



Pro-Life MISSISSIPPI

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Creating a Culture of Life in the Hearts and Minds of the People of Mississippi

Fall 2008

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: “Do It Afraid”

By Terri Herring

As Janet, Sue and I considered a 40 Days for Life campaign in Mississippi, we immediately felt overwhelmed with questions racing through our heads. Calling the church to prayer 24 hours a day for 40 days? Going to the abortion clinic? Since we are *very* pro-life, and *we* don't want to go, how are we going to get *others* to go? Aren't we already doing enough for the unborn? In the midst of our worries, there was a still small voice calling us to do what we didn't want to do – actually make the sacrifice and trust God to bring His people to pray. We watched the online video of other prayer campaigns and squirmed in our seats as God urged us to trust Him.

I had felt the Lord leading me earlier this year to go pray at the clinic myself – to “press in” and believe for the closing of the last abortion clinic in Mississippi. Now I felt He was urging me to include a call to prayer for the churches, our community, and our state. Barbara Beavers, Director of the Center for Pregnancy Choices, was urging us on. “We need to do this in Mississippi. Going to the clinic will change the hearts of the people about abortion.”

I decided that if *we* can't go to the abortion clinic and pray, then we can't ask anyone else to.” So on that hot summer Mississippi day, we drove to the Jackson Women's Health Organization in Fondren. We felt so nervous, way out of our comfort zone... and definitely did not want to be there. Yes, we had been at the clinic before for special events with 50 or 60 people, but today, we were alone. There were none of the usual sidewalk counselors, no bloody signs, no one shouting, just us and *them* – the potential victims of abortion. Women, men, clinic workers – looking at us wondering what we were doing there. I found myself unsure of what to say, and afraid to say anything at all.

So Janet and I joined hands and began to pray. Immediately, we sensed God's presence and His concern for what was taking place only a few feet from us. We began to “feel” more comfortable as we found His purpose for our being there – PRAYER. Again, I felt the urging of the Spirit within me to “do it afraid.” There are so many things in our lives that require faith that is beyond us – God wants us to trust Him and “do it afraid.”

We walked around the block surveying the area and contemplating how we could peacefully pull off such a controversial event for 40 days. Our first thought, of course, was to avoid conflict. Most of us just want to pray quietly without any consequences. We don't want people yelling at us,

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Who is the “Fairest” of them all?

ProLife Mississippi has several specific outreaches to educate the public about all the different aspects of a culture of life. One of those most pivotal to reaching the “unreached” is our booth at the fair. Again this year, we will have a booth in the air-conditioned Trade Mart. We are in need of volunteers to help man the booth which has to stay open from 10:00 to 10:00 from October 1-12. Our volunteers serve 4-hour shifts, give out balloons, offer t-shirts and bumper stickers for donation, and collect petition signatures. Admission bracelets are provided. Contact PLM if you would like to serve as a volunteer.

Beanie Babies help save real babies!



Beanie Babies are effective in helping moms accept the literature.

Occasionally, a new and novel use of a common household item arises! That's what I encountered this summer in Atlanta at the Operation Save America outreach. There are at least eleven abortion mills in the Atlanta area, each doing up to 30 abortions three or four days a week. We were assigned to a clinic that was positioned quite a distance from the sidewalk, where we were allowed to stand. Talking to the women was difficult, as they could

whiz past us deep into the parking lot and duck in without ever looking in our direction. One counselor relates how they sought to solve that frustrating dilemma:

“Several months ago one of the counselors tried the idea of having Beanie Babies work for her in getting the literature into the hands...and consciousness of some of these moms. The Beanie Babies are so cute and loveable that it worked! Moms

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Life Lines: PLM Ministry Update

JANUARY TO AUGUST 2008

Literature Offered: 2070 packets

Literature Accepted: 1575 packets

Babies Saved: 83

Gift Bags given to mothers: 31

Office Referrals: 141

Volunteer Hours: 263

PLM does not receive any Choose Life tag monies and is totally dependent on the Lord and the generosity of our donors. Come to think of it, that's a pretty good place to be. God bless each of you.

Meet our newest Board Members

Cindy Thornton has been a long time member of PLM, but just joined the Board of Directors. She and husband Joe attend New Hope Assembly of God in Pearl. A software developer with Aslan Corp., she has been very helpful in the office, with both accounting and computer technology.

Sara Burrow, a member of PLM since 1996, joined the Board this spring. She attends Saint Richard Catholic Church and is mother to three grown children and six grandchildren. She is self-employed with an Internet Marketing business called Agape Enterprises. She brings lots of banquet experience, so we look forward to her help and assistance next Spring.

W. Bryan Logan is a physical therapist and father to two little girls that his wife cares for at home. His family attends Saint Richard Catholic Church. A member of PLM for five years, Bryan joined the Board this spring after he committed to sidewalk counseling at the abortion clinic during Lent. The Lord melted his heart for the women coming to the clinic, and has continued his very effective, passionate counseling every Tuesday and Thursday since.

