

The Death & Resurrection Doula *Training Program*

<i>What</i>	The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program is the FIRST and <i>only</i> Christian End-of-Life Doula Training Program in the world.
<i>When</i>	The Death & Resurrection Doula Training program is self-paced and can be started at anytime. The program price includes access to live classes & small group mentorship. <i>6 months to 1 year is adequate for completion.</i>
<i>Where</i>	Training is accessible on Convene Communities, an all-in-one training platform. All live offerings are hosted via Zoom.
<i>Why</i>	Christian End-of-Life Doula services differ from secular services. The Biblical answer to the question <i>why do we die?</i> separates Christian Doula services from the secular. Christian service springs forth from the good news of the gospel and the hope of resurrection.
<i>Objectives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Comprehensive Theological & Death Doula Practitioner Training● Applied Skill through Practicum Requirements● Christian Collaboration & Ministry Support



Program Specifics

Module 1 (\$450) <i>Theology in Practice: Rediscovering the Cross</i>	The theological curriculum covers the topics of creation, the fall, the flood, God's promise through Abraham, Patriarchal history in Genesis, the Exodus, baptism, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and 21st-century eschatology.
Module 2 (\$450) <i>Death & Resurrection Doula Practitioner Training</i>	The practitioner curriculum is in-depth training for the professional vocation of non-medical support to individuals, families, and communities in the face of death. The training includes professional contributions by industry professionals.
Module 3 (\$300)* <i>Ministry Development & Marketing Kickstart</i>	Death & Resurrection Doulas have the opportunity to build a strong community together! Create a Community Storefront with your individual ministry brand. This module will prepare you with good business skill and technical components to expand your reach.
Collaboration Association (\$25/mo.) <i>*members receive a 50% discount on Module 3</i>	Gain additional ministry & spiritual support through Death & Resurrection Doula Mentorships. The Collaboration Association continues beyond training with Cont. Education and ministry support.

Program Cost

<i>What's included?</i>	<i>Cost \$1350</i>
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Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program

\$1050

Collaboration Association

\$25/mo. (\$300/annual)

www.thedeathandresurrectiondoula.com

Vision for Growth

A Community Minded Model

Convene Communities expands the potential to impact communities through education and social connection! Growing the Death & Resurrection Doula Community inside Convene Communities maximizes the potential for a Christian movement to change how we care for dying people:

- Convene Communities is a hub where *Real Life, Real People, and Real Experiences* converge in an atmosphere of shared purpose and support.
- Convene Communities' innovative online platform goes beyond traditional social networks. *At the heart of Convene Communities is a commitment to authentic community building, collaboration, and mentorship.*
- Convene Community members leverage the platform infrastructure to create and lead their own communities.

Referral Opportunities

All Convene members have the opportunity to receive referrals from program sales. You can support community growth by enrolling in the referral program and sharing this program information with others! There is no cost to join Convene Communities.





THE DEATH & RESURRECTION DOULA

A COMPLETE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR END-OF-LIFE DOULAS

What does a end-of-life (death) doula do?

There is a complete scope of practice for end-of-life doulas. This includes companionship, end-of-life care planning (including vigils), holistic comfort care (non-medical), creating legacy projects, engaging the family & community in support.

How can you use a Death & Resurrection Doula Certification?

Doula practice is not a regulated field although having a certification is a good idea for safety and professionalism. Most often, families will hire an end-of-life doula. Hospice agencies, churches, funeral homes & cemeteries, and LTC facilities are now recognizing doulas as an integral part of the team.

Is the Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program part of the Death Positive Movement?

The death positive movement is a secular philosophical movement concerned with embracing death as a natural part of life. While the movement has many positive features, Christians will quickly be disenfranchised by its New Age & progressive feel. The Death & Resurrection Doula Training is a movement within the movement. Reclaiming the Biblical truth regarding death while emphasizing the importance of being prepared.

How to Get Started:

1. Join the Death & Resurrection Doula Community on Convene Communities.
2. Sign up for training in the Death & Resurrection Doula training group.
3. Purchase training modules.
4. Start training! Join the weekly offerings of live support!

www.thedeathandresurrectiondoula.com



**A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR
THEOLOGY & PRACTITIONER TRAINING**

What is a Death & Resurrection Doula?

