

# LifeDate

A quarterly journal of  
life issue news and commentary  
from National Lutherans For Life

FALL 2004

*Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God.*

## Making Life and Death Decisions . . .



## . . . in Hope

See page 6



*"Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us  
new birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . ." 1 Peter 1:3*

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## Womb Walking

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb  
Executive Director - Lutherans For Life

“Walking” in the womb? Professor Stuart Campbell of London’s Create Health Clinic has perfected an ultrasound technique that not only produces 3D images, but also shows fetal movement in real time (4D). For example, he has produced pictures of a 12 week-old fetus “walking,” the same kind of movement of the legs seen when you hold a newborn under the arms with his or her feet dangling. Professor Campbell says his work shows for the first time that unborn babies engage in complex behavior very early in their lives. He states, “This is a new science for understanding and mapping out the behavior of the baby.” According to a BBC Internet news article ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)), the images have shown:

- From 12 weeks, unborn babies can stretch, kick, and leap around the womb—well before the mother can feel movement.
- From 18 weeks, they can open their eyes, although most doctors thought eyelids were fused until 26 weeks.
- From 26 weeks, they appear to exhibit a whole range of typical baby behavior and moods, including scratching, smiling, crying, hiccupping, and sucking.

Conventional ultrasound, of course, has shown much of this for quite some time. But these 4D images make it all seem more real. As a spokeswoman for a British pro-life organization said, “The images show the delightful reality of the humanity of the unborn baby. We cannot believe that anybody could continue supporting abortion when they see these extraordinary pictures.” Other pro-lifers offered similar affirmations.

I agree. Ultrasound changes the minds of those considering abortion. It helps educate about the wonders of the womb. Its use should be encouraged for such things. Now



GE 4D Ultrasound  
[www.gehealthcare.com/rad/us/4d/index2.html](http://www.gehealthcare.com/rad/us/4d/index2.html)

if you are sensing a “but” coming here, you are right. But—a word of caution. Such technology may also run the risk of reinforcing the idea that our value is based upon what we can *do* as human beings rather than upon the fact that we *are* human beings.

A blastocyst—that five-day-old human being that is destroyed to obtain his or her stem cells—cannot smile or walk or hiccup. He or she, however, has as much value as a human being as the 12 week-old walking in the womb or the 16 year-old not wanting to walk and asking for the keys to the car! We need to be careful not to fall into the trap of giving value to the unborn only when they start looking like babies or behaving like babies. Otherwise we not only devalue those in earlier stages of development, but what happens if the ultrasound shows an abnormality and limited function? What happens after we are born and lose a particular function because of injury or disease or aging? It is not how we function but who we are that gives us value.

We who base our pro-life views on the Word of God can take that one step further. It is *whose* we are that gives us value. God is the author of life and the giver of life. We are His because He made us. We are His because He has “purchased and won us” through the once-upon-a-time blastocyst, Jesus Christ. The baby “walking” in the womb is someone created by God and redeemed by Jesus. But so is the blastocyst who doesn’t have legs yet and the child who can’t walk and the grandma who can’t remember.

Lutherans For Life is active at various levels in promoting and supporting ultrasound technology. One of our chapters purchased an ultrasound machine and provides a part time technician to offer free ultrasounds. Our state presidents have developed guidelines for initiating such a project. We will continue to share the message of the importance of showing what these little ones can do before they are born. It saves lives. We will also continue to share a message that goes further than assigning human value based on what a human can do. We will continue to share the fundamental, Biblical message of human value based on what God has done.

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## Bush Administration Appeals Decision Against Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

Continuing its defense of the ban on partial-birth abortion, the Bush administration announced on August 2 that it is appealing a San Francisco judge's decision declaring the ban unconstitutional.

Attorneys representing Attorney General John Ashcroft filed the notice appealing the decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

That appeals court has traditionally opposed upholding pro-life legislation and is considered one of the more pro-abortion courts in the country. Regardless of the appeals court's decision, the case is likely headed to the U.S. Supreme Court for consideration.

In June, U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton said the partial-birth abortion ban runs afoul of the 2000 *Carhart vs. Stenberg* Supreme Court decision that found a Nebraska partial-birth abortion ban unconstitutional. The high court said it lacked an exception to allow the gruesome abortion procedure to protect a woman's health.

The Bush administration argued that the medical community acknowledges that there are never any instances when a three-day long abortion procedure would be needed in an emergency health situation.

Hamilton is one of three judges weighing separate challenges by abortion advocates.

The San Francisco case was filed by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its California affiliate.

A representative of the nation's largest abortion business condemned the Bush administration's decision.

"The court was right to strike down this dangerous law, and Attorney General Ashcroft is wrong to squander Americans' hard-earned tax dollars to fund his anti-choice crusade," Planned Parenthood president Gloria Feldt said in response. "Planned Parenthood is fully prepared to go back to court to ensure that this dangerous abortion ban never harms American women."

President Bush signed the partial-birth abortion ban into law in November 2003.

In addition to the Planned Parenthood lawsuit, several abortion practitioners filed suit in Nebraska seeking to overturn the ban and the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of the National Abortion Federation, a trade group of abortion businesses.

The federal appeals court is missing one pro-life judge who may likely have decided in favor of upholding the pro-life law.

Abortion advocates in the Senate have used filibuster

threats to prevent Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carolyn Kuhl's nomination to the 9th Circuit appeals court. President Bush nominated Judge Kuhl, who is pro-life, to the post last year.

In closing out the testimony for the Bush administration, Dr. Curtis Cook, an OB/GYN and Michigan State University professor who specializes in high-risk pregnancies and pregnancies with complications, told the court he didn't believe partial-birth abortions were ever medically necessary.

Cook said the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is on record as saying "there is no situation where they can think that this is the only option available."

*(LifeNews.com, 8/2)*

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT: Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act



On May 20, 2004, Senator Sam Brownback (R-Ks.) and Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), with the strong backing of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), introduced a major new pro-life initiative, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (S. 2466, H.R. 4420).

This bill would require every abortionist to provide, whenever a woman seeks an abortion past 20 weeks after fertilization, specified information about the capacity of her unborn child to experience pain during the abortion, after which the woman must either accept or refuse (by signing a form) the administration of pain-reducing drugs directly to the unborn child. The bill would apply to all abortions past 20 weeks, regardless of the method used.

#### ACTION REQUESTED:

Go to the National Right to Life Legislative Action Center at <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/home/> to send e-mails to your lawmakers, urging them to cosponsor the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. For those senators and representatives who are already listed as cosponsors, you can send already-prepared e-mails thanking them for their support for this important new pro-life initiative.

*(National Right to Life Committee, 5/20)*

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## Answering Pro-Abortion Politicians

If you have ever written to a pro-abortion politician about the right to life, you've probably received a form letter that utilizes one of several worn-out arguments. Let's review how these arguments can be answered.

1. *"I respect your views, but I have to represent all the people."* **Response:** That's what we're trying to say to you. If you neglect the unborn, you are not representing all the people. *Roe vs. Wade* excludes them from protection; we demand that they be included. A public servant cannot legitimately ignore an entire segment of the public that is being destroyed.

2. *"I'm personally opposed to abortion, but can't impose my views on others."* **Response:** This is not a matter of views, but of violence. The law is supposed to protect human life despite the views of those who would destroy it.

3. *"The government should not be involved in such a personal decision as abortion."* **Response:** The government got "too involved" in abortion when it claimed to have the authority to deprive some human beings of their right to life. The Declaration of Independence asserts that government exists to secure the rights already bestowed by the Creator. Moreover, when somebody's "choice" destroys somebody else's life, that choice is no longer merely a personal, private matter.

4. *"Legislators should not be practicing medicine."* **Response:** We're not asking you to practice medicine but to prevent the abuse of medicine. The practice of medicine is regulated by all kinds of laws that protect the lives of patients. All we ask is that the unborn be included in that protection.

5. *"Abortion is the law of the land."* **Response:** The "law of the land" can be changed, just as it was changed regarding slavery and segregation. Leadership means seeing the injustices that others miss and inspiring people to utilize the methods the law permits to make necessary changes.

