



### **Life Newsbytes**

**In Wisconsin, four Planned Parenthood locations are closing beginning in April (Beaver Dam, Johnson Creek, Chippewa Falls and Shawano). In Iowa, two of Planned Parenthood's 21 locations (in Spencer and Fort Madison) will close effective March 15.** According to its latest annual report, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) performed a record number of abortions in the 2011-2012 fiscal year: 333,964 abortions (compared with 329,445 abortions in 2010-2011). 45.2 percent of the total PPFA budget came from taxpayer dollars in the form of government funding. (Source: *Wisconsin Right to Life*, 2/18; *LifeNews.com*, 1/7, 2/20; *CLR Life News*, 1/8, 2/22)

**The 1500th abortion clinic in the U.S. has closed, leaving a total of 660 facilities nationwide.** This year marks a 70 percent decrease in the number of clinics in existence since 1991. (Source: *LifeNews.com*, 1/22; *CLR Life News*, 1/24)

**Seventy-seven Oregonians died in 2012 after obtaining lethal medication to end their lives—a 21 percent increase in the number of prescriptions for assisted suicide in Oregon since 2009.** Only two of these 77 patients who killed themselves with lethal drugs was referred for a formal psychiatric or psychological evaluation. (Source: *Oregon Public Health Division Report*, *CLR Life News*, 1/30)

### **Speaking Up For Life**

“God entered the darkness of a sinful world in the darkness of a womb. Jesus’ body was knit together there—a body necessary to live a holy life on our behalf, a body necessary to bear the ‘yoke and burden’ of the punishment for sin upon a cross, a body necessary to be placed in a tomb and rise again in victory over sin and death. Baptized into this death and resurrection, God declares us holy and joyful victors!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

### **Life Facts and Stats**

“Down syndrome is a genetic condition that causes delays in physical and intellectual development. It occurs in one in every 691 live births. Individuals with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes instead of the usual 46. It is the most frequently occurring chromosomal disorder. Down syndrome is not related to race, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status. The most important fact to know about individuals with Down syndrome is that they are more like others than they are different.” (Source: [www.nads.org](http://www.nads.org))

### **Need Help?**

If you, or someone you know, is hurting from an abortion decision, contact Word of Hope at 888.217.8679 for caring and confidential help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

## **Unforgettable Words** by *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb*



I remember her words as if it were yesterday. In actuality, however, it was several years ago at our LFL conference in St. Louis, Missouri. We introduced a new version of our *For Life* promotional video. Mikki, a child with Down syndrome, and her mother were featured in the video. When the diagnosis was made before Mikki was born, her mom received a great deal of pressure to abort. She chose life!

We invited Mikki and her parents to the conference where we showed the video for the first time. After the viewing, we asked Mikki if she would like to say anything to the gathering of over 300 people. She readily took the microphone and spoke those unforgettable words, “Thanks for giving kids like me a chance.” To a standing ovation, she returned to her seat.

LFL stands today to salute all the “Mikki’s” and their families. We share what we hear over and over again from parents of children with Down syndrome—they are such a BLESSING!

LFL stands this month to salute all those who advocate for these children. (World Down Syndrome Day is March 21.) We honor those who uphold the value of life knowing it does not come from our abilities or how our chromosomes are arranged but from our God who created us and redeemed us in Jesus. So please take personally those unforgettable words, “Thanks for giving kids like me a chance.”



(back, l-r) Dr. Lamb, Wayne and Karen Cunningham, Diane E. Schroeder; (front) Mikki Cunningham (in 2005)