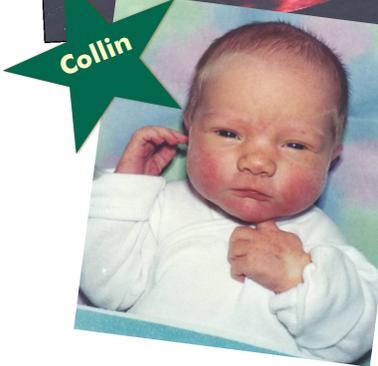


MARCH 2010

## Collin's Miracle Beginning

*This is the story of Collin's amazing beginning to his life. As most great stories go, this one is filled with joy, pain, fear, and a happy ending!*

— by Christy Ingalls



This is the story of Collin's amazing beginning to his life. As most great stories go, this one is filled with joy, pain, fear, and a happy ending! My husband and I already had two great boys, ages 5 and 3, when we found out that I was pregnant. This pregnancy was a surprise since we had decided that we were blessed with the two great children that we had. However, God had other plans for our family. I found out that I was pregnant on April 29, 1999 when

I was approximately 5 weeks along. As time went by, we all got used to the idea of adding another member to our family and our surprise turned into joy at this new life.

Then on May 29, 1999 something terrible happened. I was doing some shopping at a craft store with a girlfriend of mine, when I started to feel pain in my belly. I instinctively felt that something was wrong. I left the store immediately and went to my parents' house, which was close by. I ran into the bathroom only to

discover that I was bleeding. I was scared...scared for myself and scared for the new life that was growing inside of me. I called my husband to tell him the news and my mom drove me home. Then we called my OBGYN. The doctor on call gave me grim news that with that amount of blood, he was sure I was having a miscarriage. He gave me the choice to stay at home and have the miscarriage on my own or to go to the hospital and have a

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## New focus on mothers and babies on PC(USA) webpage

How refreshing that mothers are the focus of almost every page of the PC(USA) website this month! The various PC(USA) web entries for March have united around a theme of motherhood. If you go to [http://www.PC\(USA\).org](http://www.PC(USA).org) and type 'mother' in the search engine, you will see what I mean. I am encouraged by this focus on women as mothers.

For example, Beth Newberry has written a thoughtful article, "Mothers in Ministry." She explores the challenges and blessings of a the dual calling experienced by moms in ministry. She discusses ways churches can adapt and support women who seek to balance the priorities of ministry and family (<http://www.pcusa.org/today/cover/2010/cover-0110.htm>). Kendal Land reminds us in "Better than Abraham" that fathers in ministry need the considered care of congregations also and the freedom to give priority to their families (<http://www.pcusa.org/today/see-it.htm>).

### A ministry of hope for those facing infertility is spotlighted

"Pregnant with Hope," by Bethany Furkin, introduces Susan Radulovacki, a

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This young woman in Malawi endured a fistula that resulted in incontinence following obstructed labor in two pregnancies. Both of her first babies were stillborn. After coming to Mulanje Mission Hospital she had successful fistula repair surgery and was subsequently able to give birth to the baby held here by her husband. Since this photo was taken this couple has welcomed two more children into their family.

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D&C. My husband and I started crying, full of fear. We decided to go to the hospital.

Once at the hospital, the doctor gave me an exam and the same terrible prognosis that I had received over the phone. Before they took me into the operating room, I asked to have a special sonogram just to "make sure." Since it was after 10pm, we waited about an hour for the sonogram technician to come into the emergency room. With barely a shred of hope left, the sonogram technician began and the screen in front of us turned on. To the amazement of every-

one in the room, there was Collin, holding on for dear life with his heart still beating strong. What we didn't realize at the time was that several weeks earlier when I'd had my period, before I knew I was pregnant, I actually was pregnant and Collin had implanted and then slid down the side of my uterus tearing a hole as he went. Collin finally stopped millimeters before he would have died. The bleeding that I experienced was from the internal bleeding I had suffered several weeks before and the sonogram showed my uterus was already starting to heal. We left the hospital tired and praising God for this miracle.

I had a completely normal pregnancy after that very scary episode, and I delivered Collin on December 14, 1999. My husband and I just recently talked about this event, amazed at the miracle of Collin and how lucky we are to have him in our family. Collin has always been strong, a fighter, some might say. This was even evident in him when he was 9 weeks old, when he held on for dear life inside of me. Collin is now a very active 9 year old. We thank God every day for the blessing of our family, knowing that each and every child is a gift, a miracle, from God.

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women in African countries, providing pre-natal care, fistula surgeries, and health education for women.

I wondered if funds would be used to pay for abortion or to promote birth control, so I asked!

### Will abortion be funded?

I have been assured by staff at the PC(USA) that funds donated to *Healthy Women Healthy Families* will NOT be used to provide abortions, or to promote birth control. Gail Bingham, Associate for Constituency Relations International Health & Development (GAMC), says:

*"The goal of Healthy Women Healthy Families is to protect and restore the health of women and children. This includes helping women to have successful pregnancies, by protecting them from malaria (the most frequent cause of miscarriage and premature delivery in sub-Saharan Africa,) assuring that they have adequate nutrition, and encouraging women to come to a hospital to deliver, rather than having an unattended birth which can have devastating consequences such as fistulas and stillbirth."*

Health education activities are focused on teaching families healthy living habits and increasing nutrition. You can learn more about this project at: <http://www.pcusa.org/health/international/mothersday.htm>.

PPL will continue to monitor the website and publications of the PC(USA) and report our good and bad findings. We thank God for this good news!

New Focus on mothers and babies....From Page 1

For more resources visit [www.ppl.org](http://www.ppl.org)

member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church, whose own experience with the pain of infertility prompted her to write a Bible Study to bring hope to those struggling with infertility. The article (<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10243.htm>) notes the importance of ministry that brings hope and support to couples facing infertility. The Peachtree Church conducts a Bible Study for infertile couples twice a year. A leadership guide is available at [www.pregnantwithhope.com](http://www.pregnantwithhope.com).

### Current projects benefit mothers and babies

I found more good news on the denomination's website among the current ministry projects. PPL is cautious about endorsing ministry

projects of the PC(USA) because of the denomination's support for abortion. So, I am delighted that I am able to encourage pro-life churches to support two current projects that benefit women and babies. The need is great. We who uphold the value of human life from fertilization to natural death ought to be the first to give generous support to projects providing practical ministry to pregnant women and infants.

### Baby Kits

The Presbyterian Disaster Association gives a variety of kits assembled by churches to those devastated by the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. Among those is a Baby Kit. For information about the contents of the kits and where to mail them go online

to: <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/giftofheartcontents.pdf>. If you are interested in helping with the Baby kits but do not have access to a computer, call PPL (412-487-1990) and we will mail the details to you. This is a great project for any group in your church. Patterns for handmade gowns and baby sweaters for inclusion in the kits can be found at: [http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits\\_babycare](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_babycare) or call CWS at (888) 297-2767. Kit value is \$39 and donations are accepted in lieu of kits.

### A Mother's day project

*Healthy Women Healthy Families*, is a PW project that offers unique Mother's Day cards when you make a contribution. Donations benefit