

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 Kerry Frantz, Pastor of Hanna City Presbyterian Church in Hanna City, Illinois.

A Continuous Battle

I was startled when a TV reporter approached me during an annual Central Illinois Pro-life rally outside the Peoria Courthouse. He asked me, "When is this battle going to end?" From his question, he assumed that the abortion debate could be put to rest once and for all by having anti-life forces or pro-life groups gaining the upper and decisive hand. He was sadly mistaken to think that a fundamental issue such as life in the womb could be decided like a major league contest. Real life issues cannot be quickly decided like the winner of a baseball game.

The battle to secure the inalienable right to life for each child cannot and will not be decided in one contest. It will not end even with a Supreme Court decision to overturn abortion on demand. Neither will the election of a pro-life President settle the issue. Certainly as Christians, we are to pray and labor hard toward that goal of securing the God-given rights of the unborn. The Bible itself tells us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Gal. 6:9)

However, we should never assume that the war to save children will have a nice and easy ending like

the children's stories we read to our kids. The nature of this battle is constant and involves an arduous struggle.

The sanctity of human life identifies who we are and to whom we are accountable. On the one hand, Christians vehemently reject any attempt to separate human life from its Creator whose image we bear. We will not remain silent when human life is degraded to mere animal life that can be discarded at will. On the other hand, secular humanists of our day rebel at the premise of divine authority over our lives. They refuse to acknowledge any moral absolute from a personal God. The diabolical forces of evil refuse to rest and they work steadily into the night.

Though I am encouraged by the lobbying efforts of devout Christians who have affected political and public opinions, my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. The Bible reminds us, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." (2 Cor. 10:3-4)

The Lord Himself must change people's hearts and the sentiment of a nation. Only through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ can the blinders of darkness be removed and new life be imputed to the heart. Only believers have the

capacity to completely appreciate the divine value of life and safeguard its future. We must pray not only for unjust laws to be reversed, but for hardened hearts to be renewed in Christ. We pray for the sanctity of human life cause along with the people involved in the struggle (on both sides!) With each convert to Christ, we have one less opponent to fight and we gain a brother or sister in the everlasting Kingdom of God.

May I encourage you to do three things in our perpetual battle for life:

- 1) Give financially. I have found that my financial gifts to Pro-Life groups are the most tangible expression of my dedication to saving children's lives. There is a cost.
- 2) Commit to the long-haul. If you are looking for community service that carries a quick solution to a contemporary issue of the day, then join a Save-A-Whale campaign. However, if you are serious about protecting human life, you must commit yourself long-term. You cannot work short-term and expect lasting progress.
- 3) Pray fervently. Ask daily for the Lord to change people's hearts. People desperately need the light of Christ before they can ever see the light on moral issues. Ultimately, the battle is the Lord's and He will defend His name and His honor, and reward His servants who love and uphold the truth!

Kerry Frantz

**“WE ARE CALLED UPON NOT TO BE
SUCCESSFUL BUT TO BE FAITHFUL.”**
Mother Teresa

The National Right to Life Convention

The National Right to Life Convention in Chicago late June was an event I wish all of you could have enjoyed!! The event was three days, with its last day Saturday June 28th. There were many noteworthy speakers, among them Senator Mitch McConnell from Kentucky and Representative Henry Hyde from Illinois. Both have been very active supporters of the unborn children. Senator Mitch McConnell and many of the convention speakers are currently concerned over the campaign financing reform legislation being pursued by the White House. At first glance I have to admit it sounds good to me, however what is lurking in this legislation is the direct limitation of groups like us (the National Right to Life) to financially support candidates. As the Senator mentioned, we voice our opinion through our financial support and thus it is a form of speech for us at the grass roots level. To eliminate this mechanism for making our voices heard (and those of other opinions) would dramatically weaken the people's right to free speech.

The campaign finance reform being proposed would also eliminate commercials from the campaign process except those expressly paid for by the candidate. In other words if there was a candidate who we opposed, we could not as concerned citizens develop a commercial to inform the voters of the reasons why this individual would not be a good choice. The target here is primarily the Christian Coalition's popular voter guides!!!

In short, don't take at face value the

media's lust for reform, because it only makes them more powerful taking out other forms of information media. I encourage all of us to keep an eye on this issue and make our concerns known to our representatives.

One of my most favorite speakers was Karen Cross. Karen is married with children, however she had two abortions years ago. She related a very moving story of how her abortions have affected her and her family. This story would give any on the fence person plenty to think about! Anne Polka was from a traditional religious family when they found out their daughter had an abortion. Their family's crisis, pain, and eventual reconciliation culminated with the signing by Jim Edgar of parental notice legislation.

There were so many other interesting stories and people. I know among those on our mailing list, there are many who have been affected in one way or another by the tragedy of abortion. I encourage you to become more involved.... attend our regularly scheduled meetings, (3rd Monday at the Christian Center at 7:30PM,) where we continually strive to develop ways to reach out... to educate and help the people of our community.

Mark Lang

Mark Lang has been a member of the Board of Directors of Central Illinois Right to Life for several years. He

Thank You: To all who labored to make our annual garage-sale a success again this year. Your hard work is testimony to your commitment to Life. Our appreciation also to everyone who donated items for the sale.

Thank You: To everyone who marched in the July 4th parade in West Peoria this Independence day. Together, we keep the message alive!

"Suffer little children to come unto Me... for of such is the kingdom of God."

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

Outreach Committee News: *Each Child ... A Precious Jewel*

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, pray, and to renew our efforts to reach people with the Pro-Life message.

At recent meetings we have viewed several videos dealing with the aftermath of abortion and its detrimental effects on women. We also serve the membership of CIRTIL by assembling for mailing the various newsletters that CIRTIL publishes each year.

If you are looking for a place to learn and to serve, we welcome you to join us. We also ask that you pray for us that God may use our humble efforts to protect the unborn and thereby to increase His Kingdom! We will pray for you in the same manner.

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!

Central Illinois Life News

Please Plan For These Coming Events

Sanctity of Human Life Rally

Please begin to plan now to attend the Annual Sanctity of Human Life Walk and Rally to be held in Peoria in January, 1998. Details including the date, time, location, and special speaker(s) will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

1997 Run/ Walk for Life

The annual Run / Walk for Life will be held Saturday, August 23th at 8:00 am at Bradley Park in Peoria. 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 263-2086 or CIRTL AT 685-3034 for additional information.

1997 Life Chain

Central Illinois Right to Life will sponsor the annual Life Chain on Sunday, October 5, 1997. 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 263-2086 for more details. Organizational help is also needed.

Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.

4100 N. War Memorial Drive

Bulk Rate
U.S.
Postage
PAID
Permit 1095

ADDRESS CORRECTION and
FORWARDING REQUESTED