

The Magazine

LIGHT

For Faith & Family

And Baby Makes Three

Most couples enter into marriage dreaming of the children who will fill their home with love and laughter. Consequently, couples who struggle with infertility often experience unfulfilled longings and the death of precious dreams.

Seeking Justice in the M

As the U.S. government contemplates its response against those who unleashed a reign of terror upon the United States, we must consider the ethics of war. From its earliest days, the church has debated when it is morally legitimate to wage war.

For many centuries, Christians have employed "just-war theory" as a framework for the discussion of issues of war and peace. This theory was adopted by early church leaders, particularly Augustine, to deal with the reality of war in a fallen, sinful world of empires and nations. The elements of the theory rest on the foundation that all human life is precious.

There are two dimensions to just-war theory—one that weighs whether or not to engage in armed conflict (*ius ad bellum*) and the other that examines how to conduct the military exercises (*ius in bello*). The aim of any armed conflict should be to keep the peace and maintain justice.

The proper response to the destruction unleashed against America by an illusory, stealthy enemy is a "declaration of war."

We have a duty to answer acts of terrorism. As Christians, we must pray for our enemies, and we cannot seek personal vengeance. However, we should expect our government to exact justice. Any military action will be designed to thwart the ability of this enemy to continue its ghastly campaign of terror.

President Bush has made clear that our government will target not only those responsible for these acts, but also the rogue nations that harbor those who masterminded this unspeakable violence. As the president said Sept. 13, the United States will seek out and punish "those who fund them, hide them, and encourage them."

Sadly, the resort to armed conflict is the price human beings must periodically pay for the right to live in a moral universe. We always must remember that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and that we must bring perpetrators of evil to justice.

There is a similar episode in America's early history. In the early nineteenth century, pirates from North Africa were disrupt-

ing American and European shipping and taking crew, passengers, and cargo hostage for ransom. The regions then called the Barbary States (Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli) were allowing them safe harbor. Presidents Washington and Adams acquiesced to the tyrannical practice of paying tribute to these rulers for safe passage for their ships.

But President Jefferson, whose razor-thin victory at the polls was mirrored by Bush's November 2001 win, was repulsed by this practice and declared war when the ruler of Tripoli tried to increase the tribute. He sent a fleet of ships into the Mediterranean in what became known as the Tripolitan War (1801–1805), which concluded with a peace favorable to the United States.

We need to learn from Jefferson's wisdom and follow his example.

Can resorting to military force be justified? If so, under what circumstances? While there have been persistent elements of pacifism within the Christian tradition, for most

THE CHRISTIAN CRITERIA FOR RETRIBUTION

By Richard D. Land

"The kind of terrorism that was launched against America [Sept. 11] can only flourish in closed dictatorial societies in which differing points of view are stifled at the point of a bayonet or the barrel of a gun. . . . It will be a privilege to labor alongside the other members of the USCIRF to spotlight and monitor repressive regimes and nations that are denying basic human rights to those within their boundaries. All of us owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have struggled valiantly to keep the flickering flame of concern for victims of religious persecution alive."

Richard D. Land, upon being named by President Bush to serve for two years on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

"Peace, not vengeance, is always the object of war."

Midst of Terror

Christians, in most places, at most times, the answer has been: Yes, military action by legitimately constituted civil authority is justifiable.

Just-war theory was never intended to justify war. Instead, it tries to bring war under the sway of justice as understood by Christians and to ensure that war, when it does occur, is hedged about by limits to reduce its barbarity. In fact, if all parties accepted just-war criteria, there would be no wars or acts of terrorism, because the theory's first rule clearly states that only defense against aggression can be just. Hence, if everyone adhered to just-war theory, aggression would be eliminated.

In other words, only defensive war is defensible. The intent must be to secure justice for all involved. It is to be a last resort, authorized only by legitimate civil authority. There must be limited goals, and the question of proportionality must accompany all actions. Underlying all of these criteria is the question of noncombatant immunity. Only war that disqualifies non-combatants as legitimate military

targets and seeks to minimize collateral civilian casualties can be just. While acknowledging that loss of life will occur in battle, the theory places a high value on the sanctity of human life.

Can such goals be achieved without disproportionate casualties? Are there no effective alternatives to avoid conflict? Will measures be taken to ensure the minimizing of noncombatant casualties? If so, then resort to armed force is justified.

Perhaps most importantly, a legitimate authority must authorize the use of armed force. For Americans, the duly constituted authority is the government of the United States.

The key Scripture passage supporting just-war theory is Romans 13:4. The Apostle Paul writes that it is God who ordains the secular state to reward good and to punish evil. God established the state to "bear the sword," that is, to use lethal force to keep the peace and maintain justice. This limits the use of force. Peace, not vengeance, is always the object of war.

We should never surrender to, nor compromise with, cowardly villains who sneak about and in their madness spill the blood of innocent men and women. We need to pray for all of those who have lost loved ones and who are in the midst of anguish and suffering. We also need to understand that one of the prices we pay for being a free and open society is vulnerability to this kind of attack.

We must be eternally vigilant to minimize these horrors and to bring their perpetrators to justice. I salute President Bush for his determination to conduct an all-out campaign "to rout out and whip terrorism." In the face of the unrefined evil of terrorism, this is the only "just" thing to do. ☺

Richard D. Land is president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the nationally syndicated daily radio broadcast, For Faith & Family.

This article first appeared on www.beliefnet.com, a multifaith Web site on religion, spirituality, and morality. Copyright 2001, Beliefnet



Dr. Richard D. Land is welcomed to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom by chairman Michael K. Young. President George W. Bush appointed Land to the panel, which researches religious liberty issues in foreign countries and makes policy recommendations to the White House and Congress.

FROM THE EDITOR

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb . . . your eyes saw my unformed body.

PSALM 139:13-16

Dear Friend,

An unborn baby's heart begins to beat eighteen days after conception, and her fingerprints are completely established during her fourth week of development. She sucks her thumb seven weeks after conception; and sometime between nine and ten weeks, this tiny wonder squints, swallows, and moves her tongue. At the moment of conception, every piece of her genetic puzzle is in place—a miraculous blueprint of life.

Modern ultrasound machines confirm Scripture's portrayal of God's amazing creation. Nearly 100 percent of the women in a crisis pregnancy who are given a glimpse of the life within them choose life, but this is only possible when women can go to a center with an ultrasound machine.

We want to help crisis pregnancy centers have this medical equipment available to them for their ministry. Yet these machines are not cheap, with price tags from \$12,000 to \$24,000. **We need your help in outfitting centers with ultrasound machines.** 100 percent of the gifts received at the ERLC for the Psalm 139 Project will go to evangelistically oriented centers. Please send your tax-deductible gifts to the address below. An acknowledgment and proper accounting of your gift will be provided. Call or e-mail me with your questions.

It's all about saving lives.


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Light, a publication that equips and encourages readers and their families to think biblically and act Christianly, is published six times a year by The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and its outreach ministry, *For Faith & Family*. The magazine looks to Scripture for a proper response to the critical moral, ethical and cultural issues of our day. *Light* is sent free to those who request it. Voluntary subscriptions, for those who wish to help defray costs of printing and mailing and to help underwrite a growing mailing list, are \$10 annually. Checks should be made payable to *Light*. Canceled checks serve as tax-deductible receipts.

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FAITH & FAMILY



HOW MANY IS TOO MANY?

Sandra Glahn and William Cutrer, M.D., contend that couples who use in vitro fertilization and don't limit the number of eggs fertilized to the number of babies they are willing to carry to term eventually will find themselves facing serious moral dilemmas about the destruction of "excess" embryos and "selective reduction" in cases of multiple babies.



The Baby Blues

FINDING ETHICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INFERTILE COUPLES

BY SANDRA GLAHN & WILLIAM CUTRER, M.D.

