



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 10 Number 2

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Spring 2018

Congratulations, Oratory Contest Winners!

Genevieve Sicree, a high school junior, is the First Place Varsity Winner of Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2018 Oratory Contest. Her brother, James, a freshman, placed First in the Junior Division. Genevieve and James are the children of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, of Boalsburg, and are homeschooled.

Joe Levari placed second in the Junior Division. Joe is the son of Ed and Maureen Levari, of Altoona, and is homeschooled. Prizes of \$200 and \$150 were awarded to the winners.

The judges for the Oratory Contest were: Elsie Shivas, Hollidaysburg; Nancy Head, Altoona; and Pat Forr, Altoona. Printed below is Genevieve's oratorical presentation. Read James' and Joe's presentations, pages 6 and 7.



James Sicree, Genevieve Sicree and Joe Levari

Witch Doctors and Planned Parenthood

By Genevieve Sicree, First-Place Varsity Winner

Barakas Cosmas was only five when, in 2015, he lost his right hand to assailants with machetes. His hand was then sold to a witch doctor (or "waganga" in Swahili) and used to make good luck charms, potions or powders. Why was this poor boy targeted?

Barakas is an albino, or as they prefer to be called, a person with albinism, a genetic condition in which a person has no melanin or pigment in his or her skin. In Tanzania, where Barakas lives, there is a horrific practice in which people with albinism are killed or mutilated for their body parts. These body parts are then sold to waganga who use them in charms said to give success in things like politics or mining. In Tanzania, 1 in 1400 people has albinism, compared with 1 in 20,000 in Europe and North America. They are seen as cursed and a burden, for their sensitive skin makes it dangerous for them to work outdoors and their poor eyesight makes it hard for them to read.

This horrific practice has been outlawed in Tanzania, and yet few people are arrested for it. Since 2007, only 21 people have been convicted in six cases for murdering people with albinism. But in the past decade, there have probably been more than 100 albino people killed in 27 different African countries—mostly in Tanzania. Hundreds more have been attacked and survived, often with missing limbs.

An eerily similar thing is happening in the United States. Only here, we aren't killing albinos for their body parts. We are killing babies for their body parts. Abortion, as we all know, has been legal since 1973, but Planned Parenthood, the organization responsible for the overwhelming majority of abortions, has taken the horrific practice of abortion one step further. Planned Parenthood not only kills unborn babies, but Planned Parenthood executives sell their organs

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Witch Doctors and PP

continued from front page

and other body parts to the highest bidder. This is illegal, and yet no Planned Parenthood official has been convicted of it.

But we must be clear: the act of killing an unborn child is in itself wrong. We cannot let ourselves merely fight the selling of unborn baby parts because it is illegal; we must fight because children are being killed. The law in America is schizophrenic, allowing the killing of unborn children and yet outlawing the sale of their organs. That would be like the Tanzanian government outlawing the use of albino body parts in waganga remedies but allowing albinos to be killed and mutilated. They are both wrong.

Barakas' case also reveals one of the worst aspects of the trade in body parts: the people jailed for mutilating him were a witch doctor—and his own father. Tragically, a family member is often implicated in attacks on people with albinism. Obviously, this is similar to abortion in the United States, where no trade in the body parts of aborted babies would be possible if their mothers had not first consented to their abortions, even if they do so under pressure. In both Africa and America the parents, or someone near them, see their own flesh and blood as a social and financial burden. It is very hard to protect people in either case when their own families will not.

Why do their families do this? Enormous sums of money are involved. The average salary in Tanzania is \$3,000. A single albino arm can fetch \$5,000. An entire corpse can be up to \$75,000. The situation in the U.S.A. is a little more complicated. It is illegal to sell human organs, fetal or otherwise, for profit, though it is legal to be reimbursed for expenses such as labor and shipping. However, it is clear that Planned Parenthood is being paid far more than that. Also, unlike complicit family members in the albino trade, mothers of aborted children are not paid anything for their child's remains: in fact, they cannot even be asked about donating the remains until after they have decided to have the abortion.

We cannot let ourselves forget in all this that where there are sellers, there are also buyers. These are the invisible drivers of the trade in body parts, whether they be wealthy clients of the waganga or the medical researchers, drug companies, and universities conducting experiments with fetal tissue. We will never end the trafficking in human remains until we end the demand for them. So far, none of these people have ever been prosecuted for buying human remains, either in Tanzania or the United States.

Dead babies' bodies are not just used for research, however. They are also used in vaccines such as the varicella or chicken pox vaccine. Imagine for a moment that a vaccine was being made from a cell line taken from a person with albinism who was murdered. Would you want to use it then? When there are no alternatives to the vaccine, people are forced to choose whether to benefit from an innocent child's death. We must continue to demand moral alternatives for those vaccines made with fetal tissue. In addition, it is distressing to note that certain studies like those done by the Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute linking these vaccines made from fetal cell lines (but not other vaccines) to increased rates of autism have been largely ignored by the scientific community.

