

CITIZENS  
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY  
CHAPTER

Citizens Concerned for Human Life

# Blair County Life News

Volume 11 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Summer 2019



## For Me, a Sometimes—Prodigal Father

**F**ather God, like the parable where the prodigal son turns back to his father after living a desperate life, today I turn back to you—broken, hurting, ashamed—and ask for forgiveness. I know I have not always been the father that you—and my children—want and need me to be. Forgive me for the times I failed to live up to the promises I made to you, my spouse and my children. Forgive me for the times I failed to love unconditionally and for the times I put my work and personal desires before the needs of my children. Help me work toward mending those important relationships today. Help me turn toward home. Give me the courage to say I'm sorry to those I have hurt. You know that's not an easy thing for me to do. Today, I pledge to renew my life as a father and as a man of God.

—Jim Auer, Daniel Finucane, Steve Givens; *Celebrate Fathers, Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood*; Liguori Publications

## Pro-Life Town Hall Meeting in Altoona

Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Executive Director Michael Ciccocioppo and Education Director Bonnie Finnerty visited Altoona on April 29th on their statewide Pro-Life Town Hall Tour to share the most up-to-date information on a variety of pro-life topics and to answer questions about current efforts to bring about a culture of life in our state and the nation. Citizens Concerned for Human Life—Blair County hosted this event at the Altoona Grand Hotel. Thank you to all those who were able to attend!



*Attendees at Pro-Life Town Hall Meeting in Altoona*



### *Planning a Town Hall Meeting*

*Left, back to front: Marita Forr, Doug Braendel, Jesse Ickes, Bonnie Finnerty; right, back to front: Pat Forr, Tom Forr, and Michael Ciccocioppo*

## Alive From New York

*continued from back page*

a parade of protesters arrived with signs saying, "Abortion is NORMAL," and screaming obscenities and beating drums. When they failed in their disruption, a "bomb" was placed within 30 feet of where we were standing. Realizing that this was a hoax to disrupt the event or an invitation to be with Jesus sooner than we planned (for a Christian, our lives are not our own, we have been purchased by the blood of Christ) we refused to leave so the authorities had the giant screen turned off where we were. So how did God work through this event?

We did not fill our bus, but about 1/4 of the people who did join us signed up the day before we left. We had people join our bus from Altoona, Tyrone, Martinsburg, Roaring Spring and Huntingdon so I know many people had the opportunity to be obedient to God's leading. The Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life gave 1000 dollars to cover over 1/3 the cost of the bus rental. We made some new friends who invited my wife to be a weekly volunteer at a pregnancy support center. There were people who traveled as far as CA to join this event, and there were people of multiple ethnic backgrounds to defend life (blacks, Hispanics, Indians and Chinese). There was a mix of different faiths present: Catholics, Protestants and Jews. *Focus on The Family* was hoping to have 10,000 people show up...there were 20,000 + making it the largest pro-life event in the history of NYC!

Our prison Bible study group prayed and fasted in preparation for the event and God did keep us safe, as the bomb threat was a hoax. At the event, I witnessed hundreds of people, more concerned about defending the sanctity of life than protection of their own lives.

We did not fill our bus, but God used a remnant of faithful people from all over this nation and NYC itself to come together and form a coalition of support that literally drowned out any opposition to it. This was literally striking at the heart of the beast, for NYC is in many ways a modern Babylon. God was glorified and many people on the open-air, double-decker tourist buses that passed us shouted their support. It was manifestly clear that those who showed up against us are willing to go to any measure to defend the abortion industry, even to the point of mass violence. How could that be a blessing? Could it be they know how close we are to winning this battle and this has them that scared and that desperate?

What have I learned through this event? This battle will not likely be won by church leaders. Christ himself preferred fishermen over the religious leaders of his day. It will not be won by the majority of people actually taking a strong stand...significant change seems to always come from a small but determined group of people. Christ did not start with a mass movement but invested his whole self for 3+years into the lives of 12 men. This is a spiritual battle that requires prayer and fasting and getting serious in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Any success that we have is not because of who we are, but because of who God is. He will get the glory, as He has and always will do the heavy lifting.

