

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

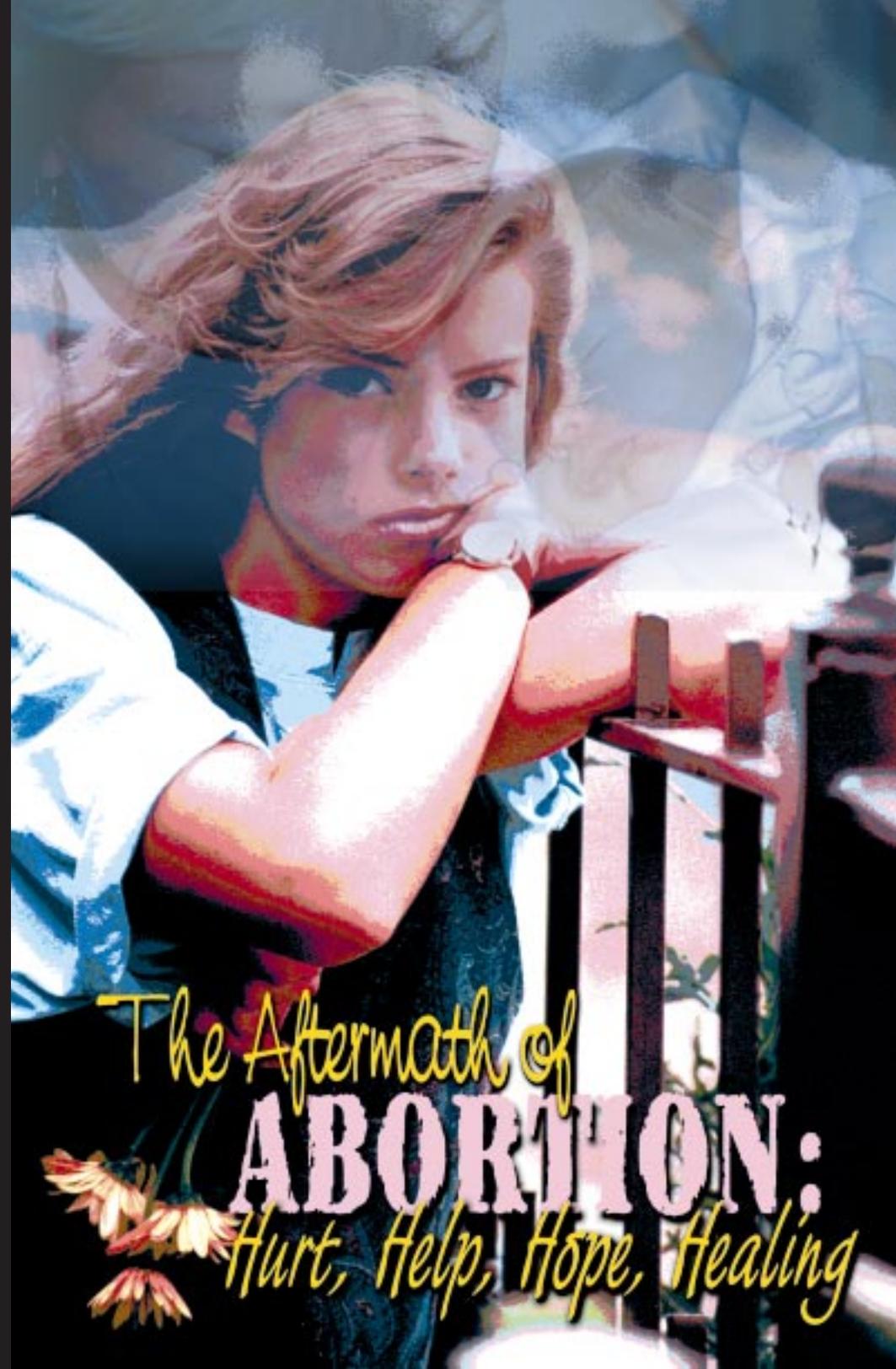
Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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The Aftermath of
ABORTION:
Hurt, Help, Hope, Healing



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as "15 minutes of fame". Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, "The Al Denson Show." "You've got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport," says Al. "This has all been so amazing. I can't imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don't have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, 'I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.' You can't ask for anything more or better than that."

