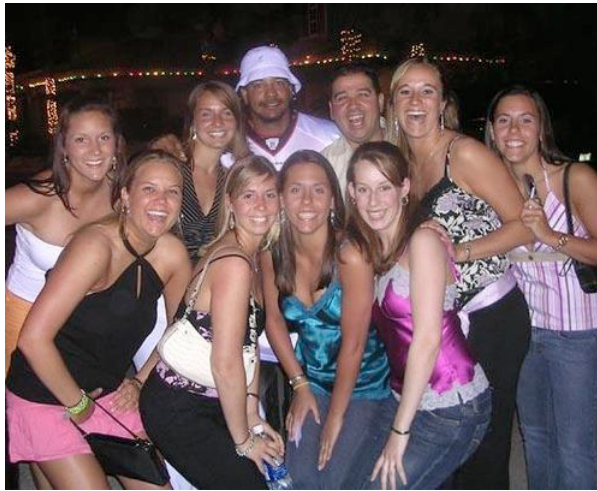


THE MONDAY MINUTE

marketing for the soul - coaching the life saving community

Ken Freeman reviews Anna Somers Reaching the Post-Modern, Abortion- Minded Client



Monday Minute

www.monday-minute.com

P.O.Box 462192
Garland, TX 75046-2192

Phone: 214-703-0505

Cell: 903 926-2607

Email: askkenfreeman@gmail.com

By Anna Somers (At The Center Magazine Feb. 2009)

A recent article in *AT THE CENTER MAGAZINE*, caught my attention. Anna Somers article, *Reaching the Post-Modern Abortion-Minded woman* is a timely article about a subject facing every pregnancy center director. The picture above is a picture of college girls at a party. Today's teen/college age women's world-view says sex is for fun and pleasure. The world-view is the contributor to why they are pregnant. Your job is to reach as many of these with the ***truth in love*** so that their choice will become a decision against abortion and for life.

This report, by Anna Somers, starts with the facts that are obvious to all of us:

1. A CULTURAL SHIFT HAS OCCURRED

She wrote:

"In the 1950s, if you were counseling an abortion-minded woman, you would probably appeal to her sense of morality. Abortion is illegal. Abortion kills your baby. Simply put, abortion is wrong.

Much has changed in five decades. Now, abortion is not only legal, but also staunchly protected by the nation's highest courts. Whether or not abortion is wrong simply depends on your religious preference or political leanings."

***IF YOU DON'T ESTABLISH A TRUSTING
AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH
YOUR POST-MODERN CLIENT,
YOU WILL HAVE LITTLE HOPE
REACHING HER AT ALL.***

A new wave of abortion-minded clients is appearing at pregnancy care centers across the country. These girls have been taught to reject any form of universal morality. These girls grew up

believing that having an abortion is as easy as taking a pill. Therefore, pregnancy care centers will have to dramatically change their methods in order to reach these post-modern young women.

In recent years, there's been a lot of talk about the post-modern movement, but this emerging worldview is not well understood by most Christians, nor is it considered by most pregnancy care centers. In order to serve the post-modern, abortion-minded client effectively, pregnancy care centers need to know as much about her cultural mindset as possible and have effective strategies in place to reach her.

A post-modern, abortion-minded client will not be won over by moral arguments. Most counselors who meet with abortion-minded clients try to use classic pro-life arguments to show that abortion is wrong. And sometimes the Holy Spirit will bring about such conviction in a young woman's life that she will agree with what is shared and decide against abortion. However, as our society moves farther and farther away from biblical morality, and as licentiousness and permissiveness increase, ethical reasoning will persuade fewer abortion-minded clients.

The post-modern worldview rejects the idea of a universal morality. For your post-modern client, what's wrong for one person isn't necessarily wrong for someone else. That is why it is becoming even harder to persuade her that abortion is unethical.

The greatest 'sin' in the post-modern mindset is forcing your beliefs on someone else. If your post-modern client senses that you are trying to force your beliefs on her, she will likely tune you out. However, if she believes that you are genuinely interested in helping her through a difficult situation, she will be more apt to hear what you have to say.

Post-moderns are extremely relationship-oriented. Don't jeopardize your relationship with your post-modern client by spending too much time debating abortion on a moral or political level. The stakes are too high to risk alienating her. If you don't establish a trusting and respectful relationship with your post-modern client, you will have little hope of reaching her at all.

The post-modern movement tends to mistrust science and medicine. Your post-modern client will not be impressed if you tell her the exact gestational age that her baby's heart started beating. In her worldview, scientific facts are just as subjective as biblical truths. To your post-modern client, neither the Bible nor medical statistics prove anything.