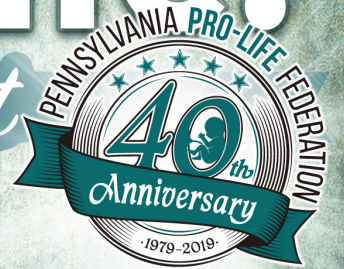
It has been over 40 years since the debacle of *Roe v. Wade*. Our nation has paid a heavy price for the loss of literally a generation of people...but God has been much more merciful than we deserve. The question is for how much longer? Doing that which is right such as defending the sanctity of life should be less likened to a sprint and more likened to a marathon. God, please grant us the courage and endurance to finish well, we ask this in Jesus name. Amen. ♦

*Dr. Matt Stachmus is a local veterinarian in Altoona and is married to Anna; they are the parents of two young children. He has been active in the pro-life and marriage movements.*

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# Legislative Update



## Democrats Block Bill to Stop Infanticide for 50th Time

By Steven Ertelt

Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats continue to refuse a request to allow a vote on the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, legislation that would stop infanticide and provide medical care and treatment for babies who survive abortions.

[May 23], House Democrats refused a vote on the bill for the 50th time—reading the same statement they have read the previous 49 occasions that claims there is no bipartisan agreement to bring the bill up for a vote. Despite the claim, Republican leaders have repeatedly asked Pelosi and top Democrats to reach an agreement for the bill to receive a vote.

This is the 52nd time in total that Congressional Democrats thwarted an attempt by Republicans to vote on a bill that would provide medical care and treatment for babies who survived failed abortions—50 times in the House and twice in the Senate.

The denial comes a week after Democrats voted to fund infanticide. Labor-Health Human Services ranking member, Tom Cole (R-OK), offered an amendment to withhold funds to any medical entity that does not ensure that any infant born alive following an abortion receives the same medical care as any other infant born at the same gestational age. Every Republican voted for the pro-life amendment to stop infanticide while every Democrat on the committee, except Texas Democrat Henry Cuellar, voted for infanticide.

In April, Republican Whip Steve Scalise and Representative Ann Wagner moved forward with a discharge

petition to force Speaker Pelosi to schedule a vote. So far, 199 members have signed on, including three Democrats—short of the majority necessary to get the bill to the floor for a vote.

—*LifeNews.com, May 23, 2019*

## Bill to Overturn Abortion Bans Alabama/Georgia Just Passed

By Micaiah Bilger

House Democratic leaders introduced a radical pro-abortion bill May 22 that would overturn all the progress pro-life states have made to protect unborn babies.

The Women's Health Protection Act would make abortion on demand federal law, and prohibit any limits on abortions up to birth, *The Blaze* reports. Its lead sponsors are U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, and U.S. Rep. Judy Chu, D-California.

"Our bill finally puts a stop to the state-based attacks that anti-abortion advocates have been trying to use to undermine or even reverse *Roe*," Chu said at a news conference. That would mean "no heartbeat bills" such as the ones in Georgia and Ohio or any other "non-medical restrictions on our bodies," she continued. The bill has 169 sponsors in the U.S. House and 41 in the U.S. Senate.

The bill may pass the U.S. House, but it is highly unlikely to pass the U.S. Senate, where Republicans still have control.

