

Calvary Chapel Kaua'i
Crown of Beauty Testimony
by Rae Nam

This particular journey I am about to share is a new one and although pieces of it began a long time ago, God in His grace allowed it to surface just recently. It began with a phone call from a dear friend and partner in ministry, Becky Hallman, asking for prayer about a burden the Lord had placed on her heart. As I listened, I realized she was talking about women who may have had abortions & I remember saying to her, quite nonchalantly – “I’ve had an abortion”.

This began a journey of revisiting a tragic decision I made 32 years ago. After agreeing to pray with Becky about partnering together in this new ministry, I began thinking about my abortion. There were things that were unclear...blank in my mind...*How old was I? How far along was I?* In between of speaking engagements and attending workshops on Oahu, I went to the medical clinic and requested my medical records. When I finally received them, God in His grace and His mercy had me house sitting for someone, so I was alone and without any distractions. I began reading line by line --- I was 21 years old when I made that horrific decision to murder my child.

When I committed my life to Christ at age 35, I know I repented of that sin and asked the Lord for forgiveness and He forgave me. I knew my salvation was secure.

When the opportunity came to be a witness in the area of abortion, I volunteered at the Aloha Pregnancy Care and Counseling Center while I lived on Oahu. I was later employed as an Assistant to the Director of the Center and we later opened 2 other centers. God, my Redeemer, revealed His power as I sat with young girls and women who would come in tormented, broken, callous, fearful, ashamed and, on too few occasions, some would be joyful at the knowledge of receiving a positive pregnancy test. He gave me courage to share the truth with them and patience to listen to their all too familiar stories... *“I thought he cared”, “What will my parents think?”, “My boyfriend will leave me if I don’t do this”, “I can’t drop out of school”, “This is so shame, we can’t afford for this to happen to me now”, and even “I don’t want to look fat!”*

I knew what to say, I was trained at this and because the Lord gave me a genuine love for these young girls and women, He blessed me to see many of them changing their minds about the abortion. I even got to hold these babies who, at one time, were almost aborted. But for me, my procedure was in and out and reading further in the report, I saw that I was almost 3 months pregnant. Because of my experience at the pregnancy center, I knew **EVERYTHING** that had already been developed in my child...where his/her ears would be, eyes, hands, toes...in a few weeks I might have even known if this child was a girl or a boy.

I sat on the floor continuing to read through this report and tears began to flood my eyes. God was taking me deeper. I remember calling Becky and I was so grateful for the time she took to pray with me. It could have all ended there, but I knew there was more God was calling me to do. I was blessed that day as she prayed for me.

A series of events began to take place that I would not have felt I needed to do, but the Holy Spirit compelled me to do. Even though I knew God had forgiven me, I now wanted to ask my baby’s key relatives to forgive me as well. I called my sister who picked me up the day of my abortion and began to ask her what she remembered. It was the first time she heard I had an abortion. She never knew that what I went in for had anything to do with her. I asked her forgiveness for murdering her niece/nephew and she forgave me. It was God’s grace that my sister is a believer and she comforted me with words of encouragement for the things He has ahead for me.

When I returned to Kauai, I sat with my mom and began to share what I found out about my abortion. I had never mentioned my abortion to her either. I asked her forgiveness for making the decision to murder her grandchild. She offered forgiveness and comfort as well. I couldn't stop there... I began to call my other siblings and asked for forgiveness and also spoke to my daughters as well. Each person forgave me and offered words of encouragement and comfort. I want to pause here, just for a minute...

Is there anyone out there who is dealing with a sin that seems so terrible that you can't even bear to say it out loud? Is there anyone out there who feels if they even considered trying to reconcile with someone that somehow you would be laughed at or worse yet, not be forgiven? May I encourage you in this – if I, a child murderer, am able to find forgiveness through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, then what is holding you back? God will move mountains for you! One by one God brought reconciliation, but there was one person that I had not spoken to... the father of my child.