They're the frozen unchosen. Children on ice. Frozen babies, if you will. A divorced couple engages in a custody battle over their unused frozen embryos. Meanwhile, some researchers want to destroy "extra" embryos in hopes of curing diseases. And while some infertile women pray for their eggs to fertilize in IVF cycles, others give permission to have their "excess" embryos destroyed. Bring up the topic of infertility and invariably someone will

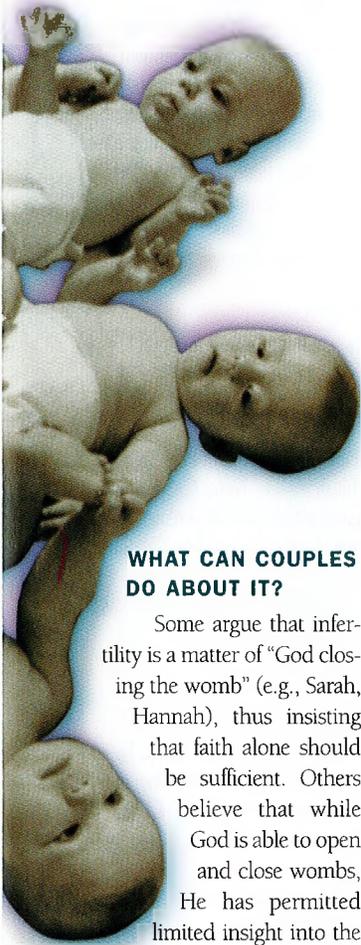
mention these sorts of ethical quagmires—pulled straight from the headlines.

In the process of creating a child together, why are couples often so willing to enter such a complex maze of moral dilemmas? Because, simply put, infertility is hard stuff. God's first command to Adam and Eve related to conceiving children, and most couples dream about their union producing a child who is the product of their love. Wrapped up in childlessness, then, are unfulfilled longings and the

death of precious dreams. Ever since the Fall, after which God told Eve he would multiply her pain in childbirth, we see problems with human reproduction. Researchers have determined that the depression and anxiety infertile couples experience are equivalent to the pain experienced by patients suffering from terminal illness. Proverbs 30:16 hints at this when it tells us that a "barren womb" is among four things on earth that are "never satisfied."

What exactly is infertility?

Defined medically, it's the inability to conceive or carry a child to term after one year of unprotected intercourse. It has many causes, but the idea that "infertile couples just need to relax and they'll get pregnant" is a myth. In ninety-five percent of cases, there is a diagnosable medical reason. Fertility problems are as common in men as in women, and the number of couples appears to be on the rise due in part to delayed childbearing, sexually transmitted diseases, and environmental factors.



WHAT CAN COUPLES DO ABOUT IT?

Some argue that infertility is a matter of “God closing the womb” (e.g., Sarah, Hannah), thus insisting that faith alone should be sufficient. Others believe that while God is able to open and close wombs, He has permitted limited insight into the complex functioning of the human body. (Few would accuse doctors of “meddling” when they treat diabetes with

insulin, infection with antibiotics, or cancer with chemotherapy.) Recognizing that approximately sixty percent of couples pursuing treatment will go on to experience live birth, those in favor of medical treatment argue that therapy is appropriate as long as no scriptural principle is violated. Admittedly, scriptural principles are sometimes violated, as is evidenced by the uproar about researchers using stem cells from destroyed embryos, mostly obtained from fertility clinics. So for couples believing that some medical treatment can fall within the will of God, the next question is this: how far can or should we go with such intervention?

Medication

Based on the premise that drug therapies qualify as moral, many treatment options qualify as “fertility enhancing.” A simple course of antibiotics can be “fertility treatment” for the man with a prostate infection. Replacement hormone may be a “fertility drug” for a woman with low thyroid. Yet when we talk of fertility drugs, we usually mean specific ovulation-inducing medications. These hormones may bypass built-in protective mechanisms, resulting in the maturation of

multiple eggs. Careful monitoring with ultrasound can help avoid multiple births and some ethical dilemmas.

Surgical Intervention

Diagnostic surgery can uncover hidden causes of infertility, and corrective surgery often helps. Surgeons may, for example, correct fallopian tube blockage or endometriosis, which affects the uterine lining. In men, surgery can reverse vasectomies or repair structural damage and varicose veins in the testicles.

High-tech Options

Many Bible-believing Christians approve the use of artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and other high-tech procedures, provided the egg and sperm come from the married partners and precautions are taken to honor life even at the one-celled stage. Couples using in vitro fertilization should limit the number of eggs fertilized to the number of babies they are willing to carry to term. By doing so they avoid having to later decide both about the destruction of “excess” embryos and about “selective reduction” in cases where the pregnancy results in six or seven babies. Some couples opt for freezing embryos; others have reserva-

tions about cryopreservation, feeling that it exposes the embryo to unnecessary risk and that it presumes on the couple's future. At the very least, couples cryopreserving embryos should have a plan for carrying each one to term.

Adoption

Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses. A family member adopted Esther when her parents died. God calls all those who believe in Christ His children through adoption. Thus, the Bible draws a beautiful picture of the adoption relationship.

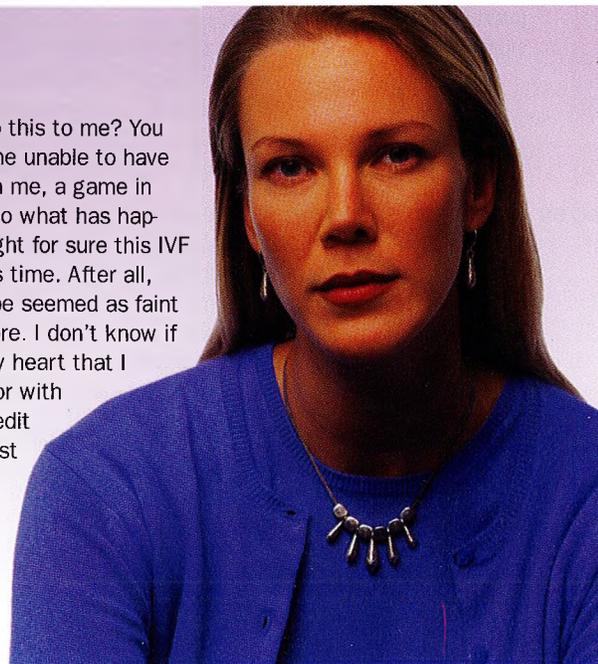
Of the many losses in infertility, adoption is the solution for only one—the loss of the ability to parent the next generation. Successful “embryo adoption” brings with it the addition of the pregnancy, birth, and nursing experiences not possible in traditional adoption arrangements. Yet the genetic family traits of husband and wife are not passed down. While not a great option in an ideal world, embryo adoption does provide a solution for couples that have chosen to have embryos cryopreserved but who want to avoid authorizing their destruction.

Continued on page 6

Dear God,

Have you lost your mind? I think I'm losing mine. How could you do this to me? You created me with such a strong desire for children and then made me unable to have them. Is this some kind of cruel trick? Are you playing a game with me, a game in which I'm always the loser? That's the only explanation I can find to what has happened, despite the \$14,000 we paid for in vitro fertilization. I thought for sure this IVF cycle would work. I thought you would certainly give us a child this time. After all, I've prayed so diligently, believed in your power, had faith when hope seemed as faint as smoke on the wind. But now I don't know if I can do this anymore. I don't know if I can still believe, still hope, when this pain weighs so heavily in my heart that I know I'll be crushed beneath it. IVF was so expensive, Lord, paid for with money we'd scraped together from relatives, borrowed from our credit cards, and taken from the bit of savings we'd gathered over the past eight years. And now it's come to nothing. Nothing. A word that describes my life. Where have you gone, God? What is this terrible thing that is happening to me? How can I live through this pain?

Kate



THE BABY BLUES

Continued from page 5

Consider the couple that had eight embryos created during an IVF cycle. Doctors implanted three in the wife's uterus and froze five. After she had triplets, the wife had emergency surgery to remove her uterus. That left this couple with three choices—to allow embryo destruction, find a surrogate, or connect with someone willing to “adopt” them.

Embryo adoption is relatively new—developed because of the more than 100,000 frozen embryos in the U.S. alone. One Christian embryo adoption

program (www.snowflakes.org) works like a full-service adoption agency connecting couples wanting to carry these embryos with couples that have “extras.” At the moment this costs about \$6,000. However, some Internet services charge less than \$75 per month for these couples to advertise and connect with each other.

