

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

I

n this column, we usually share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois and beyond. This newsletter we feature an article by Rev. Craig L. Hislope, Pastor of Faith Missionary Church in Peoria, Illinois.

To put the issue of abortion into perspective, I'd like to appeal to three incidents in the Bible involving the killing of children, and demonstrate how they parallel modern "pro-choice" philosophy.

To discuss episodes of child killing in the Bible is a grim subject. The pain pours out of these three accounts I'll relate, the first being found in Exodus 1.

The nation of Israel had grown in population in Egypt over the course of time since Joseph and family were established there at the end of the Book of Genesis. Egypt was ruled by a succession of "Pharaohs" and by the opening of Exodus, the particular Pharaoh in charge was threatened by Israel's growth. One of his strategies to address this problem was to decree that all newborn Hebrew males were to be killed upon delivery from their mother. Pharaoh's philosophy seemed to be that "Jews aren't 'real people'". We can eliminate them as if they were field mice or pond growth."

Some would say, "Thankfully we aren't so barbaric in these modern times." Unfortunately, they would be incorrect. It was not that long ago when those with dark skin were deemed to be less than human by some. Can we fail to see, too, the irony in the fact that God's Old Covenant people, the Jews, have continually been the target of attempted genocide throughout history, even in the "enlightened" 20th century?

Today, we have yet another modern parallel to the ancient Bible story." A fetus is not a 'real person' until birth." Those who don't learn from the past are condemned to repeat it. We see God's hand working (continued on page 2)



Coming Events

During coming months, the following pro life events are scheduled in the Peoria area:

Annual 5K Run/Walk: This year the race will be on August 23rd. It will be at Bradley Park in Peoria and will start at 7:30 AM. Trophies are awarded to male and female winners in several age divisions. Contributions are needed to help purchase the trophies for the run. Call Dan at 691-3611 or CIRTL at 685-3034 for additional information.

Annual Peoria Area Life Chain: Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 5, 2003. Participants will stand in witness to their commitment to the Sanctity of Human Life along University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria. Don't miss this chance to show your support for the unborn. Call Dan at 691-3611 for more details. Organizational help and church coordinators are also needed.

Walk for Life, Coming in January of 2004, on or near the 31th anniversary of the notorious Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, which put millions of unborn children at risk. After prayer we will walk together to a rally, carrying signs proclaiming our support for the sanctity of all innocent human life.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, Also coming in January of 2004. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts.

to foil Pharaoh's plans by protecting innocent life, and safeguarding one special child by the name of Moses, who would eventually help deliver God's people from their bondage. Once their deliverance was reality, God relayed to them the standards He demanded they live by, as seen, for example, in Exodus 21:22-25, a passage that upholds the sanctity of human life.

Whatever your view of abortion is today, you cannot deny that Scripture presents a view that upholds the dignity of human life, in the womb and out. How we as civilized people can condone abortion after what history has taught us is extraordinary, although not surprising, considering the depravity of man. A logic that can rationalize this can rationalize anything!

A second instance of biblical child killing is found in II Kings 16. The perpetrator is King Ahaz of Judah. He sacrificed his own son as part of a pagan ritual. His philosophy seems to have been "the end justifies the means." He used a "child sacrifice platform" as a means to political gain -a frightening parallel to our recent times. Child sacrifice had been practiced by some of Israel's most decadent kings, so it had precedent. Anything can seem acceptable after it has been condoned for long enough and by enough people.

The ancient politicians should have known better. Leviticus 18:21 had prohibited child sacrifice. God's name is profaned when a child is sacrificed to any god -Molech or money, convenience or career. What's more, Leviticus 20:2-5 pronounces judgment on those who close their eyes to this evil, being apathetic and indifferent to it. Who will be left to lobby for your preservation after every other one unlike you is first eliminated? Rather than sacrifice-a child to a pagan god, why not dedicate a child to the Living God? Hannah did so in I Samuel with her baby boy Samuel.