If you have been a PLM member and would like to serve on Board of Directors, call PLM for information and an application.

Life in the "Fast" Lane!

By Melody Miller

What is a Christian four letter word that begins with the letter F? F-A-S-T. Just the mention of it fills most Christians with dread and excuses. Why would that be if it is an activity that pleases God so much and that He rewards even meager efforts so abundantly?

Today in our nation most folks, including, unfortunately most Christians, have an insatiable appetite for pleasure, materialism, and security. None of these in moderation are immoral. However, if unchecked, any one of these can quench our love for God, the voice of the Holy Spirit, and our concern for the welfare of others. God doesn't mince words when he says: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world" (John 2:16, 17).

By choosing self-restraint during these 40 days of prayer and fasting, we please the Lord, and our hearts and lives become freshly available to Him. Emptying ourselves of distraction – food, television, or any habit or amusement that consumes our time, attention and resources – allows Him an opportunity to fill us up with what concerns Him.

If our focus is closing the last abortion clinic and ending abortion in Mississippi, let's look at God's instructions through the prophet Isaiah: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that *YOU* break every yoke? (Is 58: 6, 7. NKJV) What will be the result? "THEN you shall call and the Lord will answer; You shall cry and He will say, Here I am...Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generation, be called the repairer of the broken walls, the restorer of streets to dwell in" (Is. 58: 9, 12 NIV).

Not sure what to give up? Simply ask Him – He *will* speak. The greater question is...how *willing* are we to hear and obey? (He does have a way of touching the tender spot.) See you in the "Fast" Lane!

"Beanie Babies" continued from page one

are stopping to talk with us. Moms are believing that we are there out of love and compassion! Moms are changing their minds. Babies are being saved! How? We attach a clear plastic zip lock bag with our literature to a Beanie Baby with a nice note."

These past several months, it has been getting much more difficult to get the girls to take literature. I am told the clinic staff has been telling them to ignore us and not take anything from us. We would like to use this approach to get this literature into the hands of the women going into Mississippi's last abortion clinic. What can you do? We need Beanie Babies to help save Real Babies! They don't need to be new or the brand name "Ty", just clean and available (kind of how God likes to use us).

Please pass this request along to your friends, relatives and contacts and get those Beanie Babies to us so they can begin to help save families! Mail them or drop them off at the PLM office between 9:00-4:30 Monday through Friday.

"Do It Afraid" continued from page one

or misunderstanding us, or "persecuting us for righteousness sake." After all, this *is* the Godly thing to do – it *is* what Jesus would do, isn't it? There is nothing self-seeking about going to the abortion clinic to pray or engage strangers about making poor choices. It takes a lot of courage. It is a little embarrassing. It is not something "normal" people do...but it moved me deeply. A sense of sadness came over me like you would feel at a funeral home. This was a place of death and sorrow. Death for the unborn child and sorrow for the mothers who felt this was their only choice... how unbelievably sad – a place to avoid!

We often feel helpless regarding our culture. It seems impossible to stem the tsunami of evil overwhelming our society with our meager efforts, no matter how good or righteous. But we can't shrink back or His soul will have no pleasure in us. I believe God is waiting on His church – *we* are His body in the earth – to decide it's time to end abortion. His Word says, "Whatsoever *YOU* bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatsoever you allow on earth will be allowed in heaven. Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18: 18-20 NIV). We must put our spiritual foot down through persevering prayer and a godly presence at the abortion clinic offering humble prayer to our God.

By this time I am feeling excited and confident in the Lord about bringing this to pass, so we went online and committed to help lead a 40 Days for Life Campaign in Mississippi. We have only just begun, but we are praying for God-fearing church people to join us this fall from September 24 to November 2 for a season of fasting and prayer. We are asking you to go to www.40daysforlife.com/jackson and sign up to be a part of what we believe is the beginning of any PLAN to end abortion – PRAYER.

Our commitment to you in this campaign is to provide a means for peaceful, legal prayer. We will meet with all the

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There are so many things in our lives that are beyond us – that require faith – God wants us to trust Him and "do it afraid."

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR: *What a difference prayer makes!*

Thirty three years ago, I began to feel the nudge of the Lord to go to the abortion clinics to counsel the girls not to kill their babies. I would tell them that it is a steep cliff they are jumping off, and though they may not “hit bottom” for a while, the landing and its lifelong consequences are brutal. I went but it did not feel much like I was accomplishing anything. My inward thoughts went like this, “Why would they listen to me? I didn’t listen to anyone when they tried to talk me out of my abortion. I don’t really know what to do OR say to them. The clinic is open so many hours. Surely you don’t want me to spend all my life standing out there and get nothing else done.” This barrage of “vain imaginations” kept me right where Satan wanted me...way away from the abortion clinic, and too busy to have to think much about it.

But the Lord is so persistent. So persistent. So persistent. He kept bringing this to mind...calling me back and back and back...until I finally said, “Ok. I’ll commit to and hour or two once a week and maybe You will get off my back about it.” Why do we think His calling is so grievous that we avoid it for years? That was the beginning...