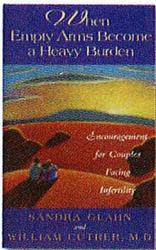
Most experts encourage couples who pursue infertility treatment to exhaust medical options before pursuing adoption—whether traditional or with frozen embryos—because going through infertility and

adoption require working through separate sets of losses. This is why so many infertile couples find it aggravating when others tell them, “You can always adopt.”

Infertile couples usually grieve deeply the loss of a jointly created child. For them, adoption will never fill this void. However, once they reach the “resolution” stage of their infertility, other options look more appealing. Only then can adoption become a wonderful means of seeing their dreams and longings come to life. ☺

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Sandra Glahn, Th.M., is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, where she is Adjunct Teacher, Christian Education and Pastoral Ministries. She serves on the board of the Dallas/Fort Worth Christian Medical and Dental Associations and the advisory board of Hannah's Prayer. She and her husband Gary have one child, who joined their family through adoption. **William Cutrer, M.D., M.A.(B.S.)**, is a licensed obstetrician/gynecologist, an expert in reproductive technology, and an ordained minister. He currently serves as the C. Edwin Gheens Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Director of the Gheens Center for Family Ministry at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he teaches bioethics and spiritual formation. He holds an M.A. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. Glahn and Cutrer have co-authored four books, including *When Empty Arms Become a Heavy Burden: Encouragement for Couples Facing Infertility* and the recently released medical thriller, *Deadly Cure*. For more information about their ministry visit their Web site at www.aspire2.com.



See description at far right.

BOOK

When Empty Arms Become a Heavy Burden: Encouragement for Couples Facing Infertility (Broodman & Holman)

Drawing on Glahn's decade-long struggle with infertility treatment and Cutrer's medical expertise, this book explores the spiritual, marital, emotional, medical, and ethical issues surrounding infertility. The authors bring their unique male/female, doctor/patient, and clinical/theological combination of perspectives.

CONFERENCE

Comforting, Coping, and Connecting: A Conference for Infertile Couples and Those Who Support Them

January 12, 2002, at First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. \$12 includes lunch. Hotel accommodations available. Conference speakers Sandra Glahn and William Cutrer, M.D. Contact Mitch Miles at 214-969-2411 for more information.

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Hannah's Prayer is an on-line Christian support organization for couples experiencing infertility, including pregnancy loss. Check out their Web site at www.hannah.org.

Infertility Myths and Facts

- MYTH:** Infertility is rare. **FACT:** Infertility is quite common. Approximately one in six couples of childbearing age experience fertility problems.
- MYTH:** All the people in the Bible who were infertile were women. **FACT:** The Bible is not an exhaustive textbook on infertility. While it describes a number of couples that had difficulty conceiving, the stories are not about the process of infertility per se. And women were not the only infertile people. The levirate marriage laws (Deut.25:5-6) suggest male fertility problems. In addition, Ruth was married for ten years to her first husband without children. After he died, she went on to marry Boaz and give birth to Obed, King David's grandfather. This would suggest that her initial inability to conceive was due to male factor infertility.
- MYTH:** Infertility is no more common than it used to be, we're just talking about it more. **FACT:** The number of couples diagnosed with fertility problems is on the rise. Delayed childbearing and sexually transmitted diseases are partially responsible. Environmental factors may also play a role. Infertility also includes the inability to carry a pregnancy to term. Six hundred thousand U.S. women experience miscarriage each year, with as many as 120,000 couples each year suffering at least their third consecutive miscarriage.
- MYTH:** Adopt; then you will get pregnant. **FACT:** Adoption is not a cure for infertility. Five percent of couples that end treatment eventually conceive, whether they adopt or not.
- MYTH:** Most who experience infertility seek high-tech treatment. **FACT:** Approximately five percent of infertile couples seek reproductive technologies as a means of resolving their fertility problems.

Well-meaning friends and relatives often have words of advice for couples who are experiencing infertility. Knowing the facts about the condition can help them offer encouragement to their loved ones with compassion and sensitivity.

"God can take our mistakes, big and small, and use them for His glory."

A New Direction

BY DAWN PATE

My teenage dreams of becoming a flight attendant ended when I got pregnant. In denial, I hoped it would go away. It didn't, and about 14 weeks into my pregnancy I decided to have an abortion. At the clinic the doctor examined me then said, "You're going to be a mother whether you like it or not. You're too far along to have an abortion. Sorry."

I called all over Florida looking for a late-term abortion. I heard about a clinic in Miami, but even though I called constantly, I never got through. I eventually delivered a beautiful baby girl I named Leah.

Two years later, her father and I split up, and I determined to start my life over. Unfortunately, I got pregnant again. I resolved that this time I wouldn't wait too long to have an abortion.

I remember the experience well. The receptionist called my name and took my money, then sent a group of us to a room for tests. We went into another room for instructions, then to another room to put on hospital gowns.

We then entered yet another room where we were given two pain pills. I didn't take them because they looked too big to swallow. Eventually the doctor and nurse arrived and started the procedure. The nurse held my

hand, assuring me everything would be OK. I remember hearing what sounded like a vacuum, then feeling the hard vibration of the machine on my body.

Afterward, I went to a recovery room for herbal tea and crackers. Relieved, I left, resolving never to think about it again.

Not much later, however, I sensed a need for change in my life. I felt that maybe my daughter and I should be involved in a church, even though I hadn't attended since childhood. Around this time I met William, who seemed to fit my need for change—great family background, high morals, a churchgoer since childhood. We married within a year. But around the same time I met William, I met someone else even more life-changing: Jesus Christ.

Jesus offered me forgiveness and a new focus in life that transcended churchgoing. When I invited Him into my life, I became a different person. In the following years, Jesus showed His powerful presence in two certain ways.

First, in 1989, our church needed a director for a new crisis pregnancy center. I dismissed myself as unqualified; I had no experience in that kind of work. One day God told me, "I want you to make yourself available for

that job, whether you get it or not." I went for an interview, and to my surprise I was hired.

Two years after becoming director of the center, I realized I'd never come to terms with the anger, depression and fear related to my own abortion. With the help of friends, and through much prayer and fasting, I confronted my pain. God's unconditional love and forgiveness became more real to me daily.

In the last two years God has begun a new work through me:

writing music that comes from my own healing experience from abortion. I want to use this music to minister to those who need to know there is hope for them no matter what situation they are going through or what they have done.

God has brought me full circle, using my tragedy for His good. I've shared my story across the country, bearing witness to the fact that God can take our mistakes, big and small, and use them for His glory. ☺



Dawn Pate is director of the Osceola Pregnancy Center in Kissimmee, Fla.



Dawn Pate and Diane Cruz work in the center's clothes closet. The center offers free pregnancy testing and education, maternity and baby clothes, baby furniture and supplies, referrals for food, medical and financial assistance, and referrals for legal counsel and adoption placement.

MINISTRY TO UNBORN CHILDREN

Age-graded choirs for pre-borns?

When the folks at First Baptist Church of Ada, Okla., talk about age-graded choirs, they are serious about the ministry—so serious that for over two years the church has included pre-born children in their choirs.