Yes, we have to stop the selling of body parts, as well as the buying and using of them, but most of all, and hardest of all, we have to stop the killers. And if that means shutting them down for just the sales and not the murders, like catching Al Capone for tax fraud instead of murder, so be it. Prosecutions may stop funding, but the problem can't be completely stopped until people's hearts change. And until that happens, we can never stop fighting for the lives, safety and dignity of the unborn.

So what should we do? How can we fight? What can we do? Let's look at what the response in Tanzania has been to attacks on those with albinism. Certain

charities, such as Under the Same Sun, have started refugee villages for those with albinism. Here they are protected and given back the dignity that has been refused to them. Other charities provide them with sunscreen, which can cost \$25 a tube in Tanzania, to protect them from excessive sun exposure, which can quickly lead to cancer, which kills most people with albinism before the age of 40. They pay for educating people with albinism, hold seminars in places where attacks have occurred to educate others about albinism and help end discrimination against them. Another charity, Global Medical Relief Fund, fits maimed children like Barakas with prosthetic limbs to replace those that have been so brutally taken from them.

We should act the same way. Continue running clinics and homes for women in crisis pregnancies, make adoption easier and more affordable, demand new vaccines that do not use cells from aborted babies, and promote the dignity of the unborn. But we must not forget the mothers, nor the children once they're born. We must support and encourage those who courageously choose life. We must enlighten all those around us to the truth about when life begins. And most of all, we must never give up the fight. ■

Sources:

1. National Geographic article, "The Perils of Pale," in the June 2017 issue, *Why We Lie*
2. www.underthesamesun.org



The Bedford County Chapter of
Citizens Concerned for Human Life
Invites you to its

14th Annual Pro-Life Dinner

Community Grace Brethren Church
1216 Raystown Rd., Everett

Friday, April 6, 2018

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. ~ Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.

Come early to check out our door prizes!

Featured Speaker: Mike Spencer, Midwest Director of Life Training Institute

MIKE SPENCER grew up in Detroit and considered himself pro-choice until shortly after coming to faith in Christ in 1984, when the church he attended showed the pro-life film, *The Silent Scream*. Upon being confronted with the reality of abortion, Mike became deeply convicted and prayed for God's forgiveness, offering himself as a voice for the unborn. Mike served as a pastor for 23 years before joining the staff of Life Training Institute in 2012, where he serves as the Midwest Director of Training. Mike has a burden to awaken the church to the plight of mothers facing unplanned pregnancies and to the little ones they carry. He travels extensively throughout the United States speaking as the keynote at banquets and conferences and addresses thousands of students each year on high school and university campuses. Mike is a gifted and much sought-after communicator who brings a pastor's heart to the often emotional and divisive issue of abortion in a way that is both gracious and compelling. He and his wife, Barb, have five children including a daughter they adopted from Guatemala. Mike and his family currently reside in Celina, Ohio.



Come Hear the Regional Oratory Contest Winners!

Adults \$20 ♦ Students \$10 ♦ 4 & under free

RSVP 624-0140 by March 26

Checks should be made payable to: Bedford County CCHL

Mail checks to: Pam Lucas, 262 Zion Rd, Everett, PA 15537

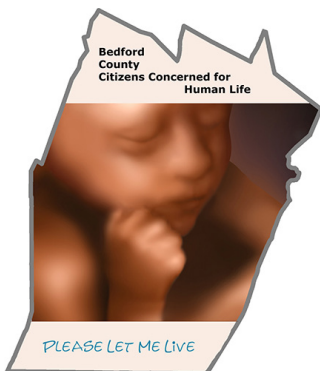
Be a 2018 Sponsor of our "Save the Babies" Projects!

Platinum/\$250 ♦ Gold/\$100 ♦ Silver/\$50 ♦ Bronze/\$25

Dinner flyer at www.BedfordCountyProLife.org/dinner

Sponsor form at www.BedfordCountyProLife.org/projects

Sponsored by the Bedford County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life



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Legislative Update



Pennsylvania pro-lifers rally on behalf of HB 2050 and SB 1050—Would ban the abortion of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome

*By Maria Gallagher
Legislative Director*

Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Disability rights activist Karen Gaffney has swum the English Channel, holds an honorary doctorate, and is a nationally acclaimed speaker. In short, Karen, who has Down syndrome, has an amazing list of accomplishments on her resume.

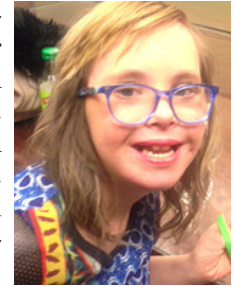
Yet, she knows that babies with the same disability that she has are targeted for abortion, simply based on a prenatal test that detects Down syndrome.

Standing before scores of people in the Pennsylvania Capitol Rotunda on March 12, Karen asked, "Am I not compatible with life?" To which she answered, "We (people with Down syndrome) are more than compatible."

