

Number of Lives Saved Up, Donations Down.

We urgently need to raise £15,000 just to enter 2014 without a stack of debt and threats of legal action.

In 2013 we have already counselled and helped more Mothers than in any other year since we were founded, 1997, and as I write this, the year is not yet over.

Some of the Mothers come in only once or twice and just need a little encouragement now that they have decided to keep their babies.

Others may take up hundreds of hours and may need a lot of financial and practical help and moral support.

We now have interns, staff and volunteers praying and offering help to mums outside 3 London abortuaries five days a week.

We are helping to house over 20 Mothers and helping to feed 35 Mothers and Mums-to-be. Most of these women have no other income than the help we provide.

The cost of running our Centre increases annually. Our gas, electricity and phone prices increase just like yours do, but though they are boring items, without them we cannot go on doing our work, co-operating with God, who is saving lives. Additionally we have advertising costs for reaching out to women before they even get to the steps of an abortuary.

Like every other charity we have had a real decrease in funds over the last couple of years.

Unlike most charities we receive no state funding or lottery funding whatsoever.

Jesus said "If you receive a little child you receive Me." So every abortion is the denial of receiving Jesus.
Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Our staff are paid a just wage, but no-one is taking home a huge pay packet from this work, in fact many of our staff find it very hard to make ends meet.

The support we give to women is a minimal amount which allows them to keep food on their table.

However, even working as economically as possible, we cannot currently afford to keep our Centre running and urgently need funds to pay off our many outstanding bills.

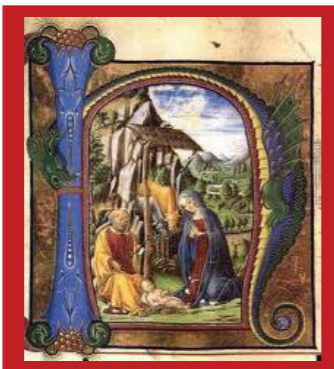
We urgently need to raise £15,000 just to enter 2014 without a stack of debt and threats of legal action. Please help us by:

- ♥ Giving what you can to support our work at this financially desperate time and please pray that others will do the same.
- ♥ And/or giving monthly by standing order in 2014,
- ♥ Or increasing your existing regular contribution if you can do so.

Christmas is about the birth of a Child, so please donate what you can to help us ensure that other children will have the chance to be born.

With our deepest gratitude if you have prayed for, donated to, volunteered with or otherwise supported our work in 2013.

Wishing you a Blessed and a Happy Christmas 2013 and New Year 2014.



Have A Blessed Christmas!

All at Good Counsel

GOOD COUNSEL NEWS

CHRISTMAS

2013



Above: One of the four sets of twins whose mums you have served this year.

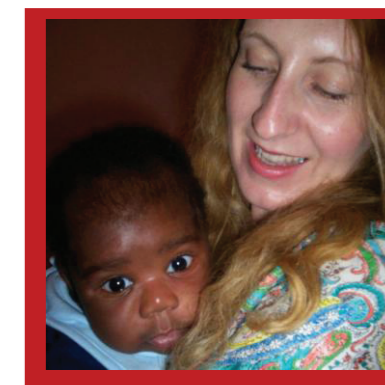
- Paris 16/01/13 – 3.5lbs
- Beilaine 22/01/13 – 3.5kgs
- Diriaj 28/01/13 – 3.5kgs
- Gianna 08/02/13 – 2.2kgs
- Daniella 10/02/13 – 5.6lbs
- Bentley 17/02/13 – 3.5kgs
- Lydia 18/02/13
- Danelo 22/02/13 - 4.090kgs
- Rebecca 25/02/13 - 3.62kgs
- Morayo 26/02/13 – 7.5lbs
- Betanya 28/02/13 – 2.89kgs
- Great 03/03/13 -7.2lbs
- Naomi 04/03/13 – 3.3kgs
- Alessandro 05/03/13 – 3.200kgs
- Tritti 07/03/13 – 2.270kgs
- Sala 15/03/13 – 4.106kgs
- Arthur 16/03/13 – 7.5lbs
- Deborah 18/03/13 – 2.9lbs
- Jasnoor 22/03/13 – 3.5 kgs
- Haleema -1.8kg & Sophia - 1.8kg twins 23/03/13
- Dorcas 02/04/13 – 3.5kgs
- Arien 07/04/13 – 3.290kgs
- Hamed 08/04/13
- Gary 11/04/13 – 8.10lbs



