

Do You Have Eyes of Life?

Believe

In Christ, God gives us eyes of life — eyes that see life from His perspective. And what we see causes us to speak for life. People are telling their stories at eyesoflife.org.

It is easy to get bogged down in what we are against, but with “Eyes of Life,” we rejoice in what we are for: God’s grace and mercy, Christ’s forgiveness and love, the Holy Spirit’s direction and nurturing ... and life.

Eyes of Life adds a voice to the conversation in defense of the sanctity of life — a voice that speaks and cares for life from conception to natural death. This voice is echoed in action: marching for life, volunteering at a maternity home, helping a family with a special-needs child, caring for the elderly and so on.

Listen

“He started forcing me to sleep with guys and pointed a gun at my head and said if I didn’t, he would kill me.” She states her past matter-of-factly, calmly explaining how she ended up at Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Sanford, Fla.

Meet Jennifer, a survivor of human trafficking and prostitution. She’s speaking up. By sharing her story through the #eyesoflife campaign, she is giving voice to what millions of others believe as well: That all life, from conception to natural death, is sacred, valued and a gift from God.

“It started with just needing the money to take care of myself,” she recalls. “I wasn’t able to work legally because my green card is expired. I couldn’t renew it because I was underage so ... I started making money the only way I knew how to and that was dancing at a strip club.”

“I found myself falling for one of my customers, who was ... later to be my pimp. He had a big organization, and he made me the big fish,” she explains. “He spoiled me with material things and what I thought was love.”

Then came the demands that she sleep with men for money and the threats that accompanied them.

And the gun.

And the fear.

And the realization that she had to get out.

By God’s grace, she did.

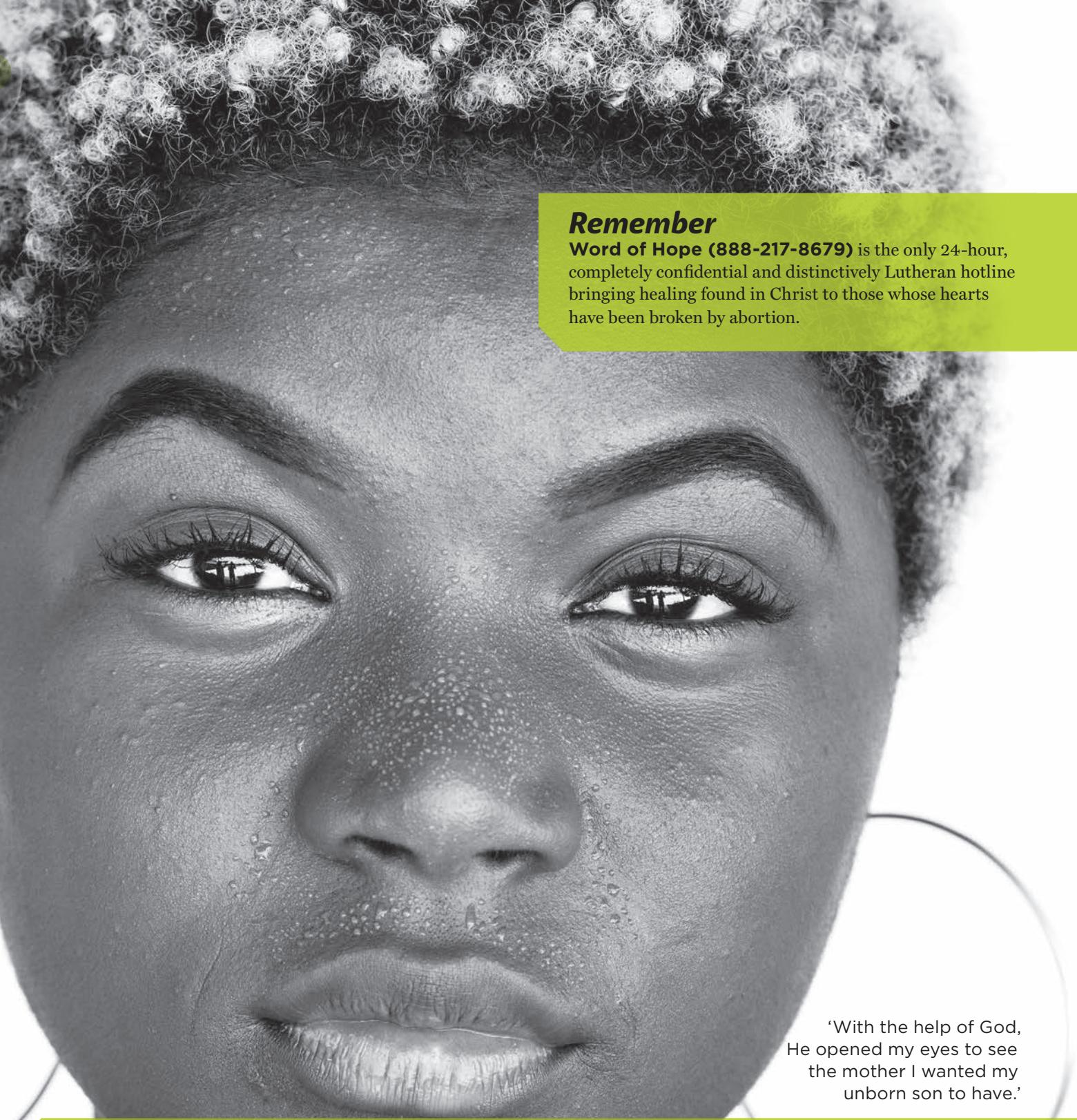
“I learned to be comfortable sharing my story to help the women that are scared to get out because I did it,” she says with confidence.

She has another reason as well: Jennifer is a mom, expecting a little boy in the near future. “With the help of God, He opened my eyes to see the mother I wanted my unborn son to have,” she explains.

Thanks to Redeeming Life Maternity Home, she is thankful for the physical things like a home and food. But she also focuses on something even more important: the fact that “They made sure I was safe and assured [me] that I can count on them. I’ve never been dependent on anyone because I’m an independent individual and still am. But ... God and all His servants [have] molded me into that self-sufficient woman I am today.”

“The church and the maternity home have given me a place to lay my head at no cost and given me everything my son will need when he is born,” she says gratefully. “They’ve provided so much support, helping me to get ready for my son.”

Human trafficking. Prostitution. An absent mother. An unborn child. For many, it would be too much. But for this child of God, it’s really just the beginning. And when little Leon Josiah makes his grand entrance, Jennifer will be assured of yet one more thing: “God blessed me with a precious bundle of joy even when I doubted myself and said I wasn’t ready. The Lord has shown me I am ready, and **that’s why I have eyes of life!**”



Remember

Word of Hope (888-217-8679) is the only 24-hour, completely confidential and distinctively Lutheran hotline bringing healing found in Christ to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.

Serve

- **Plan** a life event at your church on a Saturday. Invite your pastor or a speaker to come and speak on life issues.
- **Host** a single-parent outreach event at your church, such as free oil changes or distributing diapers and wipes.
- **Support** your local Lutherans For Life chapter by volunteering.

- **Volunteer** at your local hospice, crisis-pregnancy center or nursing home.
- **Join** local life ministries at a public event.
- **Schedule** a servant project for a local hospice or nursing home.
- **Raise** money for a crisis-pregnancy center or maternity home.
- **Care** for new mothers with visits, meals and helping hands.

- **March** for life locally, in Chicago, Washington, D.C., or San Francisco this January.
- **Encourage** and support those who find life challenging due to disability or chronic illness.
- **Run** errands for homebound mothers, elderly or the ill.

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