Karen's inspiring words came during a rally to promote House Bill 2050 and Senate Bill 1050—legislation that would ban the abortion of babies diagnosed with—or believed to have—Down syndrome. As one advocate noted, Pennsylvania is on the cutting-edge of disability rights legislation—only four other states have passed similar measures.

Passage of the bill is also a personal crusade for disability rights activist Kurt Kondrich and his daughter Chloe, who has Down syndrome. Chloe, a vivacious high school student, has become some-

thing of a goodwill ambassador for people with Down syndrome, hobnobbing with public officials, sports stars, and acclaimed musicians.



In fact, the *Chloe Kondrich at Down syndrome rally* appeared at the White House earlier this year for a Rose Garden ceremony marking the anniversary of the tragic U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*. In the years since *Roe*, the abortion of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome has become commonplace. Research indicates the vast majority of children who receive such a diagnosis are aborted.

Karen Gaffney and Chloe Kondrich are among those shattering stereotypes, hoping to bring about greater awareness of the abilities of people with Down syndrome. Such individuals make tremendous contributions to their families, their workplaces, and their communities.

One large-scale study indicated that an astounding 99 percent of people with Down syndrome consider themselves happy. But they and their families are decidedly unhappy about the staggering numbers of children with an extra chromosome who are aborted before they can draw their first breath.

Action Item: Pennsylvanians, please contact your state representative and state senator and urge them to support House Bill 2050 and Senate Bill 1050.

*—National Right to Life News Today
March 13, 2018*



Meet Giselle, the Latest Baby Rescued by Abortion Pill Reversal



By Jay Hobbs

Giselle, whose mother saved her via Abortion Pill Reversal, was born Dec. 1, 2017.

By the time Giselle entered the world in early December, she arrived fully equipped with her own protective detail of three older brothers. They're old enough to know their sister is a precious addition to their family, but they're years away from understanding just how priceless she is.

What Giselle's brothers will learn in time was that their mother, Samantha, was left high and dry by Giselle's father and turned to a chemical abortion pill as what she felt was her only way forward.

Then, almost as soon as Samantha had taken the first of two chemical abortion pills—which ends a baby's life in utero ahead of the second and final pill, inducing labor—she changed her mind and reached out to the Abortion Pill Reversal hotline (1-877-558-0333) for help.

Through the hotline, Samantha was connected to one of 350 providers in the nationwide Abortion Pill Reversal network trained in a life-saving protocol that starts with an emergency injection of progesterone used since the 1950s to prevent miscarriages.

Samantha's daughter, Giselle, was born Dec. 1, 2017—an event celebrated all month by Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Attleboro, Mass., where Samantha had learned about the life-saving option before going in for her abortion appointment.

"For those who have been following along with the story of Sam, and the miracle of Abortion Pill Reversal, we are so excited to introduce her little girl, Giselle," the pregnancy center posted in early December. "Born Friday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m., at 6 lb, 3 oz, and 18-3/4 in. Both mom and baby are in perfect health and doing wonderfully. And her three older brothers are completely smitten with their new sister. Please send this beautiful family prayers as they begin their journey with a new bundle of joy!"

As previously reported at *Pregnancy Help News*, Samantha had tried three separate times to abort her baby, including the third time via chemical abortion. During one of the attempts, Samantha was in the waiting room at an abortion business when another woman's name was called.

The woman's name was Giselle.

"It was at that point, I felt like that was a sign of some sort, and I ended up just freaking out and leaving the appointment," Samantha said.

Samantha is one of 400 mothers who have successfully rescued their baby from abortion via Abortion Pill Reversal since 2007, when two doctors—George Delgado and Matthew Harrison—began implementing the treatment independently of one another.

While abortion proponents have tried to stop nurses and doctors from educating themselves on Abortion Pill Reversal—a move effectively robbing women like Samantha of her choice to save her own baby—as many as 50 women are reaching out to the hotline every month to try and interrupt a chemical abortion.

"The 'second choice' we offer women who change their minds after taking mifepristone not only gives their unborn babies a fighting chance, it also provides an avenue for emotional and spiritual healing," Delgado said.

For Samantha, now a mother of four, that "second choice" offered by Abortion Pill Reversal is making a world of difference for her family. And so is the relationship she's forged with Abundant Hope, who not only told her about all her options, but is continuing to stand with Samantha and her children during their new season of life.

"They gave me strength to not go through with that abortion—that horrifying thing that would have affected the rest of my life," Samantha said. "It was just an ongoing struggle with what to do in my heart and my head. Abundant Hope has changed my life by being a good support system. When I don't have anyone else to turn to, I give them a call—even if I just need to talk to them."

—National Right to Life News Today, December 29, 2017

(See related article on back page.)



One of the most serious abuses to children is to deny them birth.

~ Dallin H. Oaks ~

Statistics and Tragedy

By James Sicree, First-Place Winner, Junior Division

A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths are a statistic.

