



Ramah's Voice

a ministry of Ramah International, Inc.

Abortion Awareness Hazards: Extreme Caution Required When Utilizing Post-Abortive Testimonies

By Sydna A. Massé

One of the goals of Ramah International is to help post-abortive individuals find God's healing so they will be empowered to share their secret of abortion with others - particularly, the abortion-minded. We believe this mission is outlined in Revelations 12:11 (NIV), *They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*"

Silent No More

Many express this calling to share as a desire to break free from their self-imposed prison of secrecy and become "silent no more." The phrase "silent no more" originated with a book by the same title, authored by Dr. David Reardon. This publication was one of the first to outline the secret of abortion's pain utilizing the confessions of post-abortive individuals.

Silent No More was one of the first books I read when I entered the pro-life arena in 1991 upon employment at Focus on the Family. These stories allowed me to understand that my pain was typical and that many of my apprehensions in life could be related to my past abortion choice. God made it obvious to my heart a few weeks later to share my personal struggle with abortion to help other women find the same hope in God's healing.

I must confess that sharing wasn't a calling I embraced. I fought that leading for many weeks

and God's hand was heavy upon my heart. In an effort to sleep through the night, I finally surrendered and followed God's leading to share during a corporate devotion time with a division at Focus. Feeling much like Jonah going to Nineveh, I sadly approached this meeting with great apprehension, never understanding why God would ask me to do such a difficult task. While I feared rejection and judgment, this first audience responded with love and compassion.

After that initial testimony, God opened the door for my story to be shared on the Focus on the Family broadcast with Dr. James Dobson. He used my voice to reach many post-abortive hearts and to save lives that were destined to end on an abortionist's table. Since then, as God has led, I've openly shared my story all over the United States. I've shared with audiences as large as 750,000 and as small as one person.

A Rare Calling

Being "silent no more" at a public level is a calling that requires a great deal of spiritual depth. I always begin each talk with a prayer, asking God to use me as His vessel. I take comfort in the words of II Peter 1:21 (NIV), . . . *prophecy never had its origins in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* With God's spirit being the central part of my testimony, His power is enhanced in every listening heart.

The presence of the Holy Spirit also comforts me as I testify. Each time I break the silence about my abortion I am personally overwhelmed with the memory of allowing an abortionist to take the life of my child. Most audiences listen in a shocked and stunned silence. God uses me

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to open many hearts to the truth about the horrors of the abortion procedure. Philippians 4:13 reminds me that despite my apprehensions, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

As I have matured, I've watched how the pro-life movement has come to openly encourage and solicit the post-abortive testimony for various "awareness" efforts. **I'm convinced that public testimony is a RARE calling because of the intense responsibility and spiritual maturity that is required.** Public testifiers must be trained, equipped and accomplished in the healing process before even contemplating this mission. Furthermore, they also must be "silent no more" with their friends and family first. In addition, training in the area of abortion-minded and post-abortive advocacy must be completed to equip the speaker for ministering to those who may respond to their story.

Leaders of many "awareness" efforts are well-intentioned. Unfortunately, many are inexperienced in the area of post-abortion outreach and unqualified to verify each candidate's healing and spiritual maturity before utilizing them at a public level. This is the main reason Ramah International does not support any national awareness efforts in the United States today.

Preparation Required

What Ramah does support is the work of pregnancy care centers that are laboring diligently to empower individuals to accomplish the Lord's calling upon their lives - true healing from the abortion experience. God's empowerment is the most critical element in this passion. Through the Christ-centered post-abortion outreach programs available through pregnancy care centers, and a few separate ministries, many individuals are finding this healing. They are being mentored to make a difference in the lives of others considering this choice or who are struggling with their own abortion experience.

A select few of these healed individuals are then coached by the staff of these centers to be "silent no more" at various levels: state capitols, pregnancy center banquets, church programs, abstinence education efforts and many other arenas. The emotional support provided by outreach leaders further enhances the fruit of these testimonies. These humble, prepared hearts are indeed making a true difference in turning the hearts of our world against the evils of abortion. This is outlined in Psalm 10:17-18 (NKJV): *LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more.*

God has given me a protective spirit when it comes to post-abortive hearts. I've seen pro-life individuals *use* the post-abortive person to advance their passion to end abortion. Being "silent no more" before God's healing and without God's empowerment can be disastrous, further wounding the post-abortive individual. If unequipped to address an immediate need in the midst of an awareness program, event facilitators may leave attendees feeling more confused and helpless than before they came. Ill-equipped event coordinators can damage the mission to reach those wounded by abortion with the hope of God's healing touch. I've been called many names, been judged, discredited, cast out and ridiculed as well as loved and admired by various audiences. God has shown me that any positive audience reaction is due to the victory He's accomplished through me. It's also been evident that this admiration can be used by the enemy to boost my pride and transfer the focus from God.