—*LifeNews.com, May 23, 2019*

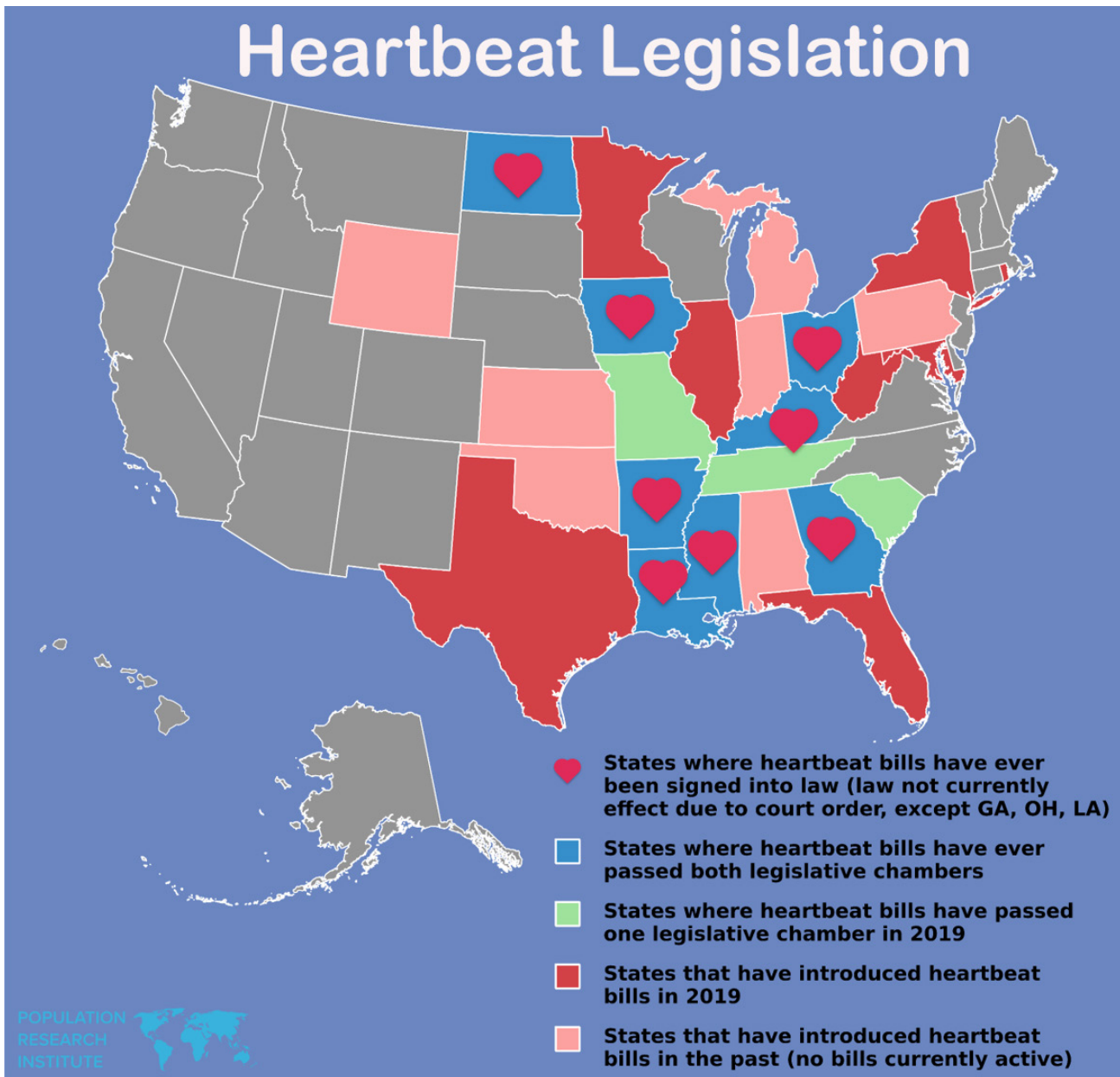
## Prevent Assisted Suicide

By Maria Gallagher

State Representative Angel Cruz (D-Philadelphia) plans to introduce a dangerous bill that would overturn Pennsylvania's long-standing ban on assisted suicide. This practice involves individuals going to doctors to get prescriptions for lethal doses of drugs to kill themselves. The bill would take advantage of some of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens and would lead to the corruption of the medical profession. **Please contact your state representative and urge him or her to oppose Rep. Cruz's assisted suicide bill.**

—*PA Pro-Life Federation*

# Heartbeat Legislation



—Population Research Institute

## What is Heartbeat Legislation?

**H**earbeat laws ban abortion from the moment in pregnancy that a heartbeat can be detected. Heartbeat laws are among the strongest pro-life laws ever adopted on the state level since the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision prohibited states from banning abortion prior to viability. Additionally, these laws may prove to be key in leading the Supreme Court to reconsider and possibly overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

An embryonic heartbeat can be detected very early in pregnancy, typically by 6-10 weeks gestation using the best methods of standard medical practice and typically by 7-12 weeks via transabdominal ultrasound.<sup>1</sup> However, some studies claim to have been able to detect embryonic heartbeats via ultrasound even earlier than 6 weeks.<sup>2</sup>

Studies have shown that less than 5% of normal, natural pregnancies result in spontaneous miscarriage after a heartbeat is detected.<sup>3,4,5</sup> This has been shown to hold true even among women with clinically diagnosed threatened miscarriages.<sup>6,7</sup> The presence of a fetal heartbeat is a very strong indicator that a child will survive to birth.

Heartbeat laws could provide the basis needed for a case to go to the Supreme Court challenging the Court's abortion precedent in *Roe* and *Planned Parenthood of S.E. Pennsylvania v. Casey*. Heartbeat laws strike at the very heart of *Roe's* "central holding" which maintains that states are prohibited from banning abortion prior to viability. Heartbeat laws directly challenge the Supreme Court's viability and undue burden standards as outlined in *Roe* and *Casey*. A case challenging the constitutionality of heartbeat laws would give the Supreme Court a potent opportunity to revise its past decisions on abortion.

*continued on page 6*

## Heartbeat Legislation

continued from page 5

Heartbeat legislation has been introduced or passed into law in 25 states so far. Heartbeat bills have also been introduced on the federal level as well. The Heartbeat Protection Act (H.R. 490) was introduced in the House of Representatives in 2017 and again in 2019.