What is the modern parallel to Old Testament child sacrifice for a seemingly honorable purpose? It's this philosophy -"Abortion stops a lot of unwanted children from suffering." Dr. James Dobson pointed out in his January 1998 Focus on the Family newsletter that this argument is the same as arguing that murdering your husband or wife should be legalized to prevent spouse abuse. The casualness with which we view abortion has devalued life outside the womb as much as inside, and reflected and contributed to abuse at all stages of life more than perhaps any other factor. We're not a very noble people these days. What we value as a culture is somewhat shameful. We dread and fear suffering in this life as the greatest evil, but there is much we can learn from suffering. There's much grace in suffering. It's rare for anyone to volunteer for that kind of grace though. Sacrificing a child is wrong -but sacrificing for a child couldn't be more right. Nobility dictates that children be a higher priority than anything other than the Lord Jesus Himself. To Ahaz, children were a means to an end. God's Word says, "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him" (Psalm 127:3).

There is a third perpetrator of treachery against children. It's King Herod of Israel. In Matthew 2 he was disturbed to hear a report of the birth of a child who would be king. Herod's philosophy was, "I'll tolerate no rivals." He sought his own prestige first. He determined to have all male children in Bethlehem and vicinity killed in an attempt to obliterate his rival. He had the power to carry this out and that was reason enough to attempt it. There is a modern parallel to that ancient credo: "It's my body and I'll do with it what I please."

That is the climax of man usurping the place of God. It is idolatry personified. The Apostle Paul counters this view with his teaching in I Corinthians 6: 19-20, which asserts that we are not our own, we're bought with a price (the blood of Christ), so we are to glorify God with our bodies. God has the right to your body. He's the Potter - we are the clay. He's the Creator -we are the created. He's the Redeemer -we are the forgiven. It's His body, and we should do what He pleases.

Ultimately, the child Herod attempted to eliminate became the One whose eventual death would serve as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all who would receive Him. This Lord Jesus Christ offers hope for we who are seeking to protect the lives of the unborn, and for all who face life's difficult and complex problems.

Let nothing rival allegiance to Him, no matter how attractive, politically advantageous, or seemingly liberating. "Slavery" to God is greater than man's version of freedom.

Rev. Craig L. Hislope
Pastor ~ Faith Missionary Church, Peoria

“Let me say plainly that no man’s blood can be laid at my door, for I did not shrink from declaring all God’s message to you. And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God’s flock— His church— purchased with His blood— for the Holy Spirit is holding you responsible as overseers.”

The Apostle Paul to The elders of Ephesus in Acts 20:26-28 (Living Bible)

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 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 dependent on willing 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 in 2003!

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... Deserves Protection!*

On the third Monday of each month, the Outreach Committee of persons interested in bringing the Pro Life message into their churches meets at the upstairs conference room of the Christian Center at 4100 War Memorial Drive at 7:30 p.m. We come together to share ideas, pray, and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

Past topics discussed have included presentations of The Hard Truth video to church groups, other Pro Life videos, how to stop Planned Parenthood, how to be an effective Pro Life advocate, and other Pro Life activities. At recent meetings we have also worked on organizing the annual fund raising garage sale and have put together mailings and newsletters like this one. Members have also helped organize and contribute to our new internet site. Anyone interested in joining this effort should come to our meetings or call Dan Smith at 691-3611.

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__ Date

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

VOLUNTEER HELP : Please put my name on your list of volunteers.

Central Illinois Right To Life has lots of prolife booklets, brochures, and bumper stickers available. By purchasing through CIRTTL, you save ordering hassles and help to spread the prolife message. Call 685-3034 for more information or to order your materials.

Pro Life Events Remembered

July Fourth Parade

Members and friends of Central Illinois Right To Life walked together in the July 4th Parade in West Peoria again this year. Call Sondra McEnroe at 685-3034 for information on next year's parade and on other upcoming Pro Life events in the Central Illinois area.