Fast forward to last Tuesday. My husband and I arrived at the clinic about 7:45 am, to fulfill our weekly side-walk counseling commitment (though I had been coming most of the last 15 years, he joined me in this ministry when we married almost five years ago). This morning I noticed a man in his mid-thirties very grieved and distraught. He had discovered a receipt for an abortion with an appointment to return this morning at 10. He had met his wife at Ole Miss, and now they had two children, 3 and 10 months. He was saying, “Don’t I have any rights? How can she do this without my permission? We tried to comfort him, but he just kept alternating between pacing the pavement and sitting on the curb, his face buried in his hands. We prayed for him and then I called several prayer groups described this particular situation and asked them to pray now and pray hard.

A couple of hours later, he saw her walking up the hill toward the clinic, and rushed to her side to plead with her to change her mind. He walked in with her, but emerged alone about five minutes later, his face contorted in agony and sadness, got in his car and drove off.

I went down to the clinic door which closes slowly giving us a window of opportunity to speak to the women

sitting in the waiting room. I called to her in the same way I often do, in a little child’s voice. “Mama, please don’t kill me. I love you. I don’t want to die. I want to see your face. I want to hug your neck. I want to kiss your cheek. I want to see my Daddy and my brother and my sister. Please let me live.” I spoke up for the one who could not speak up for himself.

After the clinic door closed, I slowly walked back up the hill. I looked up toward heaven, asking the Lord why he didn’t answer the barrage of prayers that went up...whether to let her car break down or something to prevent her from coming to kill their baby. I know He can turn hearts and change minds, because of the number of turnaways and babies saved we have seen over the years. Why not now?

After about five minutes of my tirade toward heaven, I saw a girl walk out and start walking back down the street. Oh my!!! It was her, his wife, coolly brushing right past me. I said, “Have you changed your mind? You are not going to kill your baby? Let me give you a baby bag. We want to give you your first baby gift.” She just ignored me, got in her car and drove off.

Praise the Lord. Whatever circumstances the Holy Spirit managed to change – inside the clinic or in her thought processes in the preceding five minutes – the outcome for today was...*life* for her baby. It was the same Holy Spirit that “nudged” me soooo long to go out there and talk to the women...and now I am so grateful for the privilege it is to be the voice of the little ones, speaking up for those who can’t speak up for themselves...at the gates of hell.

The difference this day, I believe, was the amount and intensity of prayer that went up in this situation, because this man had a name, and he had a face. It was a reality show playing out right before us. We were really acting like his little baby’s life was on the line. It was.

We have always seen a tremendous difference in the softness of heart and number of turnaways after the January Prayer Vigil recognizing the 50 million babies lost since Roe V. Wade, and during May after the National Day of Prayer. Prayer does make a difference, so we wholeheartedly invite you to join us September 24 to November 2 for 40 Days for Life. How long has He been “nudging” you?

Melody Miller, Editor

authorities necessary to make sure that all is done decently and in order to the best of our ability. We are requiring all participants to sign a commitment to refrain from shouting, stay within legal guidelines and humbly pray. Our goal is to have 24-hour prayer going forth with prayer at the clinic 6am to 6pm and also having nightly prayer scheduled at other locations or at home. We are asking churches, ministries and individuals, to sign up for one day per week for six weeks. My church is committed to pray every Monday for six weeks.

Pray about your commitment and just “do it afraid”, but do it. To sign up, call 601-942-0340 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/Jackson. Through the website, you can also receive a daily devotional to encourage you to continue in prayer.

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CALL TO PRAYER

Join us on **Saturday, September 20**
at **10:00 a.m.** at the last remaining
abortion clinic in Mississippi to
begin **40 Days for Life** together.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the PLM
booth at the state fair in the Trade
Mart from **October 1-12**. Contact
PLM for more information!

Copy this flyer to pass out to friends or to use as a bulletin insert to encourage your church to participate in 40 Days for Life.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE
SEPTEMBER 24 -
NOVEMBER 2, 2008

This fall, from September 24 through November 2, Jackson will be uniting with hundreds of cities across America for a pro-life prayer campaign. People of faith are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion.

The *40 Days for Life* prayer campaign is made up of three key components:

- **Prayer:** We are inviting people of faith throughout our state to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer for an end to abortion. Begin your participation by either signing up online at www.40daysforlife.com/jackson or completing a participation card and then daily prayer devotionals will be sent to you.
- **Peaceful Vigili:** Join us in standing for life with your public witness by praying outside the last abortion clinic in Mississippi at 2903 N. State Street, in the Fondren area of Jackson.
- **Community Awareness:** We are taking a positive, upbeat pro-life message to people throughout our state through churches, the media and other opportunities to be a voice for the unborn. Encourage others to join us in praying during this vital time in the history of America.

Learn more about participating by contacting:
Terri Herring at PLANforLife@comcast.net, or calling 601-942-0340 or by visiting us at:
www.40daysforlife.com/jackson