Professionalism & Ethics

The role of the Death & Resurrection Doula is specifically designed to assist the patient and the family with understanding the natural process of death (before, during, and after) while providing suggestions for comfort and support, advocating for autonomy in the choices of the patient, and encouraging the best communication possible between family, caregivers, and professionals working in the direct care of the patient.

What is a doula? Doula is an ancient Greek word meaning “a woman who serves.” While of course not all doulas are women, service is at the heart of doula work. If you have ever heard of a doula, it is likely around childbirth. A death (or end-of-life doula) is a non-medical practitioner trained to assist in the dying process. Through holistic practice, a doula helps families and communities care for someone who is dying. Doulas support patients, caregivers, families, and communities. The concept of a doula is becoming a vital role in the end-of-life process adding quality of life to the end of life. Hiring a doula can transform the death experience for everyone involved. With the assistance of a trained doula, the end-of-life process can be proficiently less muddled, after-death planning can be made lighter, and the family can focus on being a family.

Doulas are quickly becoming end-of-life ambassadors and are a cutting-edge way to deal with death. A Death Positive movement aims at taking death back — bringing it home — so to speak. After a century of outsourcing death care to hospitals and funeral homes, individuals are revisiting the idea of dying at home, and families are finding themselves in a new role of becoming caregivers to the dying.

It may be difficult for prospective clients to see the value of hiring a Death & Resurrection Doula. There are a couple of reasons for this. One reason is that the role is relatively new. Many people are not aware of doulas serving in end-of-life care. This leads to the likely connection to the fact that many people are not *aware* of the needs that will arise when someone they love is facing death.

One of these needs is hospice care. But, hospice care alone cannot fulfill the dying person and his or her family's needs. Generally, the hospice team is well equipped to help patients and families work through fear and sadness, and a hospice social worker will assist individuals and families in locating additional resources. Even if a personal care aide is hired to be present in assisting with the activities of daily living, a family will likely still be overwhelmed with all of the needs that occur when someone is dying.

A doula is not a personal care aide and cannot administer medical services. If a certified doula also has a personal care aide certificate or nursing license, he or she may serve in multiple capacities if the services are agreed upon by both the doula and the person(s) receiving care.

The **value** of a Death and Resurrection Doula lies outside of both the necessary personal care and medical care. A doula may overlap with the provisions of hospice care in a few different ways, but this does not reduce the necessity of a certified doula.

How does a doula participate with families when a dying person is referred to hospice?

1. **No regulations on time and visits:** a doula is not regulated by an insurance reimbursement structure. (This also includes the time before and after hospice care) A doula can stay with a family throughout the entire end-of-life process, which lasts much longer than the point where the hospice team must exit the scene.
2. **Professional commitment:** some of the greatest services are done through volunteer work, but this should not underestimate the value of professional services. The unregulated time of a professional doula is a game-changer for families and dying people. A certified doula will guide a family every step of the way keeping everything organized and on time while offering a family the time to be with their dying loved one. A doula also incorporates faith-based grief care and engaged support from the faith community.
3. **Community engagement:** doulas serve as a link between church communities and the patient and family. What other needs need to be met? Housekeeping, food service, visitation, respite care, prayer chains, and more.
4. **Doula care services:** helping with memory projects and completing a life review have become popular doula services. A hospice volunteer could also help in some capacity with these important facets of death care, but hiring a Christian doula gives these tasks fresh importance. Regret and the need to clear up estranged relationships may haunt dying people and people they love. God's unlimited grace and forgiveness provide the way forward. Joy and sadness should also be embraced at the end-of-life.
5. **Comfort care plans:** this work includes helping the family care for the patient, and establishing visitation schedules for community visitors, friends, and family. Doulas support families in keeping with the care plan for the highest dignity of the patient and peace of mind for the family. Oftentimes, panic sets in as death arrives. Doulas help families and patients through this difficult transition.
6. **Vigil & funeral planning:** doulas help families prepare for the death vigil, a dynamic time of waiting and expectation for Believers. Once a death has occurred, the funeral displays the

family and community's faith in God and their commitment to the deceased human being. Doulas can assist in some preparations for this event.

