

ANSWERing the CALL

Respondiendo al llamado



Introducing
An Unprecedented
Strategic Initiative
In Miami...

Rescue those who are being
taken away to death; hold
back those who are stumbling
to the slaughter.

— Proverbs 24:11

Libra a los que son llevados
a la muerte y retén a los que
van con pasos vacilantes a la
matanza. — Proverbios 24:11

The angel proclaimed, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). What first came to a few boys in the field as good news, was nothing less than the proclamation of the Great Work of the Gospel. This great work would lead to a Sermon on the Mount, a parable of about the life-saving power of neighborly love, a warning to flee sin and hell, a call to follow Christ, water turned into wine, a man who was dead for four days raised to life, the training of eleven future world-changers; a betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection, followed by a day of Pentecost and a Spirit-wrought advance of the gospel throughout the Roman world, and down through the centuries, transforming lives, marriages, family and whole cultures to the present hour. Wow! This is the Great Work of the Gospel. And we are a part of it.

Staring with the very first generation of the Church, the gospel produced a death-defying, life-saving response among the Christian community. The historian George Grant writes, “None of the great minds of the ancient worldæfrom Plato and Aristotle to Cicero...disparaged child killing in any way. In fact most of them actually recommended it. Unchallenged in the pagan world of Rome were the everyday practices of abortion, infanticide, exposure and abandonment.” Then Christ was born. And the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead filled the hearts of the early church and they declared that the shedding of innocent blood would no longer go unchallenged. Not on their watch. They went out to the city dumps and rescued the babies that had been abandoned there to die, took them into their own homes and gave them life. This was normative Christianity; for those in Christ “are the very aroma of life” (2 Corinthians 2:16).

So what we are attempting to do now under the name Heartbeat of Miami is not new, nor should it be viewed as radical. It is just our turn to work and sacrifice in defending these innocents. And when you survey the country for the city most in need for concentrated effort, Miami’s 37 abortion facilities cry out for an organized, sustained, well-supported Christian response.

So this coming year, with your help and sacrifice, we aim to open at least two, if not three ultrasound-equipped pregnancy help clinics in the neediest neighborhoods of Miami. Leading the way for us, is Jeanne Pernia. Her story, which follows, exemplifies the ongoing, outworking grace that is the Great Work of the Gospel. May it add to your joy this Christmas season and increase your desire to be a part of this Great Work.



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Miami Springs, FL 33166

305.863.2155

www.heartbeatofmiami.org

A pilot project of:



Rejoicing with you in the Christ of Christmas, Rev. John Enos



I Started It. Now Help Me End It. *The Personal Testimony of Jeanne Pernia*



I recently had the pleasure of meeting Rev. John Ensor, when he visited my church, Palm Vista Community in Miami Lakes. He shared with us the vision of “Heartbeat of Miami” and the urgent need to establish pregnancy help clinics in our city.

Before he spoke, a sister in the Lord, stood up first and shared her testimony about her own painful experience with abortion. I sat listening with a million different feelings; my emotions swirling, and my heart deeply stirred.

Then Pastor Ensor spoke about the biblical call to help the weak and defend the innocent. He relayed the startling news that Miami has nearly forty abortion facilities and that our nearby neighborhood of Hialeah alone had seven such places. It triggered many memories I had long pushed aside. I was transported back to 1979, a time when my mother and I launched, perhaps, the first abortion clinic in Hialeah.

At the time my lifestyle did not honor God. The decisions I made brought me a lot of pain. Now, years later, sitting in that service that day and listening to the testimony and hearing about the Heartbeat of Miami project, I sensed God’s wonderful providence at work. I too had a story to tell. I wondered, “God, are you calling me now to undo what I did so many years ago? Do you want to use me now, in 2006, to help start the first pregnancy help clinic in Hialeah?”

My story begins when I was in my late teens and in my final years of high school. Due to my mother’s divorce, we re-located a couple of times from Miami to New York and back to Miami again. When I came back to Miami, I returned without my mother, promising her that I would finish up high school and find a job.

Keeping my promise to my mom, I answered an ad to be a receptionist in a Women’s Clinic that helped young women with “birth control” issues. My job was to answer the phones and make appointments. After working there for some time I figured out that they did more than just hand out pills. But I was ignorant about what abortion was, and never gave it much thought. To me, it was simply a job. But God was secretly at work.

