

April 2015

Dear Sustaining Partner,

***“Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations, and they will repair the ruined cities--- the desolations of many generations.”*** (Isaiah 61:4)

We, here at Pregnancy & Family Resource Center represent “They,” in Isaiah. We’re desperate to do what God has called us to do. Desperate---not because we are afraid that God will zap us if we don’t, but because we are anxious to see healing and restoration.

I see desolation everywhere I go. Schools. Nursing classes. Social occasions. Holiday gatherings. Churches too!! Oh yes! Especially our churches, and I’m glad--- because it’s appropriate that broken people would go to a “hospital” for help.

Ruined lives! Ruined Families! Ruined communities! Abortion leaves a legacy of desolation that, like it or not, **WILL** impact everyone involved--- even at a peripheral level---and, even if they don’t know about the abortion. “Really?” you ask---You’ll tell me, “I’m past that. I’ve been forgiven. I’ve moved on.” “Really?” I ask...What I really want to compassionately say is this: We know there is something wrong. It is obvious even to the casual observer that something is very wrong. I’m bringing up this topic not in an attempt to corner those who have experienced abortion, but to encourage people (Yes, even in our churches) to get help to finally and fully heal.

If we could have a conversation this is what I’d ask:

If you’re fine what’s with the anger always simmering below the surface? What’s with the compulsive, self-medicating behavior? Why is it you have to have all the answers for everyone? Do you realize you always need to be right? I observe in some cases that your children need to be perfect. In others, you have little connection to your living children. Why can’t you talk about your abortion to help another? Why do you have few, if any, deep, lasting friendships? Where does the anxiety come from? When did that begin?

I know you’re used to keeping the wound covered, the thoughts at bay, and when the subject of abortion comes up, you run away rather than toward. You feel uneasy...even angry when I’m at your church, and you wonder why you have no interest in the ministry others think of as a mission field.

Others see and wonder about what they watch being played out in front of them. I notice that when I speak you cannot meet my gaze. When I’m at your church the women’s room is a busy place. I feel sorrier than I can express because I know until you deal with the issue of past abortion(s), there is no freedom...it’s like that word on the tip of your tongue that just won’t come to you. And, it’s vaguely disquieting that this memory you’ve tried to diminish has a strangle-hold on your emotions. No amount of food or service, shopping or medication makes you feel truly comforted.

Okay...I confess. (I state right here that I thank God because it was only He who saved me from the need to make this choice.) I have not personally experienced abortion. I’ve never walked in to a clinic carrying a very small, but very much alive baby, and walked out leaving my dead child and my life as I knew it behind. But, I know way too many people who have chosen abortion for one reason or another, and I’ve

stood helpless while their lives imploded. Even when they don't know I know they've had an abortion it's clear to me that this terrible thing is somewhere in the mix. I've watched loving, committed relationships crumble, drug and alcohol abuse take root, seen a developing need for perfection become strong and unrelenting, while food very often becomes the means in a quest to be filled and comforted.

We'd like to think that post-abortion healing is optional. IT IS NOT! There is no way that anyone can not be deeply wounded after choosing to allow someone (and paying for it) to take the life of his/her own child. Think about it...OK-you've thought long enough. Now PLEASE seriously consider taking advantage of this group study yourself if you've chosen or been a part of an abortion. Maybe you are a women's ministry leader, a pastor or staff member in a church, a mom, a dad, a friend a neighbor. I'll guarantee we all know someone who needs to be encouraged to seek healing. And we can't just encourage once and walk away. We must be direct and relentless. Statistics show people need to see the information an average of eight times before they will act.

SaveOne, facilitated by Sonja Bates, helps the participant to begin the healing process through a character study of God: What we know to be true about HIM and HIS mercy and grace toward us. It's what we already know, but have not fully personalized because our worst-of-all-sin(s) gets in the way of our acceptance of unconditional love. Sonja's phone number is: 909-762-3878. Her email is: [sbpfrcsaveone@gmail.com](mailto:sbpfrcsaveone@gmail.com). The next group study begins in August. Today would be a good day to finally make the one phone call you've been dreading---the one that will change your life. Today would be a good day to encourage the person/people you know who has had an abortion to finally peel away the scab and begin to heal from the inside out.

In the ten years I've been Executive Director this ministry has grown beyond what I ever thought possible. We see more clients who choose to carry their babies to term rather than abort. We see more people choose life and choose God and choose family. We offer a wider range of services delivered by people who have undergone twelve weeks of life-transforming training. We've extended our hours, expanded our facility and enlarged our staff. The two things we have not been able to do are probably the most critical in terms of an authentic perspective change in "the church" about abortion. Both obstacles are solidly in place because people believe lies.

People believe that post-abortion healing might be nice and is probably great for everyone else but "not for me," and (If you're a ministry leader) it's not something I need to talk about. The second is that pregnancy center ministry is "women's work," and other than a little muscle or money, there's really no need for men to commit and to step forward. In this letter I've addressed the first lie. We MUST do all we can do to encourage every single person (men and women) who have been involved in an abortion to engage in a specific healing process. People in our churches and communities are wounded. Wounded, crippled people don't minister well to others. It's too risky. PLEASE—help us help you in any way we can. Sonja and I want to see those groups filled to capacity. Call today to find out more.

The second lie? We'll talk about that whopper next time.

***Have a beautiful April...let's pray for showers for our May flowers and to relieve the drought.***

For Life!

Lisa J Stiefken  
Executive Director