7. **Continued Support:** new needs will arise after a death has occurred and a family settles into a new way of life. A doula who has journeyed with a family will be a supportive presence in the days to come.

Ethics, Code of Conduct, Patient & Employer Rights

Professionalism, confidentiality, and the highest ethical standards are of utmost importance for a Death and Resurrection Doula practitioner. Every patient and family served is unique, and services will be tailored to their individual needs providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to the patient, family, loved ones, friends, and their support communities. There are **certain limits** to the scope of what a doula can offer in care. Death & Resurrection Doulas should carry insurance, but they do not perform any medical tasks such as administering medication, checking vital signs, wound care, or incontinence care (if a licensed medical professional acting as a doula wishes to use their skill in addition to doula work, they must rely on the parameters of and training of that field of work, and such expectations are spelled out in the contract). While a doula cannot carry out these specific tasks, he or she has been trained to provide education regarding the end-of-life process and the options available so that families can make informed decisions about their care. The goal of a doula is to collaborate with the hospice and any other healthcare professionals on your case to create a dynamic support system to ensure the highest level of care in the end-of-life process. During each visit, a doula will assess any outstanding acute and safety issues to be addressed and will be equipped with referral resources in order to maximize the necessary support that is outside of the trained doula's scope of practice.

Please note: The term death doula may also be used to signify after-death care services. *A Death & Resurrection Doula does not provide fee based after-death care services related to a home funeral.*

Death and Resurrection Doulas may not engage in any form of **discrimination** based on race, creed, socioeconomic status, or gender. No form of **sexual relationship or harassment**, physical or verbal, is permitted between a doula and a patient, family, or community member. Any form of **dishonesty or fraudulent behavior** is unacceptable. A doula must uphold a patient and family's **confidentiality** to the highest degree. This means there is no sharing of financial, medical, or personal information unless there is permission. This includes **social media posting** of any sort, even if names and photos are omitted. If a doula has a concern, a doula can take these steps: ask for direction by making an anonymous post on the Certified Doula discussion board, seek help from the Church pastor, and/or inform the family of other professionals who may be able to help address a situation (including the hospice team). Always alert the family to the steps(s) you are taking.

Autonomy and **dignity** are essential for someone with a terminal illness. A doula will not usurp the choices available to someone, but with competence and service, a doula should use his or her knowledge to help a person understand how his or her choices might play out. A doula can best help maintain a dying person's dignity by ensuring his or her needs are being met.

A Death and Resurrection Doula must offer patients and families **reasonable availability of service** and a **reasonable pricing structure**. *If a doula does not feel he or she is the best fit for a job, it is best practice to refer an individual or family to another doula.*

A Doula-Client Service Agreement is important for establishing a trustworthy working relationship between a Death & Resurrection Doula and a Client. A Doula operates as a self-employed business (or volunteer). A family or individual is considered the client and is responsible for hiring a doula. **No legal or medical advice** should be given by a Death and Resurrection Doula.

What Christians Believe about God and His Creation

- God is the Creator of the Universe. He is a Trinitarian God who is Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.
- Human beings are created by God in His Image.
- Death entered the world through the sin of Adam, and this affects every single human being (Original Sin).
- In Jesus Christ, God has atoned for the sin of humanity on the cross.
- God justifies sinners because of Jesus; Good works provide no salvation.
- God requires fundamental dependence upon His free gift of salvation. *Justification by grace through faith alone* is the basis of human dignity before God.
- God commands all human beings to “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength*” and to “*Love your neighbor as yourself*” (Mark 12:30-31, NIV).
- **Jesus Christ will return again.** The dead will be raised and those who believe in Jesus will be with Jesus: “*Then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death*” (1 Cor. 15:24-26, NRSV).

The Death and Resurrection Doula Training Program is a complete certification program for death (end-of-life doulas). The first module, **Rediscovering The Cross: Theology in Practice**, focuses on the spiritual aspects of death from a Christian perspective. The second module, **Doula Practitioner Training**, incorporates the Christian understanding of death into Death and Resurrection Doula practice.

