

Central Illinois Life News

Pastors Speak Out

In this column, we usually share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois and beyond. This newsletter we want instead to share excerpts from: *Life Issues: Distraction from the Great Commission or Part of It?* By Randy Alcorn, Founder, Eternal Perspectives Ministries.

Over the years I've often been told that human life issues, such as abortion and euthanasia, are not what the church of Jesus Christ is to be about. I was told by a seminary student at my church "these issues distract us from the main thing." I said, "what's the main thing?" He said, "The great commission. Winning people to Christ. That's what we're supposed to be doing. That's the main thing, and everything else is a distraction." Read Matthew 28:18-20. Ask yourself how you would respond to the seminary student. Then we'll come back to it. First I want to tell you a true story.

In the late eighteenth century, there lived an Englishman I'll call Will. Will was an outspoken opponent of slavery. He went so far as to boycott sugar from the West Indies because it was the product of slavery. While still in England he began to preach as a Dissenter. British law prohibited anyone attending a meeting of Dissenters, so Will committed civil disobedience every time he preached, and his parents and everyone who came to hear him preach did the same. (He failed in his first attempt to become ordained, because the ordination committee said that his preaching was simply too boring.)

(continued on page 4)



Coming Events

During Sanctity of Human Life week, January 18 - January 24, 2007, the following events are scheduled:

Washington, DC Bus Trip to the annual March for Life will leave at noon on January 21, 2007 and return on January 23rd. Total cost is \$150 per rider with two meals included. See the enclosed flyer or call Sondra McEnroe at 645-8000 for more information.

Family Resources Center Open House, Thursday, January 18, 2007 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM, 321 Main Street, Peoria, before the Walk and Sanctity of Human Life Rally.

Walk for Life, 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at the Peoria County Courthouse. After prayer we will walk together to the Rally carrying signs showing our support for the sanctity of all innocent human life.

Sanctity of Human Life Rally, 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at Sacred Heart Church in downtown Peoria by the Civic Center. The rally will feature special music and prayer along with reports on local Pro Life efforts. The keynote speaker will be announced.

Central Illinois Right To Life, Inc.

Presents

The Annual Sanctity of Human Life

Walk and Rally

Thursday, January 18, 2007

with the following events included

Open House at the Family Resources Center

321 Main Street in Peoria, IL

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Walk for Life

Peoria County Courthouse

6:30 pm

Prayer, singing, and walk to the Church for the Rally to follow

Sanctity of Human Life Rally

Sacred Heart Church

By the Civic Center

7:00 pm

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 on page 4 and mark the box next to volunteer help. Thank you and have a blessed year in 2007!

Heart of Illinois Life Chain Witnesses in Peoria

Prolife members of many of the churches in the Peoria area gathered to form the fifteenth annual human life chain which stretched several miles in Peoria on Sunday, October 1, 2006. The Life Chain is the largest nationwide prolife event. American Christians gathered in more than 800 cities and towns during this hour of prayer. This year Life Chain participants displayed signs with the message, Pray to End Abortion. Several other messages were displayed as well.

Again this year we were especially mindful of the message on other signs: Life – The First Inalienable Right. At our nation's conception 230 years ago, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that Life is the first inalienable right, given by God, our creator, to each of us at our creation, not just after birth. Our founding fathers held this conviction not as mere opinion, but rather as self-evident truth. An attack on innocent life, wherever situated, is an attack on our freedom everywhere.

The continuing war on terror and the Iraq war remind us that for our nation to survive, we must likewise hold the truth that life is an inalienable right and constitute our government to secure the right to life to all, born and preborn. Preborn children depend upon us for their safety and protection. As they grow up, we will depend on them for our safety and protection too. They will become the citizens and soldiers, firefighters and peacekeepers who safeguard us. In solidarity, we, born and unborn, are interdependent.

Plans for next year's Life Chain on Sunday, October 7 , 2007 are already underway. To help promote the Life Chain, contact 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.

Then Will felt God wanted him to go to India, where he entered as an illegal alien. He was shocked to discover that many of the Hindus took their infant children and exposed them to die as a holy act. The British government in India looked the other way because it didn't want to interfere with the culture or religion. But Will felt compelled to interfere because children were dying. He spoke out forcefully to prod both the British government and Indian society to spare the lives of innocent children and change the laws that permitted child-killing. As a result, eventually infanticide was abolished. Countless tens of thousands of children were saved by the activism of this one man.

.... Then one day Will witnessed something horrible-it was the practice called sati, where widows were burned alive on the funeral pyre of their deceased husband. After seeing one such death, he stood up in front of a group assembled to burn a woman alive. He told them the practice was wrong and they must not kill this woman. Seeing no other way to save her life, Will even lied and said the governor-general had threatened to hang the first man who lit the funeral pyre! He then led a group of missionaries in protesting widow burning. He also set up public debates on the subject to expose what was really happening, and to bring God's perspective to light. Missionary magazines in India published Will's arguments against widow burning. As a result, in his lifetime the age-old practice of widow-burning was abolished. ...

Some criticized Will for his moral and political actions. You know what they said? They said, "That's not what you're here for. Focus on the main thing. Just preach the gospel and pray. Stay away from politics and moral issues. Be concerned about spiritual lives, not physical lives."

Who was this radical? Who was this man involved in protests, boycotts, civil disobedience, attempts to change the laws, opening his home to the vulnerable and neglected, saving their lives from those who would have them killed? Who was this social activist so concerned about morality and laws and saving human lives? I'm glad you asked! His name was William Carey. If you've ever taken a class in church history or the history of missions, you know that today William Carey is called "the Father of Modern Missions."

Upcoming Pro Life Event

The Prayer Furnace for Life

Will be held at the Redeemer Lutheran Church

At 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 14 2007

Central Illinois Life News

“ Be Pro Life, Both In Words And In Actions”

Peoria Dining Tour coupon books are available again this year from Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc. The cost is \$30. The book contains over 250, two for one coupons for use at local restaurants and other businesses. The coupons are good till November 2007. Contact Sondra McEnroe at 673-4833 or the CIRTL office at 645-8000 for more information. All net proceeds will go to support Pro Life work.

Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday, January 21, 2007 is the Sunday on which Churches in our nation make a special effort to remember unborn children and women in difficult pregnancies. Let each of us encourage the leadership of our church not to “shrink from boldly declaring all of God’s message” on this special Sunday and throughout the year.

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. Brandywine Dr STE 6
 Peoria, IL 61614

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