

LIVES SAVED WORLDWIDE

Stories from the Chatline



By Sarah M. Bowen, Michaela Ray, & Rhiannon Welton of Promise of Life Network

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Baby saved



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Who We Are

Promise of Life Network is a life-affirming ministry based in the United States in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1987 as a pregnancy resource center, Promise of Life Network has grown to four locations serving five counties in Pennsylvania with pregnancy testing, ultrasound scans, parenting education, material help, and abstinence education.



In 2019 God began to bring national and international ministry opportunities to the forefront. Promise of Life Network developed a website, athomeabortionfacts.com, to educate women in the United States about the dangers and risks of at-home abortions.

Shortly after, Promise of Life Network began to be contacted by women overseas-nearly all of them seeking an abortion.



By October of 2021, over 8,500 women had contacted us asking for help.

Purpose of this booklet

This booklet is our way of sharing their need with you. The need is great, and there are not enough people or resources to meet it. Our prayer is that through this booklet God will show you how He wants you to be involved in saving lives worldwide.

TO LEARN MORE ■

Visit promiseoflifeflitenetwork.org, email michaela@promiseoflifeflitenetwork.org, or call 1.724.794.3325.

TO DONATE ■

Visit promiseoflifeflitenetwork.org and select "donate." You can also mail your gift to:

Promise of Life Network
PO Box 7734
New Castle, PA 16107



What is an At-Home Abortion?

The phrase "at-home abortion" can mean many things. In the United States, it typically means a woman is taking drugs colloquially known as "the abortion pill" in the privacy of her own home after purchasing them from an abortion clinic. These drugs, brand name RU486, consist of mifepristone and misoprostol.

The first drug, mifepristone, is taken to block nutrition from getting to the baby in the womb. The second drug, misoprostol (brand name Cytotec), is taken 24-48 hours later and induces labor. The mother then delivers her child at home.

This method of abortion is not recommended after 10 weeks of pregnancy. However, these pills are now available online for purchase and can be taken at any stage of pregnancy with no medical oversight. Some women may even lie about their gestational stage in order to obtain these pills.


In addition to using abortion pills, an at-home abortion could be attempted using herbs, other drugs, or manual methods. There are over 100 websites offering pills and/or instructions relating to at-home abortions.

In developing nations, an at-home abortion is somewhat different.

Many women attempt an abortion using unripe fruit, overdoses of common medications, or other home remedies. If they purchase pills to attempt an abortion, they are often only using misoprostol (Cytotec) and will use larger amounts of medication for more advanced pregnancies. Some women have even used Cytotec to induce pre-term labor in the final weeks of pregnancy.

Regardless of the mother's location or methods, an at-home abortion is a risky endeavor. The mother will experience cramping, pain, and bleeding. In some cases she may develop an infection or hemorrhage. In rare cases, she could lose her own life.





Can I use pineapple to abort? What about papaya?

—International Client

"DIY"



Abortion

There is a tremendous movement in the United States (and worldwide) to promote an at-home, "do it yourself," or "DIY" abortion as safe and natural. Proponents publish instructional YouTube videos as well as links to websites to purchase abortion pills, assuring their viewers that the procedure is "safe and effective."

These same proponents tell women that there is no way to test for the presence of misoprostal (Cytotec) and that the mother should not feel obliged to tell medical professionals what she took if she does find herself in need of an emergency room or other medical care.



"DIY"



Abortion



These at-home abortion methods are as dangerous as they sound. Young women, many with no confirmation of pregnancy, take pills or herbs alone in their homes and then writhe in agony waiting for the procedure to finish. If something goes wrong, they could be hours away from medical care or not have anyone available to transport them.

Further, at-home abortions help cover up rape, molestation, trafficking, and other forms of abuse.

Through our work with women worldwide, we can attest that abortion hurts—not just the child in the womb, but also the mother.