Sound familiar? This quote is attributed to Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the U.S.S.R. from 1929 to 1953, the man who starved seven million Ukrainians to death. If you give this quote some thought, it applies to abortion as much as it does to genocide. Sixty million babies have been killed by abortion in the United States since 1973. If one of those babies had died in an accident, it would have been seen as a tragedy, but because millions of babies have been aborted, it is only a statistic, not millions of tragedies.

Why is this?

One reason is because people cannot visualize such large numbers. For instance, take the 60 million children who have been aborted since 1973: that's roughly the population of California, about 40 million, and New York, about 20 million, *combined*. That's also roughly the population of Italy, which is about 59 million. So imagine a disease that wiped out every person in New York and California, or Italy, and you'll have the same number of deaths. Or take only the number of children who were killed by abortion in 2014, which was 926,200. That's almost fifty percent more than all the soldiers who died in the Civil War, our bloodiest conflict. And those children are dying *every year*.

Another reason why Joseph Stalin was right that people see large numbers of deaths as numbers instead of tragedies is that those deaths are the deaths of strangers. On September 11, 2001, 2,996 people died in the terrorist attacks in the United States. To keep these deaths from being a statistic, *The New York Times*, over the following months, published obituaries of *every single victim*, rich and poor alike. On the same day, roughly the same number of babies were aborted: about 3,570. Nobody wrote any obituaries for them, so they are still a statistic.

Maybe we should try to fix this.

Nobody really knows babies before they are born, but we do know some things about the babies who've died. We do know things about their mothers. Unfortunately, some people use this information to promote abortion. It is not unknown that more babies are aborted in very low-income areas than anywhere else. Most aborted babies (85 percent) have unmarried mothers. Most (60 percent) are nonwhite. It is also known that more criminals come from low-income areas, too. These other things are also risk factors.

Therefore, some people conclude that more

criminals are being killed by abortion. To people who are pro-choice this may seem like a good thing, but what we need to remember is the babies themselves are innocent. You can't convict

someone of a crime they haven't even thought about yet.

Also, since most violent crimes are committed by younger people, crime is decreasing because of the decreasing numbers of youth. The same thing happens when we go to war, again decreasing the numbers of youth, but this doesn't mean we should go to war. Most people killed in wartime are not criminals.

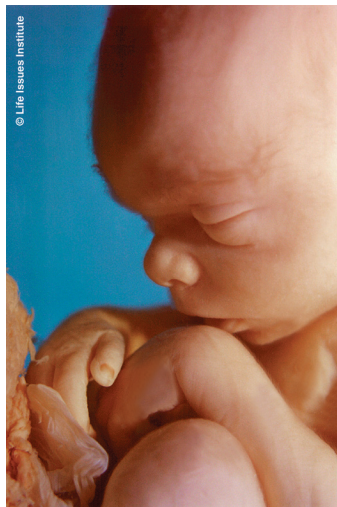
We need to find a way to make people see unborn babies as persons, not as statistics, and not as future problems. We can try to do this in different ways. For example, Brian Clowes, from Human Life International, calculated who was killed in abortion in the United States. He estimated that we have lost two United States Presidents and two Vice-Presidents, seven Supreme Court Justices, including one Chief Justice, and 28 Nobel Prize winners, all to abortions. And we've had more abortions since then.

We can talk about famous people who barely escaped abortions. Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, for example, was born after his mother's doctor recommended an abortion for health reasons. Democratic Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson was conceived in a rape when abortion was still illegal. (Ironically, he became pro-abortion.)

We can ask people to take any year, say, 1820. What happened in 1820? Not a lot besides Maine being admitted as the 23rd state. Well, let's take a closer look. Who was born in 1820? Some of the very important people born in 1820 are Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony and Florence Nightingale, just to name a few. What if those people had not been born? Think about how different the world would be.

We can even use movies to show the difference one person can make in the world. Think of the Christmas movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Imagine the part where George Bailey's guardian angel shows him what the world would have been like if he had never been born. George sees his beloved, but dull hometown of Bedford Falls turn into the corrupt, crime-ridden town of Pottersville. He had made that much difference. Now we need to imagine this millions of times over and over again without the happy ending. This is what abortion has done to America.

"By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems," said Mother Teresa. "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." ■



20 weeks from conception

“Why the Halfling?”

By Joe Levri, Second Place Winner, Junior Division

Sometimes it seems like people reject God’s laws. According to one study, the proportion of people who identify themselves as having no religion has increased significantly in recent years. The spread of the legalization of euthanasia seems to go hand-in-hand with the loss of a belief in God. At the same time, many people are drawn to the stories of J.R.R. Tolkien. It has been estimated that billions of people have read Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and millions have also seen Peter Jackson’s movies portraying the books.

People don’t seem to realize that, although they may claim not to believe in God and God’s laws, they seem to love Tolkien’s story and it’s really full of God and God’s laws. Morality is about figuring out what’s right and wrong. *The Lord of the Rings* is full of morality.

