

Lifespan

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you.” Jeremiah 1:5

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Worldwide News... [Source: SPUC]

France—The French Senate narrowly defeated a bill that would have legalized the practice of euthanasia for people with disabilities, encompassing those who had “chronic” as well as “terminal” conditions. The measure was co-sponsored by members of the French Socialist and French Communist parties. Prior to the vote on the measure, over 700 demonstrators gathered and pretended to lay dead in order to make a visceral impact on the Senators who were about to vote on the measure. Despite the dramatic statement, the vote remained close, 170–142. A recent French poll found that 52% of the respondents felt that the legalization of euthanasia would lead to abuse and 60% indicated a preference towards palliative care as a priority, while only 38% agreed with the legalization of euthanasia. In other news, the French High Court has affirmed traditional marriage. In a surprising decision for an increasingly secular nation, the Court found that the French prohibition of same-sex marriage is in accord with the French constitution. The French Constitutional Council is the nation’s highest authority on the French constitution. The body advises the government on the constitutionality of elections and laws, but also has the authority to rule on cases brought before it by French citizens. Such was the case with this ruling. In the fall of 2010, a lesbian couple challenged the constitutionality of the French civil code, claiming that the exclusion of same-sex marriage violated a citizen’s right to lead a “normal family life” and the principle of equality before the law. The court ruled that the difference in family laws is justified based on the obvious differences in situations between homosexual & heterosexual couples and that civil unions fulfill a “plethora of legal, fiscal and official benefits...sufficient for a ‘normal family life’”. There remains, however, the possibility that the case may be appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in the hope that the body will challenge the French government’s decision.

India—Scientists in India have developed a method to collect, process and harvest stem cells from menstrual blood. Until now, menstrual blood was discarded as unsanitary waste. Recent research has shown however, that menstrual blood contains a large number of self-renewing stem cells that multiply rapidly and can differentiate into many other types of cells including: neural, cardiac, bone, fat, cartilage, and others, demonstrating great potential for stem cell therapy. After menstrual blood is collected and processed, the stem cells are harvested and frozen in liquid nitrogen for cryogenic preservation, enabling the cells to retain their potency and viability for an indefinite period of time.

Spain—The results of a study conducted on the contraceptive habits of Spanish women of childbearing age since 1997 have demonstrated that the use of contraception does not equate to fewer abortions. As part of the study, the women were asked

every two years about their contraceptive use and whether or not they became pregnant or had an abortion. The study showed that the overall use of contraception increased from 49% to 80% over a ten year period ending in 2007. The increase in contraceptive use included both condoms and birth control pills, with more women preferring the pill. Despite the increased reliance on contraception, the elective abortion rate increased from 5.52 to 11.49 per 1,000 women. Pro-life advocates have commented that the study only supports an obvious truth—the more casual sex a person engages in, the greater the likelihood of pregnancy, contraception notwithstanding. Contraception provides a false sense of security and abortion is always the failsafe for failed contraception. Statistics around the world support the Spanish conclusion as well. In Great Britain, the government has spent over 300 million pounds to promote comprehensive sex education that begins in primary school, yet teen pregnancy and abortion rates are the highest they have ever been. In 2008, the Swedish abortion rate rose 17% from the prior year despite increasing sales of the morning after pill in the nation. The same is true for other nations as well.

National News... [Source: SPUC]

California—As the Los Angeles District Attorney considers homicide charges in the case of a botched abortion, the practitioner responsible voluntarily surrenders his medical license, for the second time. Andrew Rutland performed an abortion on Ying Chen in July 2009 at a filthy, ill-equipped acupuncture clinic that doubled as an abortion facility for Rutland. Rutland administered the wrong dosage of anesthesia to Chen who began to have an immediate reaction. Rutland delayed in calling 911 and by the time emergency personnel were summoned to the clinic, Ying was in coronary arrest. She was taken to a local hospital where she died six days later. Chen’s boyfriend, Zixiang Hu, on behalf of his and Ying’s 2-year-old daughter, has filed suit against Rutland for malpractice and wrongful death. The LA County Coroner’s office has ruled the death a homicide and charges from the DA’s office are pending. The chief medical examiner in the case called the circumstances surrounding Chen’s death a “gross and wanton disregard for the well being of the patient” and said the abortion clinic was a “dangerous environment for any potential resuscitation.” Rutland himself is no stranger to medical malpractice and wrongful death. Rutland surrendered his license in 2002 for severing a baby’s spinal column during a forceps delivery and then trying to cover his actions by lying to the parents and telling them that the baby had suffered a stroke. The baby later died. Rutland’s license was reinstated in 2007 and he was placed on five years probation with the directive that he be supervised by another physician.