Lift Women Up

2019 - 2021

In the pages of this booklet you will find uplifting stories of mothers who have chosen life, and you will also read stories of women who have chosen abortion and have deeply regretted that choice. You will read stories of young women who were determined to procure an abortion-only to find that they weren't even pregnant to begin with.

At-home abortions are dangerous, destructive, and carry life-long consequences. We must stand against this movement and insist that women are given the help they truly need-not abortions.

Providing True Help

When a woman asks for an abortion, a person in her life who wants to make a difference has only two options.



First, they could provide her with the abortion. This is arguably the easiest thing to do. After all, the abortion is what the woman says she wants. Further, after providing her with the pills she wants, or some other method, the helper is now "off the hook." The woman needs nothing more, and the helper can go on with their lives.

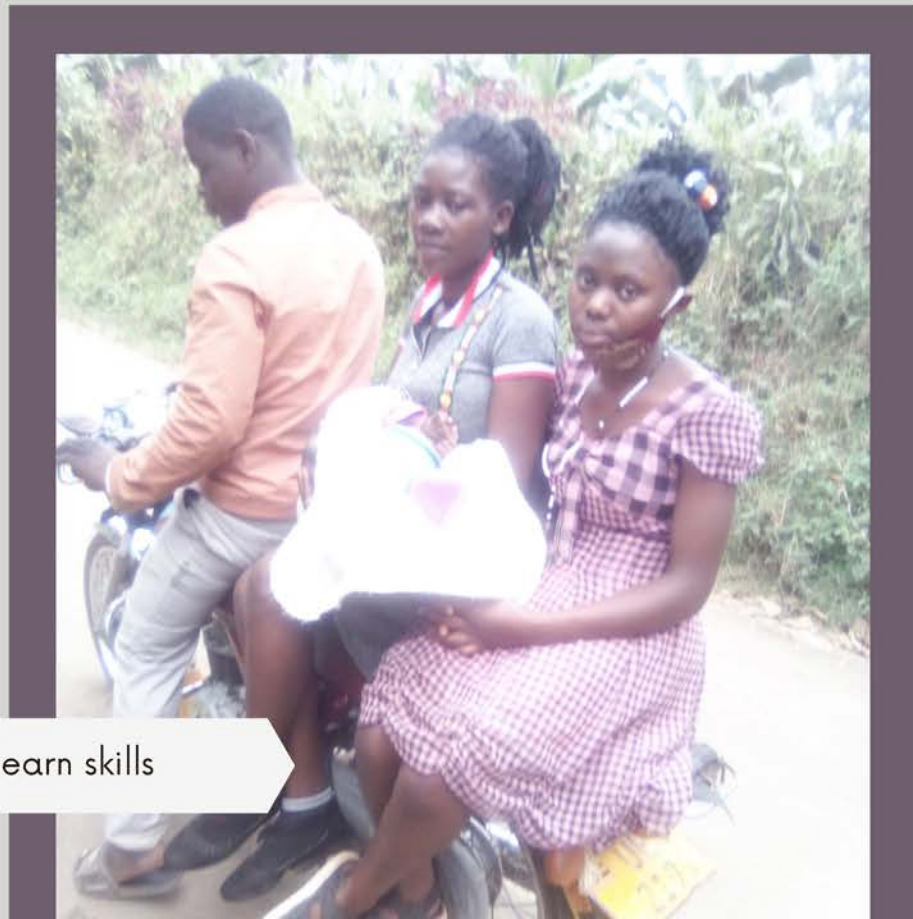
The second option is much more multi-faceted. In this scenario, the helper asks the woman about her situation. Has she taken a pregnancy test? Has she discussed her pregnancy with her family? Does she know how far along she is? Then the helper works to connect the woman with help and resources: a place to obtain a pregnancy test and ultrasound, a safe spot to discuss her options, help with her current situation, resources for children already born, and a listening ear.

At some point, the mother makes a choice. Our team estimates that 84% of mothers who contact us will choose life for their child. Mothers who choose life will need prenatal care, items for the baby, and other resources. They will need encouragement and support as they complete their pregnancy and parent their baby or make an adoption plan.