6. *"I support women's rights and health."* **Response:** That is precisely why you should examine the evidence, which is more plentiful than ever, that abortion is destructive of women's health, and listen to the growing voices of those who have been harmed by abortion. That is also why you should examine how the abortion industry, through unregulated and dangerous clinics, continues to deceive and exploit women.

7. *"Abortion is just one of many issues; I embrace a consistent ethic of life."* **Response:** The foundation of a house is only one of many parts of the house, but it is essential in order to build the other parts. [Dr. J.C. Willke suggests using the phrase "disqualifying issue" rather than "single issue." "The words single issue, in recent years, have acquired a very negative meaning. Disqualifying issue is much more descriptive and states exactly what it is."]

8. *"My office does not involve any decision-making about abortion."* **Response:** Your position on abortion says a lot about your character and worldview. If you cannot stand up for the smallest of children, how will you stand up for the rest of us?

9. *"Let's just agree to disagree."* **Response:** We have the greatest respect for those who disagree with us. But when victims are oppressed, we don't sit back and "agree to disagree" with the oppressor. Rather, we intervene to save the victim. Abortion is not about beliefs; it's about bloodshed. Those who need protection need it despite the disagreement of others.

10. Finally, always use the best response to all the arguments: **I vote!**

*(Adapted from the Priests for Life newsletter, May-June 2004)*

## Planned Parenthood "I Had An Abortion" Shirts Cause Huge Uproar

Planned Parenthood's sales website recently tried to expand its merchandise line of everything from pins to posters, from condoms to "milk chocolate birth control pill packs" by touting a t-shirt proclaiming "I had an abortion." The shirt offer has sparked an outcry from women who have had abortions, who believe that Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion operation, is sending the wrong message to young women. Planned Parenthood President Gloria Feldt defends the decision to sell the controversial shirts saying the shirts let women "stand up for choice." But Olivia Gans, director of American Victims of Abortion, who had an abortion in 1981, says, in response to the t-shirts, "Having an abortion is a heartbreaking experience. It is not something to boast about . . . [T]he callousness and insensitivity of Planned Parenthood provides another example of just how out of touch they are with the reality of abortion and the impact it has on women . . . It is pretty clear that Planned Parenthood puts promoting abortion above concern for women."



*(LifeNews.com, 7/28, 7/30)*



## Understanding Abortion's Aftermath

by Grace Kern, Director of Word of Hope

Since 1973, there have been more than 44 million abortions in the United States.

LFL's Word of Hope receives around 250 calls each month from people across the country hurting because of a past abortion. Many say the experience has devastated their lives, causing long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma.

Counselors and pastors increasingly attest evidence of post-abortion trauma. Abortion aftermath is largely ignored by most in the general public. Groups organized to protect abortion on demand claim that abortion is no different than any surgical procedure and that the pro-life groups are fabricating the existence of post-abortion suffering. Consequently, many women think that their grief reactions are somehow abnormal and believe that they are the only one experiencing these feelings and that there is nowhere for them to turn.

Who are these women? They are your aunts, your mothers, your cousins, your neighbors, your co-workers, and your church friends. These women come from all different age groups, races, and religions. They are single women, married women, and divorced women. So where are all these women and why aren't they talking about it? The fear of negative reaction from family and friends keeps most women silent.

Women hurt by abortion have some or many of the following symptoms:

- Grief
- Depression (sometimes to the point of suicidal thoughts and attempts)
- Guilt and shame
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling of being numb, isolating self from others
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anger toward self, partner, parents, and God
- Sleep disorders (nightmares, flashbacks, or even sounds of a baby crying)
- Alcohol and drug problems to dull the pain and sorrow
- Desire for a "replacement" baby
- Anniversary reactions on the date of the abortion or the baby's due date
- Fear that God will punish them in some way.

Many women have walk on a path of grief and hopelessness after abortion, usually alone. Along their path they eventually begin to understand they have very deep spiritual wounds. Sadly, however they also are likely to believe that they have committed the unforgivable sin.

When these women call me they have many questions, the answers are the beginning of their healing. Will this pain ever go away? How can I sit in church when I didn't protect my own child? What if my church knew? Is healing possible? Can God ever forgive me?

The answer is YES! YES! YES!

**"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"** (1 John 1:9).

Being forgiven by God does not mean you will instantly have all the answers and all painful memories will be gone. It does mean we now have a way to resolve our problems—God's way. If you draw on God's power for your life, your anger and bitterness will eventually be replaced with love and peace. By proclaiming the truth we can bring hope and healing!



Word of Hope  
888-217-8679

for confidential post-abortion  
referral, counsel, and reconciliation.

### Abortion Numbers & Other Stats



Total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2002 estimated at 44,010,378.

*(based on Alan Guttmacher Institute and Centers for Disease Control statistics of 1.33 million, projected for 2002)*

In 2000, more children died from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars combined.

*(National Right to Life Committee)*

There were over 3,600 abortions per day in 2000, 151 per hour, *one every 24 seconds*. In that same year, there were 306 abortions for every 1000 live births.

*(National Right to Life Committee)*

## Making Life and Death Decisions in Hope

“We need to discuss whether we should continue with this treatment.” The doctor’s words stun us. He might as well say, “There isn’t anymore hope.” Have you ever heard those words concerning yourself or someone you love? Are you struggling because you made a decision about removing treatment and still wonder whether or not it was the right one? If so, you’re in hope!

### Hope in Death

You can confront life and death decisions in hope because of the hope you have in death. Martin Luther said, “The death of a man is, however, an infinite and eternal misery and wrath.”<sup>1</sup> That doesn’t sound very hopeful, but it was his prelude to hope! In order to understand the certain hope Christians have, Luther knew we needed to first understand the utter hopelessness of our situation. Death is a constant reminder of the wrath of God we deserve. Death is our deserved wages of sin (Romans 6:23). Death is our enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26).

But Luther also said, “We should be happy to be dead and desire to die,” pointing out that death is only “the narrow gate and the small way to life.”<sup>2</sup> Death as the way to life is possible because of Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality (2 Timothy 1:10). Jesus’ death and resurrection give us the *certain* hope that through faith in Him we will have eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-5). It is guaranteed! (2 Corinthians 1:21) It is okay for a Christian to say with Paul, “I desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far” (Philippians 1:23). But in the same breath, Paul talks of the necessity of staying on in this life. The hope that we have in death gives us hope in life.

### Hope in Life Is God for Us?

Sometimes we forget about that big “if” in the verse, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). The hope God gives in death addresses that “if” and assures you that God is for you. “He who did not spare His own Son, but

gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). Because God did something about death and wants you with Him in Heaven someday, you can be assured of His gracious presence in life. He wants to give you good things. Jesus said He came to give us life “to the full” (John 10:10).

### The Full Life

“Yeah, right! That sure doesn’t describe my life.” Yes it does! Jesus’ “full life” statement was made in the context of shepherding. The full life for a sheep wasn’t the absence of difficulties; it was the presence of the shepherd and following him to green pastures and quiet waters and through dark valleys. (Psalm 23)

Hope for the full life for God’s sheep today is not in the absence of difficulties or difficult decisions. Your hope is in the presence of the Shepherd. He leads you to good places, and He leads you through dark places. God in Christ gives a whole new perspective on living life in hope because of the perspective He gives as to what makes life full and valueable.

### The Valued Life

The world associates the value of life with quality. Diminish certain qualities—e.g., bodily functions, mobility, memory—and the world says you diminish in value. Diminish in value enough and the world says your life isn’t worth living. Think this way enough and a society begins to “eliminate” such “burdens.”

God’s perspective is quite different. The value of human life has everything to do with Him and nothing to do with “qualities.” Remember, He “did not spare His own Son.” Every human life is a life purchased by the blood of Jesus. Qualities may diminish but the value God gives to life never does. The grandma in the nursing home who must wear a diaper and no longer remembers her family is just as valuable to God as the grandma who works in her garden and is president of the Ladies Aid. We limit the power of God when we think He can work in and through the second grandma but not the first. We challenge the will of God when we take charge of when it is time for someone to die. Because of what He has done in Christ, we can be assured of His presence even in the darkest of times.





