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Interfaith Organization Launches "40 Days for Prayer to Keep Abortion Safe and Legal"

September, 2010-Faith Aloud, a national interfaith agency that supports women making reproductive decisions, is celebrating "40 Days of Prayer to Keep Abortion Safe and Legal". The 40 days will take place from September 22-October 31.

As a part of the 40 days, abortion clinics around the country will distribute a prayer a day to their patients, as well as utilizing other Faith Aloud resource materials that respect both the women's spirituality and their God-given power to make difficult decisions.

Executive Director Rev. Rebecca Turner says, "Pregnant women deserve compassion, not shame and judgment. Too many religious voices condemn women for their sexuality, their pregnancies, and their choices. Our clergy honor women's God-given wisdom and goodness as they walk with them through tough decisions."

These same 40 days are difficult for many women's clinics because they are the targets of extra harassment by anti-abortion protesters. "We're praying for an end to sidewalk bullying," says Turner, referring to the tactics of protesters who try to stop women from entering abortion clinics. "Our society wouldn't allow this kind of bullying in any other instance. Protesting is one thing, but screaming hateful words about God's revenge on pregnant women is cruel. No one should have to endure that."

Faith Aloud provides a toll-free number for women to reach specially trained clergy for counseling about reproductive decisions. Clergy counselors represent many faith groups and denominations, but their common concern is that women be treated with respect and dignity when faced with a difficult pregnancy.

Other Faith Aloud religious materials used in abortion clinics include clergy counseling DVDs, scripture cards for patients, and posters that honor women's moral agency.

The 40 Prayers may be viewed at www.40daysforprayer.org.