Helping a mother choose life is not only the right thing to do, but it is also the hard thing to do. When we say we're pro-life, we're not just "pro-unborn baby": we're pro-life from womb to tomb. These beliefs come with certain responsibilities.

The image to the right was taken in Uganda. There, a group of women have given up nearly everything to ensure that single mothers have a place to live, food to eat, and an opportunity to learn the skills they need to support themselves and their babies. There are places like this worldwide, and we do our best to connect women facing unplanned pregnancies to them.



Teen moms on their way to the center to learn skills

Helping a mother choose life

Sometimes in the United States we feel as though there is nothing we can do to help someone in another country. However, in our interconnected world it is as easy to chat with someone across the world as it is next door.

No matter your location or stage of life, you are part of this. Each of us is called to care for our fellow human, regardless of how their lives began or whether they were wanted.

Providing true help is vital as we work to build a culture of life.



Vimbai of Zoe Pregnancy Care Center
with clients



Where in the World?

As of the publishing date of this booklet, we have been contacted by women from 55 countries! We have listed the countries we are able to share publicly. Please be in special prayer for the eleven countries that are too sensitive to list-the needs there are great.

Cape Town, South Africa

Where in the World?

- Angola
- Bahamas
- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Some countries are hostile to Christianity so we have chosen not to list them. Please keep women in these nations in prayer as an unplanned pregnancy could result in the mother's death.



These are Their Stories

Each story contained in this booklet is the story of a young woman in what could be her time of greatest need. Sharing their stories is important, but it is also important to do so with the utmost respect and confidentiality.

Each young woman's name has been changed to protect her privacy. (Names that are common in her region are chosen.) Any photos shared are shared with her permission, but we will not share her country of origin.

Please know that while some details have been altered to protect their privacy, and punctuation has been added to some quotes for clarity, the essence of each story is intact. These stories have not been embellished or sensationalized to make for better reading-they really happened.



As you read, remember that these are real things that happened to real people. People just like you. It may seem as though these things could only happen in another country or another culture, but they can happen in our own backyards.

Abortion, unfortunately, is a worldwide issue. As you read, ask God to open your heart to what He has called you to do.

Then, get ready.



When we ask God to do a work in our lives, He will do it. When we truly say to Him, "I am willing to go wherever You call and do whatever You ask," He will do incredible things. All we can really do is buckle up and enjoy the ride.

A man's heart plans
his way, but the
Lord determines his
steps.

Proverbs 16:9

Lebogang's Story: Things Will Work Out



Be encouraged by the photo of this little one. God is not done working miracles and saving lives.

*Thank you,
Jesus*

One of our very first clients asked us how to do an at-home abortion. We replied to her with a warning about the risks and side effects, and also sent her the name and number of a pregnancy center in her community.

After sending her a referral, we didn't hear from her again. A few months later, we followed up with her and asked how she was doing. She replied, "Hi thanks for caring... I didn't go through with it I decided to keep the baby."

She went on to tell us that she had a baby girl and that she had received help and support from the pregnancy center we connected her with.

She followed up with this statement: "Making a decision to abort its never easy, but at that time u feel like u have no option. Even me. Now I have the baby everything seem to fall in to place. I never knew I would survive this."



Stories from the Chatline



Many young women feel overwhelmed when they first find that they are pregnant. Often, with some help and support, by the time the baby is born things have worked out for them.

Lebogang's story is amazing for a number of reasons. First of all, a young woman across the ocean chose life for her precious baby. Second, the photo of her baby showed our team that what we were doing was working-and that God was moving.



Thusile's Story: I Didn't Do It!

Thusile reached out to us asking about how to have an abortion. She said she had heard an at-home abortion was risky, and she wanted to know if we would give her tips. After talking with her at length, she said she would contact the pregnancy center we recommended but that she planned to secure an abortion at a hospital.



Thusile told us she was getting help and support from the baby's father and from her own family.

