



Christian Voices for Life  
Weekly Pro-Life  
Education  
Prayer  
Action

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## A Healing Strategy

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**Education:** A young woman is distressed to find out she is pregnant. She wants to not be pregnant, and abortion can make that happen. Much pro-life effort has been focused on showing the world that the baby is alive and human; that abortion would kill a child and clearly is not within a woman's rights. Those things are true, but pregnancy centers learned long ago that we have to first show women that we care about them, not just about their baby. We talk about how so many women regret their abortions and we want to help her to avoid that pain. We want her to

make a decision that she will be happy with over the long term.

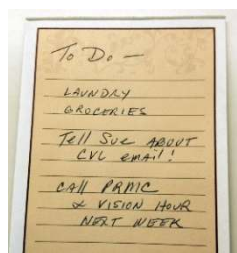
Over 25 years ago, David Reardon proposed a strategy which would appeal to the "middle majority" who acknowledge that abortion is morally wrong, but still feel it should be legal.(1) They feel that by banning abortion they are condemning women who have abortions, and/or imposing their morality on others. If they have had abortions themselves, they may feel hypocritical to want to prevent others from doing it, even if they regret their own abortion. The basic problem is that it seems to be a question of whose side are you on, the woman's or the baby's. The fact is that abortion is a bad choice for **both** mother and child. David Reardon's "healing strategy" is to focus on the negative consequences of abortion for women – and men. We need everyone to realize that we can love both mom AND baby by helping mothers find a better way to cope with their pregnancy.

Dr. Jack Wilke and his wife used to make presentations on fetal development, but saw increasing levels of hostility on college campuses. They changed their presentation to include an introduction expressing sympathy for women who have had abortions out of desperation, and concluded with information about post-abortion healing. They saw a dramatic decrease in anger and combativeness.(1)

1. <https://afterabortion.org/a-healing-strategy/>



**Prayer:** Please, Lord, help everyone to understand that abortion has serious negative consequences for women and men as well as for the child. When we work against abortion, we are not choosing to support the baby at the expense of the mother. We want what is best for both of them – to help find a way to get both mother and baby through the pregnancy with the best possible outcome for both of them. Abortion advocates often accuse the pro-life community of not caring about women, but decades of work by pregnancy centers, maternity homes and adoption agencies proves exactly the opposite. The abortion industry sells women a product that is bad for them – and fights against any legislation that seeks to require informed consent, parental consent, waiting periods, or safety regulations which are designed to protect women.



**Action:** When you have an opportunity to discuss abortion with a friend or neighbor who is pro-choice, be sure to express your compassion for women, and let them know that the pregnancy help centers across the country give all kinds of free services to help women to not only get all the information they need for an informed choice, but provide classes and material assistance to help them be able to parent if they choose. Express your sorrow that so many women suffer greatly after their abortions, and deeply regret their choice.