

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 Dr. Edward Gray, Pastor of Morton Bible Church in Morton, IL. Dr. Gray also serves as chairman of the board of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Central Illinois, an organization dedicated to bringing the Gospel of Christ to children. -----

What do you value?

A few weeks ago I heard a sound that brought back a memory that goes back well over 30 years. The sound was a low pitched "flap, flap, flap." I'm not even sure where the sound came from, but the picture that instantly came to mind was that of riding my bicycle as a young boy. The sound was the same as the one made when we would take baseball cards and clothes pin them on our bicycles in such a way to allow contact with the spokes. As you peddled down the road you would hear that low pitched "flap, flap, flap."

I wonder how I could have wasted such a valuable piece of cardboard for a momentary pleasure of "flap, flap, flap." Of course I had no idea that those cards would be worth hundreds and thousands of dollars 35 years later. I literally flapped away thousands of dollars.

Perhaps you have even

planned in your mind an archeological dig to the landfill in hopes of finding that box of baseball cards you threw away many years ago. Of course you have no idea where to start digging or how deep or even if they are still intact. But still the thought crosses your mind. Why? You now know that something of significant value was thrown away and you would like it back.

What will it take for a nation to realize that every day that abortion is allowed, the most valued possessions of this life are being thrown away -- children conceived in the image of God. Unlike those baseball cards there is no possibility at all to get them back.

What was the potential of those discarded children? Have we as a nation already aborted future presidents, leaders, scientists, or the one who would have developed the cure for AIDS, arthritis, MS. . . How can such a horrid thing as abortion be so accepted? Simply put, we see no value in children. Today millions of people see more value in an old baseball card than in a baby in its mother's womb. The baby is thrown away, and the cards are kept and protected as a valued treasure.

*Lord, give our nation eyes to see where true value lies.
Forgive us for the sin of*

Coming Events

Run/Walk for Life

The annual 5K Run / Walk for Life will be held Saturday, August 26, 1995. The race will begin at 8:00 A.M., in lower Bradley Park in Peoria. Volunteers are needed. Call Greg McCoy at 367-2822 for information.

In addition to the race there will be a drawing for home-made pies. If you can donate a pie, please call Ruth Keyes at 681-8443.

Come, join us for an enjoyable walk or run on this scenic course. It's a great way to support the Right to Life cause.

Donations Needed!

Pro-Life organizations rely on donations in order to meet the needs of those they serve.

The following organizations need maternity clothes, strollers, car seats, diapers, formula, and baby clothes. St Anne's Maternity Home, 671-5755. Cabrini Hall, 671-5743. The Women's Crisis Pregnancy Center, 688-0202.

1995 Garage Sale Report

The 1995 Benefit Garage Sale was held at Holy Family School, June 8-10. Thanks to all who helped to make the benefit sale a **HUGE** success! The sale raised approx. \$3600 to be used in Pro-Life ministry in the coming months.

How often we are oblivious to the private pain of those around us. After 22 years of legal abortion, millions carry the brokenness and loss it has brought to our land. Many bear this burden alone, for fear of rejection by family and friends. Sometimes a person reaches out to share their experience. Then, as the reality of the damage caused by each abortion becomes unmistakably clear, no one who hears is ever quite the same. Such is the power of the story we print below with gratitude to this courageous lady who has cared enough to give so deeply of herself to each of us.

YOU THINK I'M JUST LIKE YOU

Though you do not know, I murdered my own child. Now, since I am a law-abiding citizen, even I find this fact hard to believe--but it is true. God forgave me long ago; sometimes I can forgive myself and sometimes I cannot. This is my story.

I was twenty-seven, married, and the mother of children, three, five, and seven. I am an adopted child, so my children represented my connection to the world in a way that most natural children cannot understand. My husband and I did not have a strong, marriage, but we were faithful to one another. Position, money, and appearance were important to my husband. God and church became less important as time went on. The responsibility for religious faith and influence in my family fell mainly to me. Though he was raised in a strong Catholic home and I in a Protestant family, we were exposed to, and influenced by all the liberal philosophies of the hippie culture.

Then suddenly, I was pregnant again! My husband reacted by not speaking to me for a week. I was married but alone, depressed and desperate. My husband wanted to fly to New York to "terminate" my pregnancy, but the year was 1974 and we found out that abortion was now legal in Illinois too.

I knew I needed guidance, so I called Planned Parenthood. My counselor there was the wife of a prominent Peoria doctor. She never offered me alternatives or discussed the physical, mental, emotional, or moral consequences of abortion. She never asked about my emotional stability. What she did do was arrange an abortion in another town, so my friends and family would never suspect.

So, on a cold but sunny, March day, my husband drove me to the Galesburg office of an OB/GYN for the abortion. The doctor wanted cash up front. As much as I would like to put all the blame on my husband, I have to accept the fact that I could have stopped at any point before the deed was done. My seven week pregnancy was ended without the benefit of anesthetic; the procedure was very painful.

