



Ramah's Voice

FAQs from Post-Abortion Ministry Leaders

By Sydna A. Massé

It seems at every Ramah event, I am asked the same questions over and over again. For this issue of Ramah's Voice I thought it might be good to answer a few of these queries from the perspective that the Lord has provided over the last 13 years in pregnancy care ministry. These answers are in no particular order, and I would appreciate your input!

Is the Bible clear that the souls of aborted babies are in Heaven?

Many in this ministry believe that since the Bible isn't specifically clear on the final destination of aborted children, then it's incorrect to offer women the hope that they will see their children in Heaven. I believe the Bible is very clear. The Lord has given me absolute assurance that my aborted child is in His care. This view is based on several Scriptures:

II Samuel 12: 22-23 (NIV) — He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

Ecclesiastes 6:3-6 (NIV) — A man may have a hundred children and live many years; yet no matter how long he lives, if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. It comes without meaning, it departs in darkness, and in darkness its name is shrouded. Though it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than does that man—even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his prosperity. Do not all go to the same place?

Psalms 27:10 (NIV) — Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Matthew 18:10 (NIV) — See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Consider this question: If aborted children aren't in Heaven, where are they? When asked this question, one post-abortion leader answered, "I don't know, but wouldn't it be a great deterrent to abortion if women thought their babies were going to Hell?" Her comment sent cold shivers down my back. The Lord knows every heart that He's created. Like the hymn relays, "Little ones to Him belong. They are weak but He is strong."

Can those who have never had an abortion help the post abortive find Christ's healing?

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:1-3

This verse outlines the Christian purpose from God to preach good news to those who are hurting and grieving. It doesn't list any specific requirements except that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us. Never be ashamed of not having an abortion if you are called by God to do this work. Too many believe they are disqualified for ministry without the abortion "credential." I am always sad to discover those post-abortion ministries who discriminate against those who have never made this choice.

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Consider the comparison of other aspects of life to show the ridiculousness of the theory that one must experience the sin to be able to help others:

- A veterinarian has never been an animal. Does that mean they can't help animals?
- Male OB/GYN's have never experienced childbirth. Are they, therefore, precluded from delivering babies?
- Pastors haven't experienced all forms of sin. Are they only allowed to counsel about the sins they have experienced?
- Many pregnancy care center advocates were abstinent until marriage. Does this make them ineffective to minister to those who aren't abstinent?

Everyone is at common ground at the foot of the cross. With the proper training, and anointing by God, anyone can be powerful in this ministry. *We desperately need the non-post-abortive person in this work to be a window to the Christian community that affirms that Christians will love and not judge for this choice.* Your stable influence on the healing process can be a tool that the Lord uses to outline His unconditional love, grace and mercy.

Should potential volunteers be required to attend a post-abortion Bible study in order to volunteer/work at a pregnancy center?

I remember my emotions when I was told that because of my past abortion I was required to attend a Bible study before volunteering at our local pregnancy care center. I was belligerent and said, "God's healed me. I don't need that!" I hung up and determined that the pregnancy care center wasn't the place for me to serve. Thankfully the Lord worked through these emotions and hauled my wounded heart into a study. While I started the class kicking and screaming, believing it offered me nothing, God had other ideas. There were issues in my heart that I didn't know needed addressing – grief, anger, bitterness and forgiving others. The healing power from the Lord during my memorial service was well worth attending the class.

Post-abortion Bible study groups help individuals work through many issues. God created our tears and wants to use them to help heal our hearts. This is outlined in I Peter 1:6-7 -- *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

I believe that many people can experience healing when they come to know the Lord. For those of us who were Christians when we chose abortion, rededicating our lives back to God can also bring great restoration. A person's true healing is difficult for anyone to judge. It could be that healing has begun in one area but not another since we are all essentially a work in progress. If people are truly healed, they shouldn't mind attending a class in order to work in your center. I don't believe attending a group can undermine God's healing touch. If a person is truly healed, they can also be a strong influence on others in the group in understanding the process of addressing sin issues in our hearts.

In order to avoid making the post abortive feel "picked on" because of this requirement, **I want to suggest a new policy -- EVERY pregnancy care worker be urged to attend a post-abortion Bible study – not as observers but as participants.** Everyone has grief, forgiveness or other sin issue that can be addressed in these studies. The process allows many to understand post abortion pain at a deeper level and should therefore enhance ministry efforts to the abortion minded.

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Are memorial services a useful element in the healing process after abortion?

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart. Ecclesiastes 7:2

Attending a funeral service is rarely enjoyable but it does serve a purpose in the healing process. Our work is full of pain, and without tears to relieve the pressure, many of us can experience burn out and stress or secondary post-abortion syndrome.

God can heal hearts regardless of our actions. Many veteran post-abortion leaders come to our seminars and are surprised at the emotions they encounter at our memorial services. These services are primarily designed to grieve the children who have been aborted by clients who have visited our centers. Everyone who works with the abortion minded can benefit from a regular memorial service to grieve the losses we encounter in this ministry.

