



Photo provided

San Antonio Coalition for Life celebrated the closing of 40 Days for Life by praying at the site of a former abortion clinic.

## Former abortion clinic now Korean church

BY LORNA CRUZ  
FOR TODAY'S CATHOLIC

After 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach, the San Antonio Coalition for Life held its closing 40 Days for Life rally with over 80 guests, at the site of a former abortion clinic. Speakers and special guests included Ramona Trevino and Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood employees, and Lauren Muzyka, campaign strategist for the national 40 Days for Life team.

The evening began with Executive Director Matt Schima explaining that the former Reproductive Services abortion clinic is now a Korean church. "After spending so many hours outside the gate praying for the unborn, mothers, fathers and for the conversion of the clinic workers and doctor in that building, it was almost overwhelming to finally walk inside," Schima shared, referring to the first time he visited the church. This clinic, one of the main abortion providers in the city, closed down in 2012 after years of patient prayer from the pro-life community. The abortionist, Dr. Alan Braid, was one of the leading voices in opposition to the sonogram

law, which requires physicians to provide a sonogram and the medical explanation of it before performing an abortion.

The church's own Pastor Kyu Seok Han led those gathered in prayer, reminding them that they are "God's instruments." Muzyka and Trevino both shared inspiring stories, one as a sidewalk counselor and campaign strategist for the national 40 Days for Life team and the other as a former Planned Parenthood employee in Sherman, Texas, further encouraging the San Antonio Coalition for Life volunteers who spend hours of their time praying on the sidewalk at a local abortion clinic every week. "We will all stand before God and be asked, 'What did you do to stop abortion?' We cannot be passive," Trevino shared.

As the rally came to a close, Schima invited guests to participate in a type of Jericho March into the church and pray in every room, reclaiming it for God. A number of community representatives and pastors led the prayer, including Pastor Al Mendenhall from Livingwater Fellowship; Father Christopher Phillips from Our Lady of the Atonement Church; Father James Marshall, SJ, from Our Lady

of Guadalupe Church; Abby Johnson from And Then There Were None; Heather Gardner, executive director of Central Texas Coalition for Life; and Deacon Pete Cuellar from St. Matthew Church. The rooms included the waiting room, the sonogram room and the abortion room.

Schima emphasized the hope that this church gives the pro-life movement; "What was once a place of destruction and despair is now a place full of worship and praise for God!"

The San Antonio Coalition for Life was founded in 2007, as a nonprofit organization to help women in crisis pregnancy entering into abortion facilities and to educate the public about abortion and the abortion industry and is now made up of over two thousand Christian individuals, dedicated to ending abortion peacefully and prayerfully. Faithful San Antonians dedicated 960 hours praying for 40 days straight in front of one of the local Planned Parenthood abortion facilities. Information regarding ways to get involved can be found online at [www.sacfl.org](http://www.sacfl.org).

LORNA CRUZ IS DIRECTOR OF communications of the San Antonio Coalition for Life.