

# Central Illinois Life News

## Pastors Speak Out

**I**n this column, we share reflections of Pro-Life Pastors from Central Illinois. The following was submitted by Pastor Harry Losey of First Presbyterian Church of Princeville.

Every time a baby is conceived, two people participate to make this miracle possible. However, in today's society, there is a tendency to see this miracle as a crisis, and particularly to see the pregnancy as a crisis for only the woman. Whatever happened to the man's responsibility in this process? Often, men are simply ignored, or at best, blamed for creating the crisis. A baby is usually conceived by two consenting persons. Therefore, in most cases, the blame can be shared more equally than we like to admit.

However, the problem lies not in accurately placing blame, so much as in the failure of everyone involved to accept responsibility for their own actions. We have witnessed with some of our Pro-Life efforts that the more we point fingers of accusation, the more people try to justify their behavior. The more we accuse, the more they seek to excuse. The truth that this behavior is destructive does need to be proclaimed, but in such a manner that the people can receive it. God's word says, "Speak the truth in love." So often the truth seems to be cloaked in self-righteousness instead. Statements like "I don't understand how anyone could do such a thing!" are an example. Most likely, if there is no room for compassion, there will be no room for repentance.

People will not change their minds and hearts about abortion until we acknowledge their pain and show we care more about them than we do about their sinful decisions. After all, aren't we all seeking unconditional love ... the kind of love that understands and shares the pain and forgives? This kind of Godly love not only protects the unborn, but also those born into this world who have lost their way. The best way to protect anyone is to introduce them to the One who can lead us away from temptation, forgive, and deliver us from evil. Our first and primary goal as Christians is to lovingly lead people to Jesus Christ. Only He can change hearts. Through His powerful love, He can show us all the precious value of life in all its stages, from conception to eternity.

The conception of a child was designed to be an act of love and commitment; if these two elements are missing, the act should not take place. Therein lies the original sin, without which abortion would no longer exist. We must start exploring the root causes and addressing the needs that result. At the root of it all is our failure to lovingly commit our lives completely to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without Him, our lives are a crisis; but with Him, we can truly live redeemed and responsible lives.

That is a miracle indeed.

## Coming Events

### 1995 Walk for Life

**T**he annual Walk for Life sponsored by Central Illinois Right to Life, will be January 23, 1995, at 6:30 P.M.

Participants will meet at the Peoria County courthouse. Pastor Mark Henninger of Pottstown Presbyterian Church will lead us in prayer and we will sing a hymn together.

The walk will proceed to the Peoria Civic Center for a Sanctity of Human Life rally at 7:00 P.M. The rally will feature music, a report on the Women's Pregnancy Center, and a message by Tom Glessner. Mr. Glessner is President and General Counsel of National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. As a lawyer, he is active in litigation on behalf of the unborn and works to protect the rights of Pro-Life citizens.

For information, call Dan Smith at 263-2086 or the Peoria Rescue Ministries at 676-6416.

### Family Resources Center Open

**T**he Family Resources Center at 321 Main Street in Peoria, will hold an open house prior to the Walk for Life on January 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call the FRC at (309)637-1713 for more information.

## ***Look for Central Illinois Right to Life booth At the 1995 Sunday School Convention Friday, February 24th and Saturday, February 25th.***

**Abortion happens behind closed doors, but God must watch every one...**

**From the President's Desk : When Principle Confronts Power**

**A**s a lawyer, I am intrigued by how much we dislike confrontation. Entertainers now deliver us non-confrontational heroes like Forrest Gump who quips, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You just don't know what you'll get." Persons of principle, the power elitists tell us, just do not confront anymore.

The power elitists especially do not like it when prolife persons are confrontational. I recall an editorial which Terry Bibo wrote this past summer in the Peoria Journal Star. Ms. Bibo wrote critically about a letter which John Stambaugh, a prolife activist, had written to Pioneer Square businesses urging them to relocate away from the facility where preborn babies are killed in Peoria and threatening to boycott their businesses. Ms. Bibo abhorred such confrontations which might even "kill businesses." What is more, she charged that such efforts are hypocritically unprincipled as she quoted a Proverb saying that the Lord hates dissension among brothers. She urged Journal Star readers to "pray about" that.

It would be sweet if life was a box of chocolates and principle walked hand in hand with power. But what happens when power collides with principle? What should we do?

