

Abortion Clinic “Sidewalk Counseling” Ministry

The Biblical Call to action

Proverbs 24:10-12

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

*Rescue those who are being taken away to death; **hold back** those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*

*If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” **does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?***

Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

Our goals

1. Offer men and women facing a crisis pregnancy the gospel (Rom. 1:16),
2. Offer other options besides abortion and direct them to where they can find help (Prov. 24:10-12),
3. Be a voice for the unborn (Prov. 31:8-9),
4. Offer the gospel to pre- and post-abortive women and their partners (Luke 7:36-50).

Our Strategies

Ambassadors We are first and foremost ambassadors of God pleading for men and women to be reconciled to God. This requires a physical presence of God’s people who are ready to proclaim the gospel in love and ready to lovingly challenge those who are tempted to kill their own child for selfish and empty gain.

Using Signs The clinic is located in a business complex and the parking lot is private property. There is public land that allows us to stand right beside the driveway entrances to the complex. We hold signs offering help and to show we are not protesters but helpers.

A Website Additionally, we have observed that some of the women wait in the waiting room for several hours, and they have smartphones. So, we created a website (help4mom.org) that all of our signs direct women to.

Care Packets We call out offering water, care packets, and hope. Care packets contain things like pretzels, chapstick, gum, Kleenex, and our “You are Loved” booklet.

Conversations We try to have conversations with the women and their support people when they are willing to come over to us.

Prayer We spend time praying for those we see (eyes open, looking for opportunities).

How You Can Participate

We would like to have ambassadors outside the “clinic” regularly. **We especially want to cover Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30-11:30 and 12:30-2:30** as that is the time people are arriving for and leaving from abortions. At this point, we can only do Wednesdays and some Fridays based on the number of folks we have. If you are interested, contact Ben (ben@gcot.org) or Charlie (Charlie@gcot.org). We will train you and go out together. Additionally, we need people **regularly praying** for the Lord to work his mighty hand of salvation. We also need men and women **able and trained to disciple** any that might come to Christ as a result of the sidewalk ministry.

A Few Clarifying Answers

Are we protesting abortion?

There is a time and a place to protest the evil of abortion in order to draw social and political attention, but that is not the aim of this ministry. We are out there to save lives and share the gospel. **We have two audiences:**

1) God. We are there to plead with him to soften the hearts of those walking in to get abortions and asking him to ultimately end abortion in our town. **2) The Women (and those bringing them).** We are there to plead with them to trust Christ, to help them choose life, and to love them enough to challenge their decision to abort.

Are we promoting violence?

Absolutely not. We believe God commands us to submit to authorities and be gentle to all. Titus 3:1-2 says,

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

We in no way support illegal activities, unkind words or tone, threats, unwanted physical contact, or anything of the sort.

Are we being judgmental?

Yes and no. Yes, in the sense that, in our culture, any type of loving confrontation is considered “judgmental.” We are seeking to speak the truth to men and women who are in bondage to lies, and this will often be labeled as “judgmental.”

But, we are not judgmental if that means “self-righteous.” Titus 3:3-5 says we show courtesy to all people,

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

We are not calling people to conform to our opinions. On the contrary, we are messengers of God, pointing to God and His Word as the authority, and exhorting people to submit to it. Our God is a righteous Judge (Psalm 7:11) who promises that every deed will be revealed and brought to account (Luke 12:2, Heb 9:27). Therefore, we have no problem highlighting the attribute of God as Judge so long as it is done in a kind, gentle manner.

Is this legal?

Yes. There are laws we must abide by, but we do, legally, have the right to stand in the public land just outside of the parking lot. We have been in contact with the police and have obtained property line maps from the Leon County GIS website. The police have confirmed our activities are a legal use of our first amendment rights.

Is it safe?

We have had a couple people say some angry things, but we have rarely been threatened (we’ve also had people stop to encourage us). We will seek to be wise, minimizing danger by only sending people in groups of at least two. However, we ultimately look to God as our refuge and security.

What if I don't feel equipped?

Join the club. We all know we are inadequate on our own, but with the gospel and Spirit we are able to minister to others. The main thing you need is a love for God and others. Holding a sign and looking welcoming does not require too much equipping. If someone does stop to talk with you, we have resources you can give to them or go through with them. Additionally, we will provide training. If you are a bit apprehensive, just join us to pray outside the “clinic.” This ministry isn’t going to be for everyone, but it is for some of us.