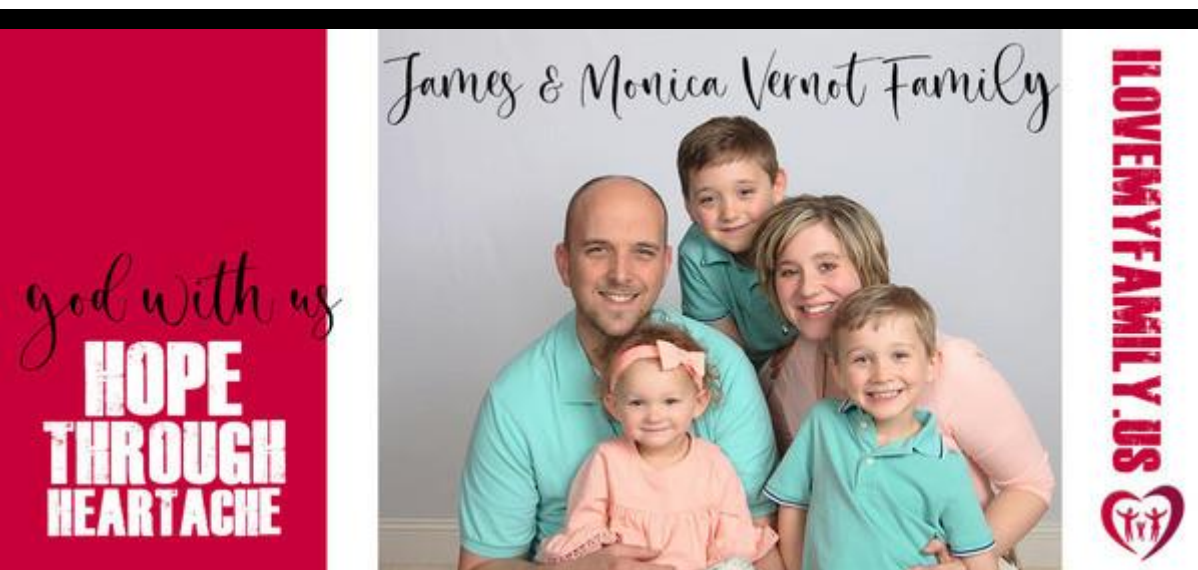




HOPE THROUGH HEARTACHE

by MONICA VERNOT

The first glimpse of the baby inside your womb is a life-changing moment. The ticking of another heartbeat inside your being is an absolutely glorious sound. My spirit soared as I experienced the first encounter with the life within me. The doctor searched the screen. She zoomed in and zoomed out. She took pictures and clicked more buttons.

Something was wrong.

Fear was replacing the joy in that small examining room. After a few moments, the doctor showed me the huge bubble protruding from the stomach of the baby inside my womb. My head was filled with questions. I was ushered into another room. A nurse practitioner explained the situation to me. “Monica, it appears that your baby has a condition known as gastroschisis, where the internal organs are growing outside of the baby’s stomach. At this point, most women choose to terminate the pregnancy, but we know that you will not choose this option.” I could not believe what I was hearing. “What? Why would someone choose to abort?” I questioned. Very calm and very matter of fact she answered, “Monica, your baby has a congenital birth defect.”

I cannot begin to tell you the horrific roller coaster of the next month. My husband and I cried so many tears. We reached out to family and friends and asked them to pray. We begged God for a miracle. We researched and discovered everything we could find on gastroschisis, and we were not encouraged by the information found. However, our hope was in our Savior, and we trusted His plan, even if it meant carrying a child that may not live after birth.

Four weeks after my initial appointment, I walked back into that examining room. The doctor began the second ultrasound. She began searching for the bubble on the baby’s abdomen. More clicks. More pictures. More waiting. And then I heard the glorious words, “It’s gone.” God had healed my baby! I had seen the bubble with my own eyes. I had a picture to prove it was there. But God! In His abundant mercy, He saw fit to heal our beautiful, baby girl. Several months later, Molly Faith was born into our family! There was no birth defect, no hint of any health problem.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ alone. In I Timothy 2:5, it reads, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Had our hope not been in “the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2),” Molly’s miraculous story may have ended before it ever began.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21



JAMES & MONICA VERNOT

have been married 11 years. They are parents to three children, ages 9, 7, and 4. They live in the Toledo area and are actively involved with Saturate Toledo, AWANA clubs, and mission's work in Colombia, South America. James is an independent mechanical engineer, and Monica is a freelance musician and music instructor.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

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Right now you can think of at least one moving moment in your life. An example of "God with us." Please take a moment now to simply email me the possible subject of your story. If you're motivated, sure, write it out (no more than 500 words). We'll help you land it. Many will be blessed. We want to feature a new story every week.

Thank you in advance!

So blessed to be united in building the Kingdom,



Greg and Stephanie Schlueter

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Email: Greg@MassImpact.us

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PARTNER 2021



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~ Pope St. John Paul II

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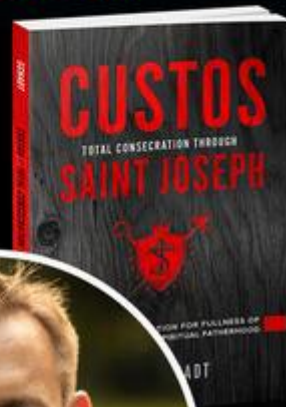
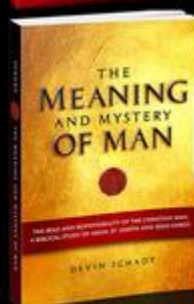


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~ Pope St. John Paul II

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