

**CONTACT: Debbie Cruthis, Office Manager**  
**Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana**  
**(337) 989-8795**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Jagger Dean Bourque Becomes the Newest Gift of Hope Baby**

Lafayette, LA - For Rachel Bourque, having children of her own has always been her goal in life. She went into teaching as a career just to be close to the children she loves. Rachel also runs the children's service each Sunday at Water's Edge Church in Lake Charles where her husband Tony is the senior pastor. "But my lifelong dream has always been to be a stay-at-home mom," said Rachel. "Tony knows that I will live off of bread and peanut butter to stay home with my kids if I ever get the chance to be a mom."

Rachel got that chance when she and Tony were awarded the Gift of Hope in 2008. The Bourques, who reside in Lake Charles, LA, were selected from a field of 35 applications received from area couples seeking to be granted a free *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) cycle in their efforts to conceive a child.

The Gift of Hope was started in 2006 to ease the high costs, both financially and emotionally, of infertility treatments for one couple who demonstrates both financial and medical needs for IVF. Donors include John M. Stormont, M.D., a board certified reproductive endocrinologist with Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana; Women's & Children's Hospital in Lafayette, LA; and Sheridan Healthcare, anesthesia providers. The combined value of donated services for the Bourques to receive the Gift of Hope is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. According to Resolve, the National Infertility Association, only a quarter of healthcare insurers offer coverage for infertility care. As a result, half of all American couples who fail to conceive do not seek treatment due to financial reasons.

After six years of marriage, the Bourques knew something was wrong when Rachel did not get pregnant after trying for four of those years. It was then that they learned Tony had male fertility issues that affected the number and motility of his sperm. After seeing several doctors and trying several fertility treatments to help correct Tony's problem, the Bourques were advised that *in vitro* fertilization would be their best chance of getting pregnant, a procedure their health insurance did not cover and which was out of their reach financially.

"We were devastated," said Rachel. "We were young and very active and did not expect this report." Additionally, Tony had just started the Water's Edge Church in which they poured all of their monetary resources into. After being a youth pastor for many years, Tony felt called to start his own non-denominational Christian church, something he says he always knew he would do. The Bourques took a huge leap of faith, sold their home and moved in with Rachel's parents in an effort to conserve money as Tony started his church. Rachel also switched to teaching in public school where the pay was better to help make ends meet.

They learned about the Gift of Hope program through Dr. Stormont, who they began seeing after the other treatments did not work. They quickly filled out an application for the Gift of Hope which they hoped would be "an answer to our prayers."

And their prayers were answered. Upon hearing the news that the Gift of Hope selection committee had chosen them as the 2008 recipients, Tony was overcome with the outpouring of love and kindness extended to him and Rachel as well as others who had applied for the Gift of Hope. "This is our miracle. We truly believe that God had a hand in this," said Tony in May 2008.

Now that outpouring of love is for Jagger Dean, born on October 28, 2009, at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital as a result of the free IVF treatment they were granted through the Gift of Hope program. "My friends all told me 'just wait until you see him that first time,'" Rachel said after a tough 12-hour labor that ended in a Caesarian section. "And they were right. I fell in love with him instantly!"

Motherhood has come naturally to Rachel. And Tony has already included Jagger as the subject of several of his sermons at the Water's Edge Church. As promised, Rachel has quit working to be that full-time mom to Jagger Dean. "He is the perfect baby." Even after having to be rehospitalized due to an infection that occurred at the site of

her Caesarian section incision, Rachel said she would do it all over again in a heartbeat if it meant she could be pregnant again. But for now, life is good at the Bourque household as Jagger Dean commands all of the attention.

**Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana** was established by Drs. William D. Pelletier, John M. Storment, and James L. Zehnder in August 2002. Their practice offers routine gynecologic care, menopause management, and comprehensive treatment of infertility, including assisted reproductive technologies and *in vitro* fertilization, treatment of multiple pregnancy loss, endometriosis, tubal ligation reversal and all other reproductive endocrine disorders. Their office is located 206 E. Farrel Road in Lafayette, LA. The center also offers satellite offices in Lake Charles, LA, and Alexandria, LA.

**Women's & Children's Hospital** offers quality cost-effective healthcare services for the women and children of Acadiana.

**Sheridan Healthcare** offers the finest, most consistent teams of physicians and healthcare specialists to hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities and healthcare providers.

For more information about the Gift of Hope, please visit [www.fertilityanswers.com](http://www.fertilityanswers.com).

###

Photo attachments

Bourque01.jpg – Rachel and Tony Bourque with newborn Jagger Dean

Bourque01.jpg – Jagger Dean Bourque