



WHEN ONE CHOICE HAS LONG-LASTING EFFECTS

IN 1972, A 16-YEAR OLD GIRL WAS PREGNANT, unmarried, and scared. This was pre-Roe v. Wade, and she lived in a state where abortion was not legal. An uncle suggested selling his car to pay for an abortion in another state. She could just run away and get rid of the "problem." Perhaps it was the inconvenience of travel, or the expense involved, or maybe because she knew in her heart that this was not just a "problem"—this was a child, her child—but she chose not to abort. She chose not to run. She chose to tell her boyfriend and her family. She chose life for her son, who now works at Faith Baptist Bible College. Because of her choice, his life is having an impact on the next generation, teaching how it looks to operate out of a faithful biblical worldview.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

I STOOD AT THE postal counter, watching the friendly clerk with the "helpful smile" weighing and attaching postage to the boxes and envelopes I had brought in that morning. It was mailing day for baby bottles and brochures! 20 minutes later, I was done. Postage was about 1.5 times more than last year, because there are more participants this year! We are so grateful for the folks that fill these bottles year after year, continuing their faithful support for the ministry at Alpha!



ADOPTION SUCCESS

A LOCAL CHURCH "adopted" a number of our Alpha moms and babies this past Christmas. We have heard from some of the moms--comments like, "Everything was so nice!" and "Those toys were awesome!" and "This is what I gave my children as their Christmas presents." (meaning, without these gifts, these children would not have had presents.) It was obvious that the givers were careful in their selection of gifts. It was like they were shopping for their own children or grandchildren, and not just looking for the least expensive option. We want to communicate the dignity and value of life in everything we do here at Alpha. We want to serve with excellence. And that is exactly what these folks did!



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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the US handed down their landmark decision known as Roe v. Wade, in which the court determined that it was an unconstitutional invasion of privacy for the government to limit a woman's "right" to abortion. I have asked Pastor Jeriah Shank--a pastor and apologist--to write a guest article, which is included with this newsletter.

Jeanie Thomas,
Executive Director



*"When you see Christian belief receding in a society, there is no way to prevent the logic of the culture of death from taking hold...Once that begins to happen, then all human life becomes by definition more endangered."
- Albert Mohler, The Briefing
Jan 7, 2020*

OFFERING HELP FOR TODAY & HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

CURRENT NEEDS DONATIONS

Though all donations are welcome, the following items are particularly needed! Please consider adding one or more of these items to your list for your next shopping trip!

- DIAPERS SIZE 3-6
- WIPES
- SUMMER CLOTHING ALL SIZES NB - 2T

Drop your donation off at either location.

TWO WAYS TO PRAY FOR AWC

- 1 A successful baby bottle campaign
- 2 Faithful trained volunteers

PUTTING 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 INTO PRACTICE...

Duty can pack an adequate sack lunch, but love may decide to tuck a little love note inside...

Obligation sends the kids to bed on time, but love tucks the covers in around their necks and passes out kisses and hugs...

Obligation can pour a glass of milk. But quite often love will add a little chocolate.

- Linda Andersen

RESPONDING WITH THE "PROTECT LIFE AMENDMENT"

AS THIS NEWSLETTER goes to print, there is some encouraging news on the legislative front in Iowa--an Iowa Senate subcommittee approved Senate Joint Resolution 21, which would amend the Iowa Constitution to ensure there is no right to abortion or taxpayer-funded abortions in the state.

Last year, in ruling against the "Heart-beat Bill" signed by Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Supreme Court stated that the bill put an undue burden on women who might seek to exercise their "fundamental right to abortion."

The Protect Life Amendment is a response to that ruling from the court, and clarifies that there is no right to abortion in the Iowa Constitution.

The measure reads: "Protection of life. To defend the dignity of all human life, and to protect mothers and unborn children from efforts to expand abortion even to the day of birth, we the people of the state of Iowa declare that this Constitution shall not be construed to recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or to require the public funding of abortion."

Governor Kim Reynolds voiced her support for the measure during her State of the State address in January. The measure will now move on to another committee for consideration.



