

Dear Victims Of Choice,

My 10 counseling sessions have ended with my lay counselor from Victims Of Choice (VOC), and I wanted to write and thank you for this life changing experience.

I learned of the VOC Ministry when you led a workshop at our church. I attended it because I was curious about a ministry dealing with men and women who have had abortions. Although I considered myself a committed Christian and had known the Lord for 15 years, I evaded the issue with Him that I too had had an abortion 25 years ago. I knew abortion was wrong and for years I had conditioned myself not to think about it. I told no one about my abortion -- struggling to stay in denial even to myself.

That day as I sat in your workshop, the scales fell from my eyes and the Lord started penetrating my heart. I learned that the baby I had aborted was fully developed and had a beating heart. I realized I had destroyed a precious creation of God -- my own child.

The abortion experience itself is very traumatic for a woman to endure. I learned that years of sleepless nights and other phobias were directly related to my abortion. My low self-esteem was mostly due to the tremendous guilt...hidden deep in my heart so no one could see what an awful thing I had done.

But our wonderful God loved me too much to allow me to be in bondage to this buried sin. I clung to Isaiah 50:7 that says the Lord God will help us. I would set my face like a flint and ask Him to help me get over being so ashamed.

After the workshop, I contacted VOC and made an appointment with a lay counselor. I really appreciated the discreet way in which I was treated. This very special person helped me to feel God's cleansing, healing and forgiving love!

The hardest part for me was grieving the loss of my child. I have other children and each one is living for the Lord and being used by Him in full-time ministry...there could have been one more doing His work!

I also grieved over the years I allowed guilt and shame to rob me of whom God created me to be. The Lord's love and forgiveness continue to amaze me because now I am restored and I have a whole new meaning of knowing truth and being set **free!**

Now I want to work in the VOC Ministry reaching others like myself and help them deal with the heartbreak that abortion causes. I pray that these women will come out of hiding and have the courage to come to terms with their suppressed emotions and mourn their loss. There are many sitting in churches just like me; I did for many years, afraid my Christian family would reject me if they knew about my secret sin.

Again, I thank you. You made it possible for someone to come alongside of me and help me deal with my hurt and be able to live with the scar of abortion that will be with me until eternity when I walk into my Savior's arms where my baby already is.