

## *Romancing the Globe*

*The Crossroads of Cultural Encounter*

By Kay Gardner, Center Director of FPHC



Savior is SLM's response to the Great Commission that arrives at our doorstep—daily.

Sanctity of Life Ministries, through the efforts of our pregnancy help centers (PHCs) in Alexandria and Fairfax, is a cultural crossroad where civilizations intersect through women who seek services and women who extend them. The diverse clientele, representing over 40 countries, are welcomed by a unique Christian community of staff and volunteers—many remembering their own earlier homelands—such as Iran, Ethiopia, Puerto Rico, Australia and others.

In our work, cultural encounters and divine appointments are often the same thing. The commonality of language breaks down the 'sound barrier' like the warmth of a homecoming! Through the clarity of common language, seeker meets believer as the light of the Gospel shines brighter. "Jesus loves you; He was born then lived to die for all mankind; on our behalf, He settled forever the penalty for our sins; He offers the gift of eternal life; by receiving Him, we can enjoy Him forever."

Through our PHCs, the Gospel story is related in Farsi, Tigrinia and Amaharic—two Ethiopian dialects, and Spanish as well as English. In addition, on our volunteer team, one speaks Hindi and another speaks Arabic. Competently presiding over SLM's melting pot is Stan Kellner, our new, Jewish CEO, who made a decision for Christ in his 20's.

"Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of His power." Ephesians 3:6

As a multi-cultural outreach, let's take a closer look at four of our staff members, their backgrounds and client interactions:

### **Sherry Rafii**

#### **FPHC Manager of Client and Volunteer Services**

Sherry was born in Iran and grew up speaking Farsi, her native language. Then at the age of 15 she moved to London. Five years ago, she moved to the United States. A year later Sherry became a Christian through a Christian neighbor who invited her to church.

When Sherry heard her Muslim client say, "My people don't help us out; only Christians are kind to each other and help," she was prompted to share the peace that she herself had found in Christ—in Farsi. After sharing the Gospel, the woman replied that 8 years earlier, at our center in Alexandria, she had heard the story (Gospel) but wasn't ready to believe. Now she was and happily prayed to receive Him!

### **Tsion Michael**

#### **FPHC Office Manager and Campus Coordinator**

At the height of civil war, Tsion and her family, targeted for her father's political ties, escaped from Addis Abba, Ethiopia to the United States. As a young adult, Tsion faced a crisis pregnancy that led to a deeper relationship with Christ.

Recently, Tsion counseled with an Ethiopian client whose pregnancy test was negative—an opportunity to address the client's relationship issues that included abstinence before marriage. Though the client, a Coptic Christian, knew who God was, she wasn't aware of His words, "I have a plan for your life." (Jeremiah 29:11) Learning more about a personal God, she made a decision to invite Jesus to be the Lord of her life.

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**MISSION STATEMENT** Sanctity of Life Ministries exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by compassionately offering biblical, life-affirming alternatives to people facing unplanned pregnancies and other sexual crises/decisions through the efforts of our pregnancy help centers in Alexandria and Fairfax.

**Sanctity of Life Ministries • [www.slmgetinvolved.org](http://www.slmgetinvolved.org) • [info@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:info@slmpregnancy.org)**  
10380 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030 P 703-278-5433 F 703-278-8645

**Alexandria**  
pregnancy help center  
703-780-4700

**Fairfax**  
pregnancy help center  
703-278-5433

Recognizing that adoption is an equally encouraging decision as choosing to parent a child, we thought you would be blessed with a testimony of one of our volunteers.

Just as God supernaturally arranged a loving family to raise me, He also arranged my personal reconnection with my life's earlier history. But to start at the beginning...

It was through a mutual friend that my adoptive mother and my biological mother met—this connection led to an adoption arrangement. Unmarried and estranged from my biological father, my birthmother worked with the lawyers to send the required paperwork to my birthfather for his consent to my adoption. However, the papers were returned marked, 'undeliverable.' The adoption was quickly finalized by my biological mother's signature—my birthfather never realizing that I existed.