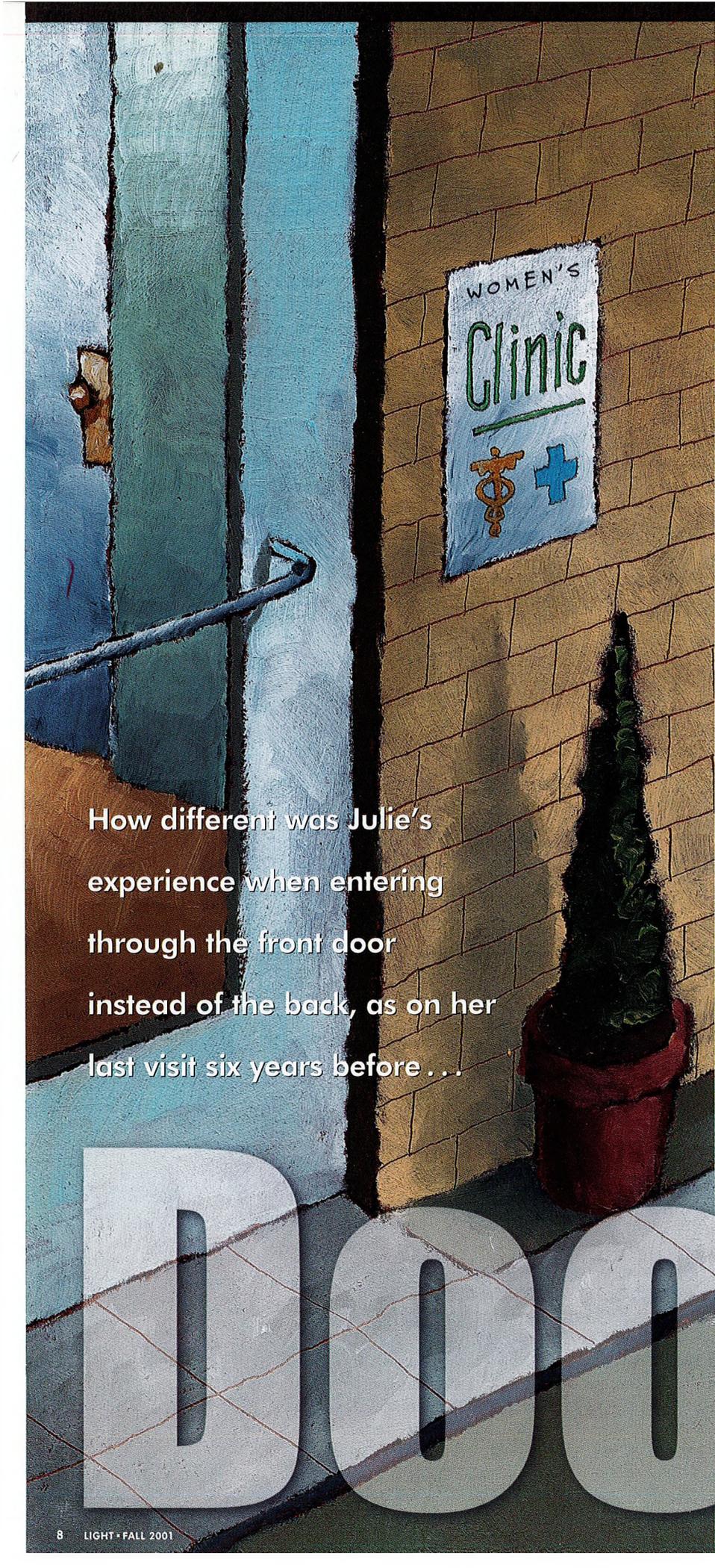
After attending a workshop on the impact of music on early childhood brain development, church member Joy Wellington devised a curriculum for the unique music ministry to unborn children and their parents.

"Studies show that an unborn child can hear at the twenty-seventh week of development," Wellington said, noting the church provides families CDs such as *Mozart's Effects for Babies*, Handel's

Water Music, and *Lullabies for Babies* to play for the child. The program suggests participants read several books on Christian parenting and keep a journal of letters they write to their baby.

"My experiences with my three children and a firm belief that pre-borns can be instructed spiritually, musically, and academically 'from the womb' led to the formation of the Alpha [unborn] Choir," said Harold Ware, minister of music and media at First Ada.

For more information on the Alpha Choir concept, contact Harold Ware at FBC, 521 S. Broadway, Ada, OK 74820.



How different was Julie's
experience when entering
through the front door
instead of the back, as on her
last visit six years before . . .

DOORS

I

n July of 1985, my husband and I paraded through the front door of Methodist Hospital in Minneapolis. We came to give birth to a beautiful baby girl, Bonnie Joy. Six years prior to that life-giving entrance through the front door, I had quietly slipped into the back door of Methodist Hospital, also known as The Meadowbrook

Women's Clinic. Single, lonely, frightened, I had come to "terminate" an "accidental pregnancy." I had come to abort a baby. This is the story of those two doors.

When I entered through the front door, they insisted that I ride in a wheelchair. The nurse called me "Mrs. Woodley" and wheeled me past a nursery room brimming with living, breathing, screaming babies. Babies with names. Babies with freshly washed faces. Babies carefully wrapped in blue and pink blankets and little white caps.

Everything about my hospital room invited, embraced, and welcomed babies. Painted in bright pastel colors, the walls boasted little teddy bears dancing and smiling at me. Delicate, ruffled curtains graced the windows. The decor quietly said, "This is a time for celebration." We will take care of you and your baby."

In stark contrast, when I entered the back door (that is, The Meadowbrook Women's Clinic), they insisted that I, first of all, pay the bill. Then the nurse gave me a number and directed me to a plain waiting room. Little teddy bears did not dance on the walls. Actually, anything baby-like—baby curtains, baby noises, baby colors, baby names—was strictly forbidden. Instead, the decor sternly commanded, "This is not a time for celebration. Take care of your business, and go home."

Shortly after entering the front door, my nurse strapped a monitor on my belly. As she tightened the belt, her calm, relaxed eyes met my fear-filled eyes. Gently touching my hand, she offered her reassurance: "I know you're nervous, honey, but don't worry. Here we don't take any chances with babies." She silently studied the monitor's printout, and then

When the abortion "procedure" was over, Julie noticed a poster taped to the ceiling overhead. In bold, stark letters, it read, "IF IT WEREN'T FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD, WHERE WOULD YOU BE TODAY?"

confidently informed me, "Don't worry. The heartbeat is strong. Your baby is alive and healthy." For the next twenty hours, three nurses took turns methodically recording and analyzing the rapid little heartbeat.

By this time I knew all about little heartbeats. During our prenatal classes, I discovered that at a mere three weeks after conception, my baby's heart began to beat and pump blood. If necessary, an electroencephalogram could have detected brain waves at about eight weeks. My classes also taught me that at ten weeks from conception a tiny Bonnie Joy was closing her delicate eyelids, puckering her lips, responding to touch, and forming a fist.

Of course, in 1979, when I entered the back door for an abortion, all of these well-documented medical facts were carefully avoided. Nobody talked about baby heartbeats, blood, brain waves, eyelids, lips, or fists. Instead, they spoke softly and solemnly about "unwanted tissue," "inconveniences," and "choices." It (the baby, that is) was an intruder—a formless, featureless, undifferentiated blob, but still a dangerous intruder. The attitude was simple: let's remove it.

Not so behind the front door. After nearly twenty hours of grueling but unsuccessful labor, a young doctor was urgently called into my room. Jody, my third nurse, whispered anxiously to the doctor. Then he sat by my bed, deep in thought, his eyes lost in charts and papers and printouts. His eyes did not quite meet mine as he spoke carefully and logically: "Things are not going according to plan. I do not want to alarm you, but the baby is in distress. We have two problems. First, there is meconium in the womb. To complicate matters, the baby's head is posterior. We need your permission to do an immediate C-section." Sensing our fear, ignorance, and confusion (after all, what exactly did the doctor's description of the baby's condition mean?), the doctor glanced at my husband and quickly added. "We will do everything possible to protect mom and the baby. We have the resources to keep both of them safe."

After that, I recall only a blur of frantic activity. They ushered my husband out to a waiting room. Nurses rushed about my room. Bags were hooked on to my bed. Somebody ordered anesthesia. Two orderlies hustled me down to surgery. The entire staff could only think of one thing: save lives—a mother and a baby are in distress.

When I went through the back door, a mother and a baby were also in distress, but no one came to save us. When the abortion "procedure" was over, as I rested on

the bed at The Meadowbrook Women's Clinic, I noticed a poster taped to the ceiling. In bold, stark letters, it read, "IF IT WEREN'T FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD, WHERE WOULD YOU BE TODAY?" Even more than the abortion, the poster nauseated me.

Filled with anger and frustration, I began to weep quietly. "You did not help me," I thought. "You had the resources, but you did not protect me or my baby. You found the cheapest, easiest, quickest solution possible: you simply vacuumed the new life out of my womb. You helped my boyfriend pursue his career. He wants to become a United States Senator. You protected him and his dreams. Why didn't someone try to protect the baby and me?"