God has encouraged me to help people begin to grieve these losses to help them realize the power of the mourning process. Often tears provide a new vitality for ministry. The memorial service is a great tool in rejuvenating our forces as well as helping the post-abortive find God's closure and forgiveness. I recommend a service after a group as well as a yearly service for our staff and volunteers to grieve our losses. They help us come to a place of humility with the Lord and rebuild our hearts for the work ahead.

Should a pregnant woman be excluded from a post-abortion Bible study?

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Isaiah 40:1

If someone asks for help we need to give it to them, regardless of their situation. This question about pregnant women attending groups is rooted in the concern that a group could be uncomfortable around children or pregnant women because they are a reminder of their loss. Others see that the stresses of pregnancy could hinder the healing process. I was carrying my third son when I led a post-abortion Bible study. I also led a group that included a young, pregnant, post-abortive woman. In both cases the impending births were a source of joy for class participants. The prospect of new life was a joy to everyone involved.

Delaying a recovery class because of pregnancy isn't recommended because once the baby is born they may not have time to attend a class. In addition, the bonding process the new child can be impacted due to unhealed elements of post-abortion syndrome. It's essential that we avoid rules that can restrict or alienate clients who are truly seeking healing. If there is any concern, present the situation to each potential group member to verify that everyone is comfortable with the pregnant participant. Should there be any dissention or worries, consider an individual study for the expectant mother.

Editors Note: I'd love to help you more in answering the various questions that arise in our work. Please feel free to e-mail them to me at sydna@aol.com. May God bless you as you continue in obedience to His call for LIFE!

Do you need to wait a year after the abortion before attending a class?

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:2

For many years, post-abortion groups excluded individuals until they were at least one year away from their abortion. The initial, temporary relief that comes after the abortion, because the "crisis has past," made it difficult for many to perceive the abortion as a bad decision. The emotion of denial is very strong initially so leaders suggested they wait a full year before attending a class.

With the advent of ultrasound technology and the RU-486 abortifacient, many women do not experience the same denial process as others did in past years. While they understand that their child is not a "blob of tissue" but a fully formed human being, they still may be pressured to abort. The resulting grief and sorrow can be immediate because they know the truth of what they have lost in the abortion. These individuals can also be at greater risk for suicide.

It's important that we consider the person's denial level in allowing them to attend, no matter how long it's been since their choice. If a person is expressing remorse over their abortion, and no longer justifying this as the "best choice considering their circumstances," they should be considered a candidate for a study.

Here's another point to remember: *Working through this pain, with the Lord's help, before other dysfunctional behaviors start is always beneficial.* I can't imagine what my life would have been, had I addressed this pain immediately instead of waiting eleven years. The compounding sins of promiscuity, drug abuse, depression, guilt, blame shifting, etc., could have been reduced or eliminated. In many ways, my healing was impacted more by these sins than my abortion decision. Stopping this syndrome at any point is more beneficial than waiting. If you turn them away for any reason they may never return.



Coincidence or Miracle?

The sin of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden. 1 Timothy 5:24-25

Someone once said, “Coincidence is God’s way of performing a miracle anonymously.” Every day I’ve spent in this ministry, I’ve come to understand that a miracle is a better word than coincidence because of the incredible revelations that God gives in simple daily events.

In my life there have been many of these types of miracles that stand out upon reflection ... The first baby the Lord ever used me to save bears the name I gave my aborted son – Jesse. A Christian ministry called Focus on the Family moved to my town at the same time I needed a job. There are the numerous times when I’ve made an airline flight with only seconds to spare. Many of our miracles are financial with a check arriving at the same time our bank account has dwindled away to little. Each miracle provides a great opportunity to praise the Lord and understand that He knows our needs before we do!

Another “coincidence” was when a friend at Focus told me she and her husband wanted to adopt a baby. Just three days later a woman called and said that the Lord had told her that a couple who worked at Focus would be her baby’s adoptive parents. They got together and their little boy is now nine and greatly loved by his adoptive mom and dad – and now two siblings!

Needless to say, God’s miracles are not coincidences. They are just His way of working without drawing much attention to Himself. And each miracle serves to build our faith. We must remember that He has posted His angels around us to ensure that His work is accomplished. The next time a “coincidence” occurs, remember to praise Him!

Ramah’s Resource Corner:

Pregnancy Care Center Website Design Template Manual

This detailed manual provides an outline of Ramah’s website design services, articles encouraging website ministry, sample designs, and the extensive text copy that appears on each site. This resource is perfect for encouraging board members to prayerfully consider a website. This resource is free when you use Ramah as your website designer!

To order use the enclosed order card, call 1-866-807-2624 or visit our website at: www.ramahinternational.org (Suggested donation for each manual is \$25).

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From the Word of God:

So he (Jesus) said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. . . Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” John 16: 19-20, 22-24