Although the Death and Resurrection Doula training program is a faith-based program, it is not exclusive. This goes for doulas who are training and for the population served. A doula does not need to be a Christian to sign up for the training program. They only need to be aware the training is built upon the Christian faith and that many training doulas are Christians, who want to talk about their faith. Other doula training programs include some talk of spirituality. Oftentimes it is new-age centered and that is why many Christians are looking for an alternative program.

Certified Death and Resurrection Doulas cannot require a family to adhere to the Christian faith. A Jew or non-Christian should be confident in hiring a Death and Resurrection certified death doula knowing that they will get the services they need with or without religious discussion. For the Christian doula, being grounded in his or her faith will be a foundation of their strength in service.

The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program is the only Christian end-of-life doula training program in the world!



Rediscovering the Cross: Theology in Practice

Navigating Module 1
\$450

Theology Introduction

1. Documents

A. Guide to Doula Care

Learning Objectives: Understand the value, professionalism, and ethics of a Death & Resurrection Doula.

B. Module 1 Introduction & Vision

Learning Objectives: Introduction to a theology of the cross and the death positive movement.

2. Experiences

A. Old Selves & New Selves

Learning Objective: Complete a contemplative exercise on encountering the faithfulness and grace of God in our lives.

B. Why become a Death Doula?

Learning Objective: Complete a contemplative exercise on your call to be a caregiver to the dying.

Theology Curriculum

1. **Required Reading:** *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright

Learning Objectives: The Western discourse on the Biblical realities of heaven is inconsistent with the New Testament. As Death and Resurrection Doulas, how might we aid in revitalizing the Biblical expectation of heaven? This book will be incorporated into live discussions through the Fellowship Café.

2. Experiences

A. *Genesis & The Gospel*

Learning Objective: An introduction to the doctrines of Creation and Salvation; Why is the human body important?

B. *Why Do We Die?*

Learning Objectives: The answer to this question distinguishes a Christian Death Doula from a non-Christian one. Christians believe death is not natural; it is a result of original sin. This experience is an introduction to *recapitulation* (Romans 5:14).

C. *What is Baptism? (with Rev. Jacob Smith)*

Learning Objective: The sacrament of baptism is essential in the life of a Christian. What does it mean and why is it important? We can see the effects of baptism in our lives as God renews us and creates faith in us.

D. *The Passion & Easter Resurrection*

Learning Objective: The word *atonement* means reconciliation. Each Gospel narrative proclaims the truth of our hope in Christ's death and resurrection.

E. *The Importance of Having a Funeral (with Chad Bird)*

Learning Objective: Funerary practices have changed greatly through the centuries in American Society. From traditional funerals to post-modern "celebrations of life", as a practicing Death & Resurrection Doula, you can help families find hope in the resurrection of Christ.

F. *****Bonus***** *Christian Eschatology*

Learning Objectives: A basic introduction to Christian Eschatology, which is rooted in Judaism's expectation of a future bodily resurrection. This experience includes a brief look into the postmodern emphases of Christian Eschatology.

Telling Our Stories

Experiences

A. *Dying Well Story #1*

Learning Objective: Study a real-life end-of-life experience for a dying man and his family.

B. Dying Well Story #2

Learning Objective: Study a real-life end-of-life experience for a young dying mother and her family.

C. Writing Your Story (with Chad Bird)

Learning Objectives: Contemplate the meaning of your story through the lens of justification in Jesus Christ. Doulas will create their own Story Experience.

D. Listening to the Stories of Others

Learning Objectives: Introduction to Legacy Projects, a popular component of doula care. Doulas will write up the structure of a mini legacy project for someone they know.

Books for this module:

Dying Well: Peace and Possibilities at End of Life by Ira Brock, M.D. (\$11 Amazon)

Your God is Too Glorious by Chad Bird (\$17 Amazon)

Surprised By Hope by N.T. Wright (\$12 Amazon)

Written for this Program!