Today Bonnie Joy is twelve years old. Somehow we (my family, church, and society, and Methodist Hospital) found the resources to save her life. That is what they always do inside the front door. If necessary, they race against time, spare no expenses, employ cutting-edge technology to preserve a tiny life. Less than 1,000 feet away, a few floors down, and one wing over, inside the back door, tiny lives are quietly and efficiently destroyed. That is what they always do behind the back door. The door of life and the door of death exist side by side.

Twelve years ago I left the front door holding a beautiful baby girl. Six years earlier I exited the back door with empty arms and deep wounds in my soul. After the abortion, I attempted to cover those wounds by pointing other women to the back door and trying to protect them from the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy. I thought it was the only way to freedom and healing.

Actually, it took a third door to heal my back-door wounds. For a society so confused about life and death, this door provides direction. For women wounded by abortion, this door provides forgiveness and hope. For those whose hearts are coarsened by an easy abortion culture, this door provides the power to repent and receive a new heart. By entering through this third door, we join a radically different community, a fellowship committed to protecting the life of both mother and baby.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9, NKJV). He is the true door of life. Now I will spend the rest of my life pointing confused young women to the true door of life and freedom, to Jesus Christ. 



**"I am the door.
If anyone
enters by Me,
he will be
saved, and
will go in and
out and find
pasture."**

JOHN 10:9, NKJV

The above was told by Mrs. Julie Woodley, founder of Restoring the Heart Ministries, and written by Rev. Matt Woodley, pastor of Cambridge United Methodist Church, Cambridge, Minn. It has been expanded into a book, Restoring the Heart: Experiencing Christ's Healing after Brokenness, and can be purchased by mailing a money order for \$13 to: Book/Restoring the Heart Ministries, P.O. Box 252, Cambridge, MN 55008. Allow three weeks for delivery. Visit the ministry on the Internet at www.rthm.cc

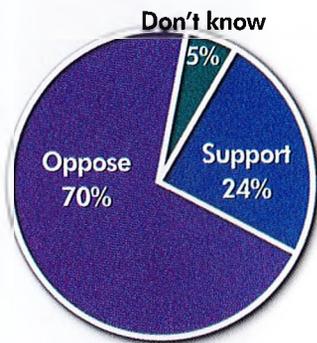
Reprinted from the 9/1/99 LIFEWATCH, newspaper of the Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality. Complimentary subscriptions are available by writing 512 Florence Street, Dothan, AL 36301, or visit the Taskforce on-line at www.lifewatch.org

Advances in Technology Raise Ethical Questions

Stem Cell Research

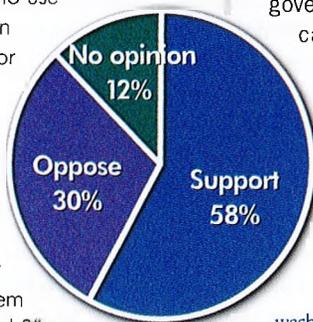
In August 2001, President Bush approved federal funding for research on existing embryonic stem cell lines. Surveys show Americans are largely unaware of the nature of stem cell research, and support can vary dramatically depending on how the issue is presented. A comparison of two June 2001 surveys shows that when the question was asked using pro-life language, respondents had a much higher negative response regarding the use of human embryos:

"Stem cells are the basic cells from which all of a person's tissues and organs develop. Congress is considering whether to provide federal funding for experiments using stem cells from human embryos. The live embryos would be destroyed in their first week of development to obtain these cells. Do you support or oppose using your federal tax dollars for such experiments?"



Source: ICR/National Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Sometimes fertility clinics produce extra fertilized eggs, also known as embryos, that are not implanted in a woman's womb. These extra embryos either are discarded, or couples can donate them for use in medical research called stem cell research. Some people support stem cell research, saying it's an important way to find treatments for many diseases. Other people oppose stem cell research, saying it's wrong to use any human embryos for research purposes. What about you—do you support or oppose stem cell research?"



Source: ABC News/Beliefnet

For more on this issue, visit publicagenda.org.

Inmate's Rights

In a 2-1 ruling, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed William Gerber's right to artificially inseminate his wife. If the state of California declines to appeal the court's decision, Gerber will be allowed, in the words of the dissenting judge, "to procreate... via FedEx." The 41-year-old inmate, a repeat offender serving a life term in a state prison, is not allowed conjugal visits with his wife, so he will ship her his semen for the medical procedure.

dailynews.com, September 6, 2001

Survivor's Benefits

Lauren Woodward is locked in a battle with the Social Security Administration. She has been trying for five years to convince the government that her five-year-old twins are entitled to survivors' benefits, but the federal agency can't get past the fact that the youngsters were born after their father's death from leukemia—two years after his death.

Her daughters were conceived by artificial insemination, using frozen sperm Warren Woodward banked when he feared cancer treatment would leave him sterile. The government says that because the Boston-area twins were conceived after their father's death, they are not his legal heirs. Mrs. Woodward has taken the case to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

washingtonpost.com, Sept. 1, 2001

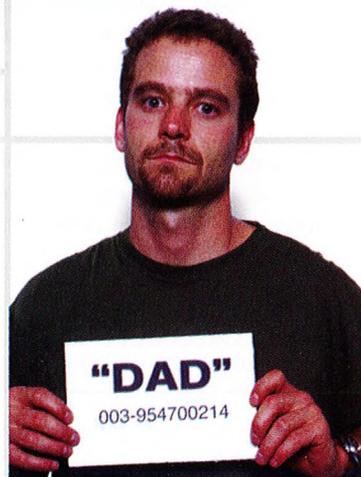


Cloning Lab

In July 2001, a secret cloning lab in West Virginia closed. Attorney Mark Hunt and his wife had funded the efforts of Dr. Brigitte Boisselier to clone their dead infant son Andrew. Boisselier, a French biochemist, was using the same technique that has been successful in cloning animals.

A clash of faiths and an investigation into the lab's legality by the Food and Drug Administration cut short the effort. Boisselier is a Raelian, a group that has cloning among its faith commandments, believing that life on earth began with a race cloned by alien scientists. The Hunts are Christians. "I'm not going to start another laboratory," Hunt said. "However, if the technology would become available in the future, we certainly would never give up on our son. I think any parent would do everything in their power for their child. So the least we can do for him is try to reproduce something from his body that would give his genetic makeup, his DNA, a chance to go on." Andrew died at ten months of age after surgery to address several birth defects.

abcnews.com, Sept. 7, 2001



The Value of a Human Life

September 11, 2001, is now regarded as the bloodiest day in American history. Estimates of over 5,000 dead at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and in a field near Pittsburgh, Penn., tragically eclipse the 4,700 Union and Confederate soldiers killed in the Civil War battle of Antietam as well as the 2,388 killed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the 1,465 Americans who lost their lives on the first day of the Normandy invasion, June 6, 1944.

This incredible carnage reminds us again that every human life has value. Each person killed in these incidents was a unique creation of God, never to be duplicated. Those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack are missed. Their families and friends mourn their passing, and America joins them in their grief.

Every day in America over 3,700 unborn people die—their lives cut short by abortion. These innocent lives had value as well. Human life is not a chance affair. Each person is created by God and bears God's image (Gen. 1:27). Our value is not secured in our income or

possessions, our appearance or intelligence—or our age.

The terrorist mindset is predicated on disrespect for human life. "The people who perpetrate [terrorism] have no regard whatever for the sanctity or value of human life," Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair said September 12, 2001.

Those who argue for society's right to terminate an unborn life on a whim similarly have no regard for the sanctity of human life.

"Abortion is now a monster so unimaginably gargantuan that even to think of stuffing it back into its cage (having fattened on the bodies of thirty million humans) is ludicrous beyond words," admits Bernard Nathanson in his book, *The Hand of God*. Nathanson, who once was the director of New York City's Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, then the largest abortion clinic in the world, says that while it is a "Herculean endeavor," God-fearing Americans must continue to push for the protection of the unborn.

America needs Champions for Life—Christians who dare

to take a stand and speak the truth on behalf of our nation's tiniest citizens.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is pleased to partner with the North American Mission Board in emphasizing the need for all Christians to be Champions for Life.

Champions for Life are adamantly opposed to the United States becoming a society that sacrifices its tiniest citizens for the benefit of older and bigger humans. They know that life begins at conception and that embryos are human beings. The unborn deserve to be objects of our protection, not objects of our manipulation.