Thusile's story shows the importance of support. When a young woman finds out she has the help of her family and her baby's father, she is much more likely to choose life.

Imagine our joy when we followed up with her a few months later to find the photo above with the words "I didn't do it!"

Blessing's Story: From Fear to Safety

This photo shows a housing situation similar to Blessing's. In these neighborhoods, young women like Blessing are in great danger of rape and abuse.

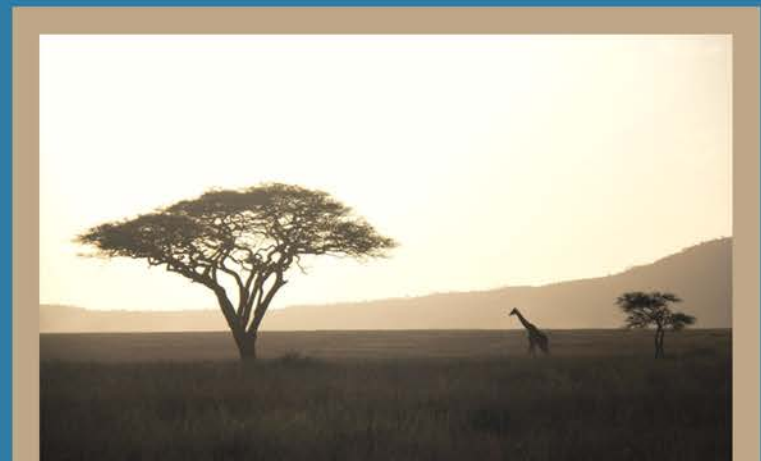
Blessing contacted us and told us she was "overwhelmed by the whole pregnancy thing." She said that she didn't want to terminate, but she had no other choice.

Our team gave her some pregnancy center resources and a church connection. We told her that these groups would help her and her unborn baby.

Blessing guessed that she was around 3 months pregnant. We connected her with a local pregnancy center, and when she contacted them she discovered that they were also a maternity home. They provided her with a safe place to have her baby and helped her place her baby in a healthy adoptive home.

Shortly after her baby's birth she had to leave the maternity home. We asked her how she was doing since she returned home, and she said, "I'm not ok."

Blessing shared with us that she was struggling with the feeling of being alone. Her fear and insecurity regarding her family and living situation were causing her to feel depressed and have thoughts of self-harm.



At the maternity home she had been safe. She felt loved and accepted. She said, "The few months I spent at the center made me feel like I mattered, for once in my life I actually got to be a child, a teenager and I got to experience love like never before... I have been praying so hard. The center not only supported me, they introduced me to God."

Our team reached out to the maternity home and asked if there was any way that Blessing could return. The maternity home said "yes!" They promised to find a place for her even though she was no longer pregnant. After she arrived for the second time, she told us, "It's everything I need at the moment ... homey, peaceful, safe, and warm."

At the maternity home, she was able to talk with a counselor and get help with her depression and other negative thoughts. She also was able to resume devotions with the groups. She had been trying to read the Bible at home, but her fearful situation had made it difficult.

Blessing's story reminds us that our work doesn't end when the mother chooses life, or even when the baby is born and safe in their new home. These young women often need help months and even years after they have their babies.

Pray for Blessing and
women like her, that they
will be safe from harm
and that they will
experience the
love of Christ.



Devi's Story



Twice the Blessing



Devi reached out to us after trying an at-home abortion kit and not having the expected results. She shared that her husband and her family did not want her to have a baby, and that she had no choice but to have an abortion.

She said she had some pain off and on. The next day she told us the pain was worse and it was almost constant, no matter what she was doing.

Two days after her initial message, she reached out again.

Devi shared that she had gone into labor and delivered not just one, but two babies at home! She was completely alone but had managed to safely deliver both of her children.



Even though she was young and very inexperienced, Devi knew to tie off their cords, clean them, wrap them well, and nurse them. Thanks to her courage and her bravery, she and her two children survived their ordeal.

She shared that while her husband initially pushed her to have an abortion, he was thrilled with the news that she had twins.