Resurrection Hope by Mindy Jane Moore (\$17 Amazon)

More titles are coming to her Christian Death Doula Series! *Stay tuned!*



**The Death and Resurrection Doula:
Practitioner Training**
Navigating Module 2
\$450

Doula Practitioner Introduction

Document: *Intro to U.S. Death Care*

Learning Objective: An overview of Harold Braswell's book, *The Crisis of US Hospice Care*, and a continuation of the vision of the Death and Resurrection Doula ministry. Doulas will be instrumental in changing how end-of-life care is administered and educated in the destructive direction of the secular Death Positive movement.

Doula Practitioner Curriculum

1. **Part I** Experiences:

A. *Advance Planning for End-of-Life*

Learning Objective: This experience introduces advanced directives, including a Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney. Additional documents to be familiar with are a POLST or MOLST form, Dementia Directive, and DNR. Doulas will complete their personal advance directives and help a family member or friend complete theirs. A short documentation of the project is required

B. *Caring for the Elderly*

Learning Objective: This experience introduces the statistics of aging individuals, the cost of Long-Term Care, aging in place vs. assisted living, and Medicare. This experience also includes a presentation on caring for loved ones with memory loss.

C. *Introduction to Hospice Care (with Lisa Bennion, RN)*

Learning Objective: This experience is a foundational introduction to Hospice Care. Death Doulas will serve families at different stages of Hospice Care and even educate and encourage patients to choose Hospice Care for the highest quality of life at the end of life.

D. Understanding Death & Dying (with Lisa Bennion, RN)

Learning Objective: As the body shuts down, Death Doulas support families in the process of caring for a loved one. This experience teaches doulas how the body shuts down and how to care for the family and patient at this time.

E. Crafting Care Plans (with Lisa Bennion, RN)

Learning Objective: Death itself is not painful, but depending on the disease process, different interventions and medications may be used to keep the patient comfortable as they are dying. Doulas are non-medical practitioners but understanding what the caregivers will be trained to do by the hospice nurse will boost your ability to support families with knowledge and confidence during this transitional time.

F. Death Vigil (with Reverend Scott Bennion)

Learning Objective: To be vigilant is to be awake or watchful. As Christians, we have the privilege of being vigilant with hope and expectation! Planning help for a death vigil is an important part of doula care. As Death and Resurrection Doulas, we have an opportunity to create awareness of the importance of this time while refusing the secular or New Age practices.

G. Funeral & Burial Trends

Learning Objective: Watch a brief interview with a Christian Funeral Director. In addition to an introduction to the modern funeral industry, this experience also teaches doulas how families can participate in traditional death rituals and the actions to take after death has occurred.

H. Grief Support (with Reverend Scott Bennion)

Learning Objective: Grief and mourning are inseparable from any loss. As Death and Resurrection Doulas, we will spend a lot of time sojourning with those who are grieving. This experience gives you important tools for being present with others as they navigate grief before and after death.

2. Pt. II Experiences:

A. The Medical Aid in Dying Debate

Learning Objective: This experience introduces Medical Aid in Dying, also called Physicians Assisted Suicide. Harold Braswell is a Bioethicist and Scholar who shares his work in the serious dilemma that poses a future risk to society.

B. Vocation: Working with Families and Communities

Learning Objective: Caring for the dying is multi-vocational. Understanding how God works in and through vocation is essential to providing the best death care and limiting

physician-assisted suicide. As the Church, we all share in the vocation of being expectant upon the return of Christ.

C. *****Bonus***** *Estate Planning Basics (With Estate Attorney Darlene Campbell)*

Learning Objective: A Christian Estate Attorney leads doulas through the basics of estate planning needs and teaches how to make strong referrals to local attorneys. Darlene highlights the importance of the Death Doula in helping families take the right steps to ensure that essential end-of-life planning tasks are complete.