The first ever heartbeat bill was introduced in the Ohio state House of Representatives in 2011 as HB 125, sponsored by former Rep. Lynn Wachtmann.

On March 6, 2013, Arkansas became the first state to pass a heartbeat bill into law when the state House and Senate voted to override the veto of then-Governor Mike Beebe, allowing the Arkansas Human Heartbeat Protection Act to become law. A few weeks later on March 26, 2013, a similar heartbeat bill was signed into law in North Dakota as well by then-Governor Jack Dalrymple.

Both heartbeat laws, however, were ultimately struck down in federal court, the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals noting that Supreme Court precedent “does not permit [lower courts] to reach a contrary result.”

Heartbeat bills were nearly adopted in Ohio in 2016 and again in 2018. Heartbeat bills passed both the Ohio House and Senate in 2016 and 2018, however, both bills were ultimately vetoed by then-Ohio Governor John Kasich. Attempts to override Gov. Kasich’s veto failed with the Senate coming only one vote short of an override in 2018.

On May 4, 2018, Iowa became the third state to adopt heartbeat legislation when Governor Kim Reynolds signed a heartbeat bill into law. A county judge in Iowa has since blocked the law from going into effect.

This year, heartbeat bills have advanced in legislatures in a number of states with the intent that passing heartbeat laws could provide the basis for case before the Supreme Court challenging, and ultimately overturning, *Roe v. Wade*. In 2019, heartbeat bills have been signed into law in Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi.

Additionally, the following states have introduced or are in the process of introducing Heartbeat legislation: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missou-

ri, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Wyoming.

*(Pennsylvania HB 2315 was introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on May 2, 2018. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on the same day, where it remains pending.) [Governor Tom Wolf has said he would veto this legislation meant to save babies’ lives.]*

For more information on each state’s legislative efforts, go to: [pop.org](http://pop.org), then projects, heartbeat legislation.

### Notes:

1 See Pennell RG, Needleman L, Pajak T, Baltarowich O, Vilaro M, Goldberg BB, et al. Prospective comparison of vaginal and abdominal sonography in normal early pregnancy. *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine*. 1991 Feb;10(2):63-7. See also Mitra AG, Laurent SL, Moore JE, Blanchard Jr GF, Chescheir NC. Transvaginal versus transabdominal Doppler auscultation of fetal heart activity: A comparative study. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 1996 Jul 1;175(1):41-4. See also Robinson HP. Detection of fetal heart movement in first trimester of pregnancy using pulsed ultrasound. *Br Med J*. 1972 Nov 25;4(5838):466-8. See also Condous G, Okaro E, Bourne T. The conservative management of early pregnancy complications: a review of the literature. *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2003 Oct 1;22(4):420-30. See also Danielsson K. Are ultrasounds accurate for finding a baby’s heartbeat? Types of ultrasounds and their uses. *VeryWell Family*. Updated 2018 May 15. Available from: <https://www.verywellfamily.com/fetal-heartbeat-and-ultrasound-accuracy-2371239>.

2 Britten S, Soenksen DM, Bustillo M, Coulam CB. Pregnancy: Very early (24–56 days from last menstrual period) embryonic heart rate in normal pregnancies. *Human Reproduction*. 1994 Dec 1;9(12):2424-2426.

3 Tong S, Kaur A, Walker SP, Bryant V, Onwude JL, Permezel M. Miscarriage risk for asymptomatic women after a normal first-trimester prenatal visit. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 2008 Mar 1;111(3):710-4.

4 Simpson JL, Mills JL, Holmes LB, Ober CL, Aarons J, Jovanovic L, et al. Low fetal loss rates after ultrasound-proved viability in early pregnancy. *JAMA*. 1987 Nov 13;258(18):2555-7.

5 Griebel CP, Halvorsen J, Golemon TB, Day AA. Management of spontaneous abortion. *Am Fam Physician*. 2005 Oct 1;72(7):1243-50.

6 Tammirandorn Y, Sangsawang S, Manotaya S, Uerpaiojkit B, Samritpradit P, Charoenvidhya D. Fetal loss in threatened abortion after embryonic/fetal heart activity. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. 2003 Jun;81(3):263-6.