## Hope in Life and Death Decision Making

Some of those darkest times are when you or a loved one is dying. Because of the effects of sin in this world, physical death is still our enemy. But he is a defeated enemy! The hope God gives in His victory over death and the hope He gives in the living of your life, gives hope when faced with dying.

Dying can be looked at in two ways. "I am dying," someone might say who has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Death seems inevitable but may be months or more ahead. Dying in a medical sense is when the body begins to "shut down." Organs begin to fail. The normal processes of life are coming to an end. The person may drift in and out of consciousness. There is no longer a desire for food or water.

## Starting and Stopping Treatments

A variety of treatments exist for those with terminal illness depending on the nature of that illness. Radiation or chemo-therapy may slow the disease, extend life, and sometimes even cure or put the disease into remission. Medications may be taken to control symptoms or to alleviate pain. Although basic human needs, food and water are often defined as "medical treatment."

Can a Christian refuse or stop treatment? The answer is yes and no! Much depends on the situation. In some cases, the hope you have in Jesus as the victor over death would enable you to answer, "Yes." In other cases, the hope we have in Jesus as our Shepherd in life would move you to answer, "No." Individual circumstances vary widely, and it is not possible or appropriate to provide a "one-size-fits-all" answer. There are some commonly held sayings among Christian ethicists that are helpful in determining our "yes" or "no." One is from the Hippocratic Oath, "Always to care, never to kill." The other is "We can and should allow the dying to die. We should never intend for the death of the living."

There are also some guiding questions that may be helpful. Is the treatment excessively physically burdensome to the person and doing more harm than good? Does the treatment enhance living or prolong dying? Is the intent of stopping or not starting a treatment to allow the disease to run its course or is the intent to cause death? Wishing and even praying that God would bring release through death is

not inappropriate. It reflects the hope we have in Christ's victory over death. Intentionally causing the death of someone or turning to physician-assisted suicide is never appropriate. It reflects a lack of trust in the hope we have in Christ's presence and power in our lives.

## Examples of Decisions

Morphine is an effective drug in controlling severe pain. But it can suppress respiration and thus hasten or even cause death. In an effort to control pain, it is not inappropriate for a Christian to discuss increasing the amount of morphine. Even the knowledge that this may hasten death does not make this inappropriate. The intent is to relieve pain, not cause death. You are still trusting in the hope in death and life that we have in Jesus. However, it would be inappropriate to say, "Let's get this over with. Turn up the morphine." In this case, the intent is to cause death through your will rather than trusting in God's.

On rare occasions, ventilators present difficult choices. Ventilators are often thought of only as "extraordinary" means of keeping someone alive. The fact is that ventilators are used frequently to temporarily assist people in breathing during surgery or to help the lungs recover from a disease like pneumonia. Therefore, to state emphatically, "I never want to be on a ventilator," may not be in your best interest. Occasionally, however, a person on a ventilator reaches the point where the ventilator is no longer part of a healing process but is artificially prolonging dying. A Christian may decide to remove a ventilator from a loved one in such cases. They cling to the hope in death and life we have in Jesus.

Feeding tubes are small, very flexible tubes used to deliver food and water directly into a person's stomach or intestine when these cannot be taken orally. Inserting a feeding tube is a minor surgical procedure. Feeding tubes do not keep someone alive "artificially." They keep people alive naturally by providing food and water through artificial means. The vast majority of people with feeding tubes are not dying in the medical sense of that word. To remove a feeding tube from someone who is not dying would be inappropriate as it would cause their death. When the body begins to die, however, organs start shutting down and eventually the body is unable to process food and water. Indeed, continuing



nutrition and hydration at this point may do more harm than good. It is not inappropriate, therefore, to remove a feeding tube in such cases.

### Did I Make the Right Decision?

Articles such as this can sometimes burden people's consciences. They look at all the "appropriates" and "inappropriates" and wonder if a particular decision they made in the past was right or wrong. That is what is so wonderful about living in the hope Jesus gives. Jesus' victory over sin and death give hope, because it assures you of your tremendous value to Him. Jesus' promise of His presence in your life gives hope because it assures you that nothing can ever separate you from His love.

Do you realize you made a wrong decision in the past? You live in hope! You can be certain of God's forgiveness and that your value to Him and His love for you have not diminished. You may still "feel" guilty for a past decision even after you have received God's forgiveness. Remember, feelings lie. Feelings do not negate the complete cleansing and guiltlessness you have in Jesus!

Are you not sure if you made the right decision? You live in hope! As much as we believe in God's absolute truth, sometimes the line between right and wrong decisions on these issues is just hard to determine. Medical advice may not be conclusive or it may even be conflicting. "Was my loved one dying? Did I allow them to die or cause them to die?" Uncertainty over such questions need not burden you. The certainty of Jesus' love and the hope He gives in death and in life upholds you.

### Conclusion

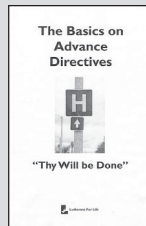
The certain and guaranteed hope you have in Jesus' victory over death gives you hope in living life! You can face death with hope because you know it is the door to life. You can face living and dying with hope because you know the true source of human worth and dignity. You can face and make difficult decisions in hope because you know God is present and at work. Nothing can separate you from His love. Nothing can diminish your hope in Him.



**(Footnotes)**

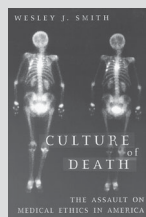
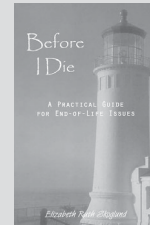
<sup>1</sup> Althaus, Paul, *The Theology of Martin Luther* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966) p. 405.  
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 408.

## LFL End-of-Life Resources



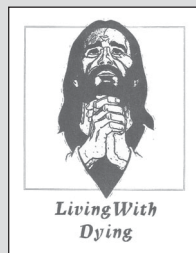
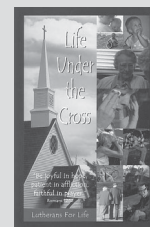
**The Basics on Advance Directives: Thy Will Be Done** – Is it proper for a Christian to have a Living Will? This brochure has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives that will help a Christian answer that question. **\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item 807B**

**Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues** – This excellent booklet shares principles for the Christian at life's end along with words of encouragement. Written by noted author and licensed marriage and family therapist Elizabeth Skoglund. **\$2.00 ea. plus S & H - Item #809B**



**The Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America** – Wesley Smith goes behind the current scenes of our health care system, showing how some doctors withdraw desired care based on Futile Care Theory rather than provide it as required by the Hippocratic Oath and how "bioethicists" influence policy by considering questions such as whether organs may be harvested from the terminally ill and disabled. **\$15.00 ea. plus S & H - Item #808B**

**Life Under the Cross** bulletin insert – There are those who say death is the solution to our problems. However, there is a better solution! It is "Life Under the Cross." We can seek the presence of Jesus in suffering rather than seek the absence of suffering at all costs (Romans 5:1-5). **\$0.07 ea. plus S & H - Item 806BI**



**Living With Dying** – A 3-ring binder with over 60 items addressing the medical, historical, spiritual, legal, and ethical questions arising at life's end. Aimed at helping you to understand – and communicate – the crucial distinction between allowing to die and aiming to kill. **\$20.00 ea. plus S & H - Item 802R**

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)  
**(888) 364-LIFE**  
[orders@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:orders@lutheransforlife.org)



## Physician: Abuses of Oregon Euthanasia Law Could Occur Regularly

Pro-life physicians are concerned that abuses of Oregon's assisted suicide law could take place regularly, indicated by inconsistencies in statements from assisted suicide advocates and medical reports.

Dr. Robert Orr, president of the Vermont Alliance for Ethical Healthcare, told LifeNews.com that a recent pro-assisted suicide speaker from Oregon mentioned that liquid barbiturates were being used in assisted suicides there.

