



Winter 2008

# PATHway

Post Abortion Treatment and Healing

## Jamaican Women Share Their Stories at Fundraiser Dinner

Anne Arthur and Stephanie Christian, the Jamaican women behind PATH's summer retreat for the Archdiocese of Jamaica, were the featured speakers at PATH's fundraising dinner in November. It's funny how things work out: just as the board was searching for a speaker for the fundraiser, Mary Ann came back from Jamaica excited about her contact with these two dynamic women who had been the moving force behind bringing her, along with LaDonna O'Bryon and Amy Goodman, to Jamaica to put on the country's first post-abortion retreat.

While making preparations for the retreat, Anne and Stephanie continued their heroic battle to prevent the legalization of abortion in Jamaica. Not only did they themselves monitor Parliamentary hearings, meet with key officials, and write letters, but they also were able to mobilize others to do the same. And, with the aid of board member Dr. Martha Shuping, Anne and Stephanie assembled research to present to a government fact-gathering panel attesting to the detrimental effects of abortion on demand...to society, as well as to the individual.

Anne and Stephanie did not disappoint our guests. Stephanie spoke of her faith journey, and how God placed it on her heart to begin a post-abortion healing program despite many obstacles. In the midst of planning the summer retreat, Stephanie's adult son died of cancer. Heartbroken and angry with God, Stephanie still managed to assist with the retreat and attended the weekend. She was able to mourn the loss of her

child with the other women there, and although still grieving, at the weekend's close she found she was no longer angry. If God could extend such mercy, forgiveness and love to the retreat participants, certainly He must have good reason for taking her son.

Anne shared how, insisting that her daughter finish her education, she had forced her to have an abortion at age 20. Although her daughter's anguish was plain, Anne did nothing to stop the procedure when her waiting daughter's name was called at the abortion clinic. Only later, when she came to know God, would she begin to realize the full extent of the destruction she had brought about. Her anguish was apparent as she asked "What kind of diabolical force was I to convince 5 people that this was best? (Anne had convinced her daughter, her daughter's boyfriend, her own husband, and her parents that this was the right decision.)

Many dinner guests were in tears during the talk, as Anne brought home to us the detrimental effects of abortion on the extended family. Anne's daughter, who has never been able to have another child, encourages Anne to speak publicly about their story, in the hope of preventing further tragedy.

After speaking to us that night, Anne returned to Jamaica and presented her story to Parliament. Like our dinner guests, many members of the



### PATH facilitators gather at the fundraiser dinner:

Front row left to right:  
Ann Labar, Anne Arthur,  
Amy Goodman, and  
Jessica Slovensky.  
Back row left to right:  
Sr. Pat Thompson,  
Deacon Chris Thompson,  
Mary Ann McNeil, Beverly  
Osterbur, and Stephanie  
Christian.

## From Our Director

### Confessions of an Ex-Feminist

Lorraine Murray

Ignatius Press, \$12.95, 144 pp.  
ISBN 9781586172251

*Confessions of an Ex-Feminist* is a fascinating account of Lorraine Murray's spiritual journey. Lorraine was raised in a Catholic family, but became caught up in the radical feminist movement of the 60's when she left home to attend college. She gradually lost the faith of her childhood as she studied philosophy and studied Nietzsche, Marx, and Camus. Murray went on to teach philosophy on the college level and mocked Christian values, touting feminism as the cure for many social ills.

Later, discovering herself unmarried and pregnant, she chose abortion. Yet the solution held out to be a freeing experience was shockingly devastating. She described it as being the first chink in her feminist armor.

Lorraine found her way to PATH after seeing a small ad in a church bulletin. She writes: "As the months passed, my sessions with Mary Ann helped

me gradually to heal. It was a great comfort to have another woman to confide in about that day long ago, and I felt God had sent Mary Ann to help me. Years later I would read these words in Alive von Hildebrand's *The Privilege of Being a Woman* and think of her: "Those who devote their loving attention to (women who have had abortions) know that the wound created in their souls is so deep that only God's grace can heal it."

Many women of today will find that this little book resonates with their own experiences. It is at times funny, other times heart rending, but always absorbing. However, a word to the wise: allow yourself a block of quiet time to absorb the contents of this gem, because once you begin you will find it very difficult to put down.

*Have a  
Blessed  
Christmas!*



Mary Ann McNeil

*When we refuse to accept  
God's love and forgiveness,  
it is as though  
we are invited  
to a banquet  
but refuse to eat.  
Every kind of magnificent  
food is placed before us,  
prepared to perfection.  
Yet we stand by insisting  
we're not hungry,  
and settle for nibbling  
on the corner of a tiny piece  
of lettuce!*

### Anne and Stephanie continued from page 1

government panel were moved to tears. Anne's story was featured on Jamaican television as well as in the Jamaican newspaper. There is no question that God is already using these two women in a powerful way to spread the truth about abortion and the ever enlarging circle of people who are affected. Hopefully, the beautiful country of Jamaica will listen, and be spared the heartache we experience in America.

#### *A good time was had by all*

Judging from the expressions on your faces as you listened to Stephanie and Anne tell their stories, I'd say so. If you couldn't make it to the fundraiser, not to worry... you can still donate! Just send your gift to:

**PATH**  
4151 Clairmont Road  
Chamblee, Ga. 30341