Another Gideon's Army

God has impressed upon my heart that our world doesn't need a great number of individuals speaking out. What we need are a few trained voices, operating at a Gideon's army level. God dwindled Gideon's army down to 300 strong fighting men, outlining the impossibility of man actually winning that battle. He did so because He wanted it perfectly obvious that He was triumphant. I'm confident that when abortion is finally eliminated in our world, it's going to be very obvious that it is God who achieved this victory and not any of us. Even then our work will only be beginning in helping the millions of post-abortive individuals find His healing.

If you are evading God's calling to be "silent no more," understand that this is a very real and natural emotion. It doesn't mean that God has intended to place you on a public platform. Perhaps He's preparing the way for a future of public sharing that may come ten years from now. What you need now is preparation time, becoming "fit" for the campaign. You need to attend "boot camp" at your local pregnancy care center. By attending a post-abortion outreach class, sitting through a pregnancy care center volunteer training course, gaining experience working with the abortion-minded, and being mentored by Godly leaders, your skills in this battle will be enhanced.

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to share but not at a public level. This could be due to the fact that you don't have family support or that your parents are elderly and God is not leading you to share this secret with them. The pregnancy care center could certainly use your voice behind closed doors with those who are considering abortion. This sharing doesn't require the same amount of training or risk of rejection, and can have significant and life-long results in your heart and the heart of someone else.

If you'd like to read more about this topic, I strongly recommend you obtain a copy of Ramah's booklet entitled, *Sharing the Secret of Abortion*. I welcome e-mails (Sydna@aol.com) and am available to speak further with you on this topic as well as assist you in developing new speakers. May the Lord continue to bless your heart as you travel in the journey of His will for your life.

For more information on the booklet, Sharing the Secret of Abortion, see "Ramah's Resource Corner," locate on the back panel of this newsletter.

Reasons for Caution

Over the years I've worked with literally thousands of post-abortive individuals and know that many can be extremely dysfunctional, depending upon where they are in God's healing process. I am always amazed to hear that many post-abortive individuals are actually seeking out the public platform and feel great delight in being "silent no more." *I find this troubling and feel that those who **want** to share publicly are sometimes the least qualified to do so.*

Many seek sharing publicly as a form of penitence — a way to atone for what they have done or to earn God's forgiveness. Some enjoy public attention in any format! A few are sharing with vengeful hearts, intent on publicly discrediting those who participated in their abortion choice. Many want the pain to go away and think that a public platform may be the means to that end. When they leave the podium these individuals often do not experience the desired relief from pain and, unless they are supported emotionally by a compassionate mentor, can fall into deeper despair as a result of sharing.

I have included important questions I believe need to be asked by individuals who are considering public speaking:

- * Is it God who is calling you to speak?
- * Are you seeking attention or reward?
- * Have you shared this story with family/friends first?
- * Do you think that sharing can cleanse you of sin?
- * Can you speak without being overwhelmed with emotion?
- * Does your spouse/children support your sharing?
- * Do you enjoy public attention?
- * Will you focus your message on God?
- * Are you trained to assist those who may respond?

My heart breaks when I hear of post-abortive individuals shouting their testimonies and displaying great anger against those who support abortion rights. **Their intense pain is evident and the public spectacle they present is not a productive means to turning hearts against abortion.** This is the reason for using extreme caution before enlisting post-abortive speakers less you hurt them or expell them backward in God's healing process.

The Pride of Passion



“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” Proverbs 16: 18-19 (NKJV)

The other day I heard about a passionate pro-life individual who was overwhelmed with anger because another group was not educating on abortion in his prescribed manner. Passion is an essential element in God’s ministry but if it is uncontrolled Satan can use it to his own purposes. We see this spirit of darkness in ministry when judgment and self-righteousness are displayed. There is a fine line between passion and pride.

As a child, my passion was centered on animal rights. Even as a little girl I would have no fear in approaching a bully who was hurting a small animal. When God touched my heart after my post-abortion healing, my passion enlarged to helping the unborn and their mothers. Sometimes I can feel my heart being pumped with a pro-life, passionate steam. It’s often fed by seeing the Lord’s redemptive spirit working in the wounded.

Controlling passion often comes through humility and acknowledging God’s will over your own. In everything – the good or the bad – praise the Lord and acknowledge His power to turn everything together for His good. Always be sure not to judge others who don’t share your passion because God may have put other issues on their hearts. The end result of our passion should always be evangelism.

Abortion issues may be the steam but the pump in my heart is helping others to know my Jesus. Be sure not to offend the separate passions of others who may not follow your ministry path. Every day surrender your passion to the Lord and allow Him to use this emotion in His righteous way!

Ramah's Resource Corner:

Booklet: Sharing the Secret of Abortion

Perhaps the greatest element preventing individuals from sharing the secret of their abortion with family, friends or others is the fear that their confessions will lead to judgment and rejection. Sydna’s own personal calling from God to speak about her abortion is relayed in this booklet along with many other topics. If you are considering sharing or mentoring others, this booklet can be helpful for your ministry!

To order use the enclosed order card, call 1-866-807-2624 or visit our website at: www.ramahinternational.org (Suggested donation for each booklet is \$5).

Sydna A. Massé

From the Word of

God: *What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

Matthew 10:27-29 (NIV)

