



Spring 2010

# PATHway

Post Abortion Treatment and Healing

## 2,536 Reasons to Have Hope

March 22 letter from David Bereit to supporters of the 40 Days for Life campaign

As the dust settles following the devastating U.S. House vote that imposed abortion coverage and government funding of abortion under the guise of health care, many people are feeling a sense of despair today.

But Jeremiah 29:11 clearly instructs us: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Even in the midst of this darkness, God has given us more than 2,500 reasons to have great hope. And that hope is because of YOU.

This past week, 40 Days for Life reached a milestone. In this, the sixth coordinated, simultaneous 40-day campaign of prayer and fasting, constant vigil and community outreach, we now know of more than 2,500 babies saved from abortion during these campaigns. The exact total is currently 2,536. We're aware of numerous sets of twins -- and at least one set of triplets -- included in that count.

Not only have 2,536 babies been spared from abortion, but the impact was also felt on each of their mothers and fathers. So that's roughly 7,500 lives directly impacted by your prayers and the mercy of Almighty God! Add to that grandparents, siblings, friends -- it's staggering to think about the number of people positively affected each time a mother chooses life.

And for this campaign alone, the total stands at ...368 babies saved ... that we know of. Of course, only God knows the true total.

## Unforeseen Backlash of Abortion Laws?

from *The Gleaner* (Jamaica) January 8, 2010 by permission of the author Anne Arthur (edited for length)



Anne Arthur, pioneer of the Rachel's Vineyard retreat process in Jamaica.

The distribution of Germany's population is seriously skewed. The population is ageing and there are few births. Lower-Saxony--one of the northern counties of the Republic of Germany--is badly in need of babies. Germany's birth rate is 1.38 per woman, and a rate of 2.1 is required to replace the population. Even with an increased number of immigrants a replacement rate seems impossible to achieve.

Politicians are worried, but not just them alone. The people of Lower Saxony are being wooed by the media to produce more babies. With the slogan "Baby Boom for Lower Saxony--the most romantic night of the year," Radio Antenne, a popular radio station in the northern part of Germany, spills its ads over the airwaves morning, midday and night.

Low birth rates affect all areas of life. In 2009, many companies were looking in vain for candidates for apprenticeships. Approximately 10,000 apprenticeship positions remained unfilled because of lack of candidates. And this year does not look better. This forebodes a future shortage of skilled workers to replace those who die or retire.

Over the past two years, the German government has put a number of costly measures into effect to encourage couples to become parents; increasing the number of kindergartens and

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# From Our Director

Mary Ann McNeil



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## PATHway

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It's easy to use a broad brush when thinking about other groups. Someone who eats meat, for example, might lump all vegetarians in the same group...those who do not eat meat. Yet there is a broad range of reasons to avoid meat and a corresponding range of permissible foods. So it is with those who consider themselves to be "pro-life". Some feel called to political action, some to work in Crisis Pregnancy centers, some to work in post-abortion support, and some to prayer. Some pray privately, some in groups, and some in public places, such as abortion clinics.

Those who pray at the abortion clinics have hit a nerve. As a post abortion counselor, I have heard stories from women who find the more vocal "prayer warriors" to be intimidating and anger provoking. Sometimes the individual seeking an abortion who encounters "prayer warriors" outside a clinic will decide to leave that clinic, only to go to another clinic where there are no protesters.

When the group praying is more silent and reverent, a different response occurs. Even though the woman might go on to get an abortion anyway, she remembers those people quietly praying for her, wondering who they are and why they would stand in the rain or the cold day after day just to deter abortion.

And sometimes miracles happen. Those who engage in the 40 Days for Life campaign, who pray and fast for 40 days to end abortion, can attest to changing hearts and minds and saving babies by touching their mothers.

Recently Abby Johnson (Director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas) exposed Planned Parenthood's efforts to increase profits by upping the number of abortions performed at her clinic. Johnson thought she was helping get women out of a tough spot, but when she finally viewed the destruction of a helpless child on ultrasound and, at the same time, encountered pressure from her boss to increase profits, her eyes were opened. And, when she realized she could no longer work there, where did she go? Abby went to the very prayer warriors who stood vigil outside the clinic where she worked.

Abby now speaks out about her conversion. She, like many other notable pro life leaders, was touched by the prayer and perseverance of those who prayed.

