

2009 Banquet – Out of Darkness INTO THE LIGHT

By Roxane Salonen for New Earth

Two women – one, a former prospective abortion client; the other, a former abortion provider – kept a crowd of over 800 in rapt attention during the FirstChoice Clinic's Annual Fundraising banquet Monday, March 2. Both women's stories included strong hints of Divine intervention as the source of their changed lives.

Following dinner at the Fargo Holiday Inn, Nora Lee first shared her experiences of being raped, turning to drugs, becoming pregnant, seeking abortion, and ultimately keeping her baby, whom she now parents while working toward her medical degree.

Lee described the day she drove with her mother and former boyfriend to Fargo to seek an abortion, only to be halted by a blown tire and broken water pump. They finally made it, but what Lee experienced at the abortion center in Fargo left her feeling shaken. "The technician did not allow me to see the (ultrasound) picture, as if what I was carrying with me was not a reality," Lee said.

She left and, once outside, Lee was approached by Alexa Orts and Patrick Coles, who told her about and led her to FirstChoice Clinic.

"The atmosphere was completely different. It was bright and friendly," Lee said. "It didn't matter to them how we had gotten there, just that they could care for us and help us during a difficult time. For the first time, I felt excited about my growing baby."

In February of 2007, Lee gave birth to her son, Sheldon, whom she credits with saving her life and taking her "out of the dark shadows." "I have become a stronger, healthier person to his credit," she said, noting that this past December, the two "accepted a marriage proposal to an amazing guy" from her hometown. "We plan to become an official family after I graduate."

Following Lee's talk, keynote speaker Carol Everett recounted her days working in the abortion industry, calling it a "cash cow" that preys on vulnerable women.

Citing "inconvenience" as the motivator, Everett said she sought an abortion in 1973 after learning she was pregnant with her third child. She described her resulting feelings of isolation and shame, and said her solace came through selling abortions. "Every time another woman made the same mistake I'd made, in some sick, twisted way, I decided that if she was okay, I was okay."

She learned quickly how much money was to be made from "abortion sales," and became adept at her job, driven by a thirst to grow rich. "I wanted to become a millionaire," Everett admitted, noting her plan to increase abortions in her home state of Texas by "selling" three to five abortions to every girl between the ages of 13 and 18.

Everett spent six years selling and overseeing 35,000 abortions at four facilities, all located near an airport for easy in-and-out services. Along with the babies who perished, Everett said she watched one woman die and many more become maimed during the assembly-line-style operations.

She described how the abortion industry starts its propaganda as early as kindergarten through sex-education in schools, undermining the parent-child relationship and natural modesty.

Everett said statistics prove the earlier they have an abortion, the more likely a girl is to repeat the procedure. “Even today, abortion is a method of birth control with a 42 percent repeat rate in this country.”

Everett’s pro-abortion frenzy ended when a preacher who’d come to her clinics in the guise of “business counselor” said a prayer over her, prompting a conversion.

“If abortion is so good for women, why aren’t they free?” Everett asked, noting that FirstChoice Clinic doesn’t charge for its services, thanks to supporter donations.

Today, Everett helps girls and women in unplanned pregnancies through The Heidi Group, a non-profit she founded that operates two life-affirming pregnancy resource centers and a charity pre-natal clinic in West Dallas, the 11th most severe poverty stricken area in the nation.

FirstChoice is a faith-based, non-profit facility with clinics in Fargo and Devils Lake that provides education and health services to empower individuals to make life-affirming choices. This year the agency is celebrating 25 years of its life saving and life changing ministry. This event set a fundraising record with a preliminary total of \$135,000.