Missouri—The Missouri state House removed the health exception from the current state law restricting abortion. Currently, Missouri law prohibits post-viability abortions except to “preserve the life or health of the mother.” Health exceptions, like the one found in the Supreme Court ruling of *Doe v. Bolton* (the *Roe v. Wade* companion case), essentially allow abortions for any reason so long as health is cited as the reason for the abortion. The *Doe* decision interpreted health to include all factors causing distress, physical or emotional. In other words, it is abortion on demand for any reason. The change to the Missouri law makes it so that late-term abortions can only be done in extremely rare circumstances, such as a threat to the mother’s life or a serious impairment of bodily function as a result of the

pregnancy. In such cases, a second physician would have to sign off on the abortion. Abortion practitioners who violate the new law could be subject to up to seven years in prison and fines ranging from ten to fifty thousand dollars.

New York—Despite statistics released by the New York City Department of Health showing that over 41% of all pregnancies in the city end in abortion, which is nearly double the national rate of 24%, the city continues to attack pro-life pregnancy centers and silence the voices opposed to abortion who offer alternatives. Given its grim statistics, New York is truly the abortion capital of the world. One of every four abortions is performed on women age 20–24. Roughly half were African-American and one quarter were Hispanic. Most of the women lived in the Bronx or Brooklyn in poor neighborhoods. Planned Parenthood is silent in response to the chilling numbers and the Left continues to argue that the solution to the problem is increased access to contraception. However, over 60 organizations in NYC are passing out free condoms daily. Indifferent to this reality, the NYC council overwhelmingly passed a bill that attacks pregnancy centers. On a 39-9-1 vote, the council passed an ordinance which Mayor Bloomberg is fully expected to sign, that places stringent limits on pregnancy center advertising and requires the centers to post signs that dissuade women from not seeking abortions. The bill also exposes these centers to costly lawsuits by providing a private right of action from “aggrieved persons.” The ultimate goal of the bill is to shut down pregnancy centers and leave women with no option but abortion. In light of the statistics, the council’s actions are unconscionable. The American Center for Law & Justice, a pro-life legal watchdog group, does intend to challenge the council’s ruling in court and will cite a similar case in Maryland that was overturned by a federal judge for unfairly targeting crisis pregnancy centers. Black pro-life groups, concerned over the high rate of abortions in the black community, in what they have correctly termed “black genocide,” began an advertising campaign in the So-Ho District of NYC to raise awareness in the black community. The pro-life group, Life Always, paid for a 4-story sign on the side of a building to draw attention the fact that 300,000 black children are killed annually in the U.S. The advertising company, Lamar Advertising, however, bowed to the pressure of abortion advocates and removed the sign. Al Sharpton was cited as one of the primary people leading the protests against the billboard—amazing behavior from a man who claims to stand for the rights of the black community.

Oklahoma—The Oklahoma state House has approved legislation that would make the state the next to prohibit abortions after 20 weeks based on medical evidence that unborn children feel pain. The House Bill 1888, “Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” would require abortionists to accurately determine the gestational age of the fetus and prohibit all abortions after 20 weeks. The vote was 94-2. Scientists have provided irrefutable proof that the functioning neurological structures necessary to feel pain are present in the fetus as early as 8 weeks, but most certainly by 13 weeks. Currently, similar measures were passed in Nebraska and Kansas, and legislation is pending in: Idaho, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Maryland.