**March for Life**  
*CBS, NBC, and ABC*  
*didn't bother to*  
*show up but we did.*



Here's what retreatants had to say about February's retreat:

*Anointed! Healing, Compassion, Grace, Mercy, Freedom, All of these things - all at once.*

*I was very impressed with the dedication, love compassion and understanding of the team. This retreat was very meaningful to me and helped me on my way to a greater healing.*

*The presence of the Lord was and is so tangible. I did not know what to expect. But because of the healing presence I was able to cry in public and no one was around to judge in disgust. A lot of shame and guilt was removed. This retreat was like WOW*

*The most meaningful aspect of this retreat was the women were all so different, yet sharing in the same pain. The most meaningful activity was "the rock". Feeling the sheer weight of it really drives the message home.*

## Thank You for Successful Fall Fundraiser

Our fall dinner banquet was the most successful to date! Monsignor Richard Lopez, much loved as a pro-life champion and PATH Emeritus Board member, opened the evening. Kathryn Siegel, PATH facilitator, shared her own journey of healing as a former PATH Bible study participant and retreatant. Jaime Thietten, new Christian vocal artist, gave a stirring performance, especially moving the guests with her original song "My Chance". Contributions grossed for the evening exceeded \$26,000. Thank you to all who made our event such a success!

*Pictured below: far right is Kathryn Siegel, featured speaker.*



## Baby Boom for Lower Saxony continued from page one

after-school-care facilities, incentive pay for staying at home and having babies, plus an additional child allowance... all of this with only slight success. The babies that are born are not enough to replace the population.

Is this an unforeseen backlash of liberal abortion laws? I witnessed those laws being passed. It is abundantly clear to me that there is a direct relationship between contraception, abortion and low birth rate-- whether those who enact laws admit to it or not. The liberalization of abortion laws resulted in the elimination of approximately 1,000 German babies each workday, just the number of births the country needed to keep the population in balance. More important, laws change culture with the passage of time. By facilitating unrestricted abortion, a culture of selfishness has developed, and adults cannot be bothered to take the trouble to raise children.

Radio Antenne booked an entire hotel for young couples, offering massages, candlelight dinners, champagne, and a freshly arranged king-size bed for the night. Hopefully, most of those who win will become pregnant and increase Lower-Saxony's population. Nine months after this romantic night, the radio station hopes to make the news again by reporting the births of many little Lower-Saxons ... hopefully!

The push for a 'right' to unrestricted abortion is being carried out in developing countries in order to bring them 'up to scratch' with more 'progressive' nations. There are some lessons best learnt from the experience of others ... the self-extinction of the German population may just be one such lesson.

*Facilitator Ann Heroman's Notes from*

## **Day of Reflection for PATH Volunteers**

Ask every day - "JESUS, GIVE ME EVERY GIFT YOU HAVE FOR ME!"

"HOLY SPIRIT COME and FILL ME!"

We don't get it if we don't ask, we don't expect so we don't receive!

Eph 6:10 and Gal 5:1

The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the Truth and puts people together who need each other.

Are we willing to see? Do we forget to look?

We really need to GET IT- that WE ARE HIS TREASURE, He rejoices in us- flaws and all!

\*\*\*Jesus is big enough for all the hurts and pain and sin we carry.

Remember sometimes we must wait in agony.....Jesus experienced waiting in agony, too.

BELIEVE God, not only IN God.

We don't have to grasp- just receive, John 3:16. God GAVE His only Son for us---

God's gift of Jesus changed any picture of God we might have from Old Testament stories of a vengeful, punishing God to the opposite- He is a God of forgiveness and mercy.

The Holy Spirit wants to come into the messes of our lives and explode out of them with His healing and goodness. Acts 3.

We need the Holy Spirit to remind us of God's Word and teachings- Acts 8.

The discipline He asks of us- to set a daily time to be with Him , and then SHOW UP and receive what He has to give us.

*Yahweh your God is in your midst,  
A victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
He will renew you by his love;  
He will dance with shouts of joy for you  
As on a day of festival. (Zephaniah 3:17)*

*Speaker and singer/songwriter Anne Trufant inspired, challenged, and encouraged PATH volunteers with scripture and song at our recent Day of Reflection. Her friend Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, a survivor of the Rwandan holocaust, offered a healing Mass during the retreat.*



*Pictured below:  
Anne Trufant.*

