



A Lazarus Generation Event, “Hope After the Hurt”

Do any of you remember those great books and courses authored and offered by Cloud and Townsend? Wonderful titles like “Boundaries”; “Boundaries in Marriage”; “Safe People”, and probably scores of others....

I sat in a jam-packed class with other eager learners two decades ago as we made our way through the Safe People course. Chapter discussions, relevant videos, and insightful leaders brought us collectively to some impactful revelations. I recall the facilitator using the Lazarus story from the Gospel of John to illustrate a point. All these years later, I still use his illustration. Namely, after Jesus called Lazarus by name and the dead man walked out into the daylight from his dark tomb, Jesus called out to the bystanders. He called Lazarus’ own community to take the next steps. Lazarus had indeed risen from the dead as he heard the sound of Jesus’ voice; but now, He would require Lazarus’ village to unwrap the dead-now-living man. That particular reference made during a class all those years ago has never left me. Jesus calls us out, then we must unburden others. In Lazarus’ day, his community peeled away what were probably pretty putrid burial strips of cloth. (Lazarus had been in the grave several days...whoa, now there’s a thought). Soon after, I’d had a vision of men and women, as in a tsunami, engulfing the globe. In my mind, I called this vision “A Lazarus Generation”. Men and women who are being called out by their Savior and supported by their communities of faith.

Many women (and men) who have faced abortion head-on, are sitting inside our church buildings each week and may still be wearing the stinky grave clothes just as Lazarus wore. They know they are forgiven by a Father Who has heard their heartfelt sorrow in the wake of abortion. But it could be equally as true that they still remain somewhat, or even terribly bound, due to not knowing about post-abortion healing. A Lazarus Generation is within our own church walls!

FPRC is part of the community designed by God to unwrap you, or someone you may know, who still may be bound. Pregnancy medical clinics all over the country offer hope and healing after the hurt of abortion and its ensuing shame and pain. And while I am always talking from the podium and pulpit about healing for both men and women who’ve been affected by abortion, I felt that this was a time to host a very special event in your honor!

On Saturday, August 1st, from 11 – 2, at Monrovia Community Church, 101 East Foothill Blvd, a Lazarus gathering we're calling will take place. The luncheon event is called "Hope After the Hurt" and will feature a tender moment of welcome and Biblical encouragement from MCC's pastor, Joel Larson. Live worship music will warmly set the tone for the event and there will be gifts, a light August lunch, and opportunity for creative engagement throughout the day. Facilitators who will guide the attendees as they reach out to take the first steps towards healing (whether from sexual abuse and/or abortion) are: Rachel Freidman, a certified trauma facilitator who currently leads Sexual Abuse Recovery at FPRC. Our experience is that many, not all, but many women who have undergone abortion may have had abuse in their past. Rachel will share her gentle approach to healing; Barbara Lesure, founder and facilitator of "Journey With Us", a supportive online after-abortion resource. Barbara and Rachel co-led a conference last year at Pasadena's Rose Bowl and are bringing their expertise together again for this day. FPRC's Lori Berg will share about what healing looks like in-person, one-on-one or small group, at FPRC.

The special luncheon event is meant to be a safe intro for the church woman, or someone she may know, who has yet to take the courageous first steps to unwrap those grave clothes.

I and the teams at FPRC and Monrovia Community Church are excited to be hosting this event. We are encouraging all our partner churches to help us spread the word, so many Lazarus women from our churches may attend. Seating will be limited, so we will require an RSVP. There is no cost for this event. RSVP's will be received at 626-358-2122.

Together, we are the women of a Lazarus Generation! "Hope After the Hurt", Saturday, August 1st, 11 – 2pm, at Monrovia Community Church, 101 E. Foothill Blvd in Monrovia. Parking is available on the church property