7 Steven R. Goldstein, Bala R. Subramanyam, B. Nagesh Raghavendra, Steven C. Horii, Susan Hilton, “Subchoionic bleeding in threatened abortion: sonographic findings and significance,” *AJR* 141, no. 5 (1983):975-978. —Population Research Institute



# Abandon Ship

The following is the oratory presentation of James Sicree, first-place winner in the Junior Varsity division of the Citizens Concerned for Human Life 2019 Oratory Contest, held in March. James, 15, grade 10, and his sister, Genevieve, First Place Varsity Winner, are the children of Andrew and Rebecca Sicree, Boalsburg, and are homeschooled. To read Genevieve's presentation, "Refusing Mercy," go to [blaircountyprolife.com](http://blaircountyprolife.com) → Blair County Life News → 2019 Spring Blair Life News.

By James V. Sicree

Imagine this: a passenger liner is wrecked at sea and fifteen people find themselves together in a lifeboat. The lifeboat, however, can only support nine people. If six are not eliminated everyone will die. If you were in command of the lifeboat, which would you choose to survive? Then you get a list of the fifteen people you have to decide from. Sound familiar? This what is known as a lifeboat scenario, commonly used in sociology lessons. Most students will just see this as another annoying lesson. But what people don't realize is that the hidden message in these lifeboat scenarios is to determine whose life is more precious.

What is a lifeboat scenario? A lifeboat scenario is when you are given the choice to kill someone in order to save many more people. The biggest problem with a lifeboat scenario is it tends to tell whose life is more valuable than another's. This is culling the weak from strong. One real life example is the story of the sinking of the William Brown. After the ship sank, the ship's captain kicked half of the people off of the life boat because there were not enough supplies for everyone...only to have a rescue ship arrive the next day. Had he just waited, everyone would have survived.

We should try to save everyone in these scenarios. Lifeboat scenarios can easily be related to euthanasia and abortion because people are being taught to think that some people's lives are worthless. This is largely caused by the culture of death. People think that life is cheap and disposable. Few still see the value in human life, that is, that no one person is more important, more valuable than another.

The decrease in the value of human life is related to having socialized medicine. For example, take the tragedy of baby Charlie,

where the British government effectively killed him because they thought he couldn't be saved or wasn't worth trying to save. The British government wouldn't even let his parents take him home to die, much less transfer him to a hospital that would treat him.

On the topic of socialized medicine—its main problem is that it



James Sicree and Genevieve Sicree

causes shortages of medical care. These shortages give the government excuses to kill people they feel are not worth the expense. A good example of this is when an elderly woman fell and broke her hip. No big deal, until she got a minor infection. In America we would just treat it with some antibiotics and she would have been fine. But the British government said they wouldn't provide the antibiotics because she was too old. She wasn't even allowed to pay for the antibiotics herself. And she died. An easily preventable death, but the government saw her as just an expense.

Another problem with lifeboat scenarios as they are taught in schools is that they are unrealistic. Teachers do not let you opt to stay behind on the sinking boat nor will they let you improvise to try to save everyone. They want you to play God, deciding who lives and who dies.

Lifeboat scenarios try to force people, especially students, to think in a pro-choice mindset. This is the problem with the culture of death: it twists things into its own mold. Even the term "mercy killing" has a twisted meaning. It claims that it is more merciful to kill people than to let them live. If people are willing to kill others who are clearly alive, then they will have no problem killing the unborn.

We should object to the teaching of lifeboat scenarios in our schools. What seems like a harmless academic exercise is really a recruiting tool for the culture of death. ♦



# The moving poem a repentant Italian playboy wrote for the son he had aborted

By Matthew Green

Now pro-life, actor Andrea Roncato says his decision was the worst mistake of his life. Italian actor Andrea Roncato is an actor and comedian, unfamiliar in America but known in his home country for living something of a wild life—the kind that’s fodder for tabloids and gossip shows. At the age of 72, he has apparently left drugs behind, but his romantic life is still raising some eyebrows.

It may come as a surprise, therefore, that he recently gave a moving pro-life testimony during a television interview on the Italian entertainment show *Verissimo*. Roncato, who is childless, told the host:

I miss having a child. It was the mistake of my life. When I was very young, I had the chance to become a father, to have a child, but I had him aborted. Now, I’ve become very strongly against abortion. I even wrote a book for this child who was never born, titled, *I Would Have Liked You* [*‘T’avrei voluto’* in Italian].

In another interview, with *Cristiani Today*, he admitted that he constantly asks God to forgive him. Roncato has had a change of heart, and has come to appreciate the gift of life. During the *Verissimo* interview, he said,

“I think that children are the only true wealth that a man can give the world. You can give good movies, beautiful poetry, money, whatever you want, but I believe that giving a child is the most beautiful thing a man can do.”