When we followed up to check on her and her babies she said, "I can not explain how much happy I am."

Many women like Devi attempt an at-home abortion when they are very late in their pregnancies, often unaware of how far along they are and what the risk is to them and to their fully formed children.

Devi's story has a happy ending with a proud mother and father, healthy babies, and no harm done. Sadly, other stories end very differently.

Some women begin labor after taking abortion pills and deliver a premature baby who is unable to survive. Others deliver a full-term baby and, in their panic, abandon their child to die.

We are so grateful that Devi and her babies are doing well, but we know others that are not.

Pray for women seeking late-term abortions, that their babies will be born healthy and that they and their families will accept their babies with love.

Thandiwe's Story: This Child is a Blessing

Often our pro-life convictions are tested on the chatline. Some of the women approach us with unimaginable situations. Perhaps they have been sold for sex, they have been raped repeatedly, they have contracted HIV through rape, or they have been subjected to incest over a period of many years.

It can be tempting to say, "Yes, in your case, you should get an abortion." The temptation is there because, whether or not we agree, we have been conditioned to believe that abortion can solve these problems-that somehow an abortion will make all of the hurt and pain go away.





What we know, through many conversations, is that the baby that results from these terrible events can be an amazing blessing to their mother. This is what happened to Thandiwe.

When Thandiwe messaged us, she told us something had happened to her and that she didn't want to talk about it. What she did want to talk about was an abortion; an abortion for her pregnancy of six months.

After chatting with our team and receiving a referral to a pregnancy center, she said she would contact them and think about her options.

Four months later, we followed up and she sent us the photo above. She had chosen life for her baby! She said, "I'm okay thanks to you... I'm with my bundle of joy now... This child is a blessing to me."

Katlego's Story: No More Boys!

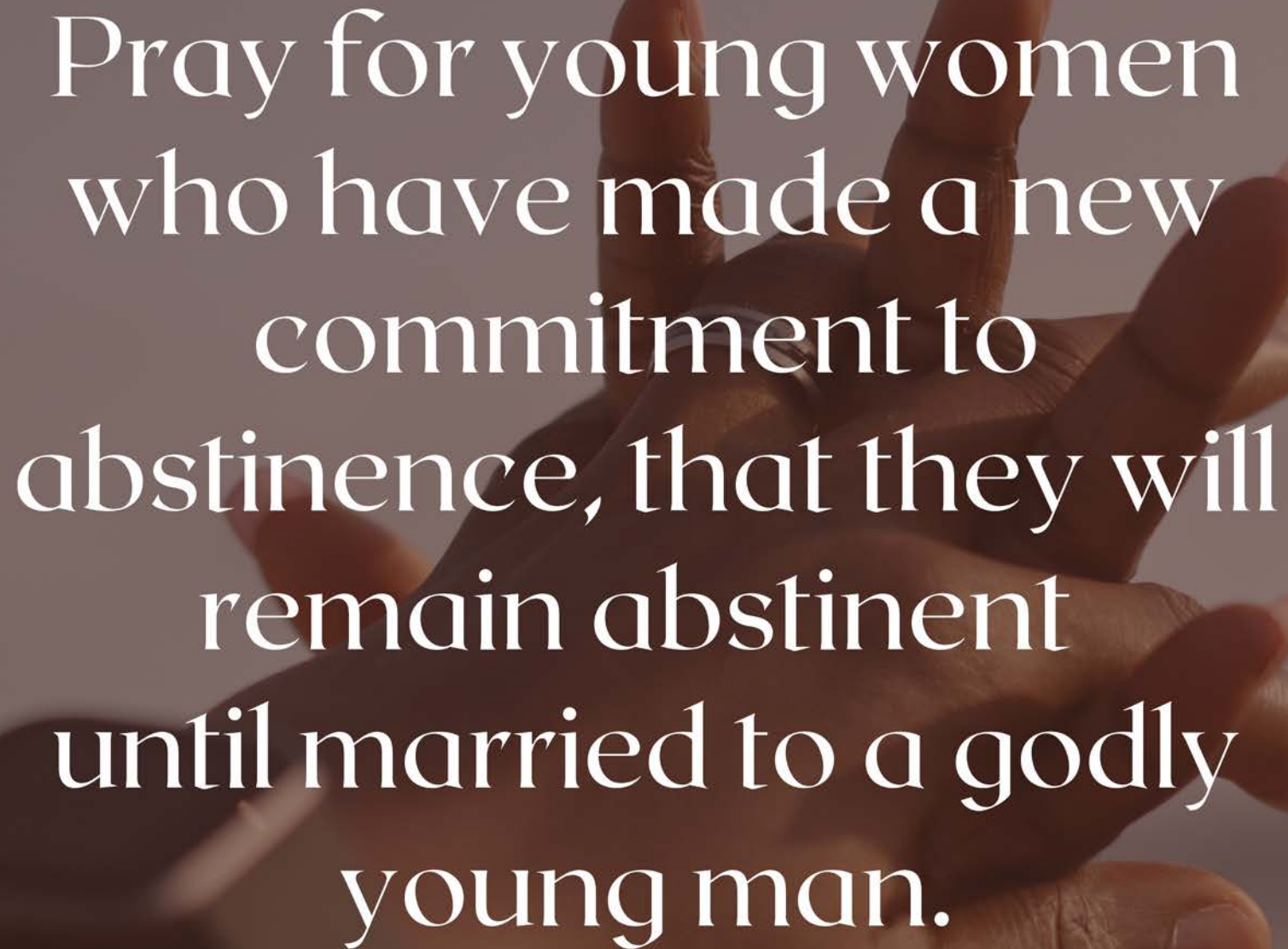
While the majority of young women who message us are pregnant, some are not. Even though they aren't certain they're pregnant, they are willing to attempt an at-home abortion. An at-home abortion on a woman who isn't pregnant can be dangerous. It can also lead her to believe she has had an abortion when she hasn't, resulting in needless guilt and grief.