Pennsylvania—Abortionist Kermit Gosnell has been charged with eight counts of murder from botched abortions associated with his Philadelphia clinic that was dubbed a “house of horrors” by the press upon the discovery of severed fetal body parts and the filthy condition of the facility. The murder charges include

grisly infanticides that involved Gosnell snipping the spines of babies with scissors who had purposefully been delivered premature in order to kill them. Gosnell’s operation was exposed after a client reported that he had forcibly aborted her child after she had changed her mind about the procedure. Davida Johnson, a 21-year-old mother of a three-year-old child, had chosen Gosnell’s clinic for her abortion after seeing protesters at the Planned Parenthood clinic. Gosnell assured her that she would not encounter protestors as he did abortions during “off-hours.” Before Gosnell could complete the abortion, Johnson changed her mind and told the staff that she did not want to go through with the abortion. They responded by tying her arms and hands down to the table, administered more medication and completed the abortion. Johnson has claimed that she has begun to suffer from psychological problems after the episode. Gosnell’s abuses were not limited to Johnson however. One woman was left lying on a bloody table for hours after Gosnell tore her cervix and colon while trying to extract the baby. The woman was eventually transported to a hospital, bleeding and incoherent, where doctors needed to remove almost six inches of her intestines. In another case, Gosnell sent a patient home with fetal parts inside her; she developed a serious infection and eventually ended up in the ER, unconscious and near death. A 19-year-old suffered a punctured uterus during an abortion that resulted in a hysterectomy. Another woman came forward with information that she required open heart surgery following an abortion at Gosnell’s clinic that left her disabled. Despite these egregious violations of medical standards, state officials did relatively little to inspect the center and file reports that would be considered standard practice for any medical facility. Under the direction of the new governor, several health officials connected with the case were fired and Philadelphia officials were directed to begin cracking down on other abortion centers. The inspections uncovered situations that were so serious at two Philadelphia clinics that the owners agreed to voluntarily shut them down and retire as opposed to correcting the violations.

Utah—The Utah state House passed a measure that would allow doctors who are morally opposed to abortion to refuse to participate in them—including cases of rape or incest. The bill ensures that physicians are immune from civil lawsuits arising from the refusal to perform an abortion.

Washington DC—An immigrant family was forced to watch their mother dehydrate to death against their wishes in a case that demonstrates the danger of allowing euthanasia in a system where there exists pressure to contain costs. On February 19, Ms. Nyirahabiyambere’s feeding tube was removed on the order of a court-appointed guardian, despite the fact that Ms. N’s six adult children (two of whom are U.S. citizens) were unanimously opposed to the removal of the tube. Georgetown University Medical Center, a supposedly Catholic medical institution run by the Jesuit order where Ms. N spent eight costly months without insurance, was frustrated that it could not discharge her. At the behest of the hospital, the legal guardianship of the family was challenged and the court appointed a nurse/lawyer, on the recommendation of a lawyer in the employ of the hospital. Ms. N survived for almost two weeks without food or water while her family was forced to watch her agonizing death.

Washington—The latest report from the state shows that 87 people received lethal doses of medications under the law that

makes Washington the second state in the union to legalize euthanasia. Of the 87 persons, 51 died after ingesting the lethal prescriptions, 15 of other causes and 6 are unaccounted for. The published data from the 2010 report is so limited and unreliable that even supporters of the law are unable to say with certainty that there was compliance with the safety guidelines of the code. Some experts have concluded that the law has enabled elder abuse and financial coercion. It is interesting to note that the Department of Health has not followed up on cases of potential elder abuse to date.

Local News...

On January 24, CDL attended the Annual March for Life in DC with 325 Lancaster residents, including a large number of youth groups from various local churches. In DC, we joined over 250,000 people from around the nation to stand up for life and witness to the truth that human life begins at the moment of conception.

Political Action Corner...

1. Obamacare: Following successful challenges in Florida and Virginia, which ruled various portions of the new federal health care law unconstitutional, a number of states are continuing to appeal or opt out of the federal mandate. We need to keep up the pressure. Please contact your representative and tell them we do not need this un-fundable, federally mandated program that will lead to reduced quality of care, reduced access to health care professionals and eventual rationing.

2. Planned Parenthood Funding: It is unconscionable that Planned Parenthood should receive any federal tax money in light of recent findings that the organization has consistently covered up the statutory rape of minors and even assisted sex traffickers in procuring abortions for the underage girls they prostitute. The House of Representatives passed a short term resolution to fund the government by 271-158. House Republicans were forced to release a new bill, which temporarily funded the government because pro-abortion Democrats defeated a long term bill which contained pro-life provisions, one of which was to defund Planned Parenthood. 54 Republicans voted against the short term bill because they wanted the inclusion of the Pence Amendment which would have defunded Planned Parenthood. We need to tell our representatives that de-funding PP is non-negotiable.

3. Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC): On March 10, the Obama Administration told the UN Human Rights Council that it supports the ratification of the CRC. This legally binding convention would limit parental rights, interfere with religious liberty and corrupt the morality and innocence of young children. Senator Jim DeMint has introduced a measure to oppose the ratification of this treaty. SR99 has 32 co-sponsors currently; 40 are needed for the measure to move forward. Please contact our Senators and tell them to support this measure and oppose any move towards ratification.

4. Conscience Rights: On February 17, Secretary for Health & Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, announced the cancellation of significant protections for health care workers. The move leaves in place legal safeguards for abortion and sterilization, but removes protection for non-participation in services such as in vitro fertilization, contraception, emergency contraception and the facilitation of sexual practices that violate natural law. When a health care worker refuses to perform, administer or facilitate these services, it is not "discrimination against the patient." Unjust discrimination would be refusing to provide a service to

which one has a right and is medically necessary. All of the "treatments" in question are elective procedures and are not medically necessary. Additionally, no one should have the right to obtain an immoral, non-therapeutic medical treatment or medicine. Contact your Senator and let them know that this action by the Obama Administration is immoral!

5. Life at Conception Act: Please voice your support for the Life at Conception Act (S.91) sponsored by Senator Jim Wicker (R-MS). The Amendment has 13 sponsors thus far. In the 1973, Roe v. Wade decision, Blackmun wrote that "*if personhood is established, the appellant's case collapses, for the fetus' right to life is then specifically guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.*" S91 seeks to establish personhood for the fetus from the moment of conception and throughout all stages of life. If this bill is enacted, it will essentially overturn Roe v. Wade. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) has introduced a parallel bill in the House (H.R. 374) which currently has 53 sponsors.

6. MTV's "SKINS": MTV has produced a new show aimed at teens that may be in violation of the federal law against child pornography. Federal law prohibits the visual depiction of "sexually explicit conduct" among children. *Skins* features the sexual escapades and drug episodes of a group of teenage outcasts, with actors ranging in age from 15 to 19. Contact the Department of Justice and demand an investigation! MTV has gone too far!

Did You Know?...

- Following revelations that taxpayer funds were used to pay for abortions at the University of North Carolina, Students for Life conducted an investigation into the policies of other colleges and universities to find out how many compel students to enroll in a health plan that covers elective abortion. The results? **Of 200 top colleges surveyed, 66% require students to have coverage; 191 of the 200 offered school sponsored plans; 46.5% of those plans covered elective abortion.**
- In January 2011, the Obama Administration announced its policy that applications for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad and passports would no longer use the designation of "mother" and "father," but instead, "parent 1" and "parent 2." The State Department indicated that the changes were made to "*provide a gender neutral description of parents and recognize different types of families.*" Make no mistake, the Obama Administration is pandering to the homosexual lobby and fully supports their agenda and mission to destroy the traditional family. Viewing this in light of the revocation of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military and Obama's recent announcement that it would no longer defend DOMA, it is clear that this administration has made the advancement of homosexual rights a priority.
- A new report released by the Guttmacher Institute, an arm of Planned Parenthood, shows that 54% of women who have had abortions had used a contraceptive method, usually the condom or pill, during the month they became pregnant.
- Planned Parenthood took in more than \$1 billion in revenue in 2010 with a little help from Hollywood friends. PP has received a stunning number of celebrity endorsements from musicians, writers, actors and others. To name a few: Joanna Garcia, Big Boi, Joy Bryant, Flo Rida, Keri Hilson, Perez Hilton, Kid Sister, Benji, Joel Madden, Method Man, NERD, Redman, Asher Roth, Amy Brenneman, Kate Walsh, Kathleen Turner, Alan Cumming, Jon Stewart, Heather Tom, Bree Wilson, Amber

Tamblyn, Olympia Dukakis, Julianne Moore, Hector Elizondo, Eric Bogosian, Vincent D'Onofrio, Kathryn Erbe, Julianne Nicholson and Jane Fonda, to name a few.

In Memoriam...

After a long battle with cancer, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, abortionist turned crusader for life, passed away on February 21. In the 1970's, Dr. Nathanson was a successful abortion practitioner in NYC who had, at his own admission, personally presided over more than 75,000 abortions. After witnessing a live abortion on ultrasound, a newly introduced technology at the time, Dr. Nathanson knew that his career as an abortionist was over. What he saw so troubled him that he restricted his practice and then eventually stopped doing abortions altogether. This man, who was the co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), was now pro-life and determined to atone for his past. Dr. Nathanson became a successful author and speaker and his story did indeed change the hearts and minds of many others. His pro-life journey also became a journey to God for this born Jewish, professed atheist who became a Catholic. His voice will be missed but his testament that any heart can be transformed through the grace of God into a beacon of light remains with us forever. RIP.