A few months later, I was in a terrible car accident. I was dismissed from my job while recovering. My mother moved back to Miami. Since she had experience working in medical clinics, I suggested she apply for the job I had lost. Sure enough, she was hired.

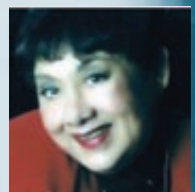
After four months of hands-on experience, and seeing the profits to be made, my mom decided she could open her own “women’s clinic” and “help women terminate an unexpected pregnancy.”

During this time, I started dating an older man who was looking for a business opportunity. I introduced him to my mother. My boyfriend became my mother’s business partner. I thought everything was falling into place. I was thrilled about this relationship and our business was growing; we were doing five to six abortions daily.

As my relationship intensified, I soon found myself in an unexpected situation, one I thought would never happen to me. I was pregnant! Filled with joy, I told my boyfriend. I was shocked when he told me that this was not what he wanted for us and it would be better if we “terminated the pregnancy.” He assured me it was very early in the pregnancy and “it” (meaning, the baby) would not be anything yet. My heart dropped to my feet. I could not believe what I was hearing. I cried many nights and was terribly confused, as all women are in such situations.

I was strongly against aborting my baby, but I was afraid of what would happen between him and me if I stood my ground. Strange as it sounds, my mother also understood what my pregnancy was really about. She would not approve of me aborting her first grandchild and she was totally against me using her abortion clinic. But my boyfriend was also her business partner and so it was a messy situation. He continued to press me to abort, reminding me that I was in college and this was not the right time. Devastated at his lack of support and with my emotions all rung out, I told myself that the baby was probably harmed by it all.

Against my mother’s wishes and without her knowledge, I had the abortion at my mother’s own “women’s clinic.” After waking up, I thought of the many other women who had woken up in this same room, feeling as I did; empty. To my surprise, the doctor entered and sternly told me I had been his worst patient. Evidently my body reacted to the abortion even though I was heavily sedated. I wept bitterly. I hurt physically. I was torn up emotionally.



My mom Irene

The lie that abortion was “helping women” was shattered. My boyfriend promised me that everything would be fine. He assured me we made the right decision. My guilt and the feelings of despair within me said otherwise. But God was quietly at work.

Soon after, I befriended a young lady who was a Christian. She sensed my burden and invited me to visit her church. I was not ready, not yet. But I was drawn to her Spirit. Soon after meeting her, I found myself pregnant again. Another abortion lie was now revealed; it never really solves anything. It only sets us up for another.



*Dedicated to:
The Dignity
of Women and
Motherhood
The Sanctity
of Human Life
The Soundness
of Sexual
Purity, Marriage
and Family
The Irreplaceable
Value of
Fatherhood
The Glory
of Adoption
The Life-Saving
Power of
Neighborly Love
The Supremacy
of the Gospel*

But I knew this time it would be different. This decision did cost me my relationship. It also tore apart my mom's business partnership. But soon we bought into another start-up abortion clinic at a different location in Hialeah. Because abortion really is about money, she used unlicensed medical doctors and eventually spent one-year in jail. We were both so lost.

But thanks be to God who redeems our life "from the pit" (Psalm 103:4). Looking back now over the last 27 years, I can see how God was working through all that occurred. What was intended to harm me, God turned around for my good; to accomplish what he purposed for my life and my mother's life. And now I believe he desires to use it all for "the saving of many lives" (Gen. 50:20).

Pastor Ensor calls this, "The Great Work of the Gospel." God can turn around an evil outcome of destruction for His purpose of good. By acknowledging my sins and repenting of them, and by trusting in Christ and his cross, God has forgiven me and has restored and changed my life. But He is not done working! When Pastor Ensor showed up and talked about God's call to "rescue the innocent" (Proverbs 24:11), I knew it was important for me especially to help. We need to open a real "women's clinic," one that offers genuine care and support for women being pressured into abortion. Rev. Ensor has allowed me to be #1 of the 300 monthly partners we need to establish our first "Heartbeat of Miami" pregnancy help clinic right in Hialeah. He is #2. Each of the 300 will pledge at least a \$1 a day (\$30/month). I am asking you to join us in this effort. I know God will rescue many confused young women being pressured into abortion and many innocent babies will be saved by it.

