

The History and Birthing of Deeper Still

This is a historical sketch of the foundations of Deeper Still. This is intended to be a historical record for all those who have interest in Deeper Still.

In the Fall of 2000 Sharon Anderson, the Ex. Director of Choices Resource Center , in Oak Ridge, TN approached me and asked if I would help her get a post abortion outreach started in their center. I already had a relationship with Sharon Anderson because of working with her and her center through Alternatives Group (later becoming LifeSteward Ministries).

At this point the only post abortion programs I had been involved in were Bible Studies. The primary one I used was Forgiven & Set Free. So that's what we used in the late fall and winter of 2000/2001 at Choices Resource Center. Because we were having difficulty keeping our participants committed to our weekly meetings, we decided to conclude our time with a retreat.

After prayer and reflection upon that whole experience I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me to "think in a new way" and to take the core truths that I knew needed to be part of the healing process for abortion wounds and to incorporate them all into a weekend retreat.

And so it began,... I got the blessing of Sharon and the Oak Ridge PRC to introduce a new approach to post abortion healing. So over the next seven years I sought the Lord for His leading as I experimented, wrote and rewrote and tried new ideas as He would give them to me. I think it was by the 3rd retreat that I got the name "Deeper Still".

Over those seven years of developing the retreats and the materials the Lord had blessed our efforts in tremendous ways. We began to see amazing fruit in the lives of our participants. We also saw growth and maturity in our ministry team. Next, I had several people begin to encourage me to make these materials available for other people. It became apparent that the Lord had a bigger plan in mind for Deeper Still than just this local PRC. As I continued to write and make revisions I tried to do it through the eyes of others who would take these materials and implement them through their ministry entity.

It was July of 2008 that we officially came out from under Choices Resource Center and established an entity of our own. Throughout the fall of '08 we started the search for a graphic artist to help create a logo/ brand for us. We also started the process to Trademark our name.

Next, I put together a Deeper Still Directional Team. This team helped to establish our new organizational identity and ministry philosophy. Our first Deeper Still retreat (as a new organization) was in the spring of 2009. By the fall retreat of 2009 we had our first two international participants. We also received approval for our Trademark.

At the start of 2010 we changed the corporate name of Gate Builders to Deeper Still. Most of the former board members resigned and the DS Directional Team were voted on as new board members and we added a few additional board members.

Our core mission became to train leaders to start Deeper Still chapters in their cities. There are now Deeper Still chapters being developed around the nation. In 2016 we also began an outreach to Chinese women and men wounded by abortion. In 2022 we began to formalize a partnership with LIFE International to reach the abortion wounded in the nations.

So, this is a recorded history of Deeper Still. All that has come about so far is because of the hand of God and for His purposes and for His glory. It will be our commitment that as we grow that our history will always be His “His-story”.

To God be the glory!

Karen A Ellison