Book Notes...

The young woman who captured the attention of the national news media because she had a change of heart is telling her story in her newly released book entitled, "*Lamenting Roe, Celebrating a Change of Heart.*" Abby Johnson quit her job as the Director of a Texas Planned Parenthood Clinic in 2009 after witnessing an ultrasound-guided abortion. In the opening chapter of her book, Abby tells the dramatic story of the moment that changed her life forever. Abby Johnson had worked for Planned Parenthood for eight years and in that time, never witnessed an actual procedure. As director, she would fill different roles, but the abortions were always left to the nurse practitioners and doctor. On this day, the clinic was using a visiting abortionist who was fairly new and did only ultra-sound guided abortions as he felt that this was the safest way for the woman. Abby's clinic had never used this technology before. In the ten minutes that it took for the abortionist to end the life of the baby girl inside the patient's womb, Abby's life was forever changed. What Abby saw was a baby, just like the ultrasound pictures of her own child. And then, she saw that child die, struggling to escape what was happening to it. Abby knew that she was living a lie and has now penned the words to tell the world about what she learned.

To purchase a copy of her book,
visit <http://ignatius.com/UNP-H/unplanned.aspx>.

"Abby's story is one of great moral courage in an age that groans for the lack of it. Hers is a modern parable of hope for us all, witnessing to the truth that sets the human heart free. A riveting story."

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President, Susan B. Anthony List

"Beautifully written, intimate and honest. A wonderful portrait of the power of truth and grace working the human heart."

Archbishop Charles Chaput

Planned Parenthood's Fiction

In the argument over tax funding, Planned Parenthood is always trying to convince the public that they are worthy of government funding because they provide many needed services to women other than abortion and that they are just as committed to reducing the number of abortions in the U.S. and ensuring that the ones that occur are done safely. Fact or fiction? We say fiction.

Deception #1: Taxpayer funds do not pay for abortions.

Truth: *Planned Parenthood gets 1/3 of its annual budget from taxpayer funding and it performed more than 650,000 abortions in 2009.*

Deception #2: Planned Parenthood wants to reduce the number of abortions in the US.

Truth: *In 2011, Planned Parenthood's revenues totaled over a billion dollars and it generated more than \$63 million in profit with abortion as a primary component of its operation. Planned Parenthood has established an organization called the Consortium of Abortion Providers, the primary goal of which is to ensure that every Planned Parenthood clinic will eventually provide surgical and non-surgical abortions. Planned Parenthood also recently issued a directive mandating that all of its affiliates provide abortions by 2013. Is this the action of an organization that is interested in making abortions rare?*

Deception #3: Planned Parenthood's priority is the health and safety of women.

Truth: For years, Planned Parenthood has violated the law by failing to report cases of statutory rape against minors. In recent years, pro-life sting operations have gotten proof of this on video tape. Additionally, thanks to the commitment of such groups to exposing truth, Planned Parenthood has shown itself as a willing accomplice in aiding and abetting sex traffickers in their professed exploitation of underage girls. Planned Parenthood has also adamantly opposed laws in nearly two dozen states that require clinic staff to show a woman an ultrasound of her child before an abortion is performed. They have consistently opposed any measure of informed consent, even literature that would explain fetal development to a woman considering abortion. PP denies that there is any connection between abortion and breast cancer, when there have been countless studies that show without a doubt that the connection is real and fatal. PP denies that there are any psychological consequences to an abortion despite the fact that thousands of women, like those of Silent No More, are speaking out. Planned Parenthood opposes all forms of parental consent in the abortion decision, yet minors are not permitted to have any other surgery without such consent or even receive a tattoo or body piercing. No, Planned Parenthood does not put women and children first; they put their profits first.

"Eugenics is...the most adequate and thorough avenue to the solution of racial and social problems...birth control, often denounced as a violation of natural law, is nothing more or less than the facilitation of the process of weeding out the unfit, of preventing the births of defectives or those who will become defectives."

Margaret Sanger

Founder, Planned Parenthood, 1921