Christians are called to imitate the highest Man of Principle, Jesus Christ. Was He non-confrontational? Just perusing the strong words ("vipers", "blind fools", "whited tombs", etc.) that He had to say about certain powerful men of his time convinces us that Christ was confrontational.

As a Christian lawyer, moreover, I find most instructive our Savior's personal confrontation at His trial before Pilate, as told in St. John's Gospel. What happened when Principle confronted power then? Jesus first educated Pilate, saying, "I came into this world to bear witness to the truth." But power was scornful of the truth, sneering, "Truth! What is truth?" Pilate sought Christ's acknowledgment of his power, but Christ put Pilate's power in its proper perspective, stating, "You would have no power at all against Me unless it was given from above." Ultimately, Pilate had Christ crucified.

When principle confronts power, something has to yield. Principle cannot bend the truth, nor refuse to proclaim it. Persuasion is the means by which principle directs power toward the truth. Power therefore must

either submit to the truth or attempt to crush it. If it does not submit, power attempts to crush principle by the force of persecution.

Accepting persecution is not a pleasant thought. That is why we dislike confrontation, even on behalf of principle. Christ's promise to us concerning this persecution makes it worth the price. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs shall be the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10. If we are faithful to principle, Christ promises us ultimately the peace of heaven. Persecution paves the road to that promised peace.

All of us have known persons of principle. As a lawyer, I appreciate most those who confront power on behalf of principle. My brother Jerry is for me the closest example of such a man. With attorney Harry Williams, I defended Jerry in his last confrontation with power before his death. The prosecutor charged Jerry with trespass for entering the Pioneer Square abortion center to persuade a professed Christian grandfather not to have his teenage daughter kill her preborn child, his grandchild. Jerry had previously spent a total of 21 days in jail after he refused to leave the same abortion center on one previous occasion. He knew that he would face persecution again for going back there. Still, principle cannot bend to the truth or refuse to proclaim it. Jerry had no opportunity to speak to the grandfather before he went into the abortion center, so Jerry followed him inside and spoke to him there.

I recently reread Jerry's final statement to the judge before he was sentenced. In eighteen double spaced pages, he eloquently explained why we must confront abortion around us. He closed with a reference to the 18th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. There, Christ warned us not to despise even the smallest among us because their angels behold the face of God in heaven. Further, Christ told us that it is not the Father's will that even one of the little ones should perish. Finally, He enjoined us to go and reprove our brother in private if he sins. "If he listens to you, you have won your brother."

In his statement to the court, Jerry told how he had previously received a late night call from a

# Sanctity of Human Life Week :

## January 22-28, 1995

*Its a Child, not a Choice!*

friend of a young mother who had scheduled an abortion the next morning. Jerry called the young mother's parents and informed them of their daughter's plan. The parents found their daughter that night and persuaded her to cancel the appointment with death. The mother gave birth to her child who now lives happily with her. "Words have that power, your Honor," Jerry told the judge. The judge sentenced him to twenty days in jail.

Mothers who have experienced remorse after aborting their preborn children's lives convince us that no matter how difficult a birth may be, such difficulties pale by comparison with the torment of knowing that one has willfully killed his or her own child. While mothers almost always overcome the pain of childbirth and parents find strength which they did not know they had to raise their children, few parents can face this torment. Mentally and spiritually, they are at war with themselves.

When we assist mothers and fathers to choose life for their children, we safeguard the Innocents from perishing, we win over their parents, our brothers and sisters, to God's peace, and we find that peace ourselves. To obtain these rewards, Christ calls us to confront the power of our age which despises the smallest among us. We know that persecution awaits those who confront power on behalf of principle. We endure that persecution for the sake of the children, our brother and sisters, and ourselves. May we all be together to share God's peace.

*Dan Smith*

**Dan is the outgoing president of Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.**

**Report on Recent Events**

## **Election 1994**

Pro life people every where were heartened by the results of this years mid-term congressional elections. There are several new pro-life Senators and over 40 new pro-life members of the U.S. House. The citizens of Illinois elected a pro-life Secretary of State and Attorney General and many local races were won as well.

