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Heartbeat Headlines

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From the Director's Desk

Thanksgiving is a time when we purposefully recall our many blessings.

Awe, yes, we are truly blessed in so many ways. If you are like me, we take a lot of things for granted. So I encourage you to grab a cup of hot tea or hot chocolate and actually write down as many blessings in your life that come to your mind. Please know I will be joining you in this little exercise and thanking God for my blessings, including the ones I take for granted

We have had much positive feedback from our Banquet on October 21st. A big shout out of thanks to Bunkertown Church for hosting us this year.

The Heath Brothers and their testimony given by their father was powerful and heartfelt. It was nice to have a male point of view on the subject of abortion and pro-life. Next year's Banquet will be held October 19th at Highland Presbyterian Church, 11 Church Road, Newport, PA 17074. Chelsea Nygren Raffensperger will be our keynote speaker.

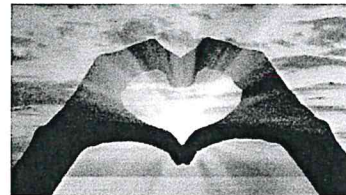
As I type this, I know some of you are facing disappointments and trials. My advice, remember Joseph. "Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." Genesis 40:23 Can you imagine what Joseph must have been thinking as he sat in prison as not only innocent of the crimes for which he was accused, but also as one who - with everything in him - was trying to live a life pleasing to God?

Joseph's only "crime" took place when he was likely a teenager, when he shared his dreams with his brothers. For this he was sold into slavery, dumped into a prison for attempted adultery, and then forgotten.

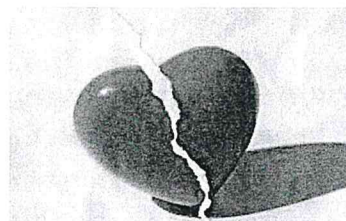
Those who tell us that living the Christian life is all popples and roses rarely preach about these dark moments in Joseph's life, most of which was spent in terrible trials. Yet Joseph's life is a reminder to all of us that when things seem to go terribly wrong for us, it is not always an indication that we have done something wrong. Sometimes, we've done everything right, and yet there are those who still do us

harm. And sometimes, circumstances, for whatever reason, turn against us even when we are following God's perfect will for our lives.

Joseph perhaps felt forgotten; we don't know for sure. But we do know that God never forgot. In all of the trials, God was watching his servant Joseph. And no doubt God was proud of this man of faith who never lost his desire to please God in all that he did.



Many times, we in life-affirming ministries do everything we can for a client, and she, or he, still make decisions that break our hearts. At other times, we make what we believe to be a decision that honors God and yet we see disastrous results.



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Thanks for your support!

From the Director's Desk Continued...

When those times come, we can be reminded of Joseph, a man who may have struggled with his faith at times, but never wavered. In the end, Joseph saved an entire people from famine and reunited with the family that once abandoned him. Through his trials he learned patience, determination, and forgiveness.

For those of us who believe in the sanctity of life, Joseph's life is a perfect example of who we need to be. We must be patient with those we see, determined to hold fast to what we believe, and forgiving of those who walk away from us at times. These three attributes will carry us to a bright future - and God is watching.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas season as we celebrate Christ's birth. Oh how he changed the world forever. And, I once again encourage you to reflect on the blessings of this past year as you ring in the new. We thank Him and praise Him in the good times and difficult times as Joseph taught us.



Hope to see you at Harshbargers on January 9th. Have fun with your two exercises. In fact, let's make this interactive. Anyone who wants to share your list with me, just send it by email to coordinator@pa.net or mail it to Heartbeat, P. O. Box 25, Millerstown, PA. 17062 It's going to be fun.

Susan R. Spriggle, Director

Take it Down by Tammy McCoy

In my classes that I teach in school, I go over the definition of sexual abuse and violence. I talk about sexting and the dangers of being online or using social media unsafely.

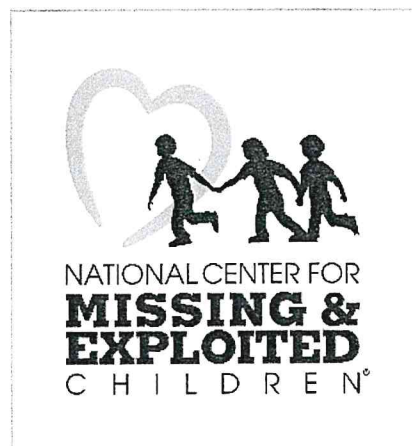
As of July 2023 there were over 12,000 reports of financial sextortion of minor children. Most targets of sextortion are teen boys, who seem to be more likely than girls to send an explicit selfie to someone they are not having a romantic relationship with.