Documents show 16-25 percent of patients in the Netherlands who take the dosage of pentobarbital do not die. In the Netherlands, where euthanasia is legal, the "failed suicides" can be finished by injecting more of the agent into the individual, but such follow-up is not allowed under the Oregon law.

"When Dr. Peter Rasmussen was visiting Vermont from Oregon in the spring of 2003 at the request of the local Death With Dignity group, someone asked him a question about the 'failed suicides' in the Netherlands," explained Dr. Orr.

"[They wanted] to know what was done if someone in Oregon didn't die after taking the same 9 grams (90 capsules) of barbiturate. He responded that this was not a problem because the doctors had switched to a liquid form," Orr said.

However, no oral liquid form of pentobarbital is manufactured, only an injectable liquid that is used to euthanize animals. If used orally, the individual would need to drink seven ounces of the bitter liquid, and the dosage is "likely to be vomited back because of its vile taste," according to Dr. Orr.

"We do not have any direct evidence that patients receiving prescriptions for lethal drugs under the Oregon physician-assisted suicide law are being given a lethal injection," explained Dr. Kenneth Stevens, President of Physicians for Compassionate Care in Oregon.

Stevens said the Annual Report for 2003 from the Oregon Health Division showed that 37 of the 42 deaths from assisted suicide were from pentobarbital.

Dr. Stevens added that the pentobarbital prescribed in Oregon for assisted suicide was indeed the liquid form, officially known as "pentobarbital sodium injection," and that no oral solution was available.

"We have been told by the proponents of assisted suicide that it is being taken by mouth to cause the suicide," explained Dr. Stevens. "We are concerned that once this injectable liquid is in the hands of the patient, family, and others, there is no control to prevent it from being injected into the patient (euthanasia)."

Dr. Stevens added that the reporting procedures in Oregon also make abuse of assisted suicide possible.

"Information regarding what happens at the time of taking the lethal medication is self-reported by the prescribing doctors, who were only present [with] 29% of the patients that took lethal medication in 2003," added Dr. Stevens. "The information from the other 71% of the patients is obtained second- and third-hand from others who were there."



"There are no safeguards to prevent euthanasia in Oregon. This is further evidence of the 'slippery slope' from assisted suicide to euthanasia," concluded Dr. Stevens.

Dr. Stevens noted that, according to the most recent reports from Oregon, only five percent of patients received psychological evaluations, despite the fact that depression is the most common condition leading to suicide.



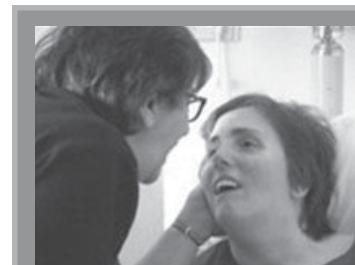
In addition, Dr. Stevens pointed out that in 2001, two patients were given lethal prescriptions but did not use them. Two years later, one patient was still alive, meaning that they had not been terminally ill as required by law.

A well-documented case of the law being violated is that of Michael Freeland.

In 2001, Freeland was given a lethal dose of medication to end his life by his doctor, although he was not terminally ill and the physician did not consider him mentally competent to make major medical decisions, due to his depression. Both mental competency and terminal illness are requirements for an assisted suicide prescription under the Oregon law.

Dr. Gregory Hamilton, an American Psychiatric Association fellow, said Freeland's case "demonstrates that allowing assisted suicide contributes to substandard medical care and endangers seriously ill patients, particularly those with a history of pre-existing mental illness."

*(LifeNews.com, 6/15)*



For the latest  
on the Terri Schiavo  
case go to:  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

# For Life Resources from Lutherans For Life!

## The 3 Bs of When Life Begins

“When does human life begin?”

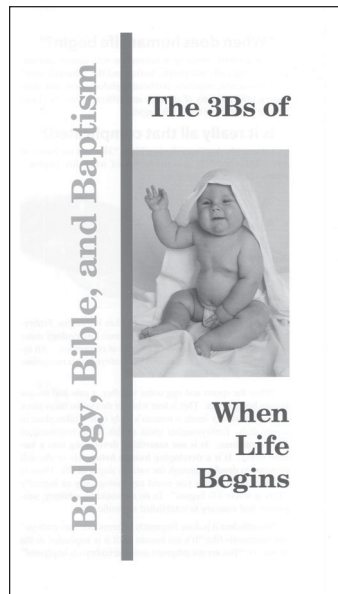
That question comes up in connection with cloning and embryonic stem cells and genetic testing and the “morning after” pill. Physicians, scientists, politicians, philosophers, and theologians offer a variety of complex and differing answers. Does anyone really know when life begins?

Is it really all that complicated?

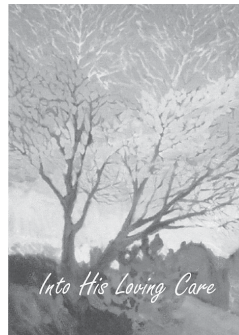
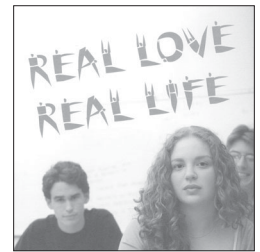
Let’s get back to some basics.

If the “3Rs” are the basics of education, the “3Bs” are the basics of when life begins – Biology, Bible, and Baptism.

**\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #1004T - FULL COLOR**

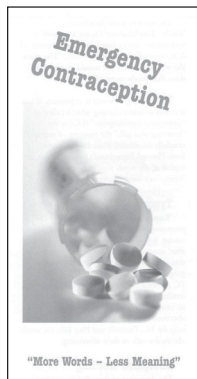


**Real Love / Real Life** - This unique 30" x 6" 10-panel fold out brochure covers fetal development, abortion facts, love and friendship, teen pregnancy, STDs, purity/chastity and sexuality, and safe choices. **\$0.50 each plus S & H - Item 615T - FULL COLOR**



**Into His Loving Care** - This unique booklet, by Linda Bartlett (and featuring new artwork and a full color cover), is dedicated to all the mothers and fathers who have lost a child through miscarriage or stillbirth. “It may seem as if God is far away at such times of sorrow, but He knows every sparrow that falls. How much more He must care for you and me . . . and our little ones.”

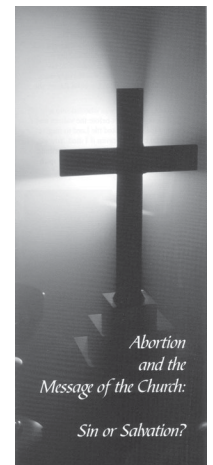
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**Emergency Contraception** – What does “Emergency Contraception” really mean? The meaning of words is important. When it comes to understanding what is called “emergency contraception” (EC) or the “morning after pill,” the meaning of words is crucially important. The national media uses a lot of words making EC sound safe and easy. But the many words lessen the meaning of what is really involved.

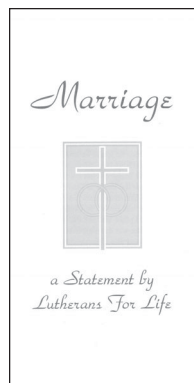
**\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #1003T**

**Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation** - Dr. James Lamb shows that throughout history the Church has called abortion sin. Only recently have some started calling abortion salvation—a way out of a difficult situation. But it is not a way out. It only creates guilt and despair to which the Church must apply its most powerful message, the Gospel of Jesus. **Now in full color!**  
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**(Also available in Braille at no charge.)**



**Marriage - A Statement by Lutherans For Life** – Sin has certainly brought problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not abdicate the essence of what marriage is. Jesus makes this clear. “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one” (Mark 10:6-8). What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be.