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The Aftermath of **ABORTION:** *Hurt, Help, Hope, Healing*

Abortion is a great tragedy and the unborn child is not the only victim. Our society has so liberalized abortion that it has created a nation which knows nothing of the sanctity of human life. Most women who go into an abortionist's office are uninformed as to their other options and unaware of what God's Word says regarding the seriousness of their decision and the life-long consequences they will suffer.

Even though all women must be held responsible for the decisions they make regarding abortion, they, too, are victims of a society that has lied to them at the most vulnerable time in their lives. By the time the decision to abort is made, most women are numb. Some are desperate and hopeless; others are frightened and alone; but all are emotionally at their weakest and society assures them at that moment they have a "right to choose."

If you made the decision to abort a baby, it could be you also listened to the proponents of this procedure who say there is no aftermath to abortion. Now, just as in the aftermath of a hurricane, tornado, or earthquake, you are trying to sift through the emotional wreckage of your life. You may know for sure that what you did was wrong, or you may be haunted by uncertainty. You may be so confused that you don't know what to think any more--you just know that the pain in your life runs very deep.

The purpose of this booklet is to acknowledge the hurt in your life, offer a little help and a lot of hope, and as a result, move you toward some healing.

The hope offered you here is not based on the happy-talk of one person or the philosophy of any group. The basis for hope, regardless of your situation, is the Word of God. There are some verses in the Bible that can offer you the hope you may desperately need right at this moment regarding your child.

First, in Genesis 2:7, it says that God breathed into man the "breath of life." The word "life" here is the Hebrew

word "chayzem"--that is, lives. This verse literally says that God gave mankind the gift of lives or the ability to create life. This means that each time a conception takes place, God does not have to take a separate action to give life because life is already inherently present at conception. God delegated this gift to man when He created him. Man and woman have the incredible ability to reproduce eternal souls as well as physical bodies.

Then, in Psalm 139:13 it says, "For You (Lord) have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb." "Inward parts" in this verse is translated from a Hebrew word, "kilyaw" which refers to the "foundation of being" or the inner person--the spirit of a person.

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God is saying here that life in the womb is real and eternal. The verse goes on to say, "You have covered me in my mother's womb." The verb here literally means that God is beside the child--to help it and to keep it from the time of its conception. It is clear that even a baby aborted in the womb is a real person with an eternal existence from conception and continues to be an eternal being after its death.

Next, in Jeremiah 1:5 it says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you." God is saying, "Your conception was not an accident. I knew about your conception before it even happened. I preplanned and provided purpose for your life." You see, no unborn child is insignificant to God.

In Matthew 18:10 the Bible says, "See that you do not look down on one of these little

ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Jesus is letting us know that every small child enjoys uninterrupted fellowship with the heart of God. In II Samuel 12:23 King David says after the death of his baby, "I can go be with him, but he cannot return to me." David was sure that God had welcomed his baby into His presence, and, that one day when he died, David would join his little one in heaven.

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you, too, will see your baby in heaven one day. In I Corinthians 15:40 it says, "There are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies..." Any time in Scripture it refers to "heavenly bodies" these are always identifiable. You can be assured that in heaven you will know your child.

Pastor Jack Hayford helps you understand how this is possible when your baby was aborted before it was completely developed or recognizable. In Psalm 139:15-16 it says, "My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there was none of them." Pastor Hayford believes that the "book" the Bible is referring to that lists the details of the personal design and detailed development of each person's body is our DNA.

