



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Joy of Birth Marred by Past Abortion



Education: In the delivery room after giving birth to her son, Carolyn's husband wanted her to be the first to hold their son. But she told her husband, "No. I can't... I don't want to hold him right now." Carolyn didn't understand at the time why "the most exciting day of my life" was also one of the saddest. Later she realized that it was the first time she truly faced her abortion three years before. "I couldn't lie to myself anymore... I had to look at him and realize, 'This is what I threw away.'" (1)

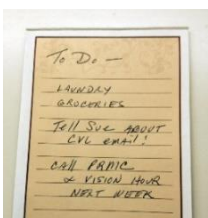
After growing up in a broken home, Carolyn entered her teen years craving "acceptance" and said she quickly became a part of "the wrong crowd... My goal was just to feel loved." At 19, she became pregnant. Her boyfriend's reaction was "Well, you're not keeping it, right?" Reluctant to tell her family, she decided on a medical abortion. After experiencing great pain and seeing "so much blood", she eventually saw the remains of her baby and flushed them down the toilet. After that traumatic experience, she shut down emotionally. Two years later met the man she would marry. When she became pregnant, his reaction was "Okay, well, I guess we're going to have a baby." She was so relieved not to have to go through another abortion. They got married and waited for their child to be born. Carolyn couldn't get excited and felt "disconnected" from the experience, but did not understand why. After the delivery and facing her feelings about her abortion, Carolyn eventually started attending church and was led to a post-abortion healing program. (1)

A new study shows that abortion is linked to a greater risk of post-partum depression. The risk of postpartum psychiatric care requiring hospitalization is increased by 83 percent by an induced abortion or miscarriage of a first pregnancy. (2)

1. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/traumatized-past-abortion-unable-hold-newborn-son/>
2. <https://afterabortion.org/abortion-contributes-to-subsequent-cases-of-postpartum-depression-new-study/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on women and girls who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Help them to trust in You and to find the support they need to cope with the pregnancy and resist any coercion they may be facing. For the women who do proceed with the abortion, please help them to find your forgiveness and healing through a post-abortion healing ministry. Help them to be able to bond and relate well to their other children rather than being hindered by the past abortion. Help more and more churches to be aware of these ministries and even provide these healing programs at their church.



Action: Some people feel that an abortion allows a woman to put an early pregnancy behind her and go on to have children later, when she is ready to care for them. If someone expresses such an opinion, tell them that women are profoundly affected by an abortion in many ways, but one way is that it makes it more difficult to bond to future children. Going through another pregnancy will remind them of the previous pregnancy, and force them to face the fact of what their abortion did to their earlier baby.