzling the question, they have the right answer. The enemies of Jesus must have viewed him as a silver-tongued genius. Every time they got together to set a verbal trap for Jesus, he had just the right thing to say.

One time Jesus' enemies tried to stump him by asking him to pick one commandment that was above

all others. But Jesus had the perfect answer. He started with the priority of a relationship with God. Not just any relationship with God, but an all-encompassing relationship with God--a relationship that touches the deepest parts of who we are and what we desire.

God is also concerned with our relationships with other people. Jesus calls us to have a love for others that goes beyond our selfish nature. We should love others the way we want to be loved.

Our priorities are set by God and reaffirmed by Jesus. Make sure you're following those priorities. And discover just what it means to live life the way God designed it!



# HUGS From Heaven

Forty two years ago I met Amy. We were both working at Pizza Inn in Rosenberg. My daughters were 2 and 4 and her daughters were 1 and 3. When I worked she kept my children and when she worked I kept her children. We enjoyed each other's children and with this arrangement, neither of us had to pay a baby sitter while we worked. We both attended the same church and were raised with the same Christian principles. Little did we know then that that friendship would last throughout our lives.

Amy is one of those friends that you may not see for a while, but when we get together we just pick up where we left off, like no time as passed. We share new things we've learned through God's word as well as blessings and challenges

we go through in life. I have enjoyed watching her family grow up and expand as she has mine.

Her husband developed lung cancer two years ago and we have been on the phone at least once a week keeping up with each other. Jim, her husband, passed away the day after Christmas last year and I wanted to see her so much. I told her when the dust settles after a week or two, to come stay with me for a while. She needed a change of venue and I needed to see her. I promised her we would eat our way across Texas and we did. She was able to fly in on Wednesday, January 18 and we have been going strong for a week.

I intensely enjoyed the time we got to spend together talking non-stop with no "filters" I knew nothing



ing I said would be used to judge me and the same with her.

We found a recipe in one of her cookbooks called "How to Make Friends" and I thought it so appropriate for us. God gave us 2 ears for listening; 2 eyes for seeing their sides of things; 1 mouth for smiling about things they like; 1 heart for understanding; 2 hands for helping and holding; and 2 legs to bring

you to their side at their time of need.

She is a strong lady and strong in the Lord. I am so blessed to have Amy for my friend. Seeing her again was a really big hug from Heaven this month.

*In His Love,  
Diana Boring  
San Felipe, Texas*

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# A few words

from Max Lucado

## God Uses Failures

What was I thinking taking this job? I should have done better. It's all my fault. The voices--you've heard them all. When you lost your job, flunked the exam, or when your marriage went south...when you failed. The voices began to howl, laughing at you. You heard them and you joined them. You disqualified yourself and berated yourself. You sentenced yourself to hard labor in the Leavenworth of poor self-worth. Oh, the voices of failure. Failure

finds us all.

But God's Word is written for failures. It's full of folks who were fowl-ups. David was a failure, yet God used him. Jonah was in the belly of a fish and God heard his prayer. Perfect people? No. Perfect messes? You bet! A surprising and welcome discovery of the Bible is this: God uses failures! Miss this truth and you miss your Glory Days. God's grace is greater than your failures.

## Don't Waste Your Failures

My wife and I spent some years as missionaries in Brazil. Our first two years felt fruitless and futile. More often than not I went home frustrated. So we asked God for another plan. We prayed and reread the Epistles, especially focused on Galatians. It occurred to me I was preaching a limited grace. When I compared our gospel message with Paul's, I saw a difference. His was high-octane good

news. Mine was soured legalism. We focused on the gospel, proclaiming forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead. We baptized forty people in twelve months! God wasn't finished with us. We just needed to put the past in the past and God's plan in place.

Don't waste your failures by failing to learn from them. Rise up! God hasn't forgotten you. Keep your head up. You never know what good awaits you.

## God Doesn't Let Go

Many Christians think they're saved, hope they're saved, but still they doubt, wondering, "Am I really saved?" Our behavior gives us reason to wonder. We're strong one day, weak the next. Devoted one hour, flagging the next. Believing, then unbelieving.

Conventional wisdom draws a line through the middle of these fluctuations. Perform above this line, and enjoy God's acceptance. But dip be-

low it, and expect a pink slip from heaven. Salvation then becomes a matter of timing and you just hope you die on an upswing.

Jesus' language couldn't be stronger: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages...and no one is able to snatch them out of My hand" (*John 10:28 AMP*). God doesn't let go and He won't let go of you!