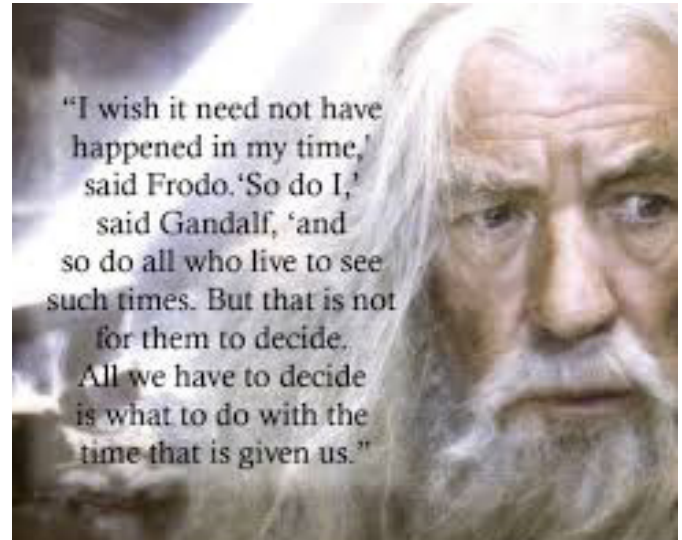
The dictionary defines euthanasia as “the practice of intentionally ending a life to relieve pain and suffering.” There are different categories of euthanasia. Voluntary euthanasia is legal in some countries. Non-voluntary euthanasia...is illegal in all countries. Involuntary euthanasia (without asking consent or against the patient’s will) is also illegal in all countries and is usually considered murder.” In our country, euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide has been legalized in six states and DC.

It’s sometimes argued that euthanasia is chosen for what seems like “mercy.” Given the popularity of the *Lord of the Rings*, it might be useful to look at what Tolkien has to say about euthanasia and mercy.

In favor of euthanasia, Tolkien presents the character of Denethor. Denethor is a steward of a land called Gondor and a father. Denethor wants to kill his son who has been wounded in battle.

“He will not wake again,” said Denethor. “Battle is vain. Why should we wish to live longer? Why should we not go to death side by side?” The city is under attack and it looks like they are toast. He has given up all hope, hope for his city, for his family, for his son. He has no hope that any good can come out of life ever again.

“Some believe it is only **GREAT POWER** that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found that it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.
~ Gandalf



Gandalf is a wizard with a long beard. He’s one of the good guys. Gandalf answers Denethor. “Authority is not given to you, Steward of Gondor, to order the hour of your death... And only the heathen kings, under the domination of the Dark Power, did thus, slaying themselves in pride and despair, murdering their kin to ease their own deaths.” We learn here that it was the “heathen kings,” that is, those who did not believe in God, who were the ones who tried to make death “easy.” Although euthanasia is called by some in our society a “mercy killing,” Gandalf seems rather to call it a “pride killing” or a “despair killing.”

We also have Sauron, the Dark Lord, who seems to think that creatures can be replaced. Saruman jumped on his band wagon. Saruman and Sauron’s orcs are ugly creatures. The orcs look at the halflings as an inconvenience, and even consider killing them for food. The halflings are also known as hobbits. Hobbits are like four-feet tall and have curly hair. They are the little people.

One of the halflings is Frodo. Frodo has a conversation with Gandalf about another character, Gollum. Frodo says, “Now at any rate he is as bad as an Orc, and just an enemy. He deserves death.”

Gandalf responds, “Deserves it! I daresay he does. Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgement. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.”

In a similar way, Gandalf says, “Pity? It was pity that stayed Bilbo’s hand.” So it seems again, “mercy killing” is misnamed. Mercy, pity, according to Gandalf here, is staying the hand, not killing.

In another scene, Gandalf was talking to another character, Galadriel. She eventually asked why he brought Bilbo, a halfling. “Mithrandir, why the halfling?”

Gandalf responds, “I don’t know. Saruman believes that it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I’ve found. I’ve found it is the small things, the

continued on page 10

That “Blessing” of an Abortion Center was an Act of Sacrilege

By Msgr. Charles Pope

The small group of Protestant and Jewish clergy prayed for the abortionists: “May they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory.”

There are times when something is said or done that is so distorted, so hideous, so sacrilegious that mere words cannot adequately convey its repulsiveness.

This is certainly the case with the recent “blessing” of a late-term abortion center in the Washington, D.C. area by a small group of Protestant and Jewish clergy. They called the center a “holy space” and prayed for its staff members:

Keep them safe and keep them strong. And may they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory.

According to an article in the *Washington Post*:

As a symbol of sanctification, the clergy sprinkled water in each room of the clinic and in the parking lot, which the Rev. Cari Jackson described as “a space of tremendous decision-making...”

Rev. Jackson went on to say:

We give honor to all of these women who choose to come to this space. We sanctify this space, and we honor this as holy.

This is more than error—it is mockery. Even more, it is blasphemy to ask God, the author of life, who commands that *Thou shalt not kill*, to bless, protect and approve of those who kill the very children He is knitting together in the wombs of their mothers and who are wonderfully, fearfully made (Psalm 139). They attempt to call on the God who says to us all, “*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and I appointed you*” (Jeremiah 1:5). Anyone who would say a “prayer” like the one above has not read Scripture, does not know the God revealed there, and is summoning the darkness, not the light. This is not only foolish, it is dangerous.