Here is a translation of a poem he wrote for the child he had aborted so many years ago, published in the book he mentioned in the interview:

I would have liked you to be small, so I could hug you.  
I would have liked you to be big, so I could lean on you.  
I would have liked you to be looking out the window in winter, watching the snow begin to fall.  
I would have liked you to be lying under the covers during a storm,  
silent so you could hear the sound of the rainfall.  
I would have liked you to be kind to dogs, so you could pet them,  
and affectionate with the elderly, so you could love them.  
I would have liked you to be handsome, so I could brag about you,  
with big eyes, like your mother’s.  
I would have liked to sing to you, to make you fall asleep, and continue the dream that woke you up.  
I would have liked you to be shy, so I could see you blush,  
and stubborn, so I could argue with you.  
I would have liked you to be at my side, so the two of us could walk in silence,  
trying to understand what the other was thinking inside and couldn’t manage to say.  
I would have liked to teach you all the things I don’t know how to do.  
I would have liked you to leave someday, so I could have the pleasure of seeing you come back home.  
I would have liked you to experience your first love.  
I would have liked you near me on the day I must leave this world.  
I wish I had wanted you, that time when I didn’t want you...

—Aleteia.org, May 18, 2019



*Any discrimination based on the various stages of life is no more justified than any other discrimination. The right to life remains complete in an old person, even one greatly weakened; it is not lost by one who is incurably sick. The right to life is no less to be respected in the small infant just born than in the mature person. In reality, respect for human life is called for from the time that the process of generations begins. From the time that the ovum is fertilized, a life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already.*

~ Declaration on Procured Abortion, 1974 ~



# Pro-Love

By Sarah Bastian

As a young child, I loved going to our local crisis pregnancy center's annual "Walk for Life" fundraisers. They had donuts, balloons, and my friends were there—what more could I ask? My parents served on the board of directors for this ministry before I was born, so it has always been a part of my life. I was pro-life before I had any idea what that meant. It was my family's position and my church's position, so it was my position too.

As I got a little older, I saw that being pro-life centered on fighting abortion, but I still didn't think very deeply about the whole issue. It was only a few years ago that I first asked myself, "What does it actually mean for me to be pro-life?" Since then, I've been learning it's greater and deeper and bigger than I ever thought before.

Around the age of thirteen, I was challenged to step outside my comfort zone when I read a book for teens called *Do Hard Things*. This book launched a chain of events in my life that led me to volunteer at the same crisis pregnancy center where my parents used to serve, a place now called the "Pregnancy Resource Clinic."

Once I started volunteering, I decided I should know more about the whole abortion issue, and what I discovered broke my heart. For the first time, I saw abortion as taking a human life. I remember sitting at the computer one night reading testimony after testimony of heartbroken mothers who had chosen abortion and would do anything to take it back. As I sat there crying, my mom asked, "Are you ok?" and I said, "No!" Abortion was not ok, and I had to do something about it.

When my heart was first broken over the issue of abortion, I was completely focused on saving babies. I had a hard time viewing women who were considering abortion with compassion—how could they even think about killing their own children?

Around that time, God stepped in to widen my perspective. I had a vivid dream in which I was the one facing an unplanned pregnancy! In my dream, I remember sitting in the sanctuary of my church. No one would talk to me; everyone whispered and kept their distance. Even though it was just a dream, I woke up deeply shaken. All of a sudden, I could understand a small part of the emotional challenges facing women with unplanned pregnancies. In my dream, I had actually experienced rejection and condemning looks! But I knew that in real life, women can't wake up to find it was all a dream. Their problems don't just go away. I think a lot of women believe that's what abortion does: makes a problem just go away.

As Frederica Mathewes-Green, a former vice-president of a pro-life organization, once said, "No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg" (Leichman). Women who choose abortion might think that it's the easiest choice—after all, the pro-choice movement offers abortion as a quick and

easy fix. I finally saw how appealing that lie could be to a woman facing the challenges that come with an unplanned pregnancy.

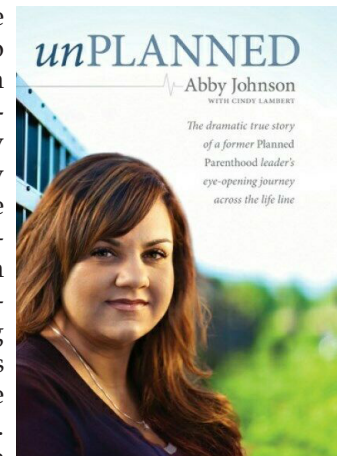
Through my small peek into the incredible challenges facing a woman with an unplanned pregnancy, God completely changed my perspective. He taught me to grow in compassion for both the mother and the child. All of a sudden, I couldn't condemn the mothers anymore. I know there have been times in my life when I've lied, because it felt like the only choice. Did that make lying less wrong? No. But it does mean I'm just like the women who chose abortion because they think it's the only choice! I still believe abortion is a terrible, violent sin, but now I know that I am just as guilty of sin in God's eyes. All of us are guilty, and likewise, all of us are offered forgiveness. There is no post-abortive mother outside the reach of His incredible grace.