I was born just before Thanksgiving in 1983, and a few days later arrived at my new, loving home. After finding out I was adopted, I still knew with certainty that my mother was my mother, and my family was my family; that nothing had changed. In fact, I was blessed by having this loving, close family and an close relationship with my mother. I was also blessed with the new knowledge that, out there somewhere, I had even more family to love.

I am thankful to God that He orchestrated this adoption so that not only would I be well cared for, but, through various circumstances and trials which He brought me through, I would also come to know Christ deeply and have a better understanding of God the Father.

More recently, my story has taken some unexpected twists and turns. My birthfather had learned about me two months after my birth and persisted in locating me—finally able to make contact in 2009. (It turns out that he is a believer!) Since then, I have met his other daughter—my half sister. For the first time, the three of us were united in May 2010—an emotional reconciliation. Though my sister is not a believer yet, I have high hopes she will come to a saving relationship with Christ so that we can truly celebrate our 'family ties' in Christ!

## Post-Abortion Bible Study Would You Like to Heal from a Past Abortion?

Please join us for a confidential Bible study for a safe time of support, sharing, and prayer.

**six-week course starts once a week on  
Wednesday, October 5, 7-9 PM**

**Fairfax**  
pregnancy help center

10380 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030

RSVP: 703-278-5433



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### Jeanette Rocher APHC Office Manager

Jeanette was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and later moved to the United States to attend college. Her spiritual interest grew through a youth tent revival at a Baptist church. This initiated attending church services that eventually led to a commitment to Christ.

Jeanette remembers clearly the young client from Central America who had visited an abortion clinic no less than 3 times. Each time she arrived, the doctor was absent and she left. Walking by APHC one day, she stopped to inquire about our services. Jeanette shared Scripture's comforting words in the midst of her crisis which led to a decision for Christ. Later, she gave birth and brought her twin baby boys to the center for Jeanette to meet!

### Michelle Franklin SLM Nurse Manager

Michelle was born in New Castle, Australia. As an 8 year old child, she made a decision to receive Christ. Later, longing for a deeper relationship with Him, she recommitted her life to Christ in her 20's.

Michelle tells the following story: A 19 year old who had experienced physical abuse since age 5 had "acted out" her emotional problems by having over 25 sexual partners. Michelle says, "I gave her prenatal education, a fetal development review and performed an ultrasound to better equip her in making a decision about her pregnancy." The reality of life through an ultrasound scan was impacting and a few days later, the client finalized her decision to carry her baby to term. In light of her past history of rejection, her decision became a defining moment regarding the value of a life.

At Sanctity of Life Ministries, the cultural phenomenon continues—and, with it, anointed opportunities to transform lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Indeed, we are experiencing a taste of heaven—ministering to those "...of every nation, tribe, tongue, and people." (Revelation 14:6 KJB)

## Praises & Prayer Requests

to receive a monthly Prayer Focus via email, contact Laura at [laura.lavelle@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:laura.lavelle@slmpregnancy.org)

### We Thank God for...

- ♥ Salvation, grace and mercy through Jesus Christ
- ♥ The privilege of sharing the gospel and seeing clients come to a saving relationship with God
- ♥ All our volunteers
- ♥ All those who partner with us by donating financially and materially
- ♥ Over 100 ultrasounds performed at our Fairfax center
- ♥ The increase of abortion-minded clients coming to our centers



Kay with client's baby

### Please Pray that...

As our ultrasound services expand, pray God will bring nurse volunteers and/or a part-time nurse

- ♥ Clients will choose life for themselves and their babies
- ♥ The Lord will provide more volunteers
- ♥ The Lord will make provision to hire more staff
- ♥ People will donate store gift cards, diapers, wipes, baby furniture, car seats, strollers, and cribs
- ♥ God will protect staff, volunteers and their families and prosper our financial donors