Calling something “blessed” that is wicked is a lie. Such notions can only come from the Father of Lies. This same Evil One went after the children at the birth of Moses (Exodus 1:16) and Jesus (Matthew 2:16). Jesus says of Satan:

He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44).

The darkness of intellect necessary for such “prayers” and “blessings” cannot be excused as mere error or deception. The medical evidence is overwhelming that a unique human being exists in the womb, who is growing to maturity in a way no different from the way any child outside the womb does. In addition, Scripture, which should inform every minister and rabbi, testifies clearly that God is the author of life and forms each of us in our mother’s womb. To these “ministers” and the rabbi, the following Scripture passage applies:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter (Is 5:20).

For whom do such ministers speak? Whom do they really invoke? Consider that it is Satan, who goes after the little children to kill them (Exodus 1:16; Matthew 2:16),

not the Lord, who says, *Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these* (Luke 18:16).

Further, note that this is a late-term abortion center, one that specializes in the termination of third-trimester babies. The United States is one of only seven countries in the world whose federal laws permit elective abortion beyond 20 weeks of gestation, let alone in the third trimester (during which the procedure is even more heinous and cruel). Consider that an abortion at the stage conducted in this clinic and “blessed” by these “clergy” involves the dismemberment of infants, many of whom can feel pain.

The following is a short list of some of the countries that prohibit abortion after the first trimester or even completely:

Greece: prohibited beyond 12 weeks of gestation

Austria: 12 weeks

Germany: 12 weeks

France: 12 weeks

Italy: 12 weeks

Spain: 14 weeks

South Korea: illegal

Ireland: illegal

Poland: illegal

Norway: 12 weeks

Denmark: 12 weeks

Our country has the most extreme of abortion laws: Abortion on demand is permitted by federal law up to the moment of birth. Even many of the most secular of countries know and do better.

Beyond the shameful and sacrilegious act of these particular “ministers,” our federal law is a further sin of our country. We permit abortion at any point until birth and cannot even summon the political will to pass a fetal pain bill. America is better than this. We have no excuse for what we continue to permit.

Pray for conversion and take action to end abortion.

—*National Catholic Register, February 3, 2018*

All the wars ever fought,
All the holocausts ever perpetrated,
All the plagues that ever raged,
All the bombs that ever dropped,
All the famines that ever laid
waste to the land, put together,
have not killed the number of
human beings wiped out
by abortion.

~ Frank Pavone



“Real Alternatives”

A lifesaver for more than 280,000 women and their families

By Maria Gallagher

Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

A woman is under extreme pressure from her boyfriend to abort her baby. Frightened and worried, she decides to go to a pregnancy care center for help. There, thanks to the listening ear of a compassionate counselor, she is able to pour her feelings out. She does not want the abortion, and the counselor stands ready to accompany her during every phase of her pregnancy.

This scenario reoccurs again and again at the nearly 100 pregnancy centers which receive assistance through Pennsylvania’s pregnancy support and parenting program, which is ably administered by Real Alternatives, Inc. During its two decades of service to the women of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Real Alternatives has been a lifesaver for more than 280,000 women and their families.

It has often been said that a woman facing a challenging pregnancy does not need a pamphlet—she needs a person ready and willing to accompany her on her journey. That personal, one-to-one care is exactly what Real Alternatives provides.

From diapers to day care referrals, from mentoring to maternity clothes, these pregnancy centers offer substantial support and comprehensive counseling to women. The assistance comes not only during a woman’s pregnancy, but up to a year after the birth of her child.

As a result, the Pennsylvania program has become a model for the rest of the nation, with a number of states offering similar outreach to women and their families.

According to Real Alternatives CEO Kevin Bagatta, Esq., “Compassionate trained counselors assess each woman’s situation and assist her in developing a positive approach to her pregnancy. Support during the parenting and adoption decision involves counseling, education, material assistance, and referrals. By empowering women in a crisis pregnancy with this comprehensive support, they no longer feel compelled to choose abortion out of a sense of helplessness, hopelessness, and of being completely alone.”

For Real Alternatives, the statistics tell much of the story. For a modest investment of state resources, the results are priceless. For instance, 85% of the women who entered the program who were pressured by others to abort choose childbirth.

The program also pays for itself in other ways. Women who visit Real Alternatives centers are far more likely to receive prenatal care, reducing their risk of giving birth to low-birth weight babies. They are also more likely to keep up to date with their children’s immunizations.

Real Alternatives also strives for excellence in the area of fiscal responsibility. It has received the “Seal of Excel-



lence” from the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations and has had 20 consecutive perfect audits.

But what has been truly impressive is how Real Alternatives has touched the hearts and lives of not only the women it serves, but those in the broader community.