God opened doors for me to locate his sister who helped me to move forward with the abortion. God made a way for she and I to connect and face to face I asked her forgiveness for bringing her into that decision and also for the murder of her niece or nephew. She began to share things that made me realize how destructive my thinking was during that period when I was living a lifestyle apart from Jesus Christ. My heart's desire was to ask for her help to connect with her brother, but she has been reluctant. I've tried to locate him on my own, and also with Pastor Bob's help. I trust that in God's timing, He will bring about a complete reconciliation. I need to pause again to clarify something – You might be asking, "What is Pastor Bob's role in this? A mediator? – why go there? Why not let people lead their lives as they please? This, I believe, was another God appointed and God anointed idea that was given to Becky. Well, I loved the idea because the father of my child deserves the same opportunity as me – to know that God loves him and desires that this area of his life never haunt or taunt him. With Pastor Bob as a mediator,

- it honors any relationship that my baby's dad may already be in,
- it gives baby's dad an opportunity to say yes or no to reconciliation,
- it takes away the threat that I may want something physical or financial from him
- **AND** it helps him to understand exactly what I **do** want - **to ask for his forgiveness for my role of destroying his child.**
- It gives me the opportunity to honor God's heart - **Hebrews 12:14 says: Make every effort to live in *peace with all men* and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.**

As our Crown of Beauty group walked through our Bible study together, we found how powerful God's forgiveness is and that horizontal reconciliation can go as far as God desires to take it. Yes, he wants us right with Himself, but he wants us right with those that we've wronged. I believe our choices to go deeper and seek reconciliation with others were made because they were Spirit led. The results so far:

- Peace between the Lord and me
- Peace between my family and siblings regarding this sin
- Peace in knowing that I'm walking in obedience to where He is leading
- Peace in knowing that our testimonies **defeat our enemy** according to His word:
11They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

In closing, on November 29, 2009 a memorial service was held on behalf of our unborn children. I believe it was a turning point in the birth of this ministry, **Crown of Beauty**, as well as an avenue for other women to be healed and find peace. Isaiah 61:1-3 says:

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— **to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of His splendor.**

Some of you know my two beautiful daughters, Chelsea-27 & Candiss-25. They truly are gifts from the Lord and His word tells me so in **Psalm 127:3 - ³ Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from Him.** It led me to think that if that service was for one of them, my heart would be grieved & in much pain to think that my time with them was not long enough. **Matthew 5 says "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."** I would surely need the Lord's comfort to help me to be patient until I could be with them in heaven. Everyone who loved them would probably want to share of times that were special – just between the two of them... and collectively their thoughts of a more joyful time would span from the day they found out I gave birth to the day they received word they are home with Jesus. It would ultimately turn to a time of celebration – of the work that the Lord did in their life while they were here and of their going home with the lover of their soul, Jesus Christ. And I would be at peace.

The memorial service gave me an opportunity to honor the first child I conceived. At the time of that conception, I was not aware this child was a gift from God and I selfishly aborted this child. I would not have any memories about this child except that the Lord **refused** to keep him/her hidden. You see, **Jeremiah 1:5** assures me that He knows my child's name – **before He formed this child in my womb He knew this child; before this child was meant to be born, He set this child apart.** This child will be remembered. I asked for this child's name and He revealed it to me -

KeikimakamaluokeAkua which means **Child at peace with God**

It is a name that seems fitting for both of us and although I will never have memories like I do with Chelsea or Candiss, what I will remember is this – The Lord says in **Philippians 4:7** that **His peace, which transcends or surpasses all understanding, will guard my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus.** My child, a gift from God, could have remained a hidden secret attached with pain, grief and shame. Instead, when I confessed my sin and asked for forgiveness, God's peace went deeper and wider – beyond my own comprehension – and it guards God's truth in my heart & mind – that I am forgiven. **Isaiah 26:3** says, **"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You."** If it were not for God's peace, that memorial service would have been a struggle for me. Instead, it marks a significant time that testifies of His goodness towards us as we continue to trust in Him.

Isaiah 26:12 says, **"LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished You have done for us."**

- Confessing to the Lord & my family what I did & asking forgiveness: God has done this
- Being patient to reconcile with my child's father: God is doing this
- Courage to share with you today: God has done this

Like David, although my child cannot come to me, I know that one day we will be rejoicing & worshipping the Lord together. So, ultimately, **what Satan meant for evil and destruction, God has turned for good!**

My child, **KeikimakamaluokeAkua** will always be remembered for the work that God has done and for the display of His splendor. And I am at peace with that...Thank you!!