LITTLE VOLUNTEERS

WE HAD SOME LITTLE helpers stop by our office to volunteer this past quarter! We teach our children the importance of serving when we let them help us do so. Becky (pictured left) giving instructions to some young servants on the proper technique for re-pack-aging diapers, while their Moms worked in our resource closet. What a fun night!!



When you wanna help...but you need a little help to help!



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IS THE BATTLE FOR LIFE WORTH FIGHTING?

A LETTER FROM JERIAH SHANK

Dear Alpha Women's Center Supporter,

Our nation is exceptionally divided on many issues. One of the chief issues is that of abortion, often phrased as "women's rights" or the "right to choose." The camps are set with the pro-life side advocating for laws that prohibit abortion and the pro-choice side opposing any attempt to set limits to abortion freedoms. Since Roe v. Wade, millions of children have been murdered at the altar of free choice. In 2017, there were 862,320 disclosed abortions in the U.S. 18% of the pregnancies in that year ended in abortion. In the almost 50 years since Roe v. Wade, the numbers tally in the tens of millions.

Christians have always opposed practices that result in the death of children, either in the womb or after birth. Through all of church history until the 1900's, the church has spoken with a unified voice that, when God's word forbids murder, this command addresses abortion as well. The Didache, an early church document from the second century used for teaching theology to local churches, states, "You shall not kill the child by abortion nor kill one who has been born." Further, Tertullian, one of the leaders of the church in the late second and early third centuries, wrote, "In our case, murder is forbidden. Therefore, we may not destroy even the fetus in the womb... To hinder a birth is merely a speedier way to kill a human. It does not matter whether you take away a life that has been born, or destroy one that has not yet been born."

The science is on the side of those who support life. It is obvious that the baby in the womb is a human baby. Our particular classification has nothing to do with stage of development. Otherwise, a person, once born, would become more human as he or she gets older. But it is obvious that a 5-year old, 30-year old, or 80-year old are all equally homo sapiens. Further, that the baby is alive is seen from the fact that it, from the moment of conception, metabolizes, responds to stimuli, and begins to reproduce its own cells to grow its body. It is also obvious that the baby in the womb is not identical with the mother. Babies in the womb can have a different gender than the mother if the baby is male and, from the moment of conception, each fertilized egg has its own unique genetic code.

So why is the science not winning the debate? It is because this debate is a spiritual issue. It points to the authority of God over His creation, to the reality of persons being made

in His image, and to the moral responsibility of sex, marriage, and children. But to a world that desires autonomy above all else, as Romans 1:18-32 indicates, the "right" of abortion is a foundational element to being free from responsibility or accountability. To say, or even suggest, otherwise is to commit cultural blasphemy and it will be met with hostility accordingly.

WHY KEEP FIGHTING?

Given the political climate in which we find ourselves and the hostility we face when we voice opposition to the idolatry of self-worship and the murder of children, why should we continue to put in the finances, effort, and passion that this movement demands?

THE CHILDREN WHO ARE BEING MURDERED

MATTER: This issue is personal. By personal, I mean that it directly affects people and is not simply an abstract concept and that it affects me personally. I myself could have easily become a statistic. My birth mother was single, young, had health issues, and was unable to provide for me. According to many of those who support a pro-choice position, these things would have justified her choosing to end her pregnancy, resulting in my death. But, by God's grace, she had another option, and she chose to put me up for adoption instead. Now, I am a pastor and apologist with a beautiful wife and three wonderful little girls. My life mattered. And each of these children, made in God's image, matter. They have value, worth, and purpose. As Psalm 139:13-14 states, "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well." Even if, in theory, this was a fight that we would never win, it would still be worth fighting. If your child was in danger, you wouldn't give up just because it didn't look like you were doing any good. You would die trying. All children, made in God's image, deserve the same from us!