Champions for Life work in their local communities to assist women who are in crisis pregnancies. Champions for Life seek to aid mothers and families who need the loving support of caring Christians. Champions for Life raise their children with an understanding that human life is precious and God-given. Champions for Life keep pressure on their elected representatives to protect and value human life—at every stage of life. 



Precious Feet Lapel Pins

Symbolizing the pro-life stance internationally, the tiny feet are the exact size and shape of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception.

Precious Feet (14K plated)
SAFEET \$2.50 ea.

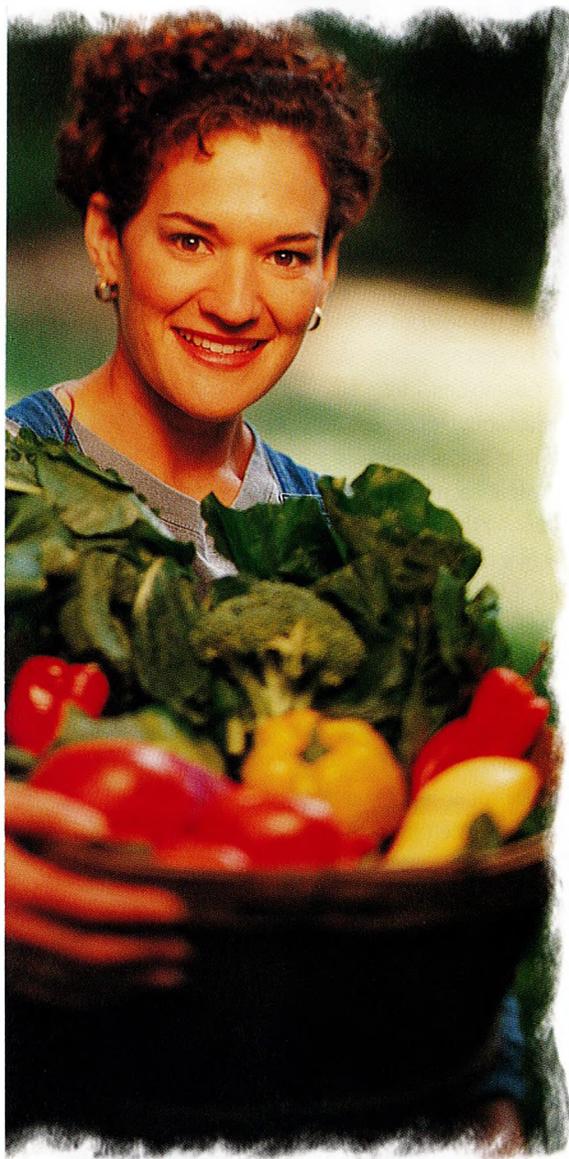
Precious Feet
SAFEET \$.99 ea.

Available from the ERLC.
To order this product,
call 1-800-475-9127.

For information on how you can be a Champion for Life,
visit www.namb.net/ccm/alternatives or phone 1-800-962-0851.

Fit 4 Life!

BY BRANDA POLK



Branda Polk is Health Ministry Specialist and Fit 4 Coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources.



Health information is everywhere, and our aging population is very interested in staying healthy and living out their retirement dreams. At the same time, heart disease strikes one out of every three men under the age of sixty-five. Diabetes wreaks havoc in sixteen million lives. Cancer is killing men and women of all ages. Obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, lack of energy, and stress are problems for many, including Christians. Our culture is looking for solutions to these health issues. These are very real concerns and bring opportunities to minister both within the walls of your church and externally to a health-oriented culture. Wellness ministry through Bible-based health education is a tool your church can use to disciple believers, live a Christ-like example, and win your community for Christ.

Begin by taking an honest look at your own personal health. Are you a believer that sets a good example of a balanced, healthful lifestyle? Have you developed a plan that encourages health for your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Jesus defines wellness in Mark 12:30-31: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... Love your neighbor as you love yourself." When the emotions (heart), soul, mind, and physical being (strength) are all functioning properly and in balance, you honor God and are a good example to others.

Based on Jesus' model of wellness, *Fit 4: A LifeWay Christian Wellness Plan* is designed to help you develop a personalized plan that meets your wellness goals. This fresh approach to health education is not a gimmick or a cookie-cutter approach to just losing weight. Fit 4 is a comprehensive learning system that provides a complete solution for a variety of health and wellness needs.

impossible." Even the secular society is beginning to realize the connection between our "spiritual" side and our physical being, but secular "experts" provide an incomplete answer. The key to total wellness begins with a relationship with Christ. This relationship should then compel disciples of Christ to be the best stewards of every area of life, including their health.



Fit 4 is a comprehensive learning system that integrates biblical principles with practical, trustworthy health guidelines, providing a complete solution for a variety of health and wellness needs.

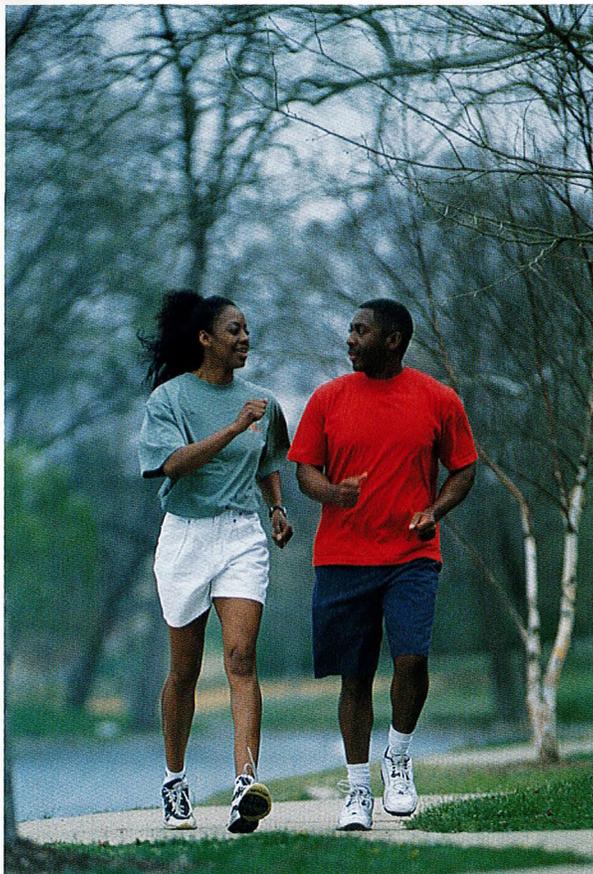
By integrating biblical principles with practical, trustworthy health guidelines, Fit 4 provides all the tools a person needs to learn to live a healthy, balanced life from a Christ-centered perspective. It is designed so that men and women of various ages and activity levels and with personal health goals can participate in the same group and benefit from each week's lesson.

A foundational theme of Fit 4 is "Wellness apart from Christ is

In Fit 4, believers learn the value of physical stewardship, not just in weight management (a worldly focus), but in total life management. Believers learn to appreciate their uniqueness and set goals to be the best that God designed them to be. Fit 4 shows believers that the everyday things of life can honor God (1 Cor. 10:31).

Because health issues are important to unbelievers as well, Fit 4 nutrition and fitness

"Wellness apart from Christ



In Fit 4, believers learn the value of physical stewardship, not just in weight management, but in total life management. Believers learn to appreciate their uniqueness and set goals to be the best that God designed them to be.

classes are excellent intentional evangelism tools for people who might not be reached any other way. The Apostle Paul put it this way: "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings" (1 Cor. 9:22-23).

When churches decide to impact the culture by providing solutions for real needs, they

begin to minister as Jesus did. Real ministry meets people where they are, then seeks to provide solutions to needs and to share the Gospel.

For more information on *Fit 4: A LifeWay Christian Wellness Plan* see our web site at www.fit4.com or visit your local LifeWay Christian Store. To receive a packet of information on Fit 4, e-mail your mailing address to fit4@lifeway.com or call 615-251-5613. 