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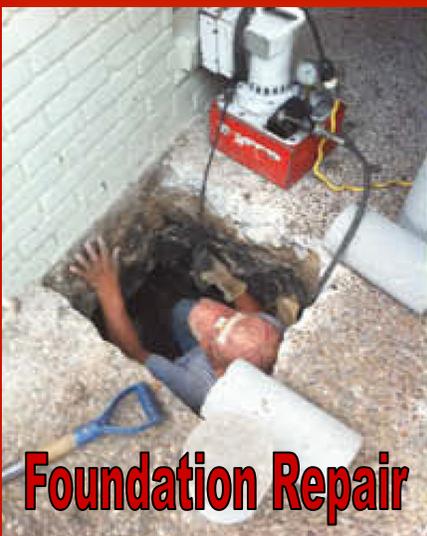
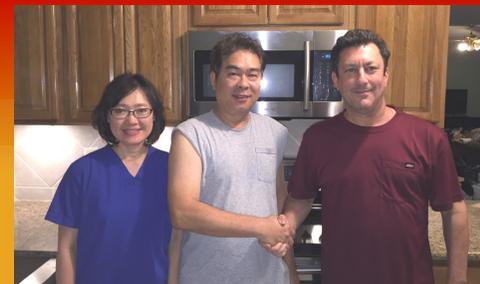
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## Put Down Your Burdens

A man driving his pickup truck on a country track saw a woman carrying a heavy load, so he stopped and offered her a lift. The woman expressed her gratitude and climbed into the back of the truck. A moment later, the man noticed a strange thing: The woman was still holding onto her heavy load despite sitting in the vehicle! Astonished, he pleaded, "Please, Madam, put down your load and take your rest. My truck can carry you and your stuff. Just relax."

"What do we do with the load of fear, worry, and anxiety we often carry as we go through life's many challenges? Instead of relaxing in the

Lord, I sometimes behave like that woman. Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28), yet I've caught myself carrying burdens I should offload unto Jesus. We put down our burdens when we bring them to the Lord in prayer. Because He cares for us, we can rest and relax as we learn to trust Him. Instead of carrying the burdens that weigh us down and weary us, we can give them to the Lord and let Him carry them."

The apostle Peter says, "Cast all your anxiety on [Jesus] because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

*Elmer Lamont Crosby, Jr.*  
*Houston, TX*

## If cats wore t-shirts

If cats wore t-shirts, here is what they might say.

- "Purrfection cannot be improved."
- "Menopaws, This is the hottest I've been in years."
- "Take my advice. I'm not using it."
- "I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?"
- "Cats know how you feel. We don't care, but we know."
- "Dogs have owners. Cats have staff."
- "Thousands of years ago, cats were worshiped as gods. They have never forgotten this."



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*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord."*  
*Colossians 3:23*



# Mama's Hallelujah Pound Cake



- 6 eggs
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup Crisco
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups flour
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. vanilla

Combine eggs, Crisco, and margarine in a large bowl and beat until fluffy. In another bowl, mix baking powder and flour together. Add dry ingredients, alternating with milk and mix well. Add vanilla and mix. Grease and flour bundt pan. DO NOT preheat oven. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 ½ to 2 hours or until center of cake is firm and outside is toasty brown.

Remove from pan immediately. It is great with fresh strawberries and whipped cream, or just eat it plain while still warm.

NOTE: The cake will fill the kitchen with such a wonderful smell the entire time it bakes. As kids, we were always asking, "IS it done yet?...Is it done yet?" We could not wait to have a slice of that delicious, warm cake. We noticed that each time Mama took the cake from the oven, we would hear her mutter, "Hallelujah! The pound cake is finally done."

*Amy Malugen  
Oxford, North Carolina*

# FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

Use the scriptures below to find and circle the **BOLDFACED** words. UNDERLINED WORDS will be found together.

D	R	O	W	E	P	O	H	S	H	S	E	C	I	O	J	E	R
I	I	U	T	F	U	G	R	P	I	O	S	X	S	L	I	A	F
S	A	S	C	H	I	L	D	E	I	S	P	O	N	Y	D	L	W
A	D	I	H	O	D	U	O	R	P	S	Q	E	E	S	V	N	T
P	Y	M	E	O	M	L	R	S	R	F	S	N	S	O	C	N	F
P	T	A	N	T	N	P	N	E	N	A	D	L	E	G	E	A	E
E	E	K	R	L	V	O	L	V	O	I	E	P	U	I	E	I	N
A	G	N	E	O	B	T	R	E	I	T	R	T	T	S	A	H	I
R	D	O	T	V	S	D	E	R	T	H	O	A	R	T	T	S	M
M	E	W	T	E	E	U	G	E	C	E	P	N	T	S	E	C	T
F	L	N	A	R	S	M	H	S	E	Q	N	Z	U	U	D	S	L
T	W	L	E	S	I	T	M	G	L	D	H	E	J	R	E	F	S
I	O	G	T	R	X	E	C	A	F	G	Y	T	S	T	M	M	T
M	N	E	T	I	N	L	H	A	E	P	E	N	A	S	V	B	D
A	K	N	S	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	I	E	N	A	J	L	N
E	C	T	R	O	E	L	A	M	I	F	R	N	A	O	L	A	I
U	K	V	S	L	M	A	N	H	W	G	B	L	U	B	S	Z	K

