

Pain of abortion lingers in the heart

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Writing this has been on my heart for a long time, and as I see my dear friend struggle, I realize that it must be written now and not later. I write it to warn women about the reality of abortion.

Abortion is not the quick-fix/cure-all that it is touted to be. When a woman makes the difficult, personal decision to terminate her pregnancy, and undergoes the procedure, she is told that it is over — the problem has gone away. The reality is that it doesn't go away — ever.

At first, the woman may feel relief that it is over, but eventually she will have a sense of mourning. After all, as much as we may want to believe that it was just a blob of tissue, the truth that it was a baby cannot be denied. There is nothing more painful and difficult than the loss of a child, and when it is coupled with the undeniable fact that the mother chose to have the baby killed, it is immeasurably worse. The pain and emotional turmoil are overwhelming.

There may be a woman reading this who has had an abortion and isn't feeling this yet ... you will; you may already be and are not recognizing it for what it is.

For my friend, it had been years of



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Soapbox

inexplicable depression, anger, self-hate and irrational fear for her children. She had an abortion more than 20 years ago as a teen-ager, and then, because she was told by our society and our laws that it was an acceptable and good alternative to bringing a baby into a financially unstable situation, she had another abortion eight years ago.

Although she had suffered pain and remorse in the years after the first abortion, when she was facing an unplanned pregnancy during a time when she, her husband and her children were virtually homeless and needed her to keep working, she made the choice to terminate the pregnancy because it seemed the most logical and responsible decision to make for the benefit of her family. At that time, she expressed to me that she wished that abortion wasn't an alternative so that she didn't have to consider it, but that because it was, she had to. I wish that I had said to her, "Don't do it, you'll regret

it. There are people who will help you." But I didn't.

She went about five years before she recognized the reason for her despair. Words cannot possibly convey the pain and emotional turmoil that she goes through on a daily, sometimes moment-by-moment basis.

I am writing this with her permission and with her hope that some good will come from this hard lesson. Abortion is not the answer to an unplanned/unwanted pregnancy. Physical dangers aside, and there are many, the reality is that you will regret it to the very core of your being for the rest of your life. If you are facing this decision, seek help from the agencies who are there to help — look in the phone book, they are right there at the beginning of the Yellow Pages under Abortion-Alternatives. Think carefully about what I have said, and about the lies that you've been told by the abortion industry. They won't tell you what I have, and I can guarantee that my friend is not the only woman who is suffering. My heart goes out to all of the other women, who, like my friend, have been deceived and are struggling with the aftereffects of this terrible tragedy.

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