

# Maureen's Gala Speech

Faith is the strength that carries us through the unexpected, and hope is the light that guides us toward a brighter tomorrow, and this is why Legacy exists, to bring hope into hopeless situations.

We have a common purpose to support families facing unexpected pregnancies. It is my privilege to share a message of hope.

Life is a beautiful journey, filled with unexpected twists and turns. Sometimes, we find ourselves facing challenges that we never anticipated. Unexpected pregnancies can be one of those challenges, bringing a mix of emotions, doubts, and fear. But it is in these moments that we must remember the power of faith, hope, and mercy.

Faith is the unwavering belief that Jesus is guiding us through every step of our lives. It is the trust that, even in uncertainty, there is a plan greater than our own. It is the understanding that every life, no matter how unexpected, is a precious gift. Thank you for keeping hope alive for the 14 years Legacy has been open.

As the gala neared, I felt I was supposed to not only talk about our theme Bloom but Battle & Bloom. The word bloom makes you think of nature, and we love the visualization of all of creation cries Holy Forever. Nature naturally reaches for the heavens as it grows, it is we the people that struggle with keeping our eyes fixed on heaven, especially when weathering our storms.

When soldiers go to battle, they armor up. This is a spiritual battle. We act in obedience by showing up. Not when we feel like it, but all the time. The mission that Legacy carries out is a fight between a life and death culture. You are on the frontlines of this battlefield, and I am so proud to fight, with love, alongside you.

Here is the good news. During the battle, we can still bloom. Like a resilient flower, we rise above chaos and adversity, embracing challenges as opportunities for growth. When we battle together, we are reminded we are not in this fight alone. Our spirits reflect our united strength and are a testament to the miracles that await us.

Blooming amidst the battle, we defy the odds. May you bloom boldly, even in the fiercest battles, for your resilience is a beacon of hope for others that desperately need Jesus.

In the spiritual battle, we don our armor, knowing that giving up or backing down is not an option. Life and freedom depend on us. As soldiers in God's army, we not only face the storm, but we walk through



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it, trusting that God fights the battle on our behalf.

In the battle, we find the strength to bloom like the flower pushing through the cracks in the concrete, we rise above the challenges, knowing that God's power within us is greater than any obstacle we face. Victory is not achieved by those who surrender.

Abortion clinics say they are helping women, and the world wants them to have funding and a voice. They are a billion-dollar industry.

Pregnancy centers accept anyone, no matter what, free of charge because those that are uncertain about their pregnancy and need support in weighing their choices of abortion, parenting, and adoption deserve a safe and caring place to go. Pregnancy centers are funded by our communities.

The rhetoric that is being spun about pregnancy centers being fake and manipulative, creating a narrative that a hope filled, no judgment, free of charge place can be controversial, political, or religious, in a condemning way, is simply a reason for those that claim to be followers of Jesus to back out of the battle.

If you find yourself wishy washy in your stance, ask yourself how Jesus' would serve a woman in an unexpected pregnancy. We the church are called to be His hands and feet, not the worlds, not the politicians, and Legacy would decline any funds that would cause us to take a neutral stance.

Legacy is not here to tell people what to do. We are here because we believe every woman deserves to make an informed decision in a place without pressure and where she can calm her fears. The results are between she and God.

Legacy does not refer for abortion but does provide post-abortive healing resources. Legacy equips those that choose parenting and links to resources for adoption as a beautiful option.

Why do women want abortions? Understanding the why helps to change hearts and minds related to that, so that even if abortion is legal the goal is to make it unthinkable.

Legacy remains consistent in who we are, what we do, and why we do it. This is the 10th year since we renovated and expanded our building debt-free. This also means that things begin to wear and tear, and new needs arise, such as the boring costs like furnace, drainage, lighting, and parking lot repairs.

We would love a private fence in the area not seen by the road, so there is no outside access to our side door, and this would provide a private area for clients when the weather allows. We appreciate you helping us with these needs.



Through this gala, we aim to raise funds for our annual budget that keeps our doors open, enables us to retain high quality, professional team members, offer free services, hope-filled guidance, and resources to families, empowering them to create a future filled with possibilities.

We want to ensure that they have access to the support they need in the areas of emotional, financial, educational, practical, and spiritual, well beyond the birth of the baby, also connecting them to supportive churches and programs to help create community for them.

Hope is the beacon of light that shines through the darkest of times. It is the belief that tomorrow holds the promise of a better

day. It is the assurance that, with love and support, families facing unexpected pregnancies can find their way and build a beautiful future.

Let us remember that celebrating life is not just about joyous moments, but also about standing together during challenging times. It is about being a source of strength and encouragement for those who need it most.

Thank you for helping to transform lives. We are making a difference, one family at a time.

We are like the flowers in the garden of life. Each one of you possesses unique talents, passions, and dreams. We have been planted in specific circumstances, environments, and communities, and it is our responsibility to make the most of these opportunities.

Bloom where you are planted means embracing the present moment and making the best of the circumstances that surround us. It is about finding purpose and fulfillment right where we are, rather than seeking greener pastures.

It is a call to nurture our own growth and impact, regardless of the challenges we face.

When we choose to bloom where we are planted, we become catalysts for positive change, inspiring those around us. Our growth becomes a testament to the power of perseverance and the beauty that can emerge from even the most unlikely of places.

Our actions, no matter how small, can create a ripple effect that spreads far beyond our immediate surroundings.

Guess what? You and I are not getting out of this world unscathed, without suffering, frankly...alive. If you have not experienced heartache, you will. Because this is not our forever home, we will never find perfection. God gave us each other to walk through the dark days. The enemy of your soul wants you to feel hopeless and alone. He wants you to lead your life through fear. But our God tells us that hope is born of suffering, it will be present, but that you will never walk through it alone.

“The dry land shall be glad; it shall blossom abundantly with joy.”

This powerful verse from the book of Isaiah reminds us of the transformative power of hope and renewal. Even during desolation and hardship, there is the promise of a flourishing and joyful future. Just as the dry land blossoms abundantly, so too can our lives be filled with joy. Hang on to this message of hope.

Like flowers in a garden, let us bloom and scatter seeds of hope wherever we go. In a world that can feel dark and uncertain, our acts of kindness and hope can be the rays of light that bring joy to others.

Nature, a resilient teacher, shows us the power of hope as it raises itself toward the heavens.

Amidst the chaos and beauty of this world, creation cries out in awe and reverence to our Creator.

May your beliefs and choices be led by your hope not your fear and your hearts and mind sustain a grateful spirit as we stay in awe of our Creator.

As a culture we have stopped fearing God, and we timidly fear man. Who would you rather be in battle with? Jesus is in the space. I want to share a few words with Him.

Jesus, you are holy forever. Your name is the highest, a beacon of light and a source of eternal hope. In your presence, we find solace and peace, knowing that you are the embodiment of divine love and grace. Your teachings inspire us to live lives of compassion, forgiveness, and selflessness. You are the ultimate example of holiness, and we are grateful for your sacrifice and unwavering love. May we strive to follow you. All creation cries Holy, all your people here tonight cry Holy. Jesus, you will always be Holy, now, and forever.

Step up. Speak up. Armor up. Trust Jesus. Leave a legacy of love. May God bless each one of you, and may He guide us in our mission to embrace, encourage, and empower families in our communities. Your job, my job is to plant the seeds. May you continue to bloom in all God created you to be. Thanks be to God for all He has done for what He will do tonight and into 2024. God Bless!