

History of Rachel's Vineyard

[Theresa Karminski Burke, Ph. D.](#), started one of the first therapeutic support groups for post-aborted women in 1986 after founding The Center for Post Abortion Healing.

In 1994, ***Rachel's Vineyard: A Psychological and Spiritual Journey for Post Abortion Healing*** was first published. It was a unique support group model for counselors, offering a very concrete, emotional experience for women who were grieving the loss of their aborted children. In 1995, Theresa adapted and expanded the curriculum into a format for weekend retreats. Soon individuals seeking healing began to travel from other states to experience this very effective healing process.

Without a budget, office, or advertising, Rachel's Vineyard became a grassroots national outreach. By word of mouth only, the retreats began to spread across the country because of the retreat's dramatic effectiveness. By 2012, Rachel's Vineyard was able to develop over 375 sites and touch more than 70 countries.

Currently, with changing global economies, global structure, the advent of COVID-19, and ongoing unrest in areas like Haiti, the Middle East, Nigeria, and Cameroon, it is hard to determine, with accuracy, the current number of sites and locations in the US and Internationally. Moreover, not all sites and locations report data to Rachel's Vineyard headquarters for safety and confidentiality reasons.

Rachel's Vineyard is still the leading post-abortive retreat program around the world and is offered in 33+ languages. We are in more than 50 countries and have over 200 established sites that consistently report back to headquarters. This means at **least** 400 retreats are offered each year, globally. Additionally, we continue to see growth in new site development.

Theresa Karminski Burke, Ph.D., has lectured and trained professionals nationally on the subject of Post Abortion Healing. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries offers an annual Leadership Training Conference specifically designed for those who currently use the Rachel's Vineyard program. She also trains retreat teams in the method and process.

The Rachel's Vineyard healing models are used by mental health professionals, post abortion ministries, crisis pregnancy centers, pastoral care and faith-based outreach programs.