Garage Sale Report

Central Illinois Right To Life held its annual fund-raising garage sale in June at the Holy Family school in Peoria. Thank You! Thank You! to all who participated in this years event. We depend on the generous workers and on the donation of quality items as well as the many customers. This money helps fund the billboards, mailings, and other local prolife efforts. This years sale was a great success .

Holy Family Parish has hosted our sale for several years. We have been able to save lives in Peoria in part because of their generosity and we are deeply grateful.

Finally, thanks to those who have made CIRTTL part of their regular giving throughout the year. Your contributions enable CIRTTL to continue to stand for life in Central Illinois.

Many thanks for all her time of faithful service from the board and members of CIRTTL are due to departing board member Karen Cassidy. Karen, among other things was in charge of answering the email received from our internet site.

Karen, you will be missed. We Love You -CIRTTL

As our mailing list grows and we establish a presence on the internet, the Central Illinois Right To Life office staff needs a laser printer, and a fax machine. Can you help by donating or purchasing these items? Call Dennis at (309)565-7133 or CIRTL at (309)685-3034.

Local Prolife Video Premiere

The locally produced and filmed prolife video, **Magdalen** is a powerful musical about repentance, forgiveness and redemption after abortion. A **World Premiere** free showing of **Magdalen** is on Saturday, August 23, 2003 at the Apollo Theatre downtown at 3:00 p.m.

We hope for an excellent turnout, so we encourage people to call Dan Smith at 691-3611 to confirm estimated attendance. If a first showing is sold out, a second show will likely immediately follow. The Family Resources Center in the same block will be open beforehand and afterwards for people attending the show. Come discuss with us how we can present the prolife message using this film. Although its primary target audience are students in high school and junior high, it is suitable for all ages, children and adults. Thanks to the Dick and Patty LaHood family for this production.

The American Life League mailing reports that its president Judie Brown will be speaking in Peoria on November 25, 2003. This organization is one of the premiere national prolife organizations and the parent organization of STOPP, (Stop Planned Parenthood.) Call Central Illinois Right to Life in the fall for more information.

Sondra McEnroe reports that two babies have been saved this summer through contacts which have been made through the 24 hour hotline that Central Illinois Right to Life maintains. Each human life is of infinite value to our Lord, as it should be to us. We believe that each small one saved from abortion is a huge victory for the kingdom of light over the kingdom of darkness and that each prefigures the coming ultimate victory of our God and Savior Jesus Christ over all evil everywhere.

Central Illinois Life News

Visit our Web Site

When you visit <http://www.cirtl.org> you will find 150 pages of Pro Life news and perspective and announcements of coming Pro Life events. Most of the previous *Pastors Speak Out* essays are available as well as Pro Life sermon outlines, past newsletter articles, and updated position papers addressing Pro Life Issues. There are personal stories on subjects like adoption that will touch your heart. Our site has descriptions of, and contact information for, many of our fellow Pro Life groups in Central Illinois. There are also links to important local, state, national, and international Pro Life organizations. Facts and statistics about abortion and euthanasia and information about current law affecting these issues are on our Abortion Faqs page. Original, unedited letters to the editor of local newspapers make for interesting reading.

We are especially interested in new material for our site. Your school research paper or speech on abortion, or your Pro Life opinion piece or letter to the editor would be very useful. Your personal story about abortion or other sanctity of life issues can be posted anonymously. on our site to help others, literally around the world, who are facing similar difficult circumstances.

Remember To Visit Us At <http://www.cirtl.org> - and tell others to visit too!

Unity on the essentials of the Sanctity of Human Life is our objective. We are not seeking uniformity of opinion on all matters.. Therefore, some ideas advocated by the authors of articles in Central Illinois Life News or on the Central Illinois Right To Life website may not necessarily reflect the the personal views of all the members and officers of Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

Presorted
Standard
U.S.
Postage
PAID
Permit 1095
Peoria, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED



Visit Our Growing Web Site At <http://www.cirtl.org>

Support Your Local Pro-Life Group