BABIES WHOSE MOTHERS CHOSE LIFE IN 2013

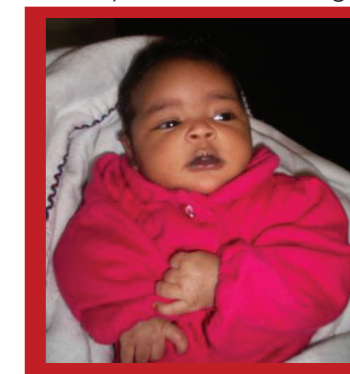
- Yasmin 14/04/13
- Manny 17/04/13 – 3.56kgs
- Joseph 17/04/13 – 3.45kgs
- Nicolas 19/04/13 – 3.850kgs
- Yoann 22/04/13 – 2.492kgs
- Tomas 26/04/13
- Lucy 04/13
- Savannah 12/05/13 - 3.18kgs
- Onyeka 14/05/13 – 3.215kgs
- Mustafa 05/05/13 – 7.3lbs
- Liu 13/05/13

- Tinu 29/07/13
- Haleema 29/07/13 - 7.5lbs
- Manesseh 01/08/13 – 10lbs
- Noah 02/08/13 - 7.3lbs
- Vernisha 07/08/13 – 3.2kgs
- Eric 07/08/13
- Ali - 3.350kgs & Manir – 2.800Kgs twins 11/08/13
- Bhartu 14/08/13



Above: Justyna, the Manager of the Twickenham Vigil with a baby whose mum chose life this year

- Kyra 17/05/13 – 7.2lbs
- Rares 22/05/13 - 3.5kgs
- Krystal 23/05/13 – 4.3kgs
- Virginia 29/05/13 – 8.10lbs
- Genesis 04/06/13 – 6.14lbs
- Georgiou 06/05/13
- Igor 06/06/13 -3.50kgs
- Zion 07/06/13 – 7.12lbs
- Nicholas 08/06/13
- Mark 27/06/13 3.200kgs
- Abraham 30/06/13 – 8.9lbs
- Dillon 08/07/13 - 6.10lbs
- Ibrahim 10/07/13 – 3.55kgs
- Emmanuel – 2.8kgs & Hannah – 1.8kgs
- Twins 12/07/13
- Edmund 14/07/13
- Oliver 23/07/13 - 3.97kgs
- Lucas 24/07/13 – 3.425kgs
- Toby 26/07/13 -2kgs
- Leroy 27/07/13 - 3.5kgs



♥ List Continues Overleaf ♥

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Email: info@goodcounselnetwork.com Web: www.goodcounselnetwork.com

Please Support Our Work

Please tick the box(es) that apply to you.

- I want to support your work by sending a donation of _ £20 _ £50 _ £100 _ £350 _ £1000 _ Other amount) £_____ at this time when you are urgently in need of funds. **(Cheques should be made payable to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel).**
- I am a UK taxpayer. Please send me a Gift Aid form so that you can claim back tax I have paid on my donation
- I would like to join your Adoration Rota, making a weekly Holy Hour for your work at a Church of my choice. Please send me details.
- I would like to join your Rosary Rota, saying a Rosary each week for your work. Please send me details.

Now please fill in your contact details:-

Name: _____ Tel No.: _____

Address: _____
Postcode _____

Many thanks. Please return to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, P.O. Box 46679, LONDON, NW9 8ZT Telephone: 020 7723 1740

The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel is a Registered Charity number: 1096617, supporting the work of the Good Counsel Network

BABIES WHOSE MOTHERS CHOSE LIFE IN 2013 CONTINUED

Gino 06/09/13
 Orance 11/09/13 – 3.5kgs
 Ahmed 09/13
 Raul 15/09/13 - 2.8kgs
 Asma 20/09/13
 Hope 21/09/13
 Jaydeil 22/09/13 – 8.6lbs
 Aloma 23/09/13 – 7.6lbs
 Savannah 25/09/13 – 7lbs
 Elizabeth 30/09/13 - 7.5lbs
 Isabella Rose 03/10/13 -6lbs
 Jean – 06/10/13 – 8.6lbs
 Mary - 2.8kgs
 & Joseph - 3.1kgs
 twins 07/10/13
 Majesty 07/10/13 – 3.2kgs
 Natalie 09/10/13
 Sienna 11/10/13 - 3.22kgs

