

## A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By TNN Founder and President, Mary Cunningham Agee

### How We Began - Our Mission -- Our Accomplishments

One of the most meaningful experiences in my life has been the opportunity of founding and managing the Nurturing Network. To augment what you may already know about this life-affirming program, it is an international charitable organization that I founded in 1985 following the loss of my first child in a mid-trimester miscarriage.



As I considered with far greater empathy how women who face the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy alone must feel when they are believe that they have no other "choice" than abortion, I could more fully understand that it is truly not enough to say that we are "for life" unless we are prepared to help provide the practical means to support life.

In the quiet moments following my own miscarriage, I became increasingly aware that out of the death of one could be saved the lives of many. With renewed energy and commitment I began to research the industry of abortion -- whom it serves and how the women who seek this solution arrive at this decision.

My informal research revealed that behind most abortion statistics lies a startling truth: **The vast majority of women who "choose" abortion feel it is their *only* alternative.** In other words, most women who undergo this medical procedure do not experience anything close to the popular rhetoric that refers to "freedom of choice." **Our goal at the Nurturing Network is to ensure that every pregnant woman will know the comfort and freedom of having the support she needs in order to nurture her child's life . . . and make the most of hers as well.**



Our 48,000 volunteer Member Resources form an extensive employment, medical, educational, counseling and residential Network which enables a woman to continue the life of her unborn child without sacrificing her own educational or career development. By placing values into action, our volunteer Members, Corporations and Foundations from all across the country have been able to provide for the comprehensive needs of over 19,000 mothers whose own support systems have let them down. Whenever confidentiality or safety is an issue, our unique program facilitates the relocation of our Client to one of our Nurturing Families where she can receive as much assistance as she needs in her new environment.

I hope that you will take a moment to visit our Website to learn more about the "Maternal Profiles in Courage" whom we have been privileged to serve: **[www.nurturingnetwork.org](http://www.nurturingnetwork.org)**. As we anticipate further expansion of our program of practical support to mothers in crisis, I encourage you to please consider how you may be uniquely called to participate in our work. There are many ways that you may be able to help. Our toll-free phone line is available to both women in need of support and those offering to help: **1-800-TNN-4MOM**.

I welcome your participation in any way that would be most meaningful to you.

With gratitude ... always, *Mary*