Self-actualization—or the realizing one's full potential—is the ultimate goal of many post-moderns. Many abortion-minded women fear that having a baby would get in the way of their achieving their goals. Help your client see that she can still fulfill most or all of her aspirations without aborting her baby (although some of her dreams may have to be temporarily postponed). Put your client's mind at ease that even if she carries her child, she can find resources that will help her further her education, find and keep a good job, pursue outside interests, etc.

Post-moderns have been raised in an extremely feminist society. It's no secret that full-time motherhood is no longer a lofty calling in secular society. Let your client know that you don't expect her to become the next June Cleaver. At this point, it would be helpful to show your client the kind of practical support she can receive in her community if she does decide to parent her child. (See "What is She Leaving With?" ATC Spring 2008 <http://www.atcmag.com/v9n2/article5.asp> for ideas on providing practical assistance to young mothers.)

**IF YOUR POST-MODERN CLIENT SEES THAT
YOU RESPECT HER ENOUGH TO BE VULNERABLE,
SHE IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO RECIPROCATE
THAT OPENNESS.**

Post-moderns tend to be introspective and self-absorbed. If your client realizes that abortion is not in her best interest, she will be more likely to carry her child to term. In a loving and non-confrontational way, share some of the risks involved with abortion—the potential physical and emotional trauma of the procedure itself, and the negative physical, emotional, and relational consequences that follow. At the same time, do so respectfully and avoid using scare tactics. Keep it on a general level ("Some women find that...") instead of a personal one ("If you have an abortion, you will probably ..."). Your client should feel like you want to help her make an informed decision, not that you are just out to "save her baby."

*Stories are central in post-modern thought. **Share stories that will help your client see parenting or adoption in a more positive light.** If someone at your center has a post-abortion story, ask if you may pass it on when meeting with abortion-minded clients. Telling stories will be a much more effective way to communicate with most post-moderns than simply quoting medical facts or espousing moral arguments.*

Post-moderns generally crave genuineness and honesty. Admit that your client is in a sticky situation. Don't tell her everything will turn out rosy, when you both know that none of the options before her will be easy. Be honest about your own past too. If your post-modern client sees that you respect her enough to be vulnerable, she is much more likely to reciprocate that openness. Again, your post-modern client will be influenced much more by a trusting relationship with her counselor than by logical arguments, medical statistics, or ethical platitudes.

*If current trends continue, public schools will become even greater bastions of post-modern, anti-biblical thought. Abortion, as well as many other sinful choices, will become even more acceptable. Children will be raised with even less biblical and moral upbringing. Pregnancy care centers need **to prepare their staff for this shift in American culture, and come up with new ways to reach the post-modern (and very needy) client.***

2. THE NEED FOR TRUTH IN LOVE

What Anna states sounds "right on" and the challenge before us is:

HOW DO WE REACH THE POST MODERN VERY NEEDY CLIENT?

As the story goes, a narcissistic the post-modern client is "SELF" centered. That is the problem. Thus, to reach them you must get past "self" and reach the innermost spirit of the client. The Bible clearly shows us that man's righteousness at his best is nothing less than a bag full of old discarded menstrual rags. We who know Christ, know that God has a plan for our life, He has paid the price for our life and Desires a relationship with you, His creation. Now we need to communicate hope in place of their hopelessness. We need to assure peace in place of fear and depression.

At man's worst state, they feel so bad about themselves that they become numb to sin and begin to "justify" their actions by what they see in others around them.

The same was true in the early church. Men believed in the sun, moon, stars, trees, wind, water and host of other gods. Yet, when Paul the Apostle stood at Mars Hill, he was standing in the midst of every wind of doctrine, every idology ranging from extreme humanism, gnosticism, hedonism and orgy-based sexual sin in the temples and the sacrifice of human babies to the fire god of Molec.

Paul didn't water-down his message. Neither did he build a social relationships with them. He did not attempt to make them feel good about themselves. Neither did he suggest their desires to self-actualize was the answer. Instead, he clearly saw their deeper need of a relationship with Yeshua Mashiyach, Jesus Christ.

He spoke the truth in a language, a vernacular common to those he was speaking to. He used a story they could relate to and understand. He spoke to that which they were searching for and commended them for their zeal in pursuing that search. But, that is when he told them of the one-true God. This worked for Paul. Now, take a look at how Jesus Christ used stories and words to pierce the human heart.