Each person's DNA is literally a book within each cell that is the whole human blueprint. This means that within the smallest amount of tissue is an encoded message of a baby's physical development and personal appearance, so God knows what each aborted baby would look like at any given age. Your child now has a physical form, and you will meet him or her in heaven; You will know your child and have a great reunion one day. If you chose abortion, you can have hope and peace today, knowing your relationship with your child in heaven will be whole and restored.

Jesus is reaching out in tenderness to you in the aftermath of your wrong choices. He can redeem you from your past, He can provide you with hope and power for the present, and He can give you a future and restore what you have lost through ignorance, neglect, failure, or sin. Jesus said in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has...sent Me to heal the brokenhearted." Whether your abortion took place yesterday or twenty years ago, Jesus is ready to set you free from the pain of that experience and the guilt that has you chained to the past. Of all the emotions you can experience, guilt has to be one of the most destructive and paralyzing. It has the power to destroy your fellowship with God and your life. If you are carrying a load of guilt from your past, it will also adversely affect your relationships today. Make no mistake about it--unresolved guilt will destroy you spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. If you are

a Christian you need to be reminded that God has a solution for your guilt. This solution is called "Regeneration." Regeneration is the supernatural work of God that literally made you a new person the split second you trusted Christ as Savior. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Regeneration is something only God could do for you. Regeneration was not something you could do for yourself to "clean-up your act" or improve your life.

Titus 3:4-7 says, "...but when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things that we have done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth, and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ, our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." If you have been saved, your regeneration in Christ is complete and perfect. God loved and accepted you unconditionally the moment you were saved because you were "in Christ."

You will eternally be "in Christ," so God still loves and accepts you unconditionally today, regardless of what you have done since you were saved. He gave, and continues to give you His grace, which is getting what you don't deserve, and His mercy, which is not getting what you do deserve. Both are gifts of God that Jesus purchased with His life.



For you not to accept His grace and mercy to your life today would be to take lightly His sacrifice, and to trample under your feet His precious blood (Hebrews 10:29).

Many times Christians, especially those who are carrying deep emotional wounds, make the big mistake of believing that even though they have asked God to forgive them; they are still guilty because they "feel" guilty. You see, society says if you feel a certain way then it must be true. About twenty years ago a song called, *You Light Up My Life* was very popular. This song contains a phrase that is a very dangerous lie. It says, "it can't be wrong, when it feels so right." What this song is trying to sell you is that if something "feels" good, then it must be good. Society has used this same faulty reasoning to determine that if something "feels" bad, then it must be bad. Or in this case, "I feel guilty, therefore I am guilty." You may be judging how guilty you are by how guilty you feel.

Feelings are never an accurate measuring-stick of reality. Feelings are important but are highly unreliable and not to be trusted. In any given week, and sometimes even on any given day, you will experience a wide variety of emotions. When things are going well, you can experience great happiness and contentment. But when things take a turn for the worse, your emotions can plunge you into doubt, frustration, fear, and anger. Too many times you will feel guilty, when based on what the Bible says, you aren't guilty at all.

As your feelings change, the way you feel about your relationship with God often changes, too. This is no way to determine your guilt or innocence before a holy God. Your relationship with God has nothing to do with feelings. That relationship is based on the facts of God's Word and His unchanging faithfulness to you. If, after you have confessed your sin to God, you still feel guilty then what you are experiencing is "false guilt." False guilt is from the pit of hell and is a device Satan uses to rob you of peace, joy, and any usefulness you could otherwise have to God.

The Scriptures promise if you are saved that God's acceptance of you is not based on what you do, or don't do, but on God's unconditional love for you and the price Jesus paid on the cross to redeem you. Even though these are the facts, it still seems more natural to feel condemned and unworthy, instead of forgiven and loved by God. As a result, you can go through life everyday feeling guilty, afraid, and condemned. This is a very serious issue because when your sense of guilt becomes overwhelming, it will turn to shame. In other words, in your own mind you move from being a person who does bad things to a person who is bad.

