

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following was submitted by Pastor Rich Boerckel, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria.

"The Light Shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." John 1:5

Recently, I read a book entitled, **The Choices We Made** in which over 20 women defend their decision to abort a child at some point in their life. What I found has helped me to adjust my strategy in proclaiming God's truth concerning the preciousness of human life. I trust these observations will be helpful to you.

1. The question, "When does human life begin?" haunts many who strongly support abortion.

"But I feel very strongly that there's a cutoff point where it's just morally wrong to abort that *baby* (italics mine) – at six months, for sure... When a woman makes that decision that late, it does become murder to me. Then again, someone on the other side can say, 'Yeah, but she was just an ignorant girl; she didn't know any better.' It's a very, very difficult question, but I'm absolute in my feeling about that cutoff point..." Actress Rita Monreno, page 49

"So I have seen it from all three sides—I have two living wonderful children, I had a legal abortion, and I had an illegal abortion. I am the mother of two or the mother of four, depending on how you look at it... About the question 'Does life begin at conception?' – I don't

know. Life in a certain sense probably does begin at conception... But one must make tough choices in this world, harder choices than abortion" News Anchor and author, Linda Ellerbee, page 81

"I don't feel that there is life in the first four weeks. Some scientists and other people will dispute that, but that's just my belief... I have a problem with second-trimester abortions because that's a person. You can look in those sonograms and see a person..." Actress Whoopi Goldberg, page 120

2. The issue of abortion is purely **THEOLOGICAL**. If we are created in God's image, then only God can rightly intervene in the timing of our death. If we are evolved, then one person can decide on another's life based on the concept of "the highest good."

"Getting back to the abortions, do you want to know if I thought of the fetus as a living being? At that time, it never crossed my mind. What I really feel today -- and this is not a popular pro-choice point of view -- is that a fetus is alive from the moment of conception. I don't think that we should say it isn't alive until such and such a week or month... it's always alive... You're not a little bit alive, and a little bit dead. ...The position is not about whether or not it's alive; it's about whether or not someone wants to give birth and have the responsibility of another human being with them for the rest of their life." Actress Jill Clayburgh, page 57

3. If people would understand who God is, they would think differently about abortion.

"Even more than the unfairness to women, though, is the unfairness to the unborn child. If a

woman finds herself pregnant with her sixth child and her husband has just walked out on her, I think that child is going to have an unfortunate life... If you believe that man is a spirit, as I do, better the spirit of the child should wait and find another body, one that really wants the child to be there." Actress Anne Archer, page 108

"I have this deep belief that God understands whatever dilemma you're in and will forgive it if you make a choice that He or She doesn't think is right."

Actress Whoopi Goldberg, page 122

The abortion issue is truly a battle for the spiritual soul of our land and its people. As we continue our struggle, let us remember that spiritual battle will only be won through spiritual means. The greatest victories are when men and women are converted to Jesus Christ through His Gospel. If the Gospel is not central to our mission, then we have lost before we begin. The words of the apostle Paul are amazingly relevant to our twentieth century context, "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." May we ever be vigilant to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ which sets men and women free. Let freedom ring!!!

Dick Durbin, (Pro-Abortion), Won The Democratic Senate Primary. Al Salvi, (Pro-Life), Won The Republican Senate Primary. These Candidates Will Face Each Other In The November Election To Fill The Senate Seat Of Retiring Illinois Senator Paul Simon.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GRAND ILLUSIONS -- THE LEGACY OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The classic comprehensive 1988 exposé of Planned Parenthood, Grand Illusions – The Legacy of Planned Parenthood, by George Grant, still provides valuable insights into the nature of that organization. Some highlights are:

“Planned Parenthood is the world’s oldest, largest, and best organized provider of abortion and birth control services. ... It now plays a strategic role in the health and social services community. ... It carries considerable political clout through lobbying, legislation, advocacy, campaigning, and litigation. ...

It has brokered its abortion trade into a public image that is very nearly unassailable. ... It has a no-nonsense, tough-as-nails, down-to-earth, where-the-rubber-meets-the-road kind of reputation that has made it a glittering star in the grand constellation of the American social service field.

“All that glitters, however, is not gold.”

“Planned Parenthood claims to advocate the freedom of women to choose if and when they will have children, without government interference. ... The truth is that from its very inception, Planned Parenthood has sought mandatory population control measures – measures carefully designed to *deny* the freedom to choose. Over the years it has proposed that our government implement such things as ‘compulsory abortion for out-of-wedlock pregnancies,’ ‘compulsory sterilization for those who already have two children,’ and ‘tax penalties’ for existing large families. ... China ... has taken Planned Parenthood’s suggestions to heart, launching a brutal, no-holds-barred, one-child-per-couple policy. ... Planned Parenthood continues to maintain that the communist government’s genocidal approach to population control is a ‘model of efficiency.’ ... In a recent survey of women who had received abortions at Planned Parenthood, ... ninety-five percent of the women said that their Planned Parenthood counselors gave ‘little or no information about the potential health risks which might follow the surgery.’ ... And eighty-nine percent said that their counselor was ‘strongly biased in favor of the abortion.’ ”

