

her strength was more than her fears

as experienced by Jeanie, staff nurse

Conflicted. Frustrated. Scared. She had come to EPS for an ultrasound scan and guidance. Her abortion was scheduled. Her mind was consumed with fears of having another traumatic pregnancy. She experienced preeclampsia and a premature birth with her young son. She questioned the impacts COVID-19 could have on her during pregnancy and birth. Her worries overwhelmed her.

"Thanks for coming in," I greeted her. "How can I help you today?"

Her eyes filled with tears as she told me of her scheduled abortion appointment. She really didn't want an abortion, but she questioned what the best decision was for her family, especially since her mother was pressuring her to abort. In her Indian culture, guidance from a parent is to be respected. Although her mother does not live in the United States, her influence remained strong over her daughter's decision-making.

Our client also expressed the shock she felt when she learned of her mother's abortions and her desire for her daughter to abort, too. Although she disagreed with her mom about aborting, they had shared fears of her dying in childbirth due to complications from preeclampsia and COVID-19 should she acquire the disease at some point during her pregnancy. She didn't want to leave her son motherless.

I listened to her concerns and assured her that we are here to walk alongside her and to offer her facts about her pregnancy. I provided her with an ultrasound and determined she was very early in her pregnancy. The scan was inconclusive. I sensed her disappointment, so we continued to talk.

I learned she was Christian. We were able to discuss her fears and the importance of relying on the Lord during times of uncertainty. She committed to making an appointment with an OB/GYN and accepted a prayer journal designed for daily reflection. I opened the first page and pointed to Jeremiah 29:11:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

She had been tearful throughout the appointment, but in this moment she cried. After letting her emotions flow, she smiled and thanked me for pointing that out. As we ended her appointment, she was still unsure what choice she would make, yet gave me the okay to call and check in.

A few days after her appointment, I followed up with her. She told me she had seen a doctor who performed another ultrasound scan that was conclusive. She was relieved to have her concerns addressed. With facts about her pregnancy, she and her husband decided to keep their baby!

Before we ended our conversation, she said, "Long story short, the book you gave me helped me so much and I owe you so much thanks for what you did."