**\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #905T**

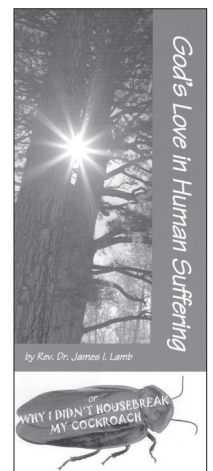


**Discrimination and Abortion** - Abortion denies children their civil rights and the basic right to life. Are African-American babies at greater risk of such discrimination? Some of the data would suggest that they are! Dynamic new layout!  
**\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item 116T**



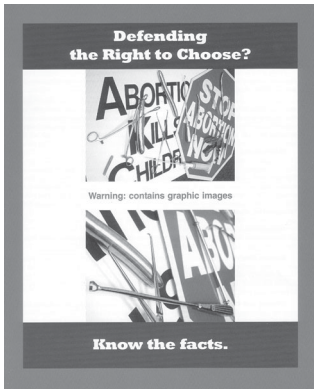
**God’s Love in Human Suffering - or why I didn’t housebreak my cockroach** – Dr.

James Lamb discusses the blessings of suffering. **\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item 805A - FULL COLOR**





# For Life Resources from Lutherans For Life!



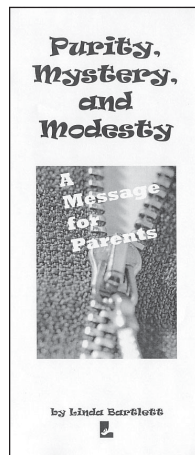
**Defending the Right to Choose / Know the Facts** - Defending the phrase “a woman’s right to choose” requires knowledge. It requires knowledge of what is being chosen. Everyone knows that this phrase is not referring to a woman’s right to choose a new dress or new shoes. It refers to choosing an abortion. The purpose of this booklet is to help people understand what

defending the “right to choose” involves.

**\$0.75 each plus S & H - Item 124T - FULL COLOR**

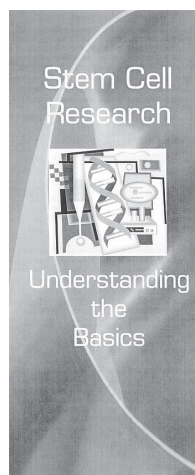
**Purity, Mystery, and Modesty** -

Children are entrusted to parents by God. Parents need not be intimidated in their role as teachers, for they have been equipped for the job. The Bible contains everything that is needed to help boys and girls respect themselves and others, understand why men and women are equal but different, resist temptation, and protect human life from the moment of conception. **\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item #903T**



**Cloning: Understanding the Basics** - The cloning of Dolly the sheep is old news. Now there is talk about cloning humans to “replace” a dead child or to provide body parts for transplant. There is even a cult that sees cloning as the means to eternal life. The vast majority of people are opposed to such cloning. But what about cloning human embryos to obtain stem cells in order to treat disease? **\$0.30 each plus S & H - Item #1001T - FULL COLOR**

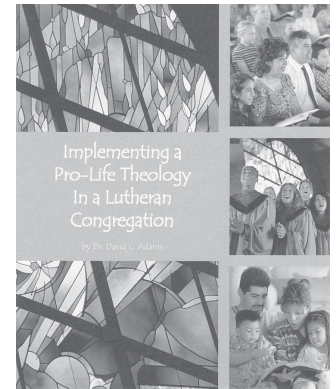
**Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics** - It is important for the Christian to understand that God’s Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). To understand how God’s Word applies to this controversial issue, however, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! **\$0.30 each plus S & H - Item #1000T - FULL COLOR**



**Implementing a Pro-Life Theology in a Lutheran Congregation** - It is time for the Church to put its pro-life convictions into action! Unless our congregations take action that makes those convictions a part of the way we do our ministry work, we shall cease to be a pro-life church body within a generation. This new booklet outlines the three basic needs:

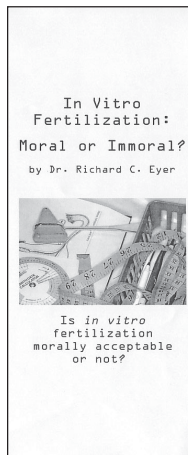
- (1) a plan to teach the faith;
- (2) a plan to care for people in need; and (3) a plan to witness publicly to the teachings of God’s Word.

**\$0.75 each plus S & H - Item #208B**

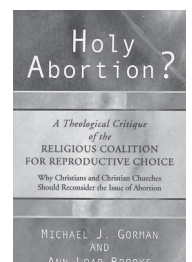


**In Vitro Fertilization: Moral or Immoral?** -

One of the increasing number of questions asked about reproductive technologies by parishioners is, “Is *in vitro* fertilization morally acceptable or not?” Since *in vitro* (Latin: in glass referring to a petri dish) fertilization is a process involving issues within issues there is often confusion resulting from attempts to answer that question. In this brochure, Dr. Richard C. Eyer attempts to identify the separate issues and their moral standing so that the reader can evaluate the moral acceptability or unacceptability of *in vitro* fertilization. **\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item #1002T**



**Holy Abortion?** - exposes the radical, un-Biblical views of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Reasoned, well-documented, and endorsed by the National Pro-Life Religious Council. A must-read! **\$6.00 each plus S & H - Item 105B**



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## The Stem Cell Debate Gets Hotter - What We Need to Do about It

by Nigel M. de S. Cameron

Nancy Reagan's recent intervention in the debate over federal funding of destructive embryo stem cell research has given fresh heart to those pressure groups, celebrities, and biotech enthusiasts who are seeking to overturn President Bush's careful policy compromise, which he announced to the nation in his first televised broadcast as president, on August 9, 2001.

It is plain that the administration is not going to change its policy. What we need to understand is that there is so much misunderstanding abroad that it is proving difficult for honest people to come to honest conclusions. The press is now focusing on the allegations that conservatives in the religious community are changing their view. Perhaps some are. Many have never thought seriously about this matter and are anxious about sick relatives and the need to cure diseases. It's never been more important for those of us who have thought long and hard about these issues to get the word out and clarify the thinking of the nation.

Here are some of the common misunderstandings, some of which have been deliberately, shamelessly purveyed by the press and advocates of destructive embryo research:

### Myth 1: The Bush Administration Banned Stem Cell Research

There is no federal law banning stem cell research of any kind. There has long been a ban imposed by Congress on federal funding of destructive embryo research. This ban was enforced by the Clinton administration. President Bush's decision of August 2001 was in fact a liberalization of that ban and it was denounced by some conservative groups as a result. The Bush decision permitted funding of embryo stem cell research. The permission extended to cell lines cultured from embryos that had already been destroyed, so that there

would be no encouragement to destroy further embryos. And, of course, there is no restriction at all on "adult" stem cell research.

### Myth 2: Cures are Right Around the Corner if only the Administration Changes It's Mind

One of the cruelest myths ever put out by the press is this one. Whatever has been said, the implication is clear: aunts and uncles and parents who are now sick could be cured, perhaps even President Reagan could have been saved, and all that stands in the way is this funding ban. It does not take much intelligence to see the many fallacies here. Even the more honest advocates of embryo stem cell research have admitted that cures are a long, long way off. This is patently clear to those who have followed the animal experiments, which have so far yielded very little evidence of cures and



many problems. But the proof lies in the market place. If the hype were to be believed, and a whole new world of cures were on our doorstep, there would be massive investment from venture capitalists pouring into embryo stem cell work, major pharma corporations, and start up IPOs. Economics is an interesting study: the market values commodities (including information) in a ranking summing up the value scales of individuals, which lead to conclusions that determine prices, assessments of risk, and investments. The markets have

spoken on this issue and the best informed people around, the biotech investors, have taken a walk. And, of course, that is why there is such pressure for public money.

### Myth 3: Adult Stem Cells are Second Best

I gave a presentation at the Experimental Biology conference in Washington, D.C. a few weeks ago, where I was surveying the ethical pros and cons of stem cell research. Alongside me were other speakers who are experts in embryo and stem cell research. The embryo research expert talked about basic research. The adult stem cell expert, on the other hand, talked about patients with what had been thought to be incurable diseases going home from the hospital cured. (If you want to read some of the latest research, go to [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org) and tell your friends, pastor, physician, neighbors, local newspaper, congressman, kids, sick relatives, state representatives, mailman—everyone you know—to go there and read the facts.)

