



MINISTRY OVERVIEW

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Journey of a Lifetime (JOL) is a pro-life, Christian nonprofit that provides biblically grounded, trauma-informed, life-affirming, prenatal through postpartum palliative care coordination for moms and families that have received life-limiting or other adverse pregnancy diagnoses. JOL offers emotional, spiritual, educational, and tangible support from diagnosis, through pregnancy, at birth (JOL helps create a personalized birth plan), during a NICU stay, and up to one year postpartum. JOL does not provide any medical services. Instead, JOL serves as a liaison and assists families in navigating the complexities of their medical encounters. JOL works concurrently and coordinates with the existing medical care and treatment they are already receiving; thus, enabling families to receive value-aligned care.

Abortion rates associated with the news of prenatal diagnosis remain high. Studies indicate that 80% of parents who receive a serious prenatal diagnosis end the pregnancy, and documented abortion rates associated with some specific diagnoses may be 90% or higher. However, most parents experiencing a prenatal diagnosis want a better option than abortion. Most will choose to continue the pregnancy, if offered information and support of their choice. **Journey of a Lifetime (JOL)** exists to be that much needed support!

Expected Outcomes:

- Fewer moms and families “choosing” to abort, due to a pregnancy diagnosis
- Informed and empowered parents advocating for their child's life and health
- More babies being “stabilized and evaluated” for treatment instead of relegated to hospice/comfort care
- Reduced trauma and grief during prenatal and postnatal periods
- Increased awareness and utilization of trauma-informed, perinatal palliative care (PPC) models in the pro-life and medical communities at large
- Strengthened partnerships between faith-based communities, medical education and healthcare systems

The Broader Impact:

JOL seeks to reshape the cultural narrative around prenatal diagnoses—promoting hope over fear, life over loss, compassion over contempt, dignity over despair, and respect for a parent's choice over being coerced “to choose”. JOL envisions a world where moms and families that have an adverse pregnancy diagnosis have support in “carrying to life” and that they do not have to journey alone.

A coordinated strategy that emphasizes stabilization and evaluation, PPC explores care and treatment options for newborns with a variety of conditions considered to be life-limiting or adverse during pregnancy and in early infancy - no matter the diagnosis - with an added focus on ameliorating suffering and honoring the parent's values and their beliefs. Trauma informed care prevents re-traumatization of individuals by creating safe and supportive environments that acknowledge the impact of trauma. This approach helps improve patient engagement, treatment adherence, and overall health outcomes for all.

Some major life-limiting diagnoses include, but are not limited to:

Amniotic Bands/Webs	Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21)	Polyhydramnios
Anencephaly	Edward's Syndrome (Trisomy 18)	Spina Bifida
Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)	Hydranencephaly	Triploid Syndrome
Cranial Facial Deformity	Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI)	Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome
Diaphragmatic Hernia	Patau Syndrome (Trisomy 13)	Wolf Hirschhorn Syndrome

Some less complicated, but adverse diagnoses include, but are not limited to:

Cleft palate/lip Congenital syphilis Clubfoot (Congenital talipes equinovarus) Dwarfism Hydrocephalus

JOL has been promoted nationally and is recognized as the premier service provider in trauma informed perinatal palliative care case management coordination. Since its inception, JOL has served clients and families in the states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Washington and Arizona.