Ultrasound Image of Client's baby at 14 weeks

“I feel that God has called me to help women in need. Since I started as a volunteer, many years ago, the Lord Jesus has shown me my own weakness as a mother and how to help other mothers in crisis. My own background as Hispanic allows other women to identify with me, but as a Christian it is my privilege to share the gospel, and it is such a wonderful experience to see women turn towards God. The main motive for volunteering, is to see how God works in the lives I have come across over the years. Also, it has helped me see beyond my own needs.”  
Volunteer Quote

## Thanks from the SLM Staff

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

SLM volunteers do just that! Let their light shine before others. This light enables clients to choose life for themselves and their babies. Consequently, we as a staff are grateful for all those who shine their light in this ministry—the intercessors, office workers, client advocates (peer counselors), board members, church liaisons, abstinence presenters, financial and material needs supporters—who are called to serve at SLM for His glory.

### Office Workers & Client Advocate Counselors

Jillian, Brenda, Katie, Tina, Amy, Kathryn, Elizabeth, Theresa, Caroline, Joancy, Georgiann, Patricia, Jacob, Amanda, Shelley, Megan, Carol, Judy, Janelyn, Maria, Ingrid, Erin, Daniela, Lee, Pat, Frankie, Rose, Pam, Manal and others

### Board of Directors and Advisers

Nancy, Sheila, Don, Tina, John, Dale, Andy, Don, Jim, John, Vince, Mark, Ron, Chris



## Save the Dates

10380 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030 (Conf. Rm.)

### Volunteer In-Service

Tuesday, September 27, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

### 2-Day Client Advocate Counselor Training

Saturdays, October 22 & 29, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**Purpose:** To equip volunteers to effectively come alongside and respond to clients who ask for our assistance.

**RSVP:** Sherry Rafii  
703-278-5433 or [sherry.rafi@slmpregnancy.org](mailto:sherry.rafi@slmpregnancy.org)

## Part of a Movement

Did you know that SLM is part of a network of pregnancy help centers (PHCs) throughout Virginia? Thirty-five pregnancy centers in the Commonwealth provided help and services to over 17,000 women last year. The PHCs provided over 2,900 ultrasounds free of charge so women could see the new life growing inside of them. Almost 11,000 free packs of diapers and over 10,000 bags of clothes were given out to meet the needs of babies throughout the state. When you support SLM, you not only assist our clients; you become part of a larger effort to share God's love in word and deed with women all over Virginia. Together we are making a difference. Thank you for your support!

# Sanctity of Life Ministries

10380 Democracy Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030  
703-278-5433, [www.slmgetinvolved.org](http://www.slmgetinvolved.org)

**Alexandria**  
pregnancy help center

**Fairfax**  
pregnancy help center

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## Summer 2011 Newsletter



*Partner with us  
in our Fall 2011*

## Baby Bottle Campaign

- Take home a bottle or bottles
- Put one on your kitchen counter and/or office desk
- Collect spare change in the baby bottle(s) for 4 weeks
- Your spare change can make a difference!

*For More Details:  
go to [slmgetinvolved.org](http://slmgetinvolved.org)  
or call Margery Williams  
at 703-780-4700*



The monies donated help us continue to provide services to women and their unborn babies who often have no other options.

## Mark Your Calendars

### September - October

- **September** - Prayer Gathering
- **Monday, September 5th** - Centers closed for Labor Day
- **Sunday, September 11th** - Fall Baby Bottle Campaign starts
- **Tuesday, September 27th** - Volunteer In-Service
- **Monday, October 10th** - Centers closed for Columbus Day
- **Monday, October 17th** - Staff 2012 Banquet Planning Meeting
- **Wednesday, October 5th** - Post Abortion Bible Study starts
- **Saturdays, October 22nd & 29th** - 2-day Counselor Training

### Please Donate to SLM through:

- ♥ [www.slmgetinvolved.org](http://www.slmgetinvolved.org)
- ♥ United Way #8309
- ♥ Commonwealth of VA Campaign #8102
- ♥ Combined Federal Campaign #69997