Whenever a woman messages us asking about an abortion, we advise her to first get a pregnancy test at a pregnancy center and find out how far along she is. We also recommend that she discuss all of her options with the pregnancy center and, if she is pregnant, consider the needs of her child.

Some young women return to let us know they are not pregnant, and they are nearly always relieved and even elated. It is as though the whole world has been lifted off of their shoulders.

This is Katlego's story. She messaged us asking for an abortion, willing to risk her life even though she hadn't even confirmed her pregnancy. Throughout our conversation, our team was able to provide her with education about how her body worked and what an early pregnancy may be like.

Once she found out she wasn't pregnant, she was thrilled. We then recommended she consider abstinence and she readily agreed by making the statement, "No more boys!"



Pray for young women
who have made a new
commitment to
abstinence, that they will
remain abstinent
until married to a godly
young man.



Amahle's Story: My Baby was Saved



One of the most heart-stopping chats an advocate can handle is one that starts with "I just took abortion pills." We know that when we receive this type of message it is often too late to save the baby, or the mother, from the abortion.

Even though chances may be small, we always encourage the young woman to seek medical care immediately. In some cases, the abortion can be stopped.

Amahle contacted us after taking abortion pills to ask if we thought they were working. She was sicker than she thought she would be-and she was scared.

We advised her to go to a local hospital immediately and ask for help. She said she would go to a hospital the following day.

When we checked in on her, she told us her baby had been saved! She had decided to go to the hospital immediately, even though it was the middle of the night, and she delivered a premature little girl.

After her delivery, Amahle was committed to loving and caring for her baby. She visits her often and is looking forward to the day she can bring her home.

Amahle chose a wonderful name for her little girl, the name means "Queen of Beauty."

"Yes I went to the hospital after hours we talked and my baby was saved I got a girl"

Siphesihle's Story: Why Did I Listen to Him?

Sometimes the women we chat with end up choosing abortion. Often, they deeply regret this choice and wish they had made a different one.