Real Alternatives and all pregnancy help centers are motivated by the sure knowledge that there are no such things as unimportant lives, no “surplus” that can or should be discarded. Every life counts. Every act of kindness to a woman in a crisis pregnancy counts.

Consider these words of admiration from Deena Burnett, widow of Flight 93’s Todd Burnett, one of the heroes of 9/11:

“...I’m certain that the little things you do every day have a greater impact than you may realize. You have the opportunity to make an incredible difference in the life of everyone you meet. In a word, to be a hero. When learning about the difference that your work makes, I was reminded how one life, one life saved can make an incredible difference.”

—National Right to Life News Today, March 2, 2018

For free, confidential and non-judgmental support, call 1-888-LIFE-AID or enter your zip code at www.realalternatives.org to find a location near you.

Baby Bottle Fundraiser for HOPE

The next Baby Bottle Fundraiser, sponsored by the Bedford County Chapter of CCHL, will be held between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Please call Pam Lucas 652-6755 or 494-1847 to participate.

During the past eight years, as an outreach and in thanksgiving that we do not have an abortion clinic in our 10 county region, the Bedford County Chapter of CCHL has helped the HOPE Pregnancy Center, of Philadelphia, keep its doors open. Thanks to the 30-plus churches who have participated in the baby bottle fundraisers in the past, and sponsors, who pay for all the costs, BCCCHL has been able to help the HOPE Pregnancy Center in the “front line” war against abortion.

There are 15 abortion mills within a three-mile radius of The HOPE Pregnancy Center. Nearly half of all abortions performed in Pennsylvania are done in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties where abortion mills set goals of three abortions per teenager.

Regional Chapters of Citizens Concerned for Human Life

The Bedford County Chapter of CCHL is sponsoring its annual Pro-Life Dinner (see page 3 for complete details).

For the first time, a **Pastors' Breakfast** will also be held on **April 7**, the morning following the dinner, from **8:00 until 9:30 a.m.**, at **Hoss's in Bedford**.

Abortion is an unpleasant subject and a tough one for pastors to address. For many in our congregations, abortion is a deeply personal issue that invokes painful memories and feelings of guilt. Is it possible for the pastor to be a bold voice for the unborn while at the same time nurturing a redemptive community for those who've had abortions? Mike Spencer, Life Training Institute, will bring clarity to the role of the church ministering in an abortion culture.

We are offering pastors two complimentary tickets to both the Pro-Life Dinner and the Pastors' Breakfast. Please call **624-0140** by March 26 for reservations to Dinner and/or Breakfast.

Abortion Reversal

continued from back page

Instead they rely on notorious pro-abortion authors in order to falsely claim that mothers never regret their decision to abort. We know this is a blatant lie because there are countless women who have testified in Congress, across state legislatures, and even within various post-abortion networks about the pain they still carry because they chose to abort.

We also know this is untrue because as noted above, the organization Abortion Pill Reversal has had at least 2,000 women inquire and women have testified that the method works and have the children to prove it.

Other pro-abortion critics claim that chemical abortions often fail if the second drug (misoprostol) isn't used, claiming the progesterone boost Dr. Delgado and Dr. Harrison prescribe isn't effective. But there is no inherent danger in supplemental progesterone and other research currently going on is specifically trying to use additional progesterone to prevent miscarriage in vulnerable women.

Some of the same pro-abortion critics also critique Dr. Delgado's case study claiming that the sample size was too small to be considered significant or that there just isn't enough evidence. Delgado is in the process of completing a larger study and hopes to publish the results soon, but most importantly, there at least 250 living little humans as a result of the abortion pill reversal process.

Even if there is a small chance that a baby can be saved, don't we owe it to these mothers to tell them of this possibility? Isn't that what "choice" is all about? Or is choice only validated when mothers get biased information that offers no hope at all?

The truth is the pro-abortion lobby is trying to cast doubt on the reversal process because they are abortion extremists who believe in the unfettered right to kill unborn children. The possibility that when told, women may seek life, is a sign of hope and a direct threat to their abortion on demand mission.

—National Right to Life News Today, September 20, 2017

"Why the Halfling?"

continued from page 7

everyday deeds of ordinary folk, that keeps the darkness at bay, simple acts of kindness and love; why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps it is because I'm afraid and he gives me courage."

Gandalf teaches how the gifts of the weak are mysterious and how we are limited in our view. He says "...help oft shall come from the hands of the weak when the Wise falter." We just don't have the perspective or the authority to say who lives and dies or when they live and die. The one who sees all ends, wiser than the very wise is the only one who has the authority. The Author of Life has the authority. Euthanasia is like taking someone else's book and writing the ending. God is really the Author, not us. It's not our place.

The popularity of Tolkien in our time is a great sign of hope. About euthanasia, we could say with Frodo, "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

Gandalf would answer us: "So do I...and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Choose life. Defend the weak. Let God be God. Know that only the Author of Life has true Authority over death. ■

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Crisis Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Contact: **Precious Life, Inc.**, 1716 12th Ave., Altoona; 814-944-2669 or **Every Life Matters (ELM)**, 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 5, Tyrone; 814-650-7899 or **Real Alternatives, Inc.**, 1-888-LIFE-AID; www.realalternatives.org.