These ideas growing in my heart about what it meant to be pro-life were crystalized at a training meeting the Pregnancy Resource Clinic held for its staff and volunteers. During the training, we talked a lot about why the clinic exists, and what foundational belief motivates our service. As we talked, we decided the best way to phrase our beliefs is simply "People matter." And why do we believe that people matter? Because people, all people, are created in the image of God, and they matter to Him!

I was challenged to take this loving perspective to another level in the abortion debate when I read *Unplanned*, the autobiography of a woman named Abby Johnson. Abby used to be the director of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. When she came to work pro-life people stood outside the building yelling at her, shouting things like, "God hates you! You're going to hell!" (Johnson 35). Abby was afraid these people would physically harm her, and she had good reason: she knew at least one abortion doctor who had been murdered by supposedly "pro-life" people!

Gradually, the violent climate outside Abby's clinic changed (Johnson 40). Instead of screaming people, a group gathered together to pray. They even greeted Abby when she came to work and asked how she was doing!

One day, Abby helped with an ultrasound-guided abortion. She saw the procedure happen and suddenly realized it was taking a life (Johnson 6). Her world was shaken and she knew she had to get out of her job. Because of the love that was now being shown to her outside the clinic walls, Abby had the courage to approach the pro-life



*If you didn't see the movie, you can read the book!*

*continued on page 10*

## In Memory of Jim Morrissey

Jim Morrissey passed away on May 14, at the age of 83. Many local March of Life pilgrimages were possible in part because of Jim soliciting donations for the trip, never letting his wheelchair limit him. During those overnight trips, he would spend all night in Adoration at the Basilica, locating outlets along the way to charge his electric chair.

In Jim's own words: "The good news is that pro-life is growing stronger. *Roe v. Wade* will be reversed. This pilgrimage to Washington was a great experience and a true show of solidarity. I have to say that I feel privileged to have been one of the many."

He solicited donations to erect the Billboards for Life, dedicated to babies. Jim will be remembered by many as a man who had a mission and who was going to "get the job done" at all costs. He relied on the generosity of others to accomplish his goals. He valued life in all its stages.



## Pro-Love

*continued from page 9*

group that had been praying for her (Johnson 147). Abby Johnson has now become a leader in the pro-life cause! She loves as she was loved, she forgives as she was forgiven, and she implores people to let their eyes be opened just as her eyes were opened—just as my eyes were opened.

Over the past few years, God has been faithfully working in my heart, teaching me that being pro-life is not about condemning people: political activists, pro-choice women, or even abortion workers. Being pro-life is not even about fighting sin that's somehow more sinful than all the others, because all sin grieves the heart of God. Being pro-life is actually about love; love for the child, love for the mother, and love for all those whose eyes have not yet been opened to the beautiful truth that people, all people, matter.

*Works Cited:*

Leichman, Abigail. "Looking back on *Roe vs. Wade*; Did decision free women or harm society?" *The Record*. 16 January 2003. Web. Accessed 18 February 2014.

Johnson, Abby and Lambert, Cindy. *Unplanned*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2010. Print. Sarah Bastian was a contestant in our Regional Oratory Contest five years ago; she is now a graduate student who was impressed by Abby Johnson's book, *Unplanned*, and her conversion by those who loved her unconditionally.

## Happy Father's Day!



## Regional Chapters of Citizens Concerned for Human Life

**The Bedford County Chapter of CCHL** will host a pro-life information table at the Bedford County Fair July 21st and 27th, in Jordan Hall, just inside the door to the petting zoo. Please stop by if you are attending the fair. Helpers are always welcome. Volunteers will receive an exhibitor pass which provides free entry to the fairgrounds along with free parking. Each pass is valid for the entire day and evening. These passes do not include using the carnival rides nor entry to the evening shows; e.g. demolition derby, car racing. Our hours for the table are 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 8:00 each day. We endeavor to call on our volunteers to serve only one 3-1/2 hour period. For information, please call Pam at 814-652-6755.