“Planned Parenthood’s pose as a champion of the underprivileged is a cruel hoax foisted on the uninformed and unsuspecting. The truth is, Planned Parenthood appears to want to *eliminate* the poor, not *serve* them. Animosity toward the weak and lowly has been its hallmark from its earliest days. In fact, its entire program of family limitation was designed to foster an elitist program against the underclasses. In 1972, Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, ... argued

that organized attempts to help the poor were the ‘surest sign that our civilization has bred, is breeding, and is perpetuating constantly increasing numbers of defectives, delinquents, and dependents.’ ... Planned Parenthood has always targeted minorities, the unwanted, and the disadvantaged for family limitation, contraception, abortion, and sterilization. ‘More children from the fit, less from the unfit,’ Sanger pined, ‘that is the chief issue of birth control.’ ... To this day, the trust of Planned Parenthood’s literature ... constantly devises new plans to penetrate Black, Hispanic, and ethnic communities with its crippling message of Eugenic racism. “

“Planned Parenthood claims that it is in the forefront of the battle against sexually transmitted diseases. ... The truth is, Planned Parenthood’s efforts have been tragically counterproductive. It has become a veritable Typhoid Mary, actually encouraging the *spread* of syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, hepatitis, granuloma, chancroid, and even AIDS at an alarming rate. Besides the fact that it constantly exhorts youngsters to flaunt a ribald and irresponsible promiscuity, it continually promotes an alarmingly ‘unsafe’ exercise of that promiscuity. Instead of affording its fornicating disciples with the slim security of barrier devices, it primarily peddles the entirely unguarded prescription birth control methods. Eighty percent of Planned Parenthood’s clients receive non-barrier contraceptives, and eighty-eight percent of those who previously practiced ‘safe sex’ are *dissuaded* from continuing.”

“Planned Parenthood claims that sex education is a necessary and effective means of preventing teen pregnancies. ... The truth is, Planned Parenthood’s sex education programs have backfired, actually increasing teen pregnancies. ... The conclusion, one that Planned Parenthood researchers have been unable to escape, is that sex education courses only exacerbate the teen pregnancy problem. [pages 24-30, footnotes omitted.]

This year, in the Outreach Committee meetings on the third Monday of each month at the Christian Center at 7:30 p.m., we continue to study Planned Parenthood and what we can do about it in our community.

Wanted: Volunteers are needed for the Annual Walk/Run for Life sponsored by WPEO Radio 1020 and Central Illinois Right To Life. This exciting event will be held August 24th at Bradley Park in Peoria. If you can help please call us at (309)685-3034.

"Let the children come to me..." To our Lord, every child IS a wanted child !

HELP!!! Single? Children Grown? Semi-retired? WE NEED YOU!!! Do you have an hour or two now & then to help Central Illinois Right to Life's 8 board members with a project? Can we put you on a list of prospective volunteers to contact in the future. Remember, the "Pro-Choice" i.e. the pro-abortion crowd

has countless workers and millions of dollars. We operate on a bare-bones budget and are 100% volunteers. If you could help a little in any way, it would be greatly appreciated and immensely gratifying. Please fill out the coupon below and mark the box next to volunteer help. Thank you and have a blessed year

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... the Image of God*

Do you wish you could accomplish something for the Pro-Life cause, but are not sure what to do? The third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., we have a meeting at the Christian Center in Peoria. We come together to share ideas and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

At recent meetings we have continued to view the video series on Planned Parenthood,(See highlights on page 3 of this publication.)

We have listened to presentations from the founders of the House of Faith, Hope, and Love in Bloomington, IL, a new home for young women in crisis pregnancy. They are currently raising funds to purchase a residence to house these new mothers in need.

Bradley University Students from the Newman Center spoke to us regarding their Cemetery for Aborted Babies and we provided assistance to them in this wonderful project.

Central Illinois Right to Life: Membership and Volunteer Drive

If you would like to help defend life in Central Illinois, become a member of Central Illinois Right to Life and continue receiving our quarterly newsletter by returning this form and enclosing the annual dues of \$10.00.

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____

State : _____

Zip Code : _____

Telephone : _____

MEMBER DUES : \$10__

DONATION : \$5__ \$10__ \$15__ \$25__ Other_____ Thank You!

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Please Plan For These Coming Events in 1997

CIRTL Garage Sale

Please begin to collect good used items to donate to our annual fund-raising sale which will be held this Spring. A definite date will be announced as soon as plans are completed. If you can help organize this event, or can give of your time to work at the sale, please call

Run / Walk for Life

The annual Run / Walk for Life will be held in August at Bradley Park in Peoria. Please plan to participate. Trophies are awarded to male and female winners in several age divisions. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Call us at CIRTL at 685-3034 for additional information.

Annual Life Chain

Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain in October 1997. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life along University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria. **Church Coordinators are needed to help organize this event.** If you can assist, call Dan at 263-2086.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

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