#### Myth 4: They Only Want to Use the “Spare” Embryos that will Die Anyway

The entire celebrity-led, emotionally driven case for using embryos for research has been built on the idea that it will result in one on one medications, using embryo derived tissue to regenerate and replace tissue cells that have gone bad. This is what has been deceitfully called “therapeutic cloning” and involves mass production of embryos by the hundreds of millions and the production of an identical twin for each patient so that the twin embryo can be destroyed to produce the cure. This idea is horrific, and the horror is by no means confined to pro-lifers.

In fact, therapeutic cloning has already been banned in many countries. The Germans, who know a thing or two about where science can go wrong, banned it in 1990. Australia banned it last year. The latest country to ban the procedure was Canada, where the ban was finalized in April of this year. The French are next in line. The United States is among the many countries supporting Costa Rica’s attempt to get an international convention banning cloning through the UN. Among the big democracies, only the UK, which has been in the pro-embryo research lead for 25 years, is in favor of therapeutic cloning. Here in the United States, the Brownback Landrieu bill to ban cloning is languishing in the Senate, even though its equivalent (Weldon Stupak) has twice passed the House with a huge bipartisan majority.

So the “spare embryo” argument is a red herring. In any case, these embryos should be adopted and given a chance to live. And we should stop freezing embryos. To be stored in deep frozen vats is not a proper use of the God’s gift of life.

#### What Can We Do?

We need to get these arguments and the facts behind them into our local media and into the mailbags and offices of our local politicians. We need to get them out through the churches. One of the greatest debates of our generation—some would say, the greatest—is the struggle for human dignity in the face of these amazing, and potentially terrible, new technologies. Pro-life Christians need to be in the forefront, and that means all of us! Visit [www.cloninginformation.org](http://www.cloninginformation.org), and [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org). . . . And, whatever your politics, support President Bush’s stem cell funding policy.

*(Nigel M. de S. Cameron is the director of the Council for Biotechnology Policy and dean of the Wilberforce Forum. The Council for Biotechnology Policy (CBP) is a non partisan, nonprofit coalition of academics, ethicists, and scientists committed to seeking substantial policy solutions for scientific and cultural issues related to bioethics and human dignity. The Council has already taken a lead in shaping the policy debates on cloning and stem cell research, although the scope of its concern extends to any technology that threatens to corrupt human dignity.)*

*(Biotech Policy, July 2004)*

## Over 2000 Doctors Sign Stem Cell Petition

Over 2,000 doctors associated with the Christian Medical Association signed a letter sent July 30<sup>th</sup> to Congress and the President urging investment in adult stem cell research that is already providing therapies for patients.

Stevens said, “Cloning human beings for stem cells—as Ron Reagan Jr. urged in his convention speech—would produce abnormal embryonic stem cells while exploiting women to gain the millions of human eggs needed for human cloning. Ron Jr.’s speech was ‘political science’ of the worst sort.”

Stevens noted, “We want to see cures as quickly as our patients do. Adult stem cells are giving results now, but even the most optimistic predictions put any possible help from embryonic stem cells 10-15 years away.”

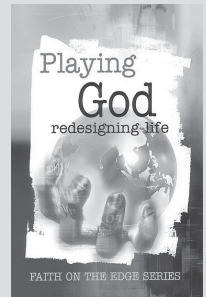
The letter highlighted adult stem cell benefits: “Verified accomplishments of adult (non-embryonic) stem cell research are already providing hope and therapy for patients suffering from heart muscle injury, diabetes, and brain damage from stroke—with realistic promise for treating other diseases on the horizon.”

*(LifeSiteNews.com, 8/3)*

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This study is written by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise, Professor of Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**\$6.50 plus S & H - Item #1000BS**

## Attitude Isn't Everything: It's Morning After in America

By Charles Colson

Teen sex is down, respect for parents is up, marriage is becoming more popular, and divorce is on the wane. Does that sound like a fantasy? It's not. As Kay Hymowitz recently reported in *City Journal*, many indicators point to a return to traditional values in America.

Hymowitz's article is titled "It's Morning After in America," suggesting a general feeling of revulsion against a long period of debauchery. She writes, "Wave away the colored smoke of the Jackson family circus, Paris Hilton, and the antics of San Francisco, and you can see how Americans have been self-correcting from a decades-long experiment with 'alternative values.' . . . What is emerging is a vital, optimistic, family-centered, entrepreneurial, and yes, morally thoughtful, citizenry."

Hymowitz shows that young people who were raised by veterans of the sexual revolution, and who grew up in the culture of no-fault divorce, are more conservative than their parents. They want to get married and stay married, and they disapprove of casual sex at higher rates than their parents did.

Hymowitz's conclusions are based on solid research and are good news. So are we to stop worrying about the future of this generation?

I don't want to throw a wet blanket on good news, but it only gets us part of the way there. It's great that more people are recognizing the need to build and preserve strong families. But the rates of premarital sex, illegitimacy, and divorce are still disturbingly high. And the real rub is this: Other media reports and interviews suggest that though many young people are against premarital sex and abortion in the abstract, they often have different attitudes when it comes to living their own lives. This is what we call compartmentalization.

One of Hymowitz's own examples illustrates the discrepancy between attitudes and actions. She writes, "The longitudinal Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study has found that half of the poor, largely black, new mothers it surveys are living with the father at the time of their baby's birth. Two-thirds of them agree 'it is better for children if their parents are married,' and 77 percent say that chances of marrying their child's father are 50 percent or higher. If history is any guide, most won't; but the fact that so many want to marry and understand that it is better to do so is an unexpected bit of social capital to build on." Well, Hymowitz is right—it is social capital. But do these women and men have the tools to do the necessary building? Are they willing, for instance,

to make a commitment before having children?

Having the right attitude, you see, about family-related issues is crucial, and there are encouraging signs that attitudes are improving. But attitude isn't everything. Historical patterns show that without the foundation of a solid biblical worldview, attitudes can easily shift back and forth with the prevailing breezes.

But this, you see, is where you and I come in. This is what some people call a "teachable moment." If young people's attitudes are shifting in a healthy direction, our job is to seize this moment to help them ground their lives in a solid biblical worldview, so that they not only want to do better, but they have the tools with which to accomplish it.

*(Copyright © 2004 Prison Fellowship Ministries. Reprinted with permission. "BreakPoint with Chuck Colson" is a radio ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries.)*

## Abstinence Is Proven Effective, Again

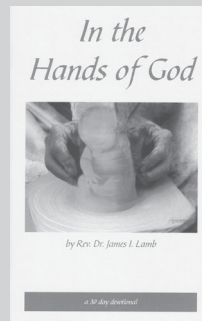
The Centers for Disease Control has released a new study which indicates that 53 percent of the overall decline in teen pregnancy between 1991 and 2001 is due to abstinence programs and 47 percent to improved contraceptive use. Given the fact that contraceptive sex ed programs receive about three times as much funding as abstinence programs, the findings of this study reveal that abstinence programs are far more effective than contraceptive sex ed programs.

To get the same decrease in teen pregnancy, the government has to spend three times as much on a contraceptive program as it does on abstinence programs.

In addition to being cost effective, abstinence programs also prepare young men and women for healthy relationships as married adults while eliminating the risk of sexually transmitted diseases at the same time.

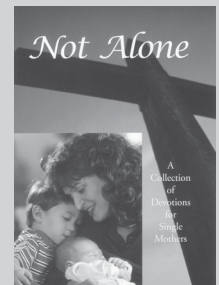
Abstinence is the true comprehensive sex ed program.