D. *Ministry Matters: Forming end-of-life care ministries for Church communities*

Learning Objective: The final experience ties together faith, vocation, and eschatology. The first experience (M1) to the last (M2) forms the beginning and end of an arc. Beginning with the first experience, you explore a call to care for dying people inside a community. Throughout the curriculum, you explore God's transforming work in your life. Your new creation is emerging just like God promises those who believe! As God transforms your life daily, the pieces of your history **make your ministry matter**. After completing a theology and practitioner training program for Christian End-of-Life Doula Care, you are ready to lead in the Spirit of Christ

Books for this module:

Spirituality of the Cross by Gene E. Veith, Jr. (\$13 Amazon)

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande (\$13-14 Amazon)

Between Life & Death by Kathryn Butler, MD (\$13 Amazon)

The Crisis of U.S. Hospice Care: Family and Freedom at End of Life by Harold Braswell (This book may be on sale at <https://www.press.jhu.edu/>)



The Death and Resurrection Doula: Ministry & Marketing Quick-Start

Navigating Module 3

\$300

*50% off with a Collaboration
Association Membership!*

Module 3 incorporates a "franchise" strategy. Whether or not you plan to monetize your services, this is a valuable Module for Death and Resurrection Doulas. Expanding the reach of Christian end-of-life education and services around the world takes the effort of every certified Death and Resurrection Doula. Each Death & Resurrection Doula takes what they learn through training and brands their ministry from personal experience. The Convene Communities Platform opens a path for the world to receive Christian end-of-life doula care on a much larger scale. The reach of impactful service is multiplied through real people.

Starting Your Doula Ministry

Learning Objectives: In this module, you will learn about:

- Growing Your Ministry with Convene Communities*
- Ethics & Professionalism
- Clients & Contracts
- Brand Development
- Starting a Business
- Billing & Sales
- Social Media Networking

* Whether or not your business is a for-profit business, join our directory with an info page or **Storefront!** The Death & Resurrection Doula U.S. State and International Directories. Storefronts are the way to expand the reach of Christian end-of-life services around the world. Like a shopping mall has a variety of shops, the Death & Resurrection Doula Directories provide ministry services branded by each individual Death & Resurrection Doula. The Death & Resurrection Doula Collaboration Association is a support resource for branding and building your info page or storefront.

* Larger groups can use Convene Communities, too! **Community Groups provide a space for community education and social connection.**

* **Obtain your Community Builder certificate and apply to be a Collaboration Association Mentor!**



Congratulations! You are ready to begin the following modules:

Rediscovering the Cross: Theology in Practice
Death Doula Practitioner Training
Ministry & Marketing Quickstart

By purchasing this training program, you agree to the following:

- 1. There are no program refunds.** The Death and Resurrection Doula uses the Convene Communities all-in-one platform to mentor end-of-life doulas in a faith-based curriculum. Convene Communities' *Terms & Conditions* apply to each platform member and creating a log-in requires you to agree to them. See all terms and conditions at the bottom of each page on the platform.
- 2. Certification in The Death and Resurrection Doula Training Program is not a guarantee of profit.** By purchasing Modules 1, 2, & 3, you have full access to a competitive doula training and certification program. When you begin your ministry with a Death and Resurrection Doula Certificate, you will have the necessary tools for success. Like any new endeavor, paying personal attention to your goals and putting in the hard work is the key to success.
- 3. The Death and Resurrection Doula Training Program is self-paced.** While you can obtain a certificate without attending the scheduled live classes, they are intended for a deeper connection to the content and collaboration with the community leader and other doulas. The **Death & Resurrection Doula Collaboration Association** is an opportunity to receive small group mentorship for personal and spiritual growth and ministry development.
- 4. The Death and Resurrection Doula brand contains the intellectual property of Laurel Nicholson.** Without the expressed permission of Laurel Nicholson, no part of the written lesson content from the Death and Resurrection Doula Training Program may be used outside of the Convene Communities platform.

5. You are encouraged to create a personal business brand. Still, you agree to adhere to the program standardization of a **Death and Resurrection Doula** as described in the *Guide to Doula Care*. This standardization resides under the Death and Resurrection Doula logo, which you are encouraged to use to distinguish your training competence.

6. Freedom of expression is allowed and encouraged inside all Lesson Learned submissions and Discussion Board posts. When engaging in public conversation, Death and Resurrection Doulas must treat one another with the utmost compassion and respect as we discern God's truth in all things. Lesson Learned submissions are anonymous by default and Discussion Board posts can be anonymous if selected. You should not use the anonymity feature to disparage another doula's beliefs or practices. If you disagree and wish to comment, you are encouraged to do so with care and discernment.

