

## amidst her pain, hope

*as experienced by Cheryl, staff nurse*

*"I'm scared. I just can't go through with it; I have to abort."*

Just shy of her 30th birthday and already a mother of an elementary-aged boy, she faced the possibility of terminating a second pregnancy because she had recently discovered her boyfriend was seeing someone else.

She looked defeated and shared about betrayals she felt from lifelong hurts. She grew up in a single parent home. Her mother dated many men, but without any committed relationships she never experienced the unconditional love of a father.

More recently, she struggled with the loss of her baby in an abortion, yet she still considered aborting again because she did not want to be left by her boyfriend. She longed for authentic love, affection, and companionship.

Her demeanor changed when she spoke of her son and her faith. She expressed her love of being his mother and shared that being a good mom is the most important thing to her. She questioned her ability to be a single parent, again. Due to the circumstances, she wondered if abortion was a better option and she should just "get it over with."

Amidst her pain, she shared how she had been turning to God for guidance, for hope and faith amidst her circumstances. I stressed the importance of continuing to allow herself time to pause, reflect, and to pray. I spoke of her dignity, the value of her femininity, and the importance of placing her worth and value in Christ. We also discussed the importance of healing from wounds in the past so she can create a lasting foundation on which to build her future.

During the ultrasound, she saw her baby's heartbeat for the first time. Feeling the gravity of the choice before her, she confirmed that she would take time to think through her decision. As she prepared to leave, she told me she was leaning towards carrying the pregnancy to term.

In a follow-up call, our client confirmed she is receiving prenatal care, enrolled in our parenting program, and having a girl! Our team is grateful for the opportunity to truly walk alongside her during her pregnancy and beyond!