

Testimony for Alpha Omega Life Center & Abortion Recovery

My husband and I moved to Kerrville the summer of 2006. Even before we moved, I knew that God was calling me to be involved in a ministry outside of the church but I did not know what it was. I prayed as I drove around town and asked God to show me where I was to be involved. There were two signs that He kept showing me, one was Alpha Omega Life Center.

I continued to ask for guidance. One day while in prayer, I was so deeply impressed that I HAD to go that very morning to Alpha Omega and ask if they needed volunteers. So off I went. I arrived at the center and asked if they needed a volunteer. Rebecca O'Bryant, Volunteer Coordinator, smiled ear to ear and said they had just started a volunteer training session that very morning and was about to give a tour of the center. I stayed for the tour and the rest is history. It was obvious to both of us that my presence there that day was God's appointment.

I wanted to begin volunteering immediately, so I was asked to fill out the required "Volunteer" forms. While filling out the forms, I was faced with was I going to tell the truth or lie? Was I going to lie like I had in the past? Or was I finally going to actually put on paper the thing that had haunted me for over 25 years? I thought to myself, "If there ever was a safe place to reveal the greatest black blot in my soul, it should be here at the center, and I am so tired of hiding." So with great fear and for the first time in writing, I answered "yes" to the following question: "Have you had an abortion?"

When I turned in my papers I was nervous, not knowing what might come next. After the approval process, I was called into the office to talk to the Director. There was no earth quake, no great long condemning finger pointing into my face....nothing negative. Just a smile...."Congratulations and welcome".

Next was an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca. Again I received the warmest of welcomes and no condemnation. A few questions were asked and she noted that I had experienced abortion. She said she was sure God was going to be able to use my experience in helping others. I was relieved that I had been honest about having had an abortion and her compassion was evident. I thought, "Well, I will be able to help other women by being here." I felt that by serving at the Center I might be able to help others not make that choice....the choice that I had regretted for so many years. I kind of tucked the abortion back inside and focused on serving others. Little did I know what lie ahead.

There is plenty to learn at the Center about helping clients and serving God. Unplanned pregnancy can be a situation wrought with emotion and turmoil. Dealing with clients considering abortion takes a lot of care and compassion. I felt things were going well and I was feeling good about serving at the Center. Then, in the fall of 2008, Apryl Bentley, Center Director, asked I would consider going to an Abortion Recovery Ministry Training seminar.

Oh dear. Here it was again. Just when I had the abortion neatly packaged up and tucked in the back "storage room" of my heart I was being asked to drag it out again. I prayed about it, talked to my

husband about it, and decided I should go. I was sure I could learn more about helping others and it might bring more healing to me.

About 6 of us from the Center traveled to Boerne for the training given by Rhonda Arias, founder of Texas Abortion Recovery Alliance. It was uncomfortable focusing on and hearing about abortion for 2-1/2 days, but it was another step in my healing. Not all people there had experienced abortion, but all wanted to help those who had. The eyes of my heart were opening more to how many hundreds and thousands of women in our very communities are suffering from abortion. It was not just me hiding my secret. I was learned that both men and women suffer from abortion and we all need to be healed. We, who have been touched by the death of abortion, are countless thousands. It could be your friend, the lady at the checkout counter, the nurse at your doctor's office, a faithful church member, an old girlfriend, or it could be your wife, or you, and it's me.

After training, the next obvious, but still scary step was to help lead an abortion recovery group.

I assisted Apryl as we lead 5 others through 7 weeks of recovery. I was so nervous the first night, I was nauseated. To lead and admit to a group of strangers that I had had an abortion was frightening. But, my fears were quickly left behind as the sweetness of God's love filled the room as we began the gentle process. It is absolutely amazing what God can do in 7 short weeks when we apply the truth of His Word and confess our sins to one another. It has been absolutely life changing for me. I had asked for God to forgive me for the abortion many times, but could never forgive myself. Through Abortion Recovery, I have experienced God's forgiveness in a deeper way. It also surprised me that in the process of forgiving I have been set free in areas I could not have anticipated. God is all about setting His people free. I am so thankful for the opportunity to receive more healing for the sin of death that abortion brings.

You may be wondering, "If she is healed, then why is this testimony anonymous?" I can give you 2 reasons: 1) I believe healing is a process, and I am not totally comfortable today to tell everyone that I have had an abortion. 2) There are members of my family, particularly, my living children that do not know that I had an abortion, and as of today, I'm not sure I want them to know. As I have said, I'm in the process.

Jesus said: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." And so He does come. The enemy of our souls would have us hide our sins that they may continue to kill and destroy. Jesus would have us bring our sins to His Light. One of the ways he is healing is through Abortion Recovery. If you or someone you know (male or female), is suffering from the repercussions of abortion, please call the Center.

God's blessings to you and may we all continue to live deeper and deeper in Jesus' love.