Gursa 17/10/13 – 2.850kgs
 Eric 17/10/13 - 6.8lbs
 Elijah 18/10/13 – 5.10lbs
 Nathan 18/10/13
 Camilla 20/10/13
 Annabel 02/10/13
 Anush 23/10/13 – 3.700kgs
 China 21/11/13 – 3.1kgs
 Leonard 22/11/13
 Curtis 23/10/13 – 3.480kgs
 Maya 26/10/13
 David 29/10/13 – 6.2lbs
 Lena 01/11/13
 David 03/11/13 – 8.5lbs
 Kofi 8/11/13 – 4.4kgs
 Lujaina 11/11/13 – 6.12lbs
 Keiran 13/11/13
 Yvette 15/11/13

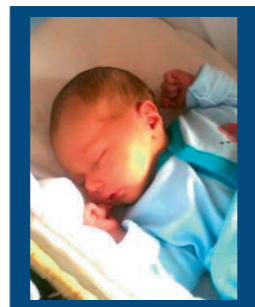
Verity 15/11/13 – 8.6lbs
 Valerie 11/13
And please pray for those expecting their babies in December:
 Helen, overdue.
 Valentina due 04/12/13
 Mercy due 06/12/13
 Elizabeth due 07/12/13
 Nazmin due 08/12/13
 Daniela due 20/12/13
 Maresse 25/12/13
 Chandika due 26/12/13
 Steffany due 30/12/13
 Manuela due December
 Baljit due December
 & many, many other women who have told us they have chosen life at the 'clinic' vigils.

Tales from the Trenches

When 'Lisa' first came to see us she was very certain that she 'needed' to have an abortion. She was terrified of having a baby. She had had two abortions in the past and they had affected her very deeply – to the point that she described herself as completely unable and unwilling to feel any emotion. She was too scared even to call the father of her unborn child her 'boyfriend', despite the relationship that they had and the fact that he wished to settle down and start a family with her. She was terrified that if she began feeling anything, she would have to deal with the pain of the abortions that she had before. She told us that since she had had the abortions, she had been unable to make every-day decisions – apparently she had to ask her son to choose everything for her – and that she had become pregnant with her son in order to try and make up for the previous abortions.

We spoke to her for a long time and showed her a film of pregnancy at her stage. We also explained to her what the abortion would actually entail, and she did a lot of crying. Despite crying, she still said she couldn't *feel* anything. If she chose to have the baby, she was choosing to begin feeling again, and that terrified her. She left saying that she still wanted the abortion pill, but that she would think about it.

Eventually, Lisa rang the office and said she had decided to keep the baby. With great joy we booked her in to come back and have a free ultrasound scan and another chat. She came back with the father of her child, whom she was now calling her boyfriend! He was delighted with the scan and very happy that she had changed her mind. However, although she was also very happy and the 'darkness' and 'numbness' seemed to have gone, we continued to pray for her, worried that she might change her mind again.



Sure enough, she soon rang to say that she 'had to have' the abortion again and asked to come back in. She said she was feeling trapped – all of her family were happy about the baby but the feeling of despair had come back again and she was completely disconnected from her emotions. She had cut off her boyfriend again and seemed so young and scared. Having the baby represented a whole new life that she felt she didn't deserve and couldn't face. After talking for a long time, we spoke explicitly about the feeling of numbness she had explained. We spoke about the importance of having hope and daring to allow herself to feel things again. For what seemed like the first time, she realised that she did not have to spend the rest of her life feeling numb and that she could tackle it and overcome it and experience hope and happiness again.

This is why prayer is so important in our work. If the women allow God to touch their hearts, they can hope, and if they are able to hope, they are able to experience the true joy of sacrificial love in deciding to give a future to their children.

In an emotional month (for her and us!), Lisa changed her mind many times but eventually decided for the final time that she would keep her little girl. When we spoke to her later on in the pregnancy to check that everything was alright and she was coping, she no longer sounded like a frightened child. Her life was still not perfect and she still struggled, but she had the determination and the confidence now that allowed her to love her baby. It is beautiful, and a privilege, to see the profound affect that prayer and hope can have. Her daughter was born in September.