THE WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN SOLD A BILL

OF LIES MATTER: These women are fed the lie that the baby is not a human or that it feels no pain, both of which are not true. They are told that the babies in their wombs are simply an extension of their bodies, with all the same rights as a fingernail clipping. They are even told

that the child inside of them will ruin their lives, end their dreams, and create unbearable pain. As a result, not only is the baby's life ended, but such choices lead to heart-breaking numbers of women plagued with guilt, sorrow, and despair. According to numerous studies, women who choose abortions are at high risk for depression, drug and alcohol use, and even suicide. These women need to be told the truth about what their choices lead to, what options are available, and how they can be helped and loved.

THINGS ARE CHANGING: The nation as a whole is slowly changing in its views and practices regarding abortions, which are now at the lowest yearly totals since Roe v. Wade. On the national stage, laws are finally being passed and upheld that support the fight for life. As recently as December of 2019, the Supreme Court upheld a law in the state of Kentucky requiring ultrasounds for those wishing to have an abortion.

WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT: We live in a land of great opportunity. We have much freedom to take part in the moral temperature of our country. The sad truth is that a nation's morality is what it comes to be because its people allow it to come to be. But the Bible is clear that we will also give an account before the Lord for what we did with our opportunities, resources, and freedoms. When we stand before the Lord, we will not be able to answer that it wasn't our problem, that it wasn't our fault, or that someone else should have done it. Rather, we will give an account for our activity, or lack thereof.

HOW DO WE WIN?

PRAY: The Bible is clear that prayer changes things. God desires that we pray for Him to work change in hearts, in situations, and in governments. Some may object, "We have been praying. If God desires to stop this, wouldn't He have done so by now?" Tell that to the Israelites when they were enslaved in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, or Persia! In 1 Thess. 5:17 we are told to "pray without ceasing." This means to not stop praying until God answers. Don't give up praying that abortion will someday become a distant memory in our history. After all, it worked for slavery!

BE PROACTIVE: Politics will never lead to salvation. Salvation and changed hearts are of the Lord. However, God wants us to pray for our governments and Rom. 13:1-7 teaches us to submit to our governments, as far as biblical values will allow, for the expressed purpose of allowing us to have the freedom to live out our faith and to maintain a just society. In our day and age, that freedom is under attack and ungodly values are being praised. We need to work for righteousness, justice, and virtue. Call your representatives and tell them you do not support these practices, show up

to pro-life rallies, vote with a biblically informed conscience, maybe even run for public office. Our nation got to this point because we allowed it to. But that means that it can be changed if we will have courage, passion, wisdom, and action!

PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES: One reason that abortion numbers are falling is because women are finding alternatives. Adoption, support in finances and resources, and counseling support are all options for women who feel they have nowhere else to turn. We need to support these options, finance them, and make ourselves personally available for how God would have us to meet these needs.

SHOW GENUINE LOVE: One of the common objections to the pro-life position is that we care more about the unborn than the mother. What about the woman who was raped, or who didn't mean for this to happen, or whose husband or boyfriend left her and now she will be a single mother, or who was kicked out of her home by her parents for being a disappointment, or who doesn't have the finances to support this new life--don't we care? We must always remember that there are two lives at stake. Attacking, name-calling, and belittling women will never lead to being used by God to win hearts. These women need to feel loved, helped, and safe. We can communicate love to these women: ask them for their stories, invite them into your home, embrace them. When they confess to any sin that may have led to this unplanned pregnancy, be like the father in the story of the prodigal son who ran to and hugged his child. He didn't rehearse all the things his son had done wrong.

SHARE THE GOSPEL: The capacity to love and to value goodness, righteousness, and justice only comes from a new heart, and only through the gospel does God produce that change. Yes, we want to meet physical needs, just as Jesus did, but He also used physical need as a gateway to a gospel conversation. Every miracle, act of love, and parable was a path Jesus walked to get to the heart with the good news of salvation, forgiveness, justification, adoption, reconciliation, and new life!

This is why I support Alpha Women's Center. They provide alternatives and give support and resources to all who come so that no woman ever has to feel that the only open door is the escape of abortion. As I seek to impact those whom God brings across my path, I am so thankful for ministries like AWC and the partnership we can have to save children, love families, share the Gospel, and bring glory to our glorious God and I hope you will prayerfully consider how you can make a difference! This is one way I can make a difference.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?