

The Magazine

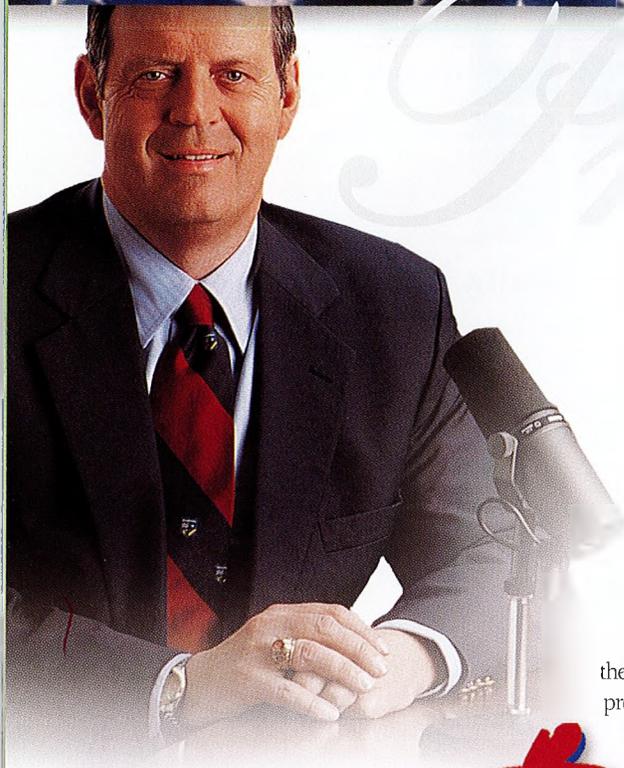
LIGHT

For Faith & Family



Family Planning

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Protecting Endangered Species

You can kill an unborn child, but not a snail darter.
So what can we do about it?

BY DR. RICHARD LAND, *President of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the nationally syndicated daily radio broadcast, For Faith & Family*

We have strict federal laws in the Endangered Species Act that protect the snail darter fish and the spotted owl. In California, it's a crime to disturb a seagull's nest because the unhatched eggs represent the potential for life. Yet abortion remains legal and commonplace in this country thirty years after *Roe v. Wade*.

I still have a jarring and vivid memory of the first time I realized the full humanity of a human fetus. I was a sophomore in high school, and it was the day our biology class projects were due.

One of my classmates, a girl whose father was an obstetrician, had prepared a project on the development of the human fetus. She had on display what I now know was a twelve-week-old human fetus. From my lab table only a few feet from the storage shelf, I could see that it was a perfectly formed little boy curled up in a glass jar filled with formaldehyde. The little baby was so undeniably human that I was deeply disturbed to see him displayed in such a casual, callous, disrespectful way.

When I finally mentioned it to my teacher, she sent me down to talk it over with the principal. When I explained my concern, his immediate response was, "Well, Richard, you're not a Catholic are you?" (The Roman Catholic church has maintained a witness for the unborn when many others were uncertain or simply wrong.)

"No, sir," I answered, surprised by his response. "I'm a Baptist, but that's terribly wrong. That's not just a science experiment. That's a human being, and it should be shown proper respect."

A couple of hours later the fetus was removed from the shelf and placed out of sight in a storeroom until that girl made her presentation.

From that day forward I've never seen how anyone, Christian or not, could deny a fetus was as surely a human being as you and I, based on physical evidence alone. I don't see how anyone can view a photo or a film of human fetal development and dismiss those tiny children as anything less than fully human.

The Bible's teaching on the

sanctity of each human life is unmistakable. Even so, the most endangered species in our culture is the unborn human being. At present, some turtle eggs have more legal rights than a healthy, full-term child the moment before he or she is born.

Sad as it seems, this news doesn't even make a ripple in the public debate anymore. We've been brutalized, desensitized, and paganized by an ever-rising flood of the unborn's blood as our nation continues to abort a baby every twenty seconds. That's 3 babies a minute, 180 babies an hour, over 4,000 babies a day.

My own awareness at an early age of God's perspective on human life underscores the importance of children being taught scriptural truths. When we hide God's Word in our hearts as children, we can more easily discern right and wrong as adults.

God judges us, I believe, in large part as a society, on how we deal with the most helpless and defenseless among us. Our nation has misplaced its moral compass. We've come unhitched from our God-fearing founda-

FOR FAITH
& Family

No single issue facing the American family today has produced more heartache or tragedy than abortion. In the thirty years since the Supreme Court handed down *Roe v. Wade*, over 42 million American babies have been legally aborted. Incredibly, women who identify themselves as Protestants (43%) and Catholics (27%) obtain the majority of abortions.

Although the justifications given for abortion are many—finances, lifestyle, family size, etc.—the root cause is simple: As a culture, we have chosen to ignore the value God places on each human life.

ERLC

OUR VISION

An American society that affirms and practices Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority.

OUR MISSION

To awaken, inform, energize, equip, and mobilize Christians to be the catalysts for the biblically-based transformation of their families, churches, communities, and the nation.

In America, approximately **3 children are killed every minute** through legalized abortion. As outrageous as it seems, **some turtle eggs have more legal rights than a healthy, full-term baby** the moment before it's born.



tion. As a result, there are going to be those around us — doctors, nurses, family members, even members of the clergy — giving us conflicting advice and conflicting opinions. And there is no longer, as there was twenty, thirty, or forty years ago, a presumption in favor of life, particularly for unborn babies.