3. HOW DID JESUS SPEAK TO HIS SINFUL AUDIENCE?

How did Jesus speak with tax-collectors who were scorned by society as thieves, who practiced usury on tax owed by the individual and sinners? We read this account in John 15.

He told four parables that spoke to the innermost-hearts of those men. He used ideas of the current day that these men could relate to.

His four parables include:

1. The parable of the lost sheep.
2. The parable of the lost coin.
3. The parable of the lost or prodigal son.
4. The parable of the unjust steward.

See John 15 to read those parables.

What you will read is how he took things common to man, known by every one of these he was talking to and used them to illustrate a theologically true principle.

How did Jesus speak to a certain young lawyer who questioned him on the points of the law? He used a parable of the good Samaritan and then said go and do likewise.
See: Luke 18:18-23.

How did Jesus speak with the Samaritan woman at the well? See John 4: 1-26.
"If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, "Give me a drink" you would have ask Him and He would have give you living water"

How did Jesus speak to the woman caught in the act of adultery? John 8:1-12
He said "woman where are your accusers. Go and sin no more."

How did Jesus heal the blind man?
He had compassion upon him and touched their eyes and healed them. (John 20: 29-34)

He used stories, parables and ideas drawn from the actual experience of those he was serving and spoke deep theological truth in a simple sentence they could understand.

He spoke with conviction. He spoke with passion. He spoke truth to ears that did not want to hear it but who received it because His truth cannot be argued! God's truth pierces the darkness of the human heart. God's word is sharper than a two-edged sword. When skillfully used in the street language today's abortion-minded client can understand, it is a force that will not fail. If she changes her mind and repents good things will happen. I always say, "honor God with this decision and God will honor you." Certainly, some will not change their mind, but you can rest knowing that you planted a seed that from that point the HOLY SPIRIT can water and nurish.

I know in my own life, as a young man, lost to sex, drugs and more sex and more drugs and rock n' roll, that at a Christian concert outdoors, 2 little girls walked over to me and planted a seed I could not escape from. I tried for two years to run away, to get numb so I wouldn't think about it and tried as hard as I could to now accept it, but one day in Oct. 1974 something happened. The truth that had been spoken to me in love succeeded in piercing my heart. They told me: "Sir, God loves you more than you know how to be loved. He loves you more than you want to be loved." When I shook my fist at the sky and screamed, "OK BIG GUY IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME PROVE IT!!!!" Well, that's the rest of the story. He did, He does and I believe He will continue to prove His love for me now, 35 years later.

If we think we know how to solve this problem or that we have the ability and social skills to manipulate a client into not having an abortion, we will, most certainly, miss the point, lose a baby to abortion and scar that client for life with after-abortion's aftermath. Instead, let's grab hold of the key that will enable defining your conversations with post-modern abortion-minded clients. That key is to trust that our Creator, knows how to heal, how to help, how to serve those clients that we serve. *He has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, comfort us and tell us the things that God says.* If we ignore His role in our center, and if we ignore His solutions that these post-modern, abortion-minded clients need, then we will be missing the mark and setting ourselves up to failure. See John 16: 5-15.

Don't ignore God's blessings and protection over your center.

You don't want to become little more than an other benign social agency.

Instead, if you want to see your center blessed supernaturally, remain on your knees, continue to share the good news of salvation from the chains of sin, which is the ultimate fulfilling of one's human life, the ultimate hope to the hopeless, and the best reason of all to not abort. In my own life, I have seen this truth time and time again. When I build a bridge of trust and respect for my client, meeting her where she is or happens to be, she then

a. trusts me enough to become real with me.

b. allows me to pray for and with her. For 25 years, I have said that when we minister to the needs of the woman right where she is, we win the baby by default. Sure, the times are changing but the message of hope never changes. It is timeless!

HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING!

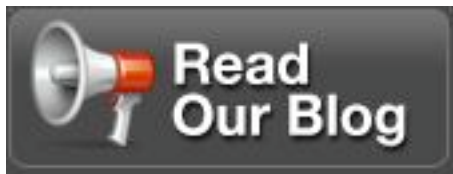
Remember, the principle of Matthew 10:40-42:
“He who receive me receives Him who sent me.”

**4. DON'T FEAR THE POST-MODERN ABORTION-MINDED CLIENT –
INSTEAD LOVE HER WITH THE LOVE OF THE LORD!**
Read II TIMOTHY

Philippians 2:12-16

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

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Ken Freeman

The MONDAY MINUTE

P.O. BOX 462192

Garland TX 75046-2192

Telephone: 214-703-0505

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