Broken From Silence

BFS

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Bridge Builders

CHURCH READINESS CHECKLISTS

Awareness and Biblical Foundation	**yes**	**in work**	**not yet**	**unsure**
Our leaders recognize that abortion may have affected women, men, and families in our congregation.				
Our church understands that abortion-related pain may remain hidden for many years.				
We affirm the God-given dignity and value of every human life.				
We seek to address abortion with both biblical truth and Christlike compassion.				
We understand that people affected by abortion may need more than a one-time conversation or prayer.				
We recognize that women, men, grandparents, siblings, and others may be affected in different ways.				
We have discussed how shame, silence, grief, anger, regret, and fear may affect someone's willingness to seek help.				
We are committed to proclaiming that forgiveness, healing, and hope are available through Jesus Christ.				

Leadership Preparation	**yes**	**in work**	**not yet**	**unsure**
Our pastor and key leaders have discussed how our church should respond when someone discloses abortion-related pain.				
We have identified at least one trusted, mature, and confidential point person for initial care conversations.				
Our leaders know how to listen without shock, condemnation, interrogation, or rushed advice.				
Our leaders understand that people should never be pressured to disclose their story publicly or in a group.				
Our leaders can explain the gospel of grace clearly, including Christ's forgiveness and freedom from condemnation for those who repent and believe.				
Our leaders know their limits and understand when pastoral care should include referral to a licensed counselor, physician, or other qualified professional.				
Our leaders have received, or are willing to receive, training in compassionate, trauma-aware care.				
Our leaders know how to respond if a person discloses current abuse, coercion, self-harm concerns, or danger to a child or vulnerable person.				

Confidentiality and Safety Practices	yes	in work	not yet	unsure
Our church has a written confidentiality policy or clear pastoral-care expectations.				
Leaders understand that confidentiality should be honored and that information should not be shared casually, even as a prayer request.				
Leaders understand the limits of confidentiality when there is a safety concern, abuse, neglect, or threat of harm.				
We have a process for documenting, storing, and protecting sensitive information, if documentation is needed.				
We have a private, appropriate space for confidential conversations.				
We have appropriate safeguarding policies, including guidance for one-to-one care and interactions with minors or vulnerable adults.				
We communicate that participation in prayer, support, or discipleship is voluntary and that individuals may decline to share details.				
We have a plan for responding if someone becomes emotionally overwhelmed during a sermon, group, event, or private conversation.				

Care and Discipleship Resources	yes	in work	not yet	unsure
Our church offers a clear and discreet way for someone to request help.				
We have a confidential contact person, email address, phone number, or online form for care inquiries.				
We can offer prayer and a compassionate first conversation without requiring public disclosure.				
We have information about biblical discipleship opportunities for women and men affected by abortion.				
We have considered how to support men, fathers, spouses, grandparents, and other family members affected by abortion.				
We have a way to offer practical support, such as meals, transportation, childcare, financial-resource information, or connection to community assistance.				
We have equipped small-group leaders to respond wisely if abortion, grief, shame, or trauma arises in discussion.				
We have materials that communicate hope, forgiveness, and confidential help in a respectful, non-coercive way.				

Referral and Community Support	yes	in work	not yet	unsure
We have identified trusted pastoral-care leaders and ministry contacts within our church.				
We maintain an up-to-date list of vetted local resources for pregnancy support and material assistance.				
We can refer people to licensed mental-health professionals when appropriate.				
We know which local resources can assist individuals experiencing abuse, coercion, domestic violence, housing instability, food insecurity, or financial crisis.				
We understand how to make a warm referral—with the person's permission—rather than simply handing them a list of phone numbers.				
We review referral contacts periodically to confirm that they remain trustworthy, available, and aligned with our care standards.				
We know how to locate emergency or crisis support when immediate safety or mental-health concerns arise.				
We are prepared to connect individuals with Broken from Silence for confidential, Christ-centered support and ministry guidance.				

Your Next Faithful Step

After completing the checklist, discuss:

1. **What are we already doing well?**
   Thank God for the leaders, safeguards, and care pathways already in place.
2. **Where are the greatest gaps?**
   Identify one or two areas that need attention first—such as confidentiality training, a care contact, leader preparation, or a referral list.
3. **What can we do in the next 30 days?**
   Choose one specific, realistic action and assign a responsible person.
4. **What help do we need?**
   Consider whether your church would benefit from additional training, discipleship resources, pastoral consultation, or connection with Broken from Silence.

Our church's next faithful step:

Person responsible:

Target date: