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[www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org)

## **Courage**

By: Victoria Taylor Naoe

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Who would have thought that I would be sharing the story of how decisions I made thirty years ago have influenced my life.

I share my abortion testimony in senior high school and college classes. The students are very attentive, you can hear a pin drop. Some cry, some are aghast, some shake their heads in disbelief. It is vital that they understand the pain and anguish I suffered because of my three abortions. I want them to hear the other side of the story – one they will not hear in a Planned Parenthood clinic.

I am always nervous as I begin my story because it brings back such pain and sorrow. I want the students to understand that an abortion is the wrong decision. I hope they can see the shame and regret I experienced.

I was astounded by letters I received after I had shared my testimony recently and I cried when I read them. They thought I was courageous, and that my story changed their minds about abortion. Some said they were moved and that I was a strong woman. I cannot believe that I made such an impact. I only know that it has been through the power of God that I am able to speak and share my story. God has given me the courage to be able to speak to students today.

I want to continue to share my testimony to anyone and everyone because it is such an important message of hope and love. At the end of my story I tell everyone how I have been blessed to be forgiven. You see, the children I aborted were two boys and one girl, and God has blessed me with three grandchildren, two boys and a girl.

*Victoria attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat, which is a spiritual ministry for healing after abortion. Rachel's Vineyard was founded in 1997 by Kevin and Theresa Burke.*

*Retreats are held continually throughout the United States and internationally. They are a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion. The retreat is a specific process designed to experience the mercy and compassion of God. There are many exercises to help you grieve the loss of the unborn child and to receive and accept God's forgiveness. The retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. They are for women, men, couples, grandparents and siblings of aborted children.*

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**Rachel's Vineyard Ministries**

808 N. Henderson Rd.

King of Prussia, PA 19406

610-354-0555—1-877-HOPE-4-ME