Then my hell began. On the way home that day, I realized my baby was dead, by my own hand so to speak. My husband retreated into himself and never expressed any emotion to me about the abortion; no grief, no anger or regret--nothing! It was the beginning of

the end of our marriage. We went to counseling for five years and even built our dream house, but our love was gone and we divorced 8 years later. During this time, my closest friend also abandoned me. (Later I learned that she had heard about my "secret abortion" from the counselor at Planned Parenthood with whom I had several friends in common.) I could not look at or talk about a baby without becoming hysterical. My depression led to a suicide attempt and hospitalization.

After the divorce, I not only felt like a murderess, but like a failure as a wife and woman as well. After an initial period of almost total isolation from others, I became promiscuous in an attempt to find security and peace. I became pregnant by a man only nine days after meeting him. When he decided to marry me, I believed that God had given me a chance to redeem myself by bringing a new life into the world. Our marriage lasted almost five years and we had two baby girls. I later learned that he was married when we met and was only divorced two days before we were married. He lied to and abused me often and I had another breakdown and hospital stay. Finally the abuse got so bad that even a friend of mine who was a Nun advised me to leave before he killed me. By then my mental condition was improving and I was able to secure a new job and move with my babies to another town.

I am thankful to God for my two beautiful girls. I have since been reunited with my Lord through a wonderful Cursillo experience. I struggle every day but am trying to do things the way God would intend.

The "easy solution" for my unplanned pregnancy left quite an aftermath--loss of friends, guilt, mental illness, divorce, promiscuity, an unplanned, (but never unwanted), child, a hasty marriage, abuse, and another divorce. If abortion had not been legal or even not so readily available, perhaps I could have avoided much tragedy! If any of your efforts make a woman rethink her decision to abort, all of your work will be worthwhile!!! Keep up your good work in defense of life!

If 30,000 American soldiers were dying each week in war in a foreign land, no Church in our country would open its doors without there being fervent and lengthy prayer therein to God Almighty for His Mercy to end such a carnage. Yet week passes into weeks and sometimes into years in many a gathering of believers who claim to love God and fellow man, without so much as a mention of the human lives that are daily being lost in the war waging against the innocent unborn child. John the Apostle indicts us in our sin when we claim to love God but do not love our fellow human beings. Read I John 4:20-21 with this in mind.

Truth Does Not Kill ... Abortion Kills, and Silence Collaborates ...

Can You Volunteer ?

We need people to spread the Pro-Life message by helping with events throughout the year. To be a Special Activities Member (SAM), call Central

Need a Pro-Life Speaker ?

We have trained speakers who can present the message of life to your church or organization through video and the spoken word. There is no

Outreach Committee News: *Children are a Gift from*

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.

Our June meeting was very special for along with our usual time of sharing, we had a surprise party to celebrate the joy that has come into the life of one of our members in the form of her newly adopted baby girl. It was a truly special time! At the July meeting, we discussed the upcoming Life Chain event and began making plans for a speaker training seminar.

In the coming months we will be previewing Pro-Life videos and literature. Anyone is welcome to attend; we need you and your thoughts and ideas. For more information, call Dan Smith at (309)263-2086.

Central Illinois Right to Life: Membership 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. 1995 may be the year that God rids our country of the evil of abortion. Let us all pray, and work, and give to that end.

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____

State : _____

Zip Code : _____

Telephone : _____

Member Dues : \$10__

Central Illinois Life News

From the Desk of the President: *Diane Conner*

Where Are We In 1995?

There have been over twenty years of legalized killing of the unborn! Millions and millions of lives snuffed before birth -- it's mind boggling! Often times, I simply want to quit. Did I hear God's voice about my involvement in the Abortion Issue? What does God want me to do about the killing? Can't someone else do it instead of me?

The answer that comes back to me time and time again is **EDUCATION**. I need to be doing all that I can to tell others about the precious value of the unborn child and the horror of abortion. It sounds so simple but is very hard. Many people are ignorant about abortion and want to stay that way. Many are in a state of denial and do not want to admit it.

At Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc. We are sympathetic to every moral dilemma, but our focus is on **LIFE** from start to finish. We have to stay focused on that issue! We have been in Peoria since 1972 -- before legalized abortion. We are not going away! We are dedicated to protecting human life. Can we count on your support? We need prayers for strength and wisdom. We need "hands on" help as well as financial help. You can do something! Will you? Call or write us -- we need to hear from YOU!

Diane Conner began her term as President of the Board of Directors of Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc. in January of 1995. Diane has been involved with CIRTIL for over ten years.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial

Bulk Rate
U.S.
Postage
PAID
Permit 1095

ADDRESS CORRECTION
and
FORWARDING REQUESTED