**Let us make the message clear to any of our governmental leaders who would try to distance themselves from or totally desert their former Pro-Life positions: You do not have to compromise the protection of the unborn child in order to win elections. In fact, such compromise may cost you the**

## **DO YOU KNOW THE FACTS ?**

*Do You Know?*

That abortion is legal at any time throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy ...  
**FOR ANY REASON**

*Do You Know?*

That 18 days after conception, the baby's heart is beating

*Do You Know?*

At 6 weeks, brain waves can be measured  
At 8 weeks, the stomach, liver, kidneys, are functioning and fingerprints have formed  
At 9 weeks, the unborn child can feel pain

**Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart.**

*Jeremiah 1:5*

*Do You Know?*

772,800 abortions are performed each year in America after 9 weeks into the pregnancy.

**For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. *Psalm 139:13-16***

*Do You Know?*

Every Third Baby Dies From Abortion  
That's 1.6 million babies each year  
4,400 each day  
1 every 20 seconds

*The overwhelming majority of all abortions, (95%), are done as a means of birth control. Only 1% are performed because of rape or incest; 1% because of fetal abnormalities; 3% due to the mother's health problems.*

**So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female**

**He created them. *Genesis 1:27***

**If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14***

# 1995 ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE

**What ???**



The annual Walk for Life is held each year in Cities Nationwide to mark the notorious anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision known as Roe vs. Wade which made abortion legal in the United states and has led to the death of 32 million unborn children over the past 22 years.

This year's Walk for Life, sponsored by Central Illinois Right to Life, will be held on Monday, January 23, 1995 at 6:30 P.M.

**When ???**



**Where ???**




We will meet at the Peoria County Court House at the corner of Jefferson Street and Main Street in Peoria. The Walk will proceed to the Peoria Civic Center for a Sanctity of Human Life Rally at 7:00 P.M., sponsored by the Women's Pregnancy Center.

**There are already 32 million reasons**

**... and counting ...**

***how many more do we need ?***

**Why ???**



Do you wish you could accomplish something for the Pro-Life cause, but are not sure what to do? Every third Monday at 7:30 p.m., we have a meeting at the Christian Center in Peoria to share ideas and efforts being made to reach people with the Pro-Life message. Anyone is welcome. For more information, call Lori Ramirez at (309)686-2456.

**Become an Active Pro-Lifer !**

***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 Maria

***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

**Annual Garage Sale ... Where are all the Pro-Lifers ???**

*In order to continue to have our garage sale fund-raiser, we need:*

1. SEVERAL MORE VOLUNTEERS TO COMMIT TO TWO OR MORE HOURS BEFORE, DURING, AND OR AFTER THE SALE. Ideally we need church groups to sponsor time slots.
2. A PLACE TO HAVE THE SALE. Since school buildings are normally unavailable until summer, an empty store front or warehouse/storage type building is needed for at least one week, preferably in April or early May.
3. NICE MERCHANDISE. Please start saving your clean usable items including furniture.

*If you are a garage-saler or gifted organizer, we need your input. Last year's sale was a good success but our helpers were very overworked. We are unable to do it all without your help. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this important event. It not only helps Central Illinois Right to Life raise much needed funds but serves the community by making quality items available at bargain prices.*

**THE COMMITTEE FOR THIS YEAR'S SALE NEEDS TO BE FORMED BY MARCH.**

Please phone Patty at (309)446-3057 or Diane at (309)692-6340, or send your name, address, and phone number, along with any helpful suggestions to Central Illinois Right to Life.

***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

## Life : What will you do ?

### **NO MORE EXCUSES SEMINAR**

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform will present its NO MORE EXCUSES SEMINAR on Saturday, January 21, 1995 in Ottawa, IL at St. Columba School, located at 1110 LaSalle St. Registration is at 8:30 a.m., the seminar lasts from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. The speaker will be Scott Klusendorf, Center Educational Director. Fees are \$15 for singles and \$25 for couples registered before Jan. 12. Call Illinois Valley Citizens for Life at (815)434-7223 for information and

### **Write for Life**

The Professional Women's Network recently announced its 1995 Scholarship Essay Contest on the topic: **Abortion Hurts Women**. This contest is open to any female high school senior. Awards include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place. To enter, submit a 500 word essay with entrant's address and phone number to PWN, PO Box 146842, Chicago, IL 60614, by Feb. 15, 1995. For more information, call (312)362-1620.

### **The Second Saturday Series**

Members and friends of CIRTIL meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Christian Center for a Pro-Life video and discussion. For information, call Dan Smith at 263-2086.

**Central Illinois Right to Life, Inc.**

4100 N. War Memorial

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