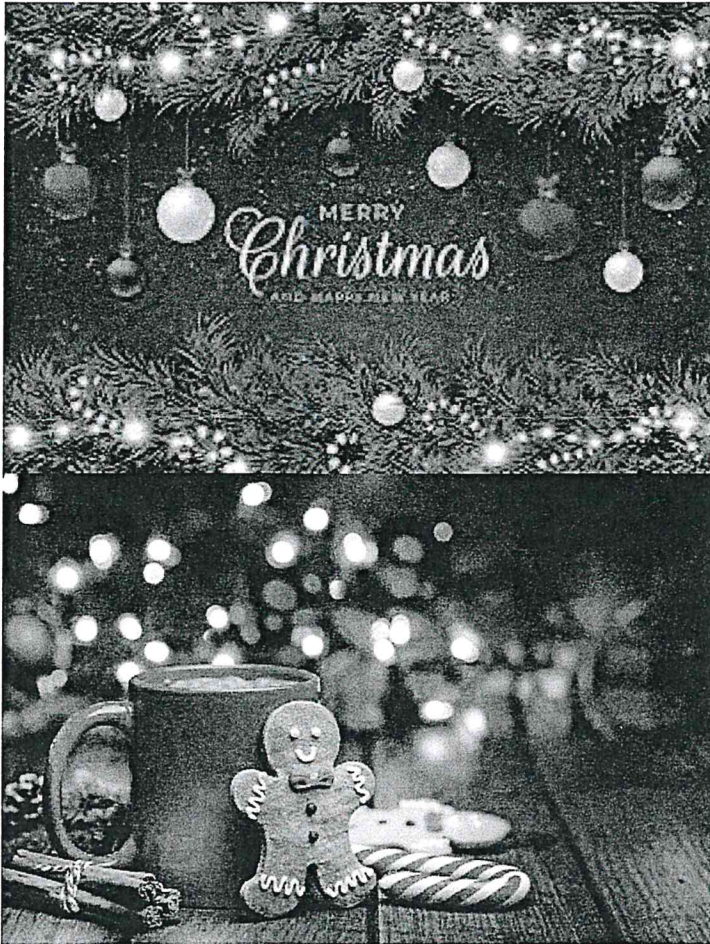
Anonymous scammers will reach out to their target over social media, engaging in a flirtation and eventually asking for nudes. Once an anonymous scammer gets a hold of incriminating material, they quickly turn hostile, making financial demands and threatening to post the embarrassing material publicly if these demands are not met. The victim might not feel comfortable telling their parents about what happened and unfortunately they panic and do not always make the right decisions.

Families can prepare by telling their teens about resources like **TakeltDown**, a free service which will remove nudes from the internet within two days, and the 24/7 Crisis Text Line, which connects teens with professional counselors via text at any time.

Remember that teens need to understand that your support, compassion, and assistance are unconditional-and that you are in their corner, no matter the circumstances.

Also remember that it is not only teens who can become victims of these anonymous scammers. Even adults make bad decisions sometimes regarding social media.





Thank you Donors!

When we think of giving, one story in the Bible which doesn't always get top billing is that of Joseph, who asked for Jesus' body after the crucifixion. We know Joseph was a disciple - not one of the twelve, but a somewhat private disciple. He served on the Jewish council, and he was apparently wealthy. That's about all we know.

Joseph's one well-known act was to secure Jesus' body and place it in a tomb, which Joseph owned. We can talk about Joseph's motivations - which are likely worth a great discussion - but the important thing is, Joseph is known for one gift to Jesus. Just one.

With that gift, he provided a place. And in this location, the greatest miracle in the history of the world took place. God raised a dead man to life in that tomb, and because of this, the world will never be the same.

In a sense, you are a Joseph. Your support provides a location for this work. In this location, our staff reaches out to those in the most challenging of situations. And yes, in this location you've provided, we're seeing miracles take place.


Please cut this out & join us
at Harshbarger's on
1/09/2024

Joseph is in the Bible, four times. He deserves it. But even today, there are people out here doing "Joseph-like" work. You are one of them and we appreciate you.

Sincerely,
Susan R. Spriggle, Director

FABULOUS

Fund-raiser Tuesdays



Heartbeat
Organization

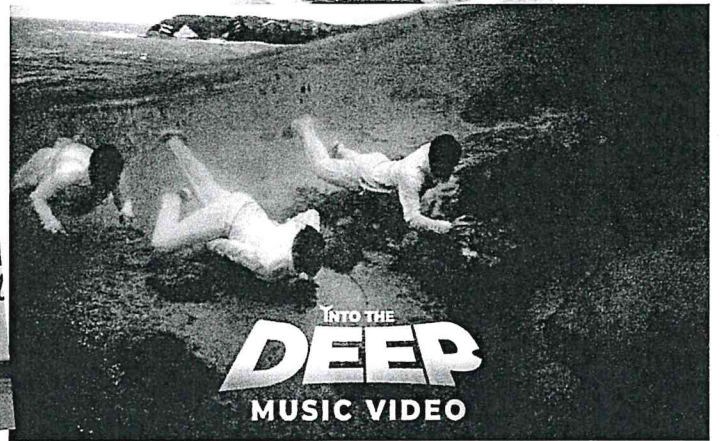
January 9, 2024
Date

Thank you!

TWO LOCATIONS | Route 22, McVeytown 717-899-7751 | Port Royal Exit, Swamp Road 717-436-5386



Heartbeat Banquet 2023



Our Keynote Speaker this year was Jonathan Heath & The 3 Heath Brothers and what a treat they were as they shared their God given talents with all who attended this years Heartbeat Banquet!



Good News: If you missed this year's banquet but really wish you could have been there or know of someone who may benefit from the ministry, there is still hope! We do have DVD's available at Heartbeat. If you would like one, call the center and we will make it available for you.

Another
successful
Bake Sale on
the Hill
September
2023



A very special thank you to these Girl Scouts—Vanessa Kretzing and Rebekah Gustafson and their leaders from Centre Presbyterian Church. The girls sewed bibs, diaper bags and blankets for Heartbeat. They earned badges for completing the project...very impressive indeed!

