



“God took what I thought of as a worthless piece of junk just taking up space and turned me into a voice for other women who are suffering from their choice of abortion.”

Donna, Phone Consultant Arkansas

I grew up in a very small town. When I graduated from high school, I moved to a big city to attend college. On a weekend trip home to be in a friend's wedding, I met a man and we began dating. We began sleeping together 1 month later. Two months after that, I got pregnant on my 19th birthday. My boyfriend told me that I was pregnant so I took a pregnancy test to prove him wrong. He was right. I made an appointment with a doctor and he got a negative reading on his pregnancy test. He gave me a shot and told me to wait 10 days and if nothing happened, come back and see him. I returned to the doctor after the 10 days. This time I got a positive reading. My boyfriend told me that I was going to have an abortion. I told him that I was not going to have the abortion because it was murder. He told me if I didn't have the abortion, not to call him ever again. He refused to talk with me. I was all alone in this big city and pregnant. I was "in love" with this man...or so I thought at the time. I did not want to live without him. I called him and asked him if we would still be together if I had the abortion. He said yes. I agreed to have the abortion. My family did not know anything about my pregnancy. My boyfriend made the appointment and drove me there. During all of this time, I had quit going to classes, flunked out, and moved back home which is where he lived.

I remember walking into the clinic. There were people outside holding signs trying to get women to change their minds about abortion. I remember reading one that told me that my baby had a heart beat. I wanted to talk with them but my boyfriend took my arm, told me no, and led me into the clinic. When I was in the clinic, he paid for the abortion and we sat down. I was called into a room where I was told about birth control with about 9 other women. I remember thinking it was a little late for that.

After my "counseling" session, I returned to the waiting room for a few minutes before I was called to go back to the prep room. When I got to the prep room, I was given a gown and told to sit down until I was called. I was in a waiting room with lots of other women. Then they called my name. I went into the procedure room and was told to get on the table. I was told that the only pain I would feel would be like mild cramps. **What a lie that was!!** It hurt so bad that I was turning my head from side to side. The nurse stepped out of the way at one point and I saw my baby being sucked down the tube into a huge trash can looking thing. It is a picture that is permanently etched in my mind! After my procedure, I was taken back into a recovery room and given juice and cookies, as if I had just given blood. They told me when I could sit and stand without feeling dizzy that I could leave.

I remember walking out of that clinic feeling dirty, worthless, and guilty. My downward spiral began. I went back home and acted like nothing had happened. I pretended everything was normal. My boyfriend who had told me that we would be ok, broke up with me exactly one week later.

My downward spiral went out of control. I began drinking heavily and became very promiscuous. I had been a virgin until I had met this man. I tried to numb my feelings. I thought I was doing a pretty good job of numbing myself until 3 years later. I had begun having problems with my monthly menstrual cycle immediately after the abortion, but it got worse. I went to the doctor. He went in to do exploratory surgery and ended up having to do a hysterectomy. He told me that my uterus had attached to my colon with scar tissue and there was nothing he could do. I was 22. My downward spiral got even more out of control.

I went back to college the next year and began going to church. I decided that if God was going to accept me and forgive me for the abortion, I had to work my way back. I was on every committee there was. If someone was needed, I volunteered. The only problem was that it did not work. I still carried feelings of guilt and shame. Nothing seemed to take that away. I was in and out of hospitals and on about every kind of antidepressant. Nothing seemed to work. I began making up reasons about why I was depressed. The psychologists did not know what to do with someone who was suffering from abortion, so I made up things to tell them. I began cutting myself to help relieve the pain I was feeling on the inside. It was easier to deal with physical pain than emotional pain. I finally got to where I could walk through the motions of life without feeling anything....at least around other people. I became a master of the mask.

I finished college and got a teaching job. I walked through life with a happy mask, but was very numb on the inside. This continued for 24 years until I saw a show called Faces of Abortion. After seeing the show I went online and read the stories of other women who had gone through similar experiences as me. I sat and cried for 3 hours reading story after story. I called the number for Operation Outcry and they put me in touch with Millie and the National Helpline for Abortion Recovery. She put me in touch with a pregnancy resource center here in my town. I called the center and went through a Bible study for post abortive women. God came down and met me there. He completely took away the sting and pain of my abortion. The memories of the abortion are still there, but the pain, guilt, and shame are gone. God took what I thought of as a worthless piece of junk just taking up space and turned me into a voice for other women who are suffering from their choice of abortion. He is waiting for you to turn to Him. His arms are wide open and He is calling you to turn and give Him all of your burdens. He will take them. Abortion is not the unpardonable sin. God loves you and will set you free from it if you will but turn it over to Him completely.

*After completing college in 1989, Donna began her teaching career in Jacksonville, Florida. She taught there for 1 semester, then moved back home to Arkansas where she now resides with her husband and 2 dogs. She has taught in public schools for 17 years and enjoys spending time with her family, being outside, riding motorcycles, and writing. Donna is a phone consultant for the National Helpline for Abortion Recovery and is a member of Charity Baptist Church. She shares her testimony and is currently working on a book about abortion for parents. If you are hurting, there is help. **Call the National Helpline for Abortion Recovery at 1-866-482-LIFE***