



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

The Effect of Abortion on Siblings



Education: Seven-year-old Sarah, an only child, had a terrible nightmare. She and three other children tunneled into a bank of sand, but the sand collapsed and buried the other children. Only Sarah survived. She said the 3 children were her brother and sisters, but she didn't know their names. After the nightmare she became depressed and sleep-deprived, and was brought to a psychiatrist.(1) After questioning Sarah's mother about other pregnancies, the doctor learned that she had had three early miscarriages. "But she couldn't possibly know that." But somehow she had learned about

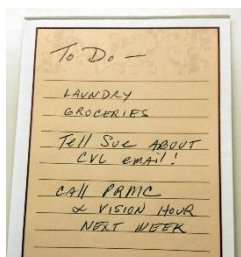
them and the knowledge had had a devastating affect. It was the only explanation for her dream.

Siblings who have survived abortions have the same fear and grief, but with additional survivor's guilt. Dr. Phillip Ney has treated hundreds of patients with what he calls Post Abortion Survivor Syndrome (PASS). The characteristic symptom is a persistent sense that they don't deserve to be alive. Almost all know or strongly suspect that their mother had one or more abortions. Sometimes they were told, other times they overheard a conversation about it. Dr. Ney and his wife Dr. Marie Peeters-Ney have written a book called "*Your Children Your Abortion & Pregnancy Losses: How to talk with them.*" He advises being honest with your children about other pregnancies in order to help them deal with the truth, rather than what they may be fantasizing about what happened. One woman who survived both Auschwitz and her mother's abortion said the latter caused her more turmoil. In the camp she knew her parents were trying to protect her, but "With abortions, your parents are your worst enemies. You can't trust them. If you don't trust your parents, you don't trust others, not even yourself."(1) Dr. Ney now trains counselors to use the Christ-centered Hope Alive program to treat victims of PASS, as well as victims of PAS (post abortion syndrome). (2)

1. Philip G. Ney, MD FRCPC MA, Sibling Survivors Uncovering and treating the damage abortion causes the brothers and sisters of aborted babies.", Day 41 A publication of 40 Days for Life, Spring 2020 issue.
2. <http://mtjoycollege.com/history-mission/our-history/>



Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, please have mercy on women who have aborted and on their other children. Help post-abortive women to first find forgiveness and healing in You. Help them to understand the effect their abortions may have on their children, and the likelihood that they will eventually learn the truth whether they tell them or not. Help them to learn from Dr. Ney's book about how best to speak to their children about their experience and help them to deal with the information in a healthy way. Please help the children suffering from PASS to know your great love for them and their inherent value as your child.



Action: If you know someone who has had an abortion and now has other children please share this email with them. Dr. Ney's book is available on Amazon. If you know a child or adult that is displaying symptoms such as confused identity, dissatisfaction with self, substance abuse, or nightmares, consider the possibility of PASS. A significant fraction of the world's population have mothers who have aborted one or more of their siblings.