For post-abortion counseling, contact **Project Rachel**, 814-884-8000; www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org or **Rachel's Vineyard**, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463); www.rachelsvineyard.org/

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call 814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.

From the President's Desk

"It is good for us to be here."

This partial quote of Peter's to the Lord as quoted in Matthew 17:4, on the occasion of the Transfiguration, seemed appropriate to me upon reflection of a series of Letters to the Editor in the *Altoona Mirror* over the past month.

Dennis Shore, on February 17, questioned the sincerity of pro-lifers with respect to their real efforts to save the lives of those about to be aborted.

To my pleasant surprise, six heartwarming responses were generated by residents of our local community.

The letters broached subjects such as the experience of having miscarriages, thanksgiving that a husband born to a single woman was not aborted, insight into the development of the baby from conception, the necessity of a live birth before adoption, the lack of say that a father has with the decision to abort, statistics about the number of couples waiting to adopt, the number of abortions performed by Planned Parenthood, the support that a local pro-life organization gives to the expectant mother, an invitation to attend the Precious Life Banquet to gain some insight, the high cost of adoption, the necessity for those who want to adopt to go overseas or give up hope of adopting.

Six letters in less than three weeks. All responders to Mr. Shore's letter would gladly adopt or assist those who desired to do so.

Thank you, Mrs. Standridge, Tom and Gretchen Robison, Michael Kline, A.C. Stickel, Kirk Mitchell and Dave Schmelzen.

It is good for us to be here in Central Pennsylvania as we try to do our best for the "least of our brethren" and their mothers in the defense of life.

Sincerely,



—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President
Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Donations have been made—

In Memory of:

Bud and Donna Seidel

Given by: James and Helen Seidel

John Schimminger

Given by: Elizabeth Schimminger

Stella Konopka

Given by: Marge and Doug Bradley


Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601. Thank you!**



SEVEN

The number of babies aborted in the time you spend at the average stoplight.



Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
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President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley
Legislative/Political Education Director: Beth Britz

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.

2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you our quarterly newsletter.

_____ Annual Membership \$10.00 _____ In Memory of: _____
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00 _____ In Honor of: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601.** For more information, call **814-946-0681.** Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



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CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.
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Reversing Chemical Abortions a Threat to Abortion on Demand Ideology



*By Ingrid Duran, Director
National Right to Life Committee*

A chemical abortion, commonly known as RU-486, occurs when a mother is given a lethal cocktail of two powerful drugs. Mifepristone, typically given at the abortion facility, blocks progesterone, thereby inhibiting the signal to the woman's body that she is pregnant and shutting down the system supplying nutrients to the child. The second drug, misoprostol, usually taken at home, induces severe cramping and bleeding in order to expel the baby's tiny body.

Thanks to the ingenuity of pro-life physicians who care for both mother and child, however, there is now a glimmer of hope for those women who change their minds before taking the misoprostol. As you would expect, the abortion industry is furious.

The effort to halt chemical abortion was first launched by Dr. George Delgado and Dr. Matt Harrison, Medical Director and Associate Medical Director of Abortion Pill Reversal, respectively. They have found it may sometimes be possible to save the unborn baby provided the woman has not taken the second of the two drugs that make up the chemical abortion regime.

Here's how their technique works. First, they perform an ultrasound to determine that the unborn child is still alive. When this is confirmed, they prescribe large amounts of progesterone for the duration of the first trimester to attempt to counter the impact of the mifepristone.

Since 2012, their organization has received at least 2,000 calls from women who had changed their minds, some who indeed turned out to still be pregnant. According to Dr. Delgado's testimony before the Colorado Legislature this year, with APR's treatment, at least 250 babies have been saved due to the reversal process!

Within the last few years, legislation providing information on the possibility of abortion pill reversal (APR) has been introduced in a number of state legislatures and has become law in four states. Typically, the law amends a state's informed consent law to provide mothers with information about the possibility of halting the chemical abortion process. Customarily the law highly recommends that if a woman wants to offset the effects of the mifepristone in an attempt to save her baby, she should contact a health care provider immediately.

Arizona was the first state to enact such a law. However, due to a legal challenge and court settlement, that law has been repealed and replaced with a weaker law. Since then Arkansas, South Dakota, and Utah have followed suit. NRLC expects this will continue to be a trend in 2018 when most of the state legislatures convene.

However, not everyone is happy about the possibility of saving unborn children. Surprise, surprise, pro-abortionists are feigning concern for women!

Recently, the pro-abortion media has gone above and beyond in writing articles attacking the abortion reversal process. Many of these radical supporters of abortion use terms like "unproven" and "junk science" and "sham" when describing the abortion reversal process and/or about the successes that Dr. Delgado and Dr. Harrison have experienced. One has to wonder why these so-called proponents of "choice" are so vehemently opposed to the possibility that a mother may change her mind and choose life.

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