And as for God's work of grace, let me tell you, I did not abort that second pregnancy but gave birth to a beautiful girl, now in her mid-20's, who has become a beautiful woman. I later married and we are blessed with two more children. I finished college and even earned a master's degree. And I found Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. As for my mother, she too gave her life to Christ and has since earned a Doctor of Ministry from Oral Roberts University. She is currently involved in Hospice care.

When I shared this story with my eldest daughter, she wrote back: "Thanks for keeping me; I know I've made plenty of mistakes but I hope I've made you proud." Little does she know how much, from the first day of her conception, she has proved to be the very grace and power of God in my life.

Would you like to have Jeanne come and share her amazing story in your church or small group?

Contact the Heartbeat of Miami office at (305) 863-2155 to schedule her visit.



**Baby Bottle Campaign/
Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday, January 21st.**

The Baby Bottle Campaign is one way for all the folks in your church to learn about and help the Heartbeat of Miami project.

HOM will deliver these baby bottles to your church and pick them up a month later. Volunteers count the change and report the total back to your church. This campaign is something kids from 5-95 love to do; and families, youth groups, small groups and more have used a simple baby bottle to collect change and talk about cherishing and defending innocent life and helping women and couples unprepared for pregnancy.

Boxes of Baby Bottles have arrived at our new office. Our volunteers will be labeling and bagging them to go out to Miami area churches for use in January and February.



If you are willing to sponsor this event in your church email Martha (mavila07@aol.com). We will provide you with bulletin inserts on the Heartbeat of Miami, a copy of Answering the Call for your Pastor and of course, baby bottles.

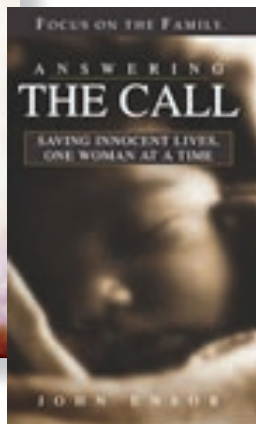
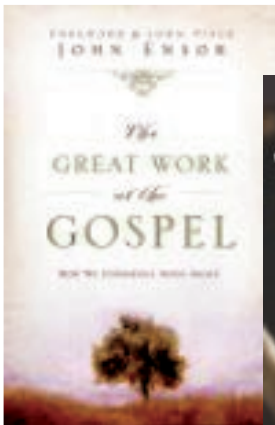


ANSWERING the CALL

Respondiendo al llamado

by Rev. John Enso

Jeanne's story is a reminder of what God is doing through the Gospel. Now the question is, what can we believe God to do through all of us working together, to offer life-affirming hope to the young mothers in similar circumstances, and considering abortion. Can we be the aroma of life to them? We are hoping that enough support and laborers come forward to have our first clinic open around Mother's Day! Will you answer this call with us? Please consider a special year-end gift to get us started; and then sign up to support these new clinics long-term by becoming a Life Partner with the Heartbeat of Miami. Life Partners pledge one dollar a day or more (\$30 per month). Use the enclosed envelope or give on line at www.heartbeatofmiami.org. For those willing to stand with us as Life Partners, I would like to send you a copy of *Answering the Call* (Focus on the Family, 2003) and the just released, *The Great Work of the Gospel* (Crossway Books, 2006). I rejoice to be your partner in this Great Work.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. John and Kristen Ensor in Miami

John and Kristen have decided to rent an apartment and live in Miami this January through May/June in hopes of providing the leadership and training needed to open clinics in Hialeah and North Miami by Mother's Day of 2007.

If you would like to schedule Rev. Ensor in your church please email him (jensor@heartbeatinternational.org). He is eager to speak in as many churches as possible starting in January.

Would you like to have Jeanne come and share her amazing story in your church or small group? Contact the Heartbeat of Miami office (305) 863-2155 to schedule her visit.

Merry Christmas from the Development Committee.

If you would like to join us, visit www.heartbeatofmiami.org for times and place, or call our office at 305-863-2155.