Siphesihle chose abortion because her boyfriend thought it was the best choice. They weren't married, didn't have any money, and he didn't think they were ready for a baby. Siphesihle agreed.

After the abortion, she felt immediate regret. She asked one of our team members, "Why did I listen to him? If I hadn't I would be several months by now."

We love the moms who contact us no matter what they choose, even though we wish they wouldn't choose abortion. We found a pastor's wife in her community and connected the two of them while continuing to provide help and encouragement to her via chat.

Unfortunately, we know that even years after an abortion the pain of the abortion persists. Other women have told us that they cry every day thinking of their baby. Some note that they see babies and children at the age their child would be and feel so much pain that they avoid leaving the house.

The good news is that Christ forgives. There is no sin He will not cover with His blood, and we share that good news with the women we chat with. He can be there for them forever, and that is a message we pray all of the women who contact us would accept.



Malindi's Story: My Baby is Still Young



A common reason for considering abortion is when a mother has a very young baby. They are often concerned that an unplanned second pregnancy will bring down condemnation on them. They may have been told that another pregnancy will result in them losing their home, or they may simply be concerned about feeding two children.

These mothers may feel torn between their love and concern for the child that has already been born and their attachment to the baby that is growing inside of them.

Malindi messaged us asking about an abortion because she was afraid she couldn't afford two children, especially since they were close together.

After Malindi delivered, she sent us the image to the left.



Malindi chatted with our team about her situation and agreed to visit the pregnancy center. After talking with them about her options, she chose life!

Both of her babies are happy and healthy, and she is so proud of her newborn.

Please pray for women like Malindi, that they find the help they need to be successful and happy mothers.

Kerubo's Story: My Parents Will Kick Me Out

Kerubo messaged us asking about an abortion because she was terrified her parents would throw her out. In many nations, losing your home and family could end in starvation, forced sex work, or death.

When Kerubo told us she was six months along in her pregnancy, we encouraged her to stay the course. Our team helped her to understand that three more months was not long and that she could choose to place her child in an adoptive home if she wasn't ready to be a mother



Initially, that was Kerubo's intention. She didn't feel as though she had anything to offer her child and believed that another family would be the best choice.

After she saw her baby, she changed her mind and decided to parent. She told us the baby's name and shared that his name means "we are thanking God." She also sent us the photo above.

Frequently Asked Questions



How do they contact you?

Every individual contacts us through online chat. Every conversation is 100% text based.



Do they have phones & internet?

Each woman uses a phone or a similar device. Often the phone is hers, but sometimes she will borrow her boyfriend's or a friend's phone. According to Pew Research, even in emerging economies over 60% of the population has a phone. That number increases when considering only teens and young adults (1).

While some of the women who contact us have access to the internet, others use free apps and apps that use very little data. This often means they can't view images or videos, and they can't click links or view websites.



How do they find you?

Women in need find us by using social media search boxes. They type in "at-home abortion" or similar terms, and our page pops up. Then, they comment on our posts or message us asking for more information.

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2019/02/05/smartphone-ownership-is-growing-rapidly-around-the-world-but-not-always-equally/>



What do you talk about?

The first thing a woman sees is that we do not recommend or endorse abortion. We believe honesty is very important. Even though an abortion is almost always her goal, she is often willing to continue talking. Our team asks her about her situation, seeks to find strengths in her family and community, and connects her with a pregnancy center or church in her community.



How do you communicate?

Most of the women who contact us speak English well. If the person we're chatting with is struggling to understand us, we utilize translation apps and encourage them to contact a local pregnancy center or church so they can find help with a person or group that speaks their language.



How does your team deal with so many incoming chats?

We have a schedule where staff and volunteers add their names to hourly shifts as they are able. We keep a log of conversations and referrals made. Everyone working on the chatline can interact with each other, ask questions, and request help on our work messaging app. There are people who specifically take incoming chats, others who focus on following up with clients, and people designated to directly connect with overseas resources when the client doesn't have the ability to make a call themselves.