Death has invaded the nursery and the retirement home, too. We must oppose the barbaric, lethal combination of technical expertise and spiritual ignorance that would deny there is a spirit in man that is not in the animal kingdom and would abort and experiment on the preborn, harvest fetal tissue, allow death into the nursery for our mentally and physically handicapped infants, and encourage euthanasia in hospitals and retirement homes.

As followers of Christ, we have abdicated our prophetic calling to protect human life in favor of “just getting along.” Many have interpreted our silence to be support for the culture of death in which we now find ourselves. God’s perspective is clear: As man is created in His image, human

life is sacred, distinct in nature and design from all other life.

It is incumbent upon Christians to frame the debate in the public square using God’s rule: Human life is precious. Abortion is wrong because the Bible says, repeatedly and categorically, that it’s wrong. We have a right, in fact an obligation, to carry our faith-based views into the marketplace of ideas. Jesus commands us to actively engage the “world,” preserving as “salt” and illuminating as “light.” Christians are to be good citizens of the state and trustworthy witnesses to the King of kings and the unbending truths of Scripture.

Christians, in particular, have an obligation to confront these moral and ethical issues with a scriptural response. These are hard questions, but God’s Word gives the simple but indisputable answer: Human life from conception onward should be protected, not endangered. ☩

For more information on the sanctity of human life and other critical moral and ethical issues, order a copy of Richard Land’s latest book, For Faith & Family: Changing America by Strengthening the Family, by visiting www.familybookstore.net or calling 1-800-475-9127.

Legalized in 1973 in the infamous *Roe v. Wade* case, abortion claims the lives of more than 4,000 children every day in America. Christians across our nation are urged to affirm that its legalization was a mistake and take part in an effort to have *Roe v. Wade* overturned. See page 15 for details.



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
901 COMMERCE STREET, SUITE 550
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-3696

(615) 244-2495 • FAX: (615) 242-0065 • E-MAIL: editor@erlc.com

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Ultrasound: Medical Lifesaver

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

Pro-abortion groups are upset that some pro-life pregnancy care centers are using ultrasound technology to offer women an opportunity to see their baby before it is born.

And in the midst of this debate, General Electric has raised the stakes, developing what they call "4-D Ultrasound" that can provide "live action images" of an unborn child.

There is no question that when a woman in a crisis pregnancy views an image of her unborn baby, she is far less likely to proceed with plans to abort her child. "When they [pregnant women] see their baby's heart beating on the sonogram screen, [many] change their hearts," says Lorraine Gariboldi, executive director of the Life Center of Long Island, in a *Newsday* story (5/1/02).

The decision by pregnancy care centers to expand their services to women in crisis pregnancies to include medical services, such as sonograms and prenatal care, is the "clear wave of the future," says Thomas Glessner of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Yet such medical services require the centers to be staffed with trained medical personnel, as well as counselors and other support staff. Given the price tag of the necessary equipment and additional personnel costs, it is believed only about one hundred centers—out of two thousand in the U.S.—have the ultrasound technology in hand.

And pro-abortion forces are doing all they can to block the introduction of such services in the centers. Planned Parenthood president Gloria Feldt believes this use of ultrasound technology is "political propaganda." Pro-abortion groups claim the centers offer biased and misleading services, and in some states they are encouraging the government to investigate the centers' operations.

"They [pregnancy care centers] don't provide true medical care. What they do is malpractice, by not giving women unbiased information on all their options," Feldt says in an *Associated Press* report. She agrees with others who allege that the centers' anti-abortion agenda might countermand a woman's "best interest" apparently because they fail to offer abortion as a moral equivalent to allowing the baby to live.

"Sonograms should be used as a medical diagnostic tool, and we believe they are using sonograms to manipulate the patient's decision," says Karen Pearl, director of a New York Planned Parenthood office. "They are using a medical test as a coercive tactic."

"It never fails to amaze me how little respect they [pro-life centers] have for women's capacity to understand what goes on in our bodies," attests Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, in an *AP* report (2/2/02). "I faced a crisis pregnancy after having three children, and I didn't need anyone to show me a sonogram to inform me that my pregnancy would result in giving birth to a person."

Pro-abortion forces are concerned about the proliferation of ultra-

sound technology for good reason: They know what happens when a mother-to-be views her child on the sonogram machine's screen.

"The bottom line is no woman is going to want an abortion after she sees a sonogram," admits Francesa Angelo, medical director of the Family Planning Center in Mineola, New York, in the *New York Times* (2/24/02).

Planned Parenthood's philosophy is to "empower women to make the best decision for themselves free of any pressure or coercion," Pearl says. She claims the pro-life centers are seeking to "harass" women, and offer sonograms with one goal in mind—"to convince a woman to carry to term" (*Newsday*, 5/1/01).

Pro-lifers don't deny that saving lives is their goal. "We all believe in the sanctity of human life, and that is why we are here," says the Life Center's Gariboldi.

As pro-abortionists howl, medical technology companies are raising the stakes by developing machines that reportedly offer more realistic images of the unborn than ever seen before.

General Electric claims their 4-D Ultrasound represents the difference between a video and a still photograph. GE's ultrasound technology builds on relatively new systems that allow an unborn to be seen in three dimensions instead of the normal, flat 2-D. The fourth dimension is time, which allows parents and physicians to see "live action images" of unborn children or of any internal anatomy.