**Bedford CCHL** will also be hosting an information table at the Alum Bank Fire Company Car and Tractor show July 13th and 14th in Pleasantville, PA (Intersection of PA Route 96 and PA Route 56).



## From the President's Desk

### Courage and Responsibility

Seventy-five years have passed since the world witnessed one of the most courageous acts performed by American men in storming the beaches of Normandy for the benefit of others.

The courage displayed by those men and their allies came from their conviction that the world had to be saved from an evil empire. They accepted the responsibility of attempting to end that evil and thousands gave their lives in the attempt.

Some of these men in the "Greatest Generation" were our fathers, grandfathers or uncles. They had survived the Great Depression and were willing to put their lives on the line to ensure we would have a better life.

Today we are faced with another evil of a different kind—the kind that can destroy our souls. Are we willing to stand up to the challenge of our time and meet that evil head on?

This issue contains several examples of those who are or were up to the challenge.

Jim Morrissey gave all he had to save babies despite physical handicap. Dr. Matt Stachmus, a young husband and father, has a passion for life that will move mountains—but as his article implies, he needs help.

We need good men and women to stand up to the challenge of our day and confront the evil of abortion. We need letter writers, pregnancy center volunteers, good husbands and fathers to support their spouses and family members in difficult situations.

We need courage and a willingness to accept responsibility for our role in defeating the Culture of Death.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

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



**One person caring about another  
represents life's greatest value.**

~ Jim Rohn ~

### A donation has been made—

*In Memory of:*

*Florence Kovach*

*Richard Zelnosky*

Requested by: Theresa Lonera

*Jessica Prescott*

Requested by: Kate and Jim Prescott

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!

### 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**.



**Blair County Life News**  
**Blair County Chapter**  
**Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.**  
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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](mailto:blair@centralpaprolife.org)  
website: [www.blaircountyprolife.com](http://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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## Alive From New York

By Dr. Matt Stachmus

I'll be honest... We thought it would be easier to get a busload of pro-life people to go to NYC, the mecca of our nation's abortion industry after the State of New York passed legislation legalizing the killing of a pre-born child up until the day of birth. It seemed if pro-lifers had knowledge that this city has more abortions than live births, and for decades pursued what amounts to "elective" genocide for blacks and Hispanics, people of faith would rally together and the only problem would be too small of a bus. As it turned out, we filled 24 seats in a 47 passenger bus. This despite advertisements on two Christian radio stations, contacting Christian and Catholic high schools, numerous churches, local pro-life pregnancy support organizations and a blitz on social media. Not one clergy member joined us.

This was not our first rodeo organizing people to take a stand for something dear to God's heart as we had sponsored trips to Washington, DC in the past to defend the sanctity of marriage. This, sadly, was another battle that we have lost as a nation because of the Supreme Court's taking the stance it knew more about matrimony and life than God or our forefathers. We assumed since most polls showed a dramatic increase in the number of people joining the pro-life community and the recent release of the moving *Unplanned*, that surprised even the pundits at its performance at the box office, that getting people involved with the *Focus on the Family* "Alive from New York" event this past May 4th would be easy.

When I heard of this event being advertised on the *Focus on The Family* radio broadcast, I thought, "Now that is a great idea, showing a live 4-D ultrasound of a 3rd trimester pregnancy on the big screens (jumbotrons) in Times Square to literally show NYC what, or more appropriately, who, according to their state legislators, was not worthy of defending from being killed."

I'm a volunteer prison chaplain and we had been discussing with some inmates the topic of stepping out in faith. I heard that still small voice saying to me, "If you believe this (stepping out in faith), then why not rent a bus to go to NYC on May 4th?" I felt the Holy Spirit's conviction over this and I shared it immediately with the men in our prison bible study and we prayed about it. The next day I reserved the bus, less than three weeks from the event.

Faith is huge for a Christian, as the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God. So, if God is faithful, why do we have such a hard time trusting Him? Until now, reading this may make you think that God was less than faithful to our plans on May 4th. I was feeling that way too, and so were the planners of the event...until May 4th, and with good reason...

NYC made it very difficult for *Focus on the Family* to get permits to host the event. All those who were approached by *Focus on the Family* for renting space on the Jumbotron screens refused, forcing this Colorado-based non-profit to bring three huge screens of their own into Manhattan. The rally was broken into three separate venues in Times Square, making it more difficult for our participation. We were not allowed access to the stadium seating that was present. The sound system failed for the first 20-30 minutes. Just as the 4-D ultrasound was projected onto the screens,

**ABORTION:**

One heart stops 

Another heart  breaks

*continued on page 2*