*(Washington Update – Family Research Council, 7/16)*



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A top British athlete has given up the chance of an Olympic gold to have her baby after she discovered she was pregnant. Tasha Danvers Smith, whose career hopes rested on her competing at Athens this year, briefly considered an abortion. However, she said: "This line from Scriptures kept coming into my head: 'For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'" (*The Telegraph*, SPUC, 5/13)

The Australian treasurer has announced financial incentives to encourage couples to have larger families. Peter Costello encouraged couples to have three children, "one for your husband and one for your wife and one for the country," in response to the country's growing demographic crisis. At the end of the press conference, Mr. Costello told journalists: "Go home and do your patriotic duty tonight." (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 5/12; SPUC 5/13)

The British Medical Association is to clarify guidelines on babies born alive during abortions after newspapers reported that babies are being left to die in UK hospitals if late term abortion procedures fail to kill them. A spokesman for SPUC said: "Surviving an abortion should not be seen as a mistake but as an opportunity. It should bring home in the first place that we should not be carrying out abortions in a civilized society." An investigation by the *Sunday Times* revealed a number of cases, listing the hospitals where they took place. The report includes the diary of a midwife who wrote: "Sometimes the aborted babies were alive at birth. There was an unwritten policy on the unit that babies would not be given assistance." (*The Sunday Times*, 6/20; SPUC, 6/21; *Sky News*, 6/22)

A report in the *Times of London* has revealed the social problems being caused by India's growing gender gap. As a result of widespread sex selection abortion, India is thought to be missing 40 million girls with as few as 600 females to 1000 males in some areas. Men are unable to find wives, and women's groups have reported cases of wife sharing within families and increased sexual violence towards women. Dr. B. S. Dahiya, a government official predicted: "Violence against women is rising. We'll have more unnatural practices, such as brothers sharing a wife. In a few years, no woman will be safe. There will be abductions and rapes, even of minors. Even married women won't be safe." (*The Times of London*, SPUC, 6/22)

Euthanasia has been described as being rampant in New Zealand. Nearly 700 doctors told researchers that they had hastened patients' deaths. In almost 400 cases, the patient

was not consulted, including cases where the patient was judged competent. The research is published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal*. This study follows the pattern of much pro-euthanasia research in trying to implicate doctors in intentional killing, when many of the cases could have been legitimate use of large doses of painkillers in the terminal phase of disease. (*LifeNews.com*, 6/26; SPUC, 7/1)

Nearly three quarters of teenage pregnancies end in abortion in some areas of the UK, according to new figures. In Epsom, 74% of teenage pregnancies end in abortion, whilst the figure in the Mole Valley is 70%. The high numbers are being attributed to easy abortion access and pressure on teenage parents. (*Surrey Comet*, 7/9; SPUC, 7/14)

The barbaric nature of abortion has been graphically illustrated after a mother gave birth in England to the head of her unborn child, several hours after undergoing an abortion. The mother had been 12 weeks pregnant, was fitted with an intra uterine device (IUD) following the abortion, and gave birth to her unborn child's head at home. The mother is traumatized and plans to give the head a burial. A photo of the head, clearly showing the child's eyes, nose, mouth and ears, was published in a national newspaper. (*The Voice*, 8/2; SPUC, 8/6)

The Kenyan government took a firm stand on abortion on May 31. Abortion, attempts to procure it, and homosexual sex acts, are criminal offences under the Penal Code, said Attorney General Amos Wako. The AG assured the public he would prosecute suspects who have committed and/or attempted to commit abortion and who have procured and/or attempted to procure abortions. He explained that it was his constitutional responsibility to "promote, protect, and uphold the rule of law and defend the public interest." The statements came in the wake of the arrest of a doctor and two nurses suspected to be involved in the abortion of 15 babies found dumped at Ngong' River in Nairobi last week. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 6/2)

France's Health Ministry announced July 23 that the government would increase payments for individual abortions by 29%. In addition, the measure signed by Health Minister Philippe Douste Blazy allows for the abortion drug RU 486 to be doled out by family physicians rather than in hospitals only, thus making for home abortions with the deadly drug. The action comes in response to lobbying by pro-abortion groups which complained that private abortuaries would close since abortion is not profitable enough. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/26)



# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(from *Lutheran Worship*)

## October 3 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Today God reminds His people to pray “for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:2). When we pray for our leaders, one of the petitions we can include is that those who govern us would respect the right to life of all human beings from the moment of conception. Those not yet born have a right to “peaceful and quiet lives” as well! Include a prayer this Sunday concerning the elections next month.

## October 10 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

“The love of money” (1 Timothy 6:10) is a driving force behind the euthanasia movement in this country. It costs less to put the ill or elderly to death than to care for them. But God’s people have a better way, “Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called . . .” (12). The assurance of eternal life in Christ gives us the hope to live this life in faith in spite of difficult circumstances. We trust in God to provide for our living and care for us in our dying.

## October 17 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet of old vocalized the thoughts of many of us in the present. “How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?” (Habakkuk 1:2a) God’s answer of old speaks to all of us today. “The righteous will live by his faith” (2:4b). Faith, not feelings, sustains us when God’s love seems to be obscured by our circumstances. God showed His great love by declaring us righteous in Jesus. There are no circumstances of health or heart that can separate us from that love.

## October 24 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ten-percent may be a good guide for Christian giving, but it is a lousy response to being cleansed from leprosy! Only one out of ten returned to praise God and give thanks to Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). Our entire being has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus! Thank God for the life that He gives! Enjoy the life that He gives! Share the life that He gives! You can’t be anymore pro-life than that!

## October 31 – Reformation Sunday

Martin Luther boldly proclaimed the truth of God’s Word to those within the church of his day. God brought unprecedented change through this Word of truth. Many in the church of our day need to come to a better understanding of the value that God gives to human life. This can be accomplished, not by screaming and yelling, judging and condemning, but by boldly proclaiming the truth of God’s Word of life. He will change hearts and minds. (Pray again concerning the elections this week.)

## November 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Last Sunday in the Church Year

The “evil one” seems so active. Perversion parades itself as pride. Marriage between one man and one woman is maligned. Life becomes a commodity designed and then destroyed for the lie of some greater good. How easy it is to be discouraged. “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:3). Instead of giving up or giving in, “May the Lord direct your hearts to God’s love and Christ’s perseverance” (5).

## November 14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Last Sunday in the Church Year

God guarantees you “an eternal house in heaven” (2 Corinthians 5:1). He has given you the “Spirit as a deposit” (5). However, God decides when you move in! It is okay to desire to be “clothed with our heavenly dwelling” (2), but the time of our death, like the time of our beginning, belongs to God. Our goal is to please God in our living and our dying. Thus, it is faith not sight that guides our decisions.

## November 21 – Last Sunday in the Church Year

Life can be like a jig-saw puzzle piled on the table and the box has been discarded. All we see are the pieces, and we have no idea how it all comes

together. However, in Jesus, “all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). Jesus knows the big picture. He knows where all the pieces fit. We have hope in the peace He gives through “His blood shed on the cross” (20). Our hope is not in peace in our world or even peace in our minds. It is in Jesus. He’s got it together!

## November 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

The first step in living a “chaste and decent” life is to “clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14). Purity of living comes from trusting that we have been purified in Christ. Making good choices as we wait for Jesus’ second coming flows from faith in what Jesus accomplished for us in His first coming.

## December 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

As we live in these end times between Jesus’ first and second comings, we live in hope. We live in hope because our God has shown He is the “God of hope” (Romans 15:13). He gives us a place to turn to be filled with hope. “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). Life is never hopeless!

## December 12 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Can you imagine being overtaken by joy? It is going to happen to God’s people (Isaiah 35:10). When God calls us home in our death or when Jesus returns, “everlasting joy will crown [our] heads.” In the meantime, “Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:8). We have the promise of eternal joy to help us deal with present suffering.

## December 19 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

In the face of an unplanned pregnancy, Joseph trusted in the promise given him by the angel. “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Because that promise was fulfilled, those facing unplanned pregnancies today can trust that God will not forsake them. They can trust that He has a plan for their babies too!

## The Nativity of our Lord

Imagine it if you can! The Word that was God the Creator of the universe laid aside His divine, eternal majesty and became flesh in the womb of a virgin. Then He left that warm protection and was born as we all were into a world of darkness that was no longer like the one He created. But He would bring life and light back into His creation. The Savior of the world began as an embryo! The Savior of the world grew as a fetus! The Savior of the world was born as a baby! Imagine it if you can!