Shame is the painful sense you lack value as a person. It is the belief you are defective, worthless, and unlovable. It is not simply that something is wrong with your behavior; it is that something is wrong with you as a person.

Shame is a terrible thing because it says that you are what you are and you cannot change. Shame causes you to believe your past failures have permanently scarred you, and that you will have to always live life as it is at this very moment. Whenever you feel guilty about what you consider to be too many failures or disappointments in your life (even if many of these were out of your control), you begin to expect only failure in the future. When there is a deep sense of shame in your life, hopelessness will follow.

False guilt and shame have no place in the life of a Christian. If you have been saved, but you are genuinely guilty because there is unconfessed sin in your life, then listen to I John 1:9, "If we will confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us

from all unrighteousness." If you really grasp what God is saying here in this verse about this restoration process, there will never be any reason for you to hold on to guilt or shame. Here are three words you must understand:

A. Confession. This verse says that you must "confess" your sin. This verse isn't talking about confessing to another human. Confession is agreeing with God that what you have done was sin, and it is also about a willingness to see your sin in all of its awfulness. Confession is realizing the evil and the destructiveness of sin, and how it has broken the heart of God. You need to understand what sin cost God and hate sin the way He does. Genuine confession makes the next step of real repentance possible.

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B. Repentance. You may mistakenly think repentance is either about starting to do the things you should or stopping what you shouldn't be doing. But, if that were true, then repentance would be only be about your good works. Real repentance doesn't focus on your performance--it focuses on your relationship with God. Genuine repentance is laying down the control of your life that you took from God when you chose to sin and yielding your life back to Him again.

The whole purpose of the Christian life is to live totally dependent on God. God's purpose in allowing all the pain and problems in your life is that these might bring you into a dependent relationship with Him. Too often, Christians will "repent" because they are miserable, or because they have made a mess of things and are looking for a "quick fix." But it is only when you truly confess your sin (which is always self-control, regardless of how that has expressed itself in your life) and repent of your sin (which can only mean once again relinquishing the control of your life to Christ) that your fellowship with God can be restored.

C. Forgiveness. When you got saved Jesus paid for and forgave all your sins, past, present and future. There is no sin, not even the sin of abortion, that God can't and won't forgive. No sin is powerful enough to keep you from the cleansing, healing power of God's grace. Forgiveness is like a box of laundry detergent

Jesus purchased just for you. It has your name on it, it belongs to you, and what Jesus purchased with His blood, nothing, or no one, can ever take from you. Repentance and confession are like the water that activates the detergent (forgiveness) each time you need it, cleansing you and restoring your fellowship with God.

If you are in need of God's forgiveness, you must understand the same truth King David came to realize. Remember, he committed a sexual sin with another man's wife and when David learned she was pregnant with his child, he had her husband killed to cover up his sin. As you can imagine, because he was the leader of a nation, the list of people David had offended with his sin was very long. In spite of that, in Psalm 51:4 David says, "Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight."

David was not denying he had hurt and greatly offended many other people; he was simply acknowledging that when he sinned the One who was offended most was holy God. So whenever you find yourself guilty and in need of forgiveness, you must understand it is God's forgiveness you first need. God hates sin but he loves sinners, and He loves to forgive sinners. If you are saved, no matter what your sin, God can never be angry with you. He can hate what you have done but He can never stop loving you, or being loving toward you.

Sometimes the hardest forgiveness to receive is your own. How many times have you heard someone say, "I know God has forgiven me, but I can't forgive myself." That may sound very spiritual to some, but the truth is what is really being said with that statement is, "My standards are higher than God's, so even though He may be able to forgive what I did, I cannot." Setting yourself above God in any way is a dangerous thing to do; so you need to remember three things about forgiving yourself:

1. If you have received God's forgiveness and sought the forgiveness of those you have offended, then you need to release yourself from guilt by accepting something God does--you are human and your humanity gives you feet of clay. God accepts this and so should you.

