

## Life News

May  
2016

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Life Newsbytes

**Study: Adult Stem Cells Can Cut Heart Failure Deaths in Half** – A team of doctors has just published new findings showing another dramatic, life-saving application of adult stem cells, further undermining the case for harvesting stem cells from human embryos. The results of what is being called the largest trial of its kind ever conducted showed that stem cells harvested from a patient’s bone marrow can cut deaths from end-stage heart failure in half. Recipients of stem cell therapy were also 37% less likely to require hospitalization in the following year. Further research is required to conclusively determine whether this will be a realistic treatment for heart disease, but lead author Dr. Amit Pate of the University of Utah expressed confidence: “These results suggest that it really works.” If it proves viable, it is expected to also help mitigate shortages of donor organs. **In other stem cell research news, scientists announced that they had successfully grown a human heart using stem cells.** That in itself is a major development. But to the surprise of many, these stem cells did not come from embryos but rather skin cells, making this not only a major development but an ethical one too. (*Christian Life Resources “LifeWire,” March 30 and April 7, 2016; Live Action News, 4/6/16; Center for Bioethics and Culture, 3/22/16*)

Speaking Up For Life

“As I think back, I feel so blessed with the experiences God has given to me. Adoption is a particular blessing in so many ways. I am so thankful that I chose the gift of life and that my adoptive daughter’s birth mom chose the gift of life—for life is indeed a sacred gift from God.” *Sandy Nielsen, adoptive mom*

“Christian fathers will want to keep in mind that the threats and demands of the Law can never transform a child’s attitude. Rather, we want them to be motivated by the love of Christ. We will teach and remind our children of their Lord’s redeeming love and His wonderful merciful kindness toward them and all sinners.” *Rev. Mark Gullerud, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, South Dakota*

“You and I will one day die. But the truths of Scripture we uphold when it comes to the sacredness of life will never die. That is why it is so important to not only protect and defend God’s gift of life, but also to protect and defend His truth about what gives value to life. If we lose the latter, the former will quickly erode. Thank you for being people who are ‘holding fast to the word of life’ (Philippians 2:16)!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of LFL*

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**“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”** (Isaiah 66:13a)

When little ones fall and scrape their knees, we often hear “Mommy!” even before “Owie!” It’s not medical attention they seek. (Although a princess or Star Wars Band-Aid® will work wonders!) They seek comfort and the assurance that everything will be okay.

What a tribute to mothers that the “God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3) compares His comfort to that of a mother.

**“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”** (Isaiah 66:13a)

It is good to honor mothers and the vocation of motherhood as God does. We thank God for our mothers, and we thank our mothers for being God’s “knitting room” and giving us life (Psalm 139:13). We thank them for teaching us about Jesus. We thank them for their comfort.

#### **A Mothers’ Day Prayer**

Thank You, heavenly Father, for the life You give and the comfort You bring through mothers. Thank You for Christian mothers who nourish us in life and nurture us in faith. Bless all mothers and uphold them in this loving and sometimes daunting vocation. Be with the childless and those who mourn the loss of a child that they may find comfort in Your merciful goodness. Hold all mothers and all Your people in Your comforting arms, assuring us that everything will be okay. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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