Vitamin-Packed Vegetables

One of my favorite Bible stories can be found in Daniel 1. This is the account of Daniel and his friends being captured and brought into a foreign land to train for service to the king of Babylon. The custom of the day was to feed the men the best food and drink from the king's table because it was believed these choices made the men stronger.

Daniel chose to be different. He asked to be fed vegetables and water for ten days and then be compared to the other men in training. Daniel 1:15 says, "At the end of the ten days they [Daniel and his friends] looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food."

Vegetables are power-packed foods that have wonderful health benefits. There are many advantages to including a variety of vegetables in your daily diet. Vegetables are:

■ **LOW IN CALORIES.** One cup raw vegetables or one-half cup cooked vegetables has about 25 calories. Cook vegetables without adding fat to keep the calories low. Steaming is the best cooking method.

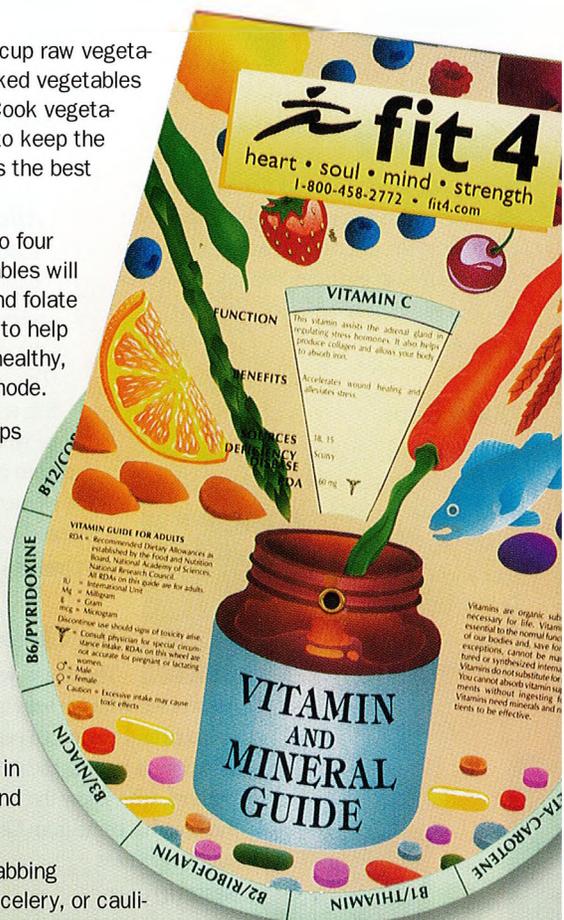
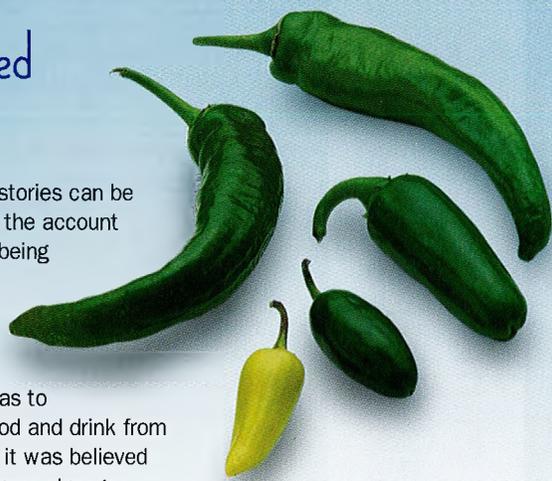
■ **NUTRIENT DENSE.** Two to four servings a day of vegetables will provide vitamins C, A, and folate and plenty of potassium to help keep your body strong, healthy, and in disease fighting mode.

■ **HIGH IN FIBER.** Fiber helps you to feel full and has been proven to lower cholesterol and decrease the risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer.

■ **QUICK TO PREPARE.** Frozen vegetables cook in about 8-10 minutes. Fresh vegetables can be washed, cut, and stored in small bags for lunches and afternoon snacks.

■ **CRUNCHY!** Instead of grabbing chips, try small carrots, celery, or cauliflower for that crunchy craving. This will save you over 100 calories and all the fat! Choose from these vegetables for the most vitamin and mineral benefits:

- ▲ Broccoli
- ▲ Spinach
- ▲ Tomatoes
- ▲ Red and Green Peppers
- ▲ Sweet Potatoes
- ▲ Carrots



Fit 4 Healthy Eating Guideline: Eat a minimum of 3 to 4 servings of vegetables and two to three servings of fruit every day. One serving is approximately one-half cup of cooked vegetable and one cup of raw vegetable.

is impossible.™

In Defense of Life

Advances in medical technology that allow a woman to carry the unborn child of strangers and a relaxing of the laws protecting human life have pushed us far beyond most persons' ethical comfort level. With babies being routinely conceived in laboratories and with women having the right and the ability to abort their unborn in the "comfort" of their homes, society tells us there are new boundaries of right and wrong. What was unthinkable yesterday is commonplace today. Our culture places convenience and self-satisfaction above life itself.

Despite culture's protestations, the boundaries have not shifted. As a weaver knows his every stitch, as a seamstress purposefully fashions a beautiful garment, God creates us wonderful and whole even while our form is hidden and we are as tiny as a pinprick. The Bible is clear: Human life is to be respected and protected, and God alone is Creator. He will not be mocked (Gal. 6:7). Christians have the God-given responsibility to speak out for the innocent and defenseless—of every age.

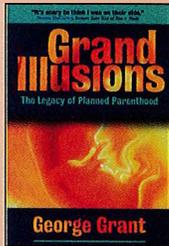
Sanctity of Human Life is the focus of the January edition of the ERLC's Champion Action Kit, which includes valuable resources that offer biblical insights on critical life issues. For more information on Champion Action Kits, see p. 15.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE CHAMPION ACTION KIT CONTENTS*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- *LifeLight* handouts (qty: 100)
- *Grand Illusions* by George Grant (see description at left)
- "Baby Hope" plastic model (see description at left)
- Sanctity of Human Life Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)

SAKIT (monthly subscription)

\$24.95



Grand Illusions

Dr. George Grant describes the legacy of Planned Parenthood and its chilling agenda, subsidized

by our tax money. *Grand Illusions* exposes the lies that have made Planned Parenthood a "respectable institution" and shows how the organization is destroying our youth, our families, church, and society. (3rd ed.)

BKGRA (408 pages)

\$15.00 ea.

"Baby Hope"

This exquisitely crafted resin model is identical to the size of an unborn child at 12 weeks and serves as a gentle reminder that life *does* begin at conception.



SABAB \$5.15 ea.

SABBY (plastic) \$5.50 ea.

After the Choice

Real women share what it's like when the abortion is over. This video is a valuable resource for anyone who cares about unborn children and the women considering abortion or who may need love and forgiveness after the fact.

VTAFT (VHS, 25 min.)

\$12.00 ea.

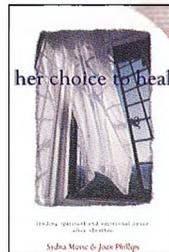


Her Choice to Heal

This is a powerful book for women who are searching for spiritual and emotional peace after abortion. It features the stories of the authors, who know the hope and healing that come from God's love and forgiveness.

BKHER (122 pages)

\$9.40 ea.

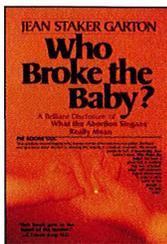


Who Broke the Baby?

Jean Staker Garton offers a brilliant disclosure of what the abortion slogans really mean.

BKWHO (108 pages)

\$5.75 ea.

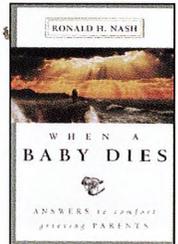


When a Baby Dies

"Is my baby with God now?" Ronald Nash offers a review of often mistaken responses along with the scriptural grounds for pastors to offer real comfort and assurance to parents seeking solace in their grief.

BKWHEN (126 pages)

\$ 9.50 ea.

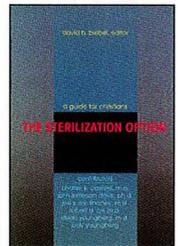


The Sterilization Option

This guide for Christians provides medically reliable and theologically sound information regarding the ethics of sterilization, including psychological and medical implications of male and female sterilization, case studies, and a detailed checklist to help couples evaluate their decision.