What if there is no help?

If there is no pregnancy center in her community, we look for a church, Christian hospital/clinic, missionary, or other life-affirming resources. In some countries, none of these exist. This is when we remember that God is bigger than our problems and bigger than her problems! No matter what resources are available, we pray with her, talk with her, love her, and trust God to do the work.



Does it work?

Yes! Approximately 84% of the mothers we chat with choose life for their unborn children.



Where does the Gospel fit in?

At every opportunity we ask the women we chat with about their faith. Do they pray? Do they attend church? If they are willing, we pray with them (via text) and share the Gospel. We also connect them to churches and pastors in their communities.

We need your help

NEEDS

These ten stories represent thousands of women that have contacted us on the chatline from all over the world. Each one has a unique story and circumstances.

RESULTS

Nearly 100% of the women who contact us are actively seeking an abortion. After they chat with our team and receive help from a local life-affirming organization, approximately 84% of them will choose life.

COST

By any measurement, this ministry produces tremendous fruit. However, that fruit comes at a cost.



From 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. this chatline is staffed by advocates ready to talk with anyone who messages. Throughout the day, our follow-up team will go through old chats and send messages checking in with clients and inquiring about their final decision.

While all of this is happening, other team members are looking for new resources, building relationships, and handling highly sensitive conversations.

There are three ways you can help. First, you can pray. These situations are difficult, challenging, and often heartbreaking. Each mother, team member, and baby needs our prayers. You can join our prayer team by emailing prayer@promiseoflifenet.org.

Lord, help me to see
where you would
have me focus my
gifts on behalf of
these ladies and
their children.



Second, you can volunteer. Each volunteer must be a mature Christian, committed to life from conception to natural death, living a life exemplifying biblical sexuality, and an active member of a local body of believers. To volunteer, go to promiseoflifeflitenetwork.org/volunteers and apply.

Finally, you can give.

Each chat costs our organization about \$11.

That covers technology, staff time, administrative support, and other things needed to ensure the best possible outcome for each conversation. This work is sorely underfunded, and we need your help. To give, you can go to promiseoflifeflitenetwork.org/donate or you can mail a check to:

Promise of Life Network
PO Box 7734
New Castle, PA 16107



Babies Saved



Every child pictured above was saved from abortion after their mother reached out to our chatline. Photos shared with permission.

Babies Saved



Every child pictured above was saved from abortion after their mother reached out to our chatline. Photos shared with permission.

Babies Saved



Every child pictured above was saved from abortion after their mother reached out to our chatline. Photos shared with permission.

Babies Saved



We will update this page with more images as mothers share them with us and give us permission to share with you! Check back soon to see more beautiful babies.

Every child pictured above was saved from abortion after their mother reached out to our chatline. Photos shared with permission.



*Thank you so much for
reading this booklet!*

We ask you to consider what role God would have you play in the lives of these mothers and their babies.



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General

20.8 × 33.3 in

Kindle

22.2 × 35.6 in

Wattpad

7.1 × 11.1 in

4h x 3w

16h x 10w

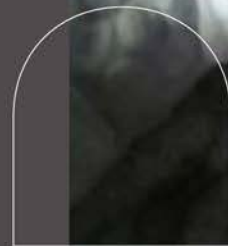
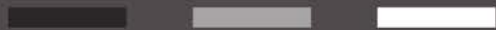
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Ideal dimensions for
cover files are 2,560
pixels in height x 1,600
pixels in width

- Kindle Direct Publishing recommended size — 2,560 x 1,600 (1.6:1 aspect ratio)
- Novels and Non-Fiction — 2,560px x 1,600px (1.5:1 aspect ratio)
- Illustrated Books — 2,800px x 3,920px (1.4:1 aspect ratio) or 3,000px x 3,600px (1.2:1 aspect ratio)
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Learn more about how
Promise of Life Network
is involved in saving and
changing lives worldwide!



Mamas loved
Babies saved

