

communion AT THE CLINIC

Between 1975 and 1993, around 35,000 babies were aborted at the Chattanooga Women's Clinic (CWC) on Vance Road. Today, that statistic is reversed to zero. Chattanooga, TN now ranks as one of the largest cities in the United States to boast the absence of an abortion clinic.

What brought about this radical change? Doug Daugherty, Operations Director for the Chattanooga House of Prayer and member of Intercessors for America since 1988, says the transformation occurred after a small group of intercessors from various denominations and backgrounds began having communion outside CWC doors in 1992.

For nearly 10 years, local pro-life groups had taken part in conducting sidewalk counseling, public demonstrations, and prayer for CWC. Yet while all these efforts paved the way for change to come, a small group of intercessors was convinced that sacrament—a reminder of Christ's atonement—was needed at the very threshold of murder. And so they began meeting in the clinic's parking lot every Sunday morning with communion cups and grape juice in tow.

Daugherty recalls how the Lord spoke to him using a passage in Deut. 21. The text describes the observance required if Jewish city elders were to find a dead body in their community. The elders' statement in verses 7-8

grabbed his attention: "Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it. Forgive your people. Do not place judgment on us."

"That's when I realized God was holding innocent blood against our community," says Daugherty. "We were giving a foothold to the devil ... That's why we agreed to pray on site, removing evil spirits, and asking forgiveness for our city each Sunday, confessing the blood guilt of abortion that took place each week."

Each time the group met, they specifically asked God to either remove the clinic's employees or lead them to salvation. Prayers continued for nine months before a series of strange events took place. The group never

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prayed for anyone's harm, but CWC co-owner Sue Crawley contracted a fast-spreading cancer and was unable to return to work, dying within a few months.* The other clinic co-owner Fran Muzzoco also contracted cancer and died abruptly. Next, the commercial realtor who owned the facility was forced to file for bankruptcy.

When abortionist Dr. Ed Perry placed a bid on the property for \$249,000, members of the Pro-life Majority Coalition of Chattanooga (ProMaCC) knew they had to counter this offer. While skeptical that they would be able to



raise enough money to file an objection to the proposed sale in bankruptcy court by Monday, they prayed and set to work contacting local individuals for contributions.

The response was unbelievable. ProMaCC received \$264,000 over the weekend, and by the time the U.S. Bankruptcy court judge scheduled a courtroom auction on Friday, ProMaCC had funds totaling \$301,000. The pro-life group was able to purchase the facility by bidding \$294,000, sealing the transaction on May 17, 1993.

"We prayed about what to do with the building once we'd gotten it," says Daugherty. "We sensed such evil. But we wanted to do something redemptive with the space."

Today, half of the original facility serves as a crisis pregnancy center while the other half is replaced by a National Memorial to the Unborn—a wall of plaques from men and women all over the country, listing the names and dates of aborted sons and daughters. The property is now a refuge for those who need to grieve, heal and find closure. Thousands of inscriptions bear witness to the legacy of death pervading American culture since 1973, including quotes from Norma McCorvy and Sandra Cano who both

publicly recant their roles in the landmark Supreme Court cases of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*.

“The Bible describes how innocent blood polluted the land, and says that Canaan had an awful problem with child sacrifice,” says Daugherty. “Today, we are finding a way for our community to respond to parallels in our own society.”

**Sue Crawley accepted Christ as her savior before her death.*

To learn more, visit:

www.memorialfortheunborn.org

**“Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done. Accept this atonement for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, Lord, and do not hold your people guilty of the blood of an innocent person.”
(Deut. 21:7-8 NIV)**



“**Communion at the Clinic**” was originally printed in the October 2011 First Friday Prayer Letter produced by Intercessors for America, a 501(c)(3) ministry which began in 1973. The monthly publication helps unite and focus Christians as individuals and groups in prayer and fasting on the first Friday of the month. Written from a biblical perspective, the letter contains timely national reports, accounts of revival and answered prayer, inspirational and informative teachings, and provides a First Friday Prayer Focus. Fasting is encouraged as a Christian discipline during the First Friday observance, and as a biblical way of practicing humility and intensifying prayer. To learn more about the ministry, contact:

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

Post Office Box 915
Purcellville, VA 20134
Tel: 800.USA.PRAY
Email: IFA@ifapray.org

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What happened?