



Life Newsbytes

Twenty-one states have banned abortion coverage on their new Affordable Care Act exchanges ... A total of 23 states will not permit the coverage of abortion by any insurer or by those in the ACA exchange. (Source: August 2013 Fact Sheet, National Women's Law Center; CLR Life News, 10/2/13)

Anthony Ozimic, communications director for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (London), has commented on recent news that scientists are developing a monthly birth control pill ... Anthony told Simon Caldwell, writing for *The Catholic Times*: "Firstly, it is both nonsensical and devious to speak of 'post-fertilization contraception.' Contraception is something which prevents conception, which every embryology textbook teaches is the fertilization of an egg by a sperm. The use of any drug to prevent a newly-conceived embryo from implanting in the womb, or to dislodge him or her from the womb, is abortion. Secondly, promoting chemical abortion outside of medical centers as preferable to surgical abortion inside medical centers is to promote a form of backstreet abortion. Lastly, the supposed 'benefit' of greater convenience will further fuel the already-rampant levels of promiscuity, abuse and disease which has been fuelled by mass promotion of both the ordinary contraceptive pill and the morning-after pill." (Source: John Smeaton, 9/30/13; SPUC, 10/3/13)

Speaking Up For Life

"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favors." *George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1789*

"God only has one 'natural' child. He adopted all the rest." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Find out more about adoption under "Life Issues" at www.lutheransforlife.org. Also see the fall 2012 edition of *LifeDate* (our free quarterly journal). The theme is **Orphan and Foster Care and the Gospel**.

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I suppose when you read it, someone doing the “moonwalk” might come to mind. **“The mind of man plans his ways, but the LORD directs his steps”** (Proverbs 16:9 NAS). You think you’re going one way and you’re really going God’s way!

I can’t “moonwalk,” but I think of me when I read this verse. Since fifth grade I wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to be like Dr. Tom Dooley who served the people of Laos. I read all his books. I made a plan in my mind—college, medical school, and serve people, maybe even in a foreign land. I made a plan and prayed that God would help me with my plan.

He didn’t. He did, however, direct my steps. He eventually revealed His plan for my life. I did become a doctor, but I find it a testimony to God’s humor that while my plan was to become an MD, He directed my steps to become a DM, Doctor of Ministry!

The focus of this article is adoption, especially in light of our adoption as God’s children in Christ. Most of the time we pro-life folks think of adoption as a loving option for that pregnant teen. We encourage her to make an adoption plan for her baby. Making such a plan requires courage and sacrifice. Her plans for her life may need to be set aside, but God can be trusted in such a situation to direct her steps and fulfill His plan for her life.

But there is another side of adoption as well. In my travels, I meet many adoptive parents. Usually they greet me with something affirming like, “We’re pro-life. We have adopted children.” Their stories often relate plans for having children being fulfilled in ways where it was obvious that the Lord was directing their steps. Their plans were the normal plans for most couples, to conceive and bear a child. But the Lord of Life directs their steps to a child according to His plan. At the same time, He directs the steps of that child to them. He fulfills His plan for the couple through the child. He fulfills His plan for the child through the couple. You would think it would get a little confusing directing all those steps! But He’s God; that’s what He does.

Infertility causes the plans of many people to go astray. Sometimes it leads them to make use of a variety of assisted reproductive technologies. Such technologies seem to offer hope to couples to get their plans back on track. There is nothing wrong with placing hope in such technology as long as they do not go too far and result in hurting or harming human life.

Rachel’s demand, **“Give me children or I’ll die”** (Genesis 30:1), while an understandable reaction to the pain of infertility, goes too far. It does not leave one open to God directing one’s steps. It is almost a “Help me with my plan or else” demand. Rachel did not seem open to God’s plan.

I cannot claim to fully understand the pain of an infertile couple. I pray that the Lord of Life will help them with their plans for having children. I also pray that such couples will be open to God’s direction and that their prayers will include petitions that God will direct their steps according to His plan. Who knows whose little steps God might be directing their way!

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