By Annabel Osborn

ABORTUARY VIGILS

A Chance in the Face of "Choice"

Last week I was privileged to meet a lovely young couple named Jason and Alice. As they approached the clinic they were looking at the foetal development pictures I had laid on the pavement, pointing and talking to each other. I was about to approach them when the young man took his girlfriend's hand and came over to me; he asked what I was doing there and when I explained that we were there to offer help and support to couples in unplanned pregnancies, he replied, "Well we're in an unplanned pregnancy and we don't really know what to do, so talk to us please". So I explained to them how developed their ten-week baby was, what abortion would do to it, how it might affect them as the baby's parents, and we talked for a long time. It turned out that they already knew a fair amount about the psychological effects of abortion as Jason's mum had had one and had suffered depression ever since. In fact, Jason himself had almost been aborted, only escaping because his mother had been over the legal limit when she went to the 'clinic'.



Above: This little boy's mum chose life via the Ealing vigil.

They told me that they were under pressure to abort the child from Alice's parents.

She was only sixteen and he nineteen, so her mother had booked the abortion for her without telling Jason. She thought it would ruin Alice's life to have a child so young and also thought it was impractical as Jason didn't have a job. Alice was scared and unsure what to do, but Jason knew he wanted to keep their unborn child. They were engaged to be married and Jason wanted their baby to be at their wedding the following year. As we talked for longer it became apparent that both of them already really loved this baby: they had already chosen a boy's name and a girl's name; they had midwives appointments booked, had planned a baby shopping expedition and even chosen the buggy they wanted!

The longer we talked, the more they both became convinced that whatever the difficulties that lay ahead, they wanted to keep and love their child. And they realised they actually could do that, that the baby didn't need lots of things but his parents' love and affection, which they were definitely aching to give. Finally, Alice, who had been fasting for the anaesthetic, opened a bag of crisps and began to eat as her boyfriend and I clapped joyfully! She promised she wouldn't come back again, and he gave up smoking that day in honour of the event, throwing his cigarettes in the bin across the road! I saw them off in a friend's car, waving and smiling.

Last week I got a text from Jason; they had just been to the midwife and he said that in two weeks they will have a scan and has promised to send me a picture. He said "Can't wait we are both sooo excited to meet the little one!" Please keep Jason, Alice and their tiny unborn baby in your prayers.

By Charis Willey

Witnessing to Hope

It had been a fairly typical September day at the prayer vigil at Whitfield Street, central London. I was there for the afternoon, but things had generally been pretty quiet with only a few people going in. I tried to reach out to them, and

had some encouraging conversations, but nobody had made a definite decision to choose life and accept the help we offered. Towards the end of the day, I had started to feel a little dejected. Part of it was probably tiredness, but there is also always an element of self-doubt present when things aren't going as well as they could be. Nothing could have prepared me for the sudden lift my spirits were about to get.

I was standing on the opposite side of the road, praying, when a woman approached me accompanied by her husband, baby-carrier in hand. I didn't recognise her at first, but as she began to speak to me it gradually dawned on me that we had met before in the very same place. It turned out that this lady, 'Charlotte', had spoken to me back in February on her way into the very same 'clinic'. I had explained the help we were able to offer and told her about the development of her baby at that point in her pregnancy. She even remembered a very specific detail about my own family, which I had used as an example of larger families doing well! She had changed her mind about the abortion at that point, and had come into our centre to receive our support. Now, she explained, she had come back to the 'clinic' in the hope I would be there and she could thank me!

And then, she introduced me to 'Harry', the tiny, healthy newborn sleeping peacefully in the baby-carrier. The feeling, as I'm sure you can begin to imagine, was indescribable. I was overcome with joy and lost for words. I'm sure I can't recall a happier moment in my life so far. God is good in so many ways. I thank Him for giving me the strength and wisdom to be at the right place and say the right things in the first place, for giving 'Charlotte' also the strength she needed to make the right decision and bravely choose life for her baby under difficult circumstances, and, not least, I thank Him for bringing me this uplifting encounter just when I needed it the most.

Please support this life-giving work by giving financially whatever you can afford to Good Counsel and ensuring that mothers like 'Charlotte' get the help they need. Please also consider becoming involved yourself. You can join our prayer vigils and become God's instrument in another story like the one above! Sign up for 40 Days for Life in Twickenham or come along to another one of our London Prayer Vigils.

Finally, if you have the time and would like to be a part of such work, why not become an intern for a few months and be involved in this sort of work every day? And, above all, please keep praying for all our mothers, that many more will choose life as 'Charlotte' did. God bless!



Above: You have supported this mum through two very difficult pregnancies

By Martyn McGettigan

See our blog: MariaStopsAbortion.blogspot.com