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.<sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.<sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.<sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part,<sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:4-13 NIV

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(BLESSINGS continued from page 1)

on hospice. Thankfully all of the family was at our house on Christmas day and Jim made a comeback and was able to interact with each one of the family. Everyone enjoyed their time with him.

The day after Christmas Jim never regained consciousness again and at 2 that afternoon, Jim went to Heaven to live forever with Jesus. Maysen was staying at her Aunt Kelly's house that day and when Kelly's family got the call that Jim had passed, everyone began crying. Maysen asked what was wrong and why everyone was crying. Kelly told her that Papa had died and gone to heaven. When Maysen learned Papa was gone, she threw her hands in the air like someone had made a touch-down and with a big smile yelled, "Yahoo!! Papa is with Jesus!!"

Jesus is telling us that we need to have this type of trust and faith in the Father. After all, we are His children. We should be able to come to him fully trusting, without a doubt, that He loves us and cares for us.

Jim's funeral service was held Saturday, December 30 at Nelson Baptist Church in Nelson, Virginia. There was

standing room only as so many people Jim had touched came to remember him. The pastor delivered a beautiful message of comfort and read again John 14:1-3, 27

"Whenever we join him in heaven", the preacher said, "Jim will think we got there at the same time. Because time is not measured in heaven, it is for eternity. I had never thought about it like that and it comforted me.

*My life is blessed because of Jim Malugen, and I thank God every day for the time He allowed us to spend together.*

**Amy Malugen**  
*Oxford, North Carolina*

## COMFORT

A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old Gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."



## Eva's Inspirations

### LIVE IN LOVE

Live in love I heard my Father softly say,  
Live in love and do it every day.  
Live in love for it's the place you need to be,  
Live in love if you want to truly be happy.  
Live in love and spread it all around,  
Live in love and remember God is where it's found.  
Live in love and you will have so much to share,  
Live in love and show someone how much you care.  
Live in love and it will change so many things,  
Live in love the kind that only your Father brings.  
Live in love no matter what happens every day,  
Live in love and listen to what God has to say.  
Live in love as you reach out to one another,  
Live in love and watch God bring His children together.

Written by Eva Dimel  
Inspired by God ©



To order books, magnets, calendars, plaques, and other items you may contact Eva Dimel at 614-875-9263 or email at edimel9775@sbcglobal.net

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*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139: 13-14*

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## My baby's life was saved by a wreck

I was raised in a Christian family and I know the difference between right and wrong. That doesn't mean I always do the right thing, though. I already have several children that I love dearly when my husband and I separated. It wasn't long before I became pregnant by someone at work. That relationship didn't even last through the pregnancy and I found myself expecting another baby with no means of support and I wasn't sure what to do.

A "friend" had convinced me that having an abortion would make all my problems go away. I only had one week to still get a "legal" abortion so we made an appointment to go to the abortion clinic. Nothing to it, they said. Just come into the office and in less than an hour it is all over and you can go on your way free from any troubles.

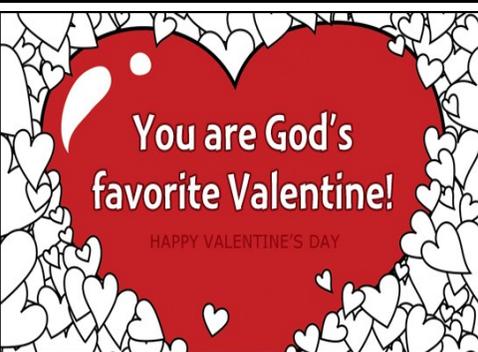
I knew God kept telling me this was so wrong, but my friend kept telling me it was the right thing to do for everyone involved. My appointment was at 2 in the afternoon and at 2:30 the receptionist told us my doctor had been in a traffic accident and was running late – actually it wound up to be 2 hours late. During that waiting time God finally got through to my heart and told me not to kill this child. He would be with me through everything.

Thankfully I came to my senses and left the abortion clinic before the doctor returned. A few months later I had a beautiful healthy little girl. She has brought more joy to so many people including me and I am so thankful God gave me that extra time to make the right decision.

God does work in mysterious ways. His word promises us in Romans 8:28 *And we know that all*

*things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*God knows my name and location and I just wanted to tell Him thank you for saving my baby.*



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