BKSTE (102 pages)

\$8.50 ea.



Bio-Basics Booklet Series

Produced by the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, these booklets look to Scripture to address the ethical questions posed by advances in medical technology.

End of Life Decisions

BKEND (89 pages)

\$ 3.50 ea.

Suicide and Euthanasia

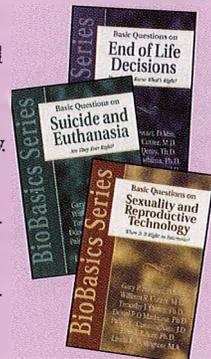
BKSUEU (80 pages)

\$ 3.50 ea.

Sexuality and Reproductive Technology

BKREP (77 pages)

\$ 3.50 ea.



Amounts shown are suggested donations.

* Additional quantities are available. For more information call 1-800-475-9127 or e-mail questions to orders@erlc.com.

Champion Action Kits

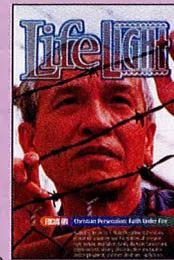
God calls those in church leadership to equip those in the pews to live victorious, Spirit-filled lives. For Faith & Family's **Champion Action Kits** are chock-full of timely, Scripture-based resources that will aid your church in championing God's truths in your community. We recognize there is a battle raging in our culture and that families are caught in the cross fire. God calls His followers to be prepared and to be on the front lines.

That's why we've prepared this exciting new offering, the **Champion Action Kit**. Packed with valuable helps for churches and families alike, the materials in the **Champion Action Kits** are grounded in God's Word and address the pressing moral, ethical, and social issues of our day. This special packaging of some of our time-tested resources and new materials will outfit your church to strengthen families and change society for good.

Each month, **Champion Action Kit** subscribers will receive a kit targeting a specific issue (November's kit focuses on Religious Persecution, while December's kit focuses on Champions for the Faith, highlighting the lives of Christians who are actively involved in making a difference for Christ in their communities). Each kit contains everything a leader will need to prepare a sermon, lead a Bible study, and provide helpful, scripturally sound information on each issue.

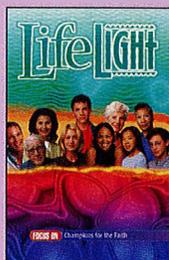
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION KIT CONTENTS*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- *LifeLight* handouts (qty: 100)
- *Stephen's Test of Faith* video (see description below)
- *In the Lion's Den* by Nina Shea
- "Remember the Persecuted" bumper sticker (see description below)
- Religious Persecution Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)



RPKIT (monthly subscription) \$24.95

CHAMPIONS FOR THE FAITH KIT CONTENTS*



- Bible study and sermon helps
- *LifeLight* handouts (qty: 100)
- *Christians in the Public Square* edited by Richard D. Land and Lee Holloway
- *The Sweetest Story Ever Told* Activity Kit (featured on p. 16)
- Champions Fact Sheets (qty: 10)

CFKIT (monthly subscription) \$24.95

Jesus Freaks

The world often labels people who are zealous in their commitment as "freaks." In this compelling book, Voice of the Martyrs and dc Talk share stories of people who unflinchingly stood for Jesus at great cost—often their own lives.

BKJES (368 pages) \$16.99 ea.



Stephen's Test of Faith

In a young boy's journey through his story, he meets Jesus, Stephen the martyr, William Tyndale, Christian children in today's Middle East, and others who dare to share their faith. This video is an inspiring challenge to all ages to continue following Christ when we are put to "the test."

VTTEST (VHS, 22 min.) \$15.99 ea.



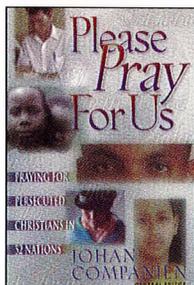
Student Underground

During an hour-long youth group meeting, 17 Christians will be martyred-somewhere in the world. This easy-to-use curriculum and companion 60-minute video will open students' eyes to the scope of religious persecution and give realistic plans for action. The four sessions can be used in a retreat or lock-in setting or in a month of weekly meetings.

RPSTUKIT (Leader's Guide & Video) \$29.99 ea.



Please observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, November 4, 2001. For more details call 1-888-LETS PRAY.



Please Pray for Us

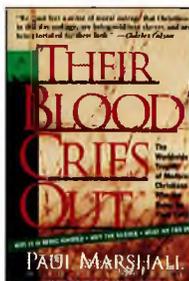
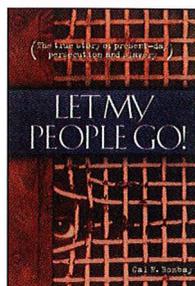
Millions of Christians worldwide suffer from persecution and restrictions on their religious freedom, but most of us do not know how to intercede effectively. This inspiring prayer guide offers specific prayer requests from the world's 52 most hurting countries.

BKPLE (219 pages) \$9.99 ea.

Let My People Go

This book is the gripping, heart-rending, sometimes infuriating account of a 1997 mission to return Sudanese slaves to their southern homeland, buy them, and set them free in the name of the Lord.

BKPEO (192 pages) \$10.39 ea.



Their Blood Cries Out

In more than 60 countries worldwide, Christians are harassed, abused, arrested, tortured, or executed. Paul Marshall tells of modern Christians who are dying for their faith.

BKBLO (335 pages) \$11.99 ea.

Bumper Stickers

Prepared by Voice of the Martyrs, Inc., these items are designed to urge Christians to pray for their brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution worldwide.

BSREM \$1.00 ea.



Amounts shown are suggested donations.

* Additional quantities are available. For more information call 1-800-475-9127 or e-mail questions to orders@erlc.com.

Building a Foundation for Life**Who's in Charge Here?**

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

When I grow up I want to be a policeman or a fireman. No, maybe an astronaut or the President of the United States.

I want to be able to stop cars that are going too fast and talk to the drivers about being bad and breaking the law. I want to be able to climb tall ladders and spray water out of big hoses and save people who are in danger. I want to wear a spacesuit and wave to all the people when I climb into my spacecraft on my way to the moon. I want to live in that big white house in Washington, D.C., and be on all the televisions in the country when I have something important to say.

I want to make the rules. I want to tell other people what they can and cannot do. Maybe I should be king. Then all the people would have to bow down to me when I come into their town. I would have a royal court, and they would make sure everyone listens to me and does what I tell them. I would write the laws: No one should talk mean to another person. School will be two days a week, and the weekend will be five days a week. All dogs must eat at the table with their family.

I would tell people how to think and act. I would be in charge.



Although all of us at one time or another dream about being in charge, there is Someone who really is in charge. And while many people don't listen to what He says or even read His Book, that doesn't make Jesus any less in control. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. There are many important people doing important jobs, but no one is more important than Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to us so that we would know God and so that we would know how to live. We all live and work under His authority—that is, Jesus has the power to make the rules and make sure we obey. If we don't obey His rules, we disappoint Jesus sort of like when we disobey our parents. Jesus is in control of everything that happens in the world.

So, no matter what you do when you grow up, it is very important to remember that it is Jesus who is in charge.

Bible truth: Jesus is our authority in all areas of our lives.

Bible verses: Philippians 2:9-11

RESOURCE AVAILABLE FROM THE ERLC:

The Sweetest Story Ever Told Activity Kit

Families need endearing traditions that celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Lysa TerKeurst tells an uplifting story of a couple whose Christmas sugar cookies were the means by which they spread the story of Jesus' birth throughout their neighborhood. Families will be inspired and encouraged to develop their own Christmas traditions.

SWEET (Kit)

\$14.99 ea.



The kit includes the 32-page book, five cookie cutters, an easy recipe, and gift tags with the Christmas message.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Celebrating a Christ-Centered Christmas

Christ has been crowded out of Christmas by shopping malls, parties, and decorations. Sharon Jaynes offers help to return our focus to the baby in the manger. Organized A to Z, this volume is filled with 26 innovative and creative ways to do just that. Let your focus be renewed as you use these great ideas to have a joyous celebration of the Savior's birth. Moody, ISBN 0-8024-1699-3



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