**BREAK THE SILENCE**

**OF ABORTION**

*By Jamie Thompson*

Some are on the fence on this topic, some don’t give it much thought, and for some, the fence isn’t even in sight. They know where they stand and have every intention of keeping their heels dug deep.

If you’re like Abby Johnson, maybe you’ve spent time on both sides.

As a former clinic director and spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, Abby helped facilitate about 22,000 abortions and fought for women’s rights to choose.\*

It wasn’t until September 26th, 2009 when she was asked to help with an ultrasound-guided abortion that God opened her eyes. She saw for herself the pain and dismemberment this baby suffered. The veil over her eyes was removed and she made a long, clear jump to the other side.

Today, Abby Johnson is the founder of And Then There Were None, a ministry designed to assist abortion clinic workers in transitioning out of the industry.

If a woman leading an abortion clinic, while passionately fighting for a woman’s right to choose, is ignorant to what is taking place at the hands of the doctors she supports, how can a pregnant woman, full of fear, make an educated decision?

She can’t.

Planned Parenthood isn’t educating her. Abortions are their,

***“highest revenue product…and they have a quota to reach.”***

 -Abby Johnson\*\*

Every day thousands of women are turning to the back door of an abortion clinic to solve their problem as the employees only confirm their fears and promise to keep their secret.

When interviewing a facilitator from Surrendering the Secret, a ministry that has set out to heal the heartbreak of abortion, Diana Holsapple stated,

***“Women leave the abortion clinic thinking they’ve solved a problem, but really they’ve created a whole host of problems.”***

The secret they carry turns dark and sorrow takes deep residence.

Many of these women suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, post-abortion grief and trauma, repressed memories, guilt, shame, and depression.

Secrets only have power to haunt in the dark. When a broken heart finds courage and exposes it, there is hope for healing.

I asked Gabi Sutton, a woman who had an abortion when she was 22, if she found healing after her abortion and if she had to go through a grieving process. She said in the beginning she didn’t feel sorry for what she did; she felt justified in her decision. Gabi admitted she didn’t dare look at it. The enemy had,

***“stolen her sadness and the numbness felt better than pain…being numb is dangerous.”***

Gabi said to truly find healing they need a revelation of God’s love. God’s love has the power to bring repentance, and ultimately render shame and guilt powerless. He is the One that holds out hope and healing.

How can we, as a community, help these women find healing while at the same time influence women who are pregnant and contemplating abortion?

Let’s continue to make a stand outside the clinics. It’s a great opportunity to put other options in front of them and let them know they’re loved. Let’s continue to pray around the building.

Unfortunately, not all of those on our side are letting love motivate them.

Do we really believe there’s an impact standing outside the abortion clinic with our signs screaming “Murderer”? I’m not so sure.

It is murder. I agree. But, I believe at the root of every decision to abort a baby lies fear. Fear of what others will say or think. Fear of not being able to provide. Fear of the future and interrupted plans.

Do we fight fear with fear? I’m not confident the threats and accusations from the sidewalk are effective.

What if we had the antidote to fear?

What would it look like if we put our signs down for a moment, walked over to her, looked her in the eye and let her know she wasn’t alone?

Statistics say that 1 out of 3 women will have had an abortion by the time they’re 45. These women are not alone.

What if every woman who walked through the same back door found healing and had the courage to share her story?

It starts with the courage of one. That one has the power to impart courage, lift chins, and cause shame to bow before them. They have the power to save lives.

What if churches realized the need these women have to talk about their experiences? The silence isn’t protecting them; it only makes them lonelier and gives more power to the shame they carry.

***There is one answer. The antidote is love.***

Love can muster the courage to open our mouths and share our stories. Love has the power to soften a heart and change a decision. Love has the power to present options. And love has the power to restore lives and save lives.

God is love and He is waiting with open arms of forgiveness. Only He has the power to heal and give hope.

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*\*Pro-Life Actress Plays Abby Johnson in ‘Unplanned’: Role ‘Worth it,’ Even If I’m Blacklisted, Fox News Insider, YouTube, 12/18/18*

*\*\*Former Planned Parenthood director: Why I’m now pro-life, Fox News, YouTube 1/27/17*

***Do you have a secret to surrender?***

I encourage you to start with one step.

WhyLife Ministries is full of resources to help you where you’re at.

*HELP (Healing, Encouragement, Love, Peace)* ***www.whylifeministries.org/help***

*Share in confidence with someone who has been where you are:* ***(716) 937-7815***

If you have had an abortion in the past, you can take a quiz at ***www.surrenderingthesecret.com*** and see how abortion is affecting your life today.

Read more about Abby’s story in her book Unplanned and enjoy the movie this March when Unplanned is released in theaters.

***Please join us as we celebrate God’s gift of life on Sunday, January 20, 2019, the National Sanctity of Human Life Day.*** Pray with us as we commemorate the many lives lost to abortion and commit to protecting human life at every stage.

Grace in Community Church will have two special services, ***January 20th and 27th,*** focusing on the sanctity of human life with special speakers and stories.

***Grace In Community Church***

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**WHEN?**

*By Nancy L. Walker*

On January 4, 2019, I experienced the most paradoxical event I have ever seen.  Yes, we know this is happening but to see it is a whole other thing!  That morning my friend and I were in front of Women’s Services on Main St. in Buffalo.  We were there to offer the women going in for abortions the loving, practical alternatives that are available in our area.

 Suddenly, an ambulance came screaming down Main St. and pulled into the driveway of the clinic.  The 1st Responders jumped out, pulled out an incubator and went in the side door.  You see, in the front of this building there is a birthing center and in the back – an abortion clinic.  The same doctor works both.  About 15-20 minutes later, they came out with a baby in the incubator and with sirens blaring and lights flashing, the ambulance raced down Main St. to Children’s Hospital.

In the meantime, there was a car waiting to pull into the back for the abortion clinic and as soon as the ambulance left, they pulled in.  A few minutes later another ambulance arrived and took the mom to Children’s also.  Right after they left, more women went into the back.  In the space of one hour we witnessed extra ordinary measures to save the life of that precious baby while at the same time at least three women were going into the abortion clinic to take the life of their babies!

How can we, as a civilized society, reconcile that?  How can a woman who calls herself a doctor work diligently and expertly save one baby and his/her mother then go to the back of the building and destroy pre-born babies lives and perhaps cause serious injury to those mothers?  Just what, as a society, have we become?

On January 22nd (*Now recognized as National Sanctity of Human Life Day*) it will be 46 years since we made abortion legal across our land.  Just where has that gotten us?  We are now no longer reproducing enough to maintain our population.  We now have over sixty million aborted babies – who knows if there have been doctors to discover cures, women to do great things – among those lost to abortion?  That list could go on and on.  We now have millions of women and men who are suffering in silence from the consequences of abortion.

Currently the Governor of N.Y.S. wants to enact a bill that allows viable infants born alive during an abortion to die without treatment.  Again, I ask: “What have we become?” Deeper still – “How low will we go?”

Furthermore, when did we decide to be “God” and choose who will live and who will die?  Don’t we think it is time to stop this slippery slope into degradation?  I, for one, do believe it is way past time.  Isn’t it time to stand up, speak up, vote pro-life, confront our representative, support centers that offer life-giving help and just say: No More?

Maybe we should see what an abortion looks like; maybe we should see an aborted baby.  Maybe we should go to the Silent No More website and hear the testimonies from the women and men who are still suffering the consequences of abortion.  Maybe that will wake us up to the truth!

*January 22nd should be a day of mourning and sorrow, a day of new determination to truly stand up for the Sanctity of Human Life.*