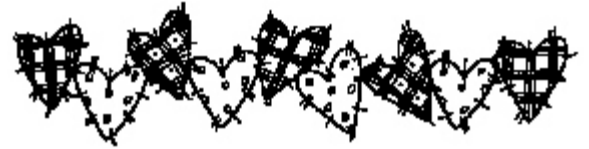


HeartBeats

Service From the Heart Since 1984



From the Director...

Greetings! At the beginning of each year, I take some time to reflect upon what God has accomplished through Silent Voices, and to pray for guidance and direction as we face a new year of challenges and opportunities. This year, as I reviewed the statistics from our offices here in Chula Vista, in Russia, and in Zambia, I could see what happens when a society removes God from their culture:

Russia (Pushkin, Volgograd and Tartastan)

561 Women sought counseling for pregnancy
7 Babies saved from abortion

Silent Voices/Chula Vista

410 Pregnancy Tests provided (the only stats we keep are on those clients who actually had a pregnancy test - we actually talked with MANY more!)
18 Babies saved from abortion
27 Women attended a PAS support group

Zambia (Kitwe)

1478 Women sought counseling for pregnancy
73 Babies saved from abortion
(In addition, abstinence presentations were made to 4635 people, many were school age children)

Abortion has been legal in Russia for almost 6 decades - and religion had no place in Russian society for even longer. The result is that abortion is even more acceptable there than it is in the US. Ask any Russian woman, and she will tell you that "abortion is normal" - in other words, it's what you do when you get pregnant - married or unmarried.

Add to that the fact that there is no infrastructure in Russia to help women/families in need - welfare is non-existent, and social service agencies are few and far between. SO - telling them to "trust God and believe that HE will provide" isn't enough - they've been stripped of hope.

In the United States, abortion has been legal for almost 30 years, and God hasn't been erased from the culture (although every attempt is being made to do so). Most of the women we're seeing in our office now have never known a time when abortion WASN'T legal - they've grown up with it being a "choice," and many don't give it a second thought.

However, because God hasn't been completely silenced, and there IS an infrastructure in place to help women/families in need, women in the US are more open to believing that God could provide for them, and it's a little bit easier to convince them to consider another option.

And then there's Zambia. They still consider themselves to be a "Christian" nation - and in many ways, they are. The God of the Bible is embraced by most - and faith is an important part of their culture and society. While Zambia is better off than many African nations (due to their copper mines), there is still a great deal of poverty, and little help from the government.

Sadly, while abortion is not legal, it is still widely practiced. However, when a woman considering abortion in Zambia is told the truth about her unborn child, and is assured that God will provide for her and her child, she is more likely to believe it, despite the hardships and poverty she will face.

SO - having a belief in God - within the culture, not just the individual - has a powerful influence over the choices that are made. It saddens me to think that we (in the US) are well along the path taken by Russia decades ago, and that we will, in time, reach that place of hopelessness and helplessness that permeates a culture of death.

Until that time - or for as long as the Lord allows - Silent Voices will continue to be a light in a very dark world - in San Diego, Russia and Zambia - and wherever He opens a door of opportunity!

In His Service,

Sharon Pearce
Director

Some More Stats!

We keep additional statistics of our clients who receive pregnancy tests that you might find interesting:

Of the 410 tests performed, 116 (28%) were given to "abortion vulnerable" women (women who planned to have an abortion, or who were unsure about what they would do if pregnant).

Of the 116 "abortion vulnerable" women, only 37 (32%) were using any form of birth control to prevent pregnancy.

Of the 116 "abortion vulnerable" women, 50 of them had positive tests.

Of the 50 "abortion vulnerable" women with positive tests, 20 left the office still undecided - and could have decided to have their babies.

EVERY client was offered a free New Testament, and information about how to have a personal relationship with the Lord. 61 women accepted our offer of a New Testament, and 3 women prayed to receive Jesus!

Silent Voices believes that God is the Author of life, that all human life is valuable - born and preborn - and that abortion is never the answer to an unplanned, "crisis" pregnancy. We are dedicated to giving compassionate, practical assistance to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, providing accurate information about the realities and possible consequences of abortion, and offering help, hope and healing through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to women already struggling with the trauma of abortion.