



## **ABORTION HURTS. GOD HEALS! PANEL EVENT**

### Why Host a Panel Event?

Did you know that 1 out of every 5 women of childbearing age has had an abortion? This statistic holds true for women who claim a religious affiliation. For every post-abortive woman, there is post-abortive father as well. Many others are hurting from the heartbreak of abortion or their involvement in it at some level: the grief of lost grandchildren, the guilt of assisting someone in the planning of abortion, the shame of failing to speak up for life when given the opportunity; the list goes on. In today's society, very few have no connection to abortion.

Men, women and teens in your congregation are hurting in silence. Many are held back in their walk with Christ because they have never fully surrendered this one sin to Him. Some may be actively serving in the church. Carrying this heavy burden, they may feel that their leadership will be called into question should they reveal their secret. How can the body of Christ help one another if we refuse to acknowledge, repent and deal with our sins?

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."*

*James 5:16*

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## What Is a Panel Event & What Does it Look Like?

*Abortion Hurts. God Heals!* (AHGH) offers a Panel Event with the intent of educating, enlightening and bringing the hope of healing to people through the heartfelt testimonies of those who have chosen abortion, suffered the consequences, and accepted God's forgiveness and healing.

The event features a panel of 3 to 4 women who share their testimonies of God's healing power and forgiveness after making the choice for abortion and suffering the consequences. Testimonies are spoken compassionately, without graphic details or political overtones.

Panel events are suitable for those 12 years and older, or as parents deem appropriate. It is suggested that the topic of the panel event *not* be announced in the week(s)/days beforehand. The people who most need to hear the panelists' message may well decide not to attend, thus defeating the intent of reaching those in need. It is advised that an announcement be made just before the panelists' introduction, that the subject matter of the day's service is sensitive and arrangements have been made outside the auditorium to accommodate young children.

Special display tables can be set up at the front of the auditorium. The AHGH Team will come early and prepare the tables before congregants arrive.

One table section consists of a display of baby shoes that represent the babies that have been aborted. Since our ministry began in 2014, AHGH has amassed a large collection of shoes, each pair thoughtfully chosen by post-abortive mothers who have gone through their personal healing journey with our *Surrendering the Secret* or *Forgiven and Set Free* post-abortion healing facilitators.

A second table section consists of a number of votives with (battery-operated) candles. After the panelists' testimonies, congregants are invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of the nation's aborted children, whether or not they had any personal involvement. Those grieving a miscarriage may also remember their lost child by lighting a candle. This time in the service is especially moving. We recommend soft music and dimmed house lights during this element. Prayer counselors on the AHGH Team will be standing at the far sides of the room to receive those needing prayer.

A third table section on the side(s) or back of the room consists of our ministry brochures and business cards that interested congregants can pick up after lighting a candle, or after the event. AHGH Team members will stand by afterward to talk with anyone with questions about our ministry or to help those wanting resources or follow-up (i.e. post-abortion healing Bible study for women or for men; we offer both).

Timeline & Responsibilities (can be modified to suit your church's needs)

Element	Time Allotted	AHGH Responsibilities	Host Responsibilities
Set-Up before service	60 mins	Bring in and set up all panel event Supplies/Props, including 6 foot tables if needed	Set-up and test mics for panelists.
Worship	(as usual)	--	Church musicians
Welcome/Announcements Opening Prayer	(as usual)	--	Pastor/staff
Introduction of AHGH	2 – 3 mins	--	Pastor/staff
Panel Testimony:  Moderated by an AHGH director; 2 to 3 panelists.	45 – 60 mins	<u>Provide:</u>  -Tables -Chairs -Simple decorative props	<u>Provide and control sound for:</u>  -Lavalier mic for moderator; -Mic(s) for panelists -- individual Lavalier mics or one shared handheld mic.
Candle-Lighting Ceremony	10 – 15 mins	<u>Provide:</u>  -baby shoe table -votives -battery-operated candles	Church musicians*  Provide: -soft background music
Music  "The Healing has Begun" by Matthew West		<u>Provide:</u>  -Prayer Counselors -Literature	Church musicians*  Provide: -Music and song. -Lyrics on screen
Conclusion	2 – 3 mins	Expression of Thanks to church  <u>Continue standing by with:</u>  -Prayer Counselors -Literature	--
Closing Remarks & Prayer		--	Pastor/staff
Strike after service	30 mins	Take away all panel event supplies/props	Retrieve mics from panelists

\*AHGH can provide its own keyboardist if necessary.