## December 26 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

“When the time had fully come” (Galatians 4:4). God’s timing is always best! He worked in and through His people and all the nations of the earth for centuries to get everything ready for Christmas. Now God is getting ready for “Christmas II”! He is at work in and through His people and all the nations of the earth getting things ready for Jesus to come again. God’s timing is always best! We can trust in that timing.

## December 28 – The Holy Innocents

When the reality of an abortion decision hits, men and women are devastated by what they have done to their innocent one. The readings for Holy Innocents certainly give us opportunity to mourn the slaughter of babies through abortion. But they also give opportunity to bring comfort to those today who refuse to be comforted “because their children are no more.” These men and women feel as if this sin is too big to be forgiven. What an opportunity to proclaim that God called His Son out of Egypt and eventually to a cross for them too.

## December 31 – Eve of the Name of Jesus

We often quote it, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). The answer is easy, “no one!” But what about that “if”? How do we *know* God is for us? The answer is wrapped in the wonderful name “Jesus” and its meaning “Savior.” That is why Paul can so confidently say there is nothing—no circumstance, no crisis, no illness, no suffering—that can ever separate us from the love of God “that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:39b).



# LFL . . . on the road!

Taking the For Life message on the road, Lutherans For Life traveled to a number of national conventions this summer including:



- **Church of the Lutheran Brethren**, Moorhead, Minnesota
- **Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**, Osceola, Wisconsin
- **American Association of Lutheran Churches**, St. Paul, Minnesota
- **National Right to Life Convention**, Arlington, Virginia
- **LCMS Black Family Convocation**, St. Louis
- **LCMS National Convention**, St. Louis
- **International Lutheran Laymen's League**, Rapid City, South Dakota
- **National LCMS Youth Gathering**, Orlando, Florida
- **Higher Things National Lutheran Youth Conference**, Seattle, Washington

Still to come, in October, is the **Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ Convention** in Fargo, North Dakota.

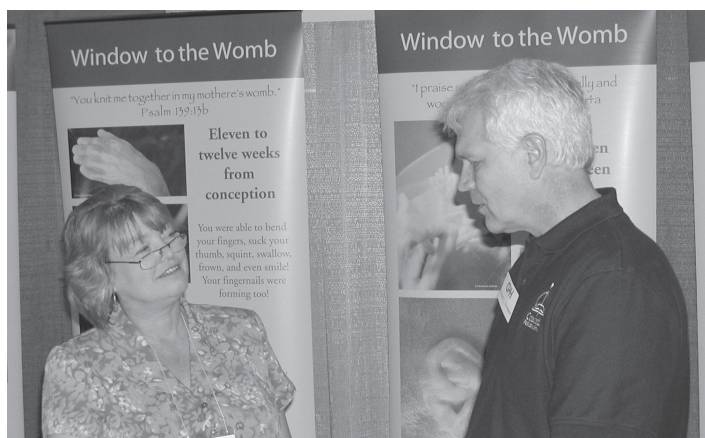
Conventions "are great opportunities to let people know about LFL but more importantly to bring people to a better understanding of the unique message we share on the life issues and to encourage them to get involved and take action within their own spheres of influence. We are thankful for the many volunteers across the country who help set up and staff these displays when we are not able to be there," said Dr. James I. Lamb, LFL Executive Director.



Dr. James I. Lamb was interviewed by Rev. Todd Wilken of Issues, Etc. on KFUO while at the LCMS Convention



A well-received new edition to the Lutherans For Life display this year was the Window to the Womb banners showing the development of an unborn baby from seven to 20 weeks.



National LFL President, Diane Schroeder of Lombard, Illinois, visits with fellow board member Rod Rathmann of St. Louis, Missouri, at LFL's display at the LCMS National Convention.

## Leadership/Speaker Training Seminar

A one-day seminar designed for those who are interested in learning how to speak for Lutherans For Life on life issues.

- Waco, Texas • October 9
- Fowler, Michigan • October 16
- Jefferson City, Missouri • October 23



Additional sites may be added to the schedule if local interest exists and as time permits. Please contact Edward Szeto at **888-364-LIFE** to discuss other possible locations and dates.



## “Aha! Now I get it!”

In a recent letter to supporters of Lutherans For Life, Dr. James Lamb shared a few “aha moments” from recent talks and visits:

“I was speaking to a group of Lutherans in Illinois on end-of-life issues. I used the Terri Schiavo case to illustrate the difference between allowing someone to die and causing their death. A gentleman came up to me afterwards and told me how he had been reading all kinds of articles about this case. He then said, ‘But now I get it. Now I understand that since Terri is not dying, removing her feeding tube would not allow her to die, it would cause her death.’”

“After a Bible study in a Lutheran congregation, which included a discussion of embryonic stem cell research, someone said, ‘Now I understand why we must oppose this research. I never realized it involved the destruction of a human being.’”

“An 8th grade teacher in a Lutheran elementary school asked me to speak to his class specifically on abortion procedures. As I spoke, you could see the astonished expressions on the students’ faces. What astonished them even more, however, came through in the first question that was asked. Speaking of abortionists, someone asked, ‘How could anyone do that?’”

Dr. Lamb went on to say that “these are just a few examples of what happens when we proclaim the truth about the God-given sanctity of life and connect it to the realities that are out there . . . Lutherans For Life is committed to increasing our educational efforts both in terms of quantity and quality. We need . . . help to do that . . . Giving to LFL generates more than a variety of excellent, Christ-centered educational materials. When people understand the God-given relevancy of life, they are moved to action!”

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) • (888) 364-LIFE

*National Life Chain Sunday 2004 will be held October 3. Last year, Life Chains in over 1000 cities and towns ministered to millions of motorists in the U.S. and Canada. Was your city included? If not, build a local prayer chain in 2004 for God to work through to save lives, change hearts, and to inspire new pro-lifers into your ranks. One Christian can bring the Life Chain to your city on October 3. Will you be that person? The cost is minimal and the rewards are immeasurable.*

*For help, email [NationalLifeChain@otnusa.com](mailto:NationalLifeChain@otnusa.com) or call 530-671-5500. See <http://LifeChain.net> where locations for 2004 are listed as well as all the ideas you need to put a Life Chain together.*

## Be a Part of Groundbreaking Christian Work In Siberia!

Russia has one of the highest abortion rates in the world. (On average, Russian women have six and seven abortions during their lifetime.)



But here’s the good news: You can make a difference in the lives of many Russian women who have never heard the Gospel and who will learn the love of Christ through the merciful assistance of the Lutheran Church in Siberia and through loving, Christian counseling from a woman named Gloria Vladimirova.

Gloria will serve as the licensed counselor on the staff of a new pro-life women’s shelter being developed by St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

Gloria says, **“This program is very close to me because I was in the same situation. When I was one month pregnant with my daughter, my husband left the family because of adultery. I had to give birth by myself. This is very hard psychologically. This is why all the problems of single mothers are so close to me personally.”**

Will you help cover the deaconess education scholarship costs for Gloria at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana?

Tuition, books, room and board, healthcare, and travel expenses are estimated to be approximately \$37,738 per year.

With your help we can bless Russia with this valuable resource—a woman named Gloria.

For more information or to offer financial support, please call Concordia Theological Seminary at (260) 452-2210 or e-mail [deaconess@mail.ctsfw.edu](mailto:deaconess@mail.ctsfw.edu) or log on to the web at [www.ctsfw.edu/deaconess](http://www.ctsfw.edu/deaconess).

Will you help this life-affirming project?

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. . . was Life!

Twenty-Second  
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Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport

Our conference offers a wonderful opportunity to come together for encouragement, education, fellowship, and renewal of strength in our work of upholding the sanctity of all human life!

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- Ed Szeto

To find out more call (888) 364-LIFE or go on-line at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)!

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**Our Mission . . .** To witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. LFL has 14 state federations, 150 local chapters, and 745 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

**Our Vision . . .** To be a powerful, Biblical, pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans, and through them, transform society.

**Our Philosophy . . .** Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of Biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post abortion healing, and family living.

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LFL . . . on the road!  
“Aha! Now I get it!”



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