7. The purchase and annual renewal of Professional Liability Insurance is recommended upon training & certification as a professional end-of-life doula. You agree to release the Death and Resurrection Doula Training Program, a collaborative training program, from all liability in the event of individual professional malpractice.

Read what others are saying about the Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program!

I had the pleasure and joy of completing Modules 1 and 2 in *The Death & Resurrection Training Program* this year. What a life-changer and an eye-opener! Life changing because of the wonderful relationships that were created by virtue of our online classes. I LOVE the friends I've made and we enjoy, even after graduation, staying in touch through the weekly International Fellowship Cafe as well as the Collaboration Association. I think this is one of the most outstanding features of the program; the opportunity to stay connected. And also an eye-opener! I learned so much about end-of-life trends and challenges through the assignments. I was stunned (and disappointed) to discover how the Death Positive movement has appropriated end-of-life doula work in a way that discourages the Christian approach to death and resurrection to the point it's not, in many venues, politically correct (or even allowed) to mention Jesus as *the Way, the Truth and the Life*. But we are a strong and growing group of Christian doulas and we are becoming known for our Christian approach to this important work. This training program attracts students from all over the world with a variety of Christian faith backgrounds. *Theology in Practice* (Module 1) may not, at first glance, look to meet the needs of every faith. But it does! The course material serves the amazing purpose of promoting dialogue that, through the power of the Spirit, helps us become closer to one another and be better servants. I experienced this very personally as I went through the training. For potential students who may think they don't need or want this module, I would encourage them to re-think it. This module, for me, was the highlight. **Mindy Moore, TN**

I feel very prepared to serve individuals and family members transitioning at the end of life. The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program is by far the best End-of-Life Doula Training Program to date. We wanted a faith-based platform to further educate our staff and this training is every bit of that and more! Laurel has put together an exceptional program that is very easy to follow, challenges you to dig deep regarding your faith, and encourages you every step of the way as you learn about every detail regarding end of life. **Rebecca Joosten, Saads Retreat Center (Hospice), AL**

The Death and Resurrection Doula training program is amazing. I am a hospice nurse, and I have just completed the Death and Resurrection Doula certification program. This program offered me understanding of the role of an EOLD and Christian Theology, and the live classes and doula collaboration kept me engaged. Laurel went above and beyond most educators. Laurel's Christian Character and values were evident throughout the entire program. Through the curriculum, I was tasked with writing my own story as a way to connect with future clients. I tried to decide where to start and because of the trauma around my own grief journey I was unable to complete the assignment. I called Laurel and explained to her my struggle. Laurel listened and encouraged me through the lens of Christ. Before we ended the conversation Laurel prayed for me. Later that day I felt that God had answered her prayers. I was reminded through a

good friend's Facebook post that God owned everything including our story. This gave me the confirmation and strength I needed to complete my assignment. I will be forever grateful to Laurel for having the boldness to embrace her faith and create a Christian Doula Program and role model Godly integrity. **India Rice, OH**

"I came across Laurel Nicholson's The Death and Resurrection Doula training program nine months after completing another course. The previous course provided the 'bare bones' of being a death doula. An end-of-life doula collective I was part of started discussing MAiD (Medical Aid in Dying) and VSED (Voluntary Stopping Eating & Drinking). There was a lot of talk regarding MAiD needing to be made legal in states where it isn't, yet. I couldn't get on board with those ideas. I felt a prompting to search online for a group of doulas with the same ideas I have regarding the sanctity of life. That's how I found Laurel and I reached out to her. I shared with her what I encountered in the collective and she understood. She explained her training program is the only Christian Death Doula training program in the world. Working through the Experiences and reading the course books, such as N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope* has strengthened my faith while providing me with spiritual tools to aid potential clients. I have gained clarity regarding death that has calmed my heart in ways I didn't realize it needed to be calmed. This, in turn, will keep me grounded and provide me with the strength I will need to aid clients and their families/caregivers. The live classes are wonderful for building camaraderie with others in the program. We are also blessed to have the input (via writings and interviews with Laurel) of wonderful authors such as Chad Bird. Receiving my certification from The Death and Resurrection Doula training program has provided me with information and skills to be of benefit to those who need support at the end of life." **Bonnie Slaven, OH**