2. You need to remind yourself that God does not "overlook" your sin. He requires every sin be paid for. He can only forgive you and release you from your debt because Jesus paid your debt, your entire debt of sin. The debt has been removed from your account, so not to forgive yourself is to ignore the blood Jesus shed and the sacrifice He made to pay your debt.

3. You may wonder at times if you have truly repented or have been remorseful enough. Never forget that it is not the depth of your repentance or remorse that makes God's forgiveness possible--it is His grace and grace alone. If God has "graced" you, then you should be able to "grace" yourself.

Knowing these truths in your head and allowing them to get into your heart is another story. Author David Seamands said, "...I have come to the conclusion that the major causes of most emotional problems among Christians are these: the failure to understand, receive, and live out God's unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace to ourselves and to other people. We read, we hear, we believe in a good theology of grace. But, that's not the way we live.



... is that these might bring you into a dependent relationship with Him.

The good news of the gospel has not penetrated the level of our emotions."

God's grace. Do you really understand it? Have you really accepted it? Grace means that God offers to release you from the consequences of your sin. But grace doesn't mean God overlooks your sin. God is holy, and, because of His holiness, He can't just ignore sin. Someone had to be accountable; someone had to pay the sin debt. Jesus Christ chose to assume the obligation for your sin. When you became a Christian, not only did God place your sins upon Christ, but He took the righteousness of Christ and credited it to your spiritual bank account.

That transaction is like having a bank account in your name that is seriously overdrawn. Jesus has an account in the same bank, but His account has a million dollars in it. When you got saved, God took your name off of the overdrawn account and put Jesus' name on that account. At the same time, He put your name on Jesus' account! Now the resources of Jesus belong to you, and Jesus is totally responsible for the debt you owe the bank.

This is a picture of God's grace in your life. If you are spiritually and emotionally bankrupt because of the aftermath of an abortion, God

welcomes you to come to Him with your tears, sorrow, and heartache. He is gentle, merciful, and gracious. Christian, if you have repented and asked God to forgive you for aborting your child, be assured, based on the Word of God, you are forgiven.

If you have never had the joy of inviting Christ to come into your heart, you, too, can be forgiven and given a new life. You can do that right now by praying a prayer something like this: "Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and that my sin has separated me from holy God. I accept your death on the cross as payment for all my sin. Please forgive me of my sin and come into my heart right now and save me. I give you the control of my life. Please help me to live the rest of my life for You, until You take me to heaven when I die to live with You forever. Thank You for saving me. Amen."

Remember, the words aren't magic, it's what is in your heart that matters to God. The moment you do your part, God does His, and your new life begins.

One day Jesus was in the home of a "graceless" Pharisee named Simon. Jesus said, "A certain money lender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were both unable to repay, he

graciously forgave them both. Which of them therefore will love him more? (Luke 7:41-42) Simon answers, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." "You have judged correctly," Jesus says." Whether you are now a new believer or you have been saved for many years, from this day on never forget how much grace you needed and how much grace you have received. Live from this moment in the light and the warmth that come from an awareness of what it is like to be the recipient of God's great grace and forgiveness.

The Bible says in verses like Jeremiah 31:34 that when God forgives our sin, He forgets about it. This doesn't mean He gets a case of "holy amnesia." It simply means He puts our

sins "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12) and He chooses not to remember them. Chris Jackman in one of her beautiful songs tells of a conversation in heaven between God and a child who had been aborted. The child says, "When, Father God, will my mommy be here?" God answers, "Soon, my child, soon." "What do you think she will do when she sees me, Father God?" The child asked. "She will run to you and take you in her arms and love you, my child," God says. "Why has she never held me before, Father God?" "She never had the chance," God replies. "Why did she never have the chance, Father God?" The child asked. "I don't remember," God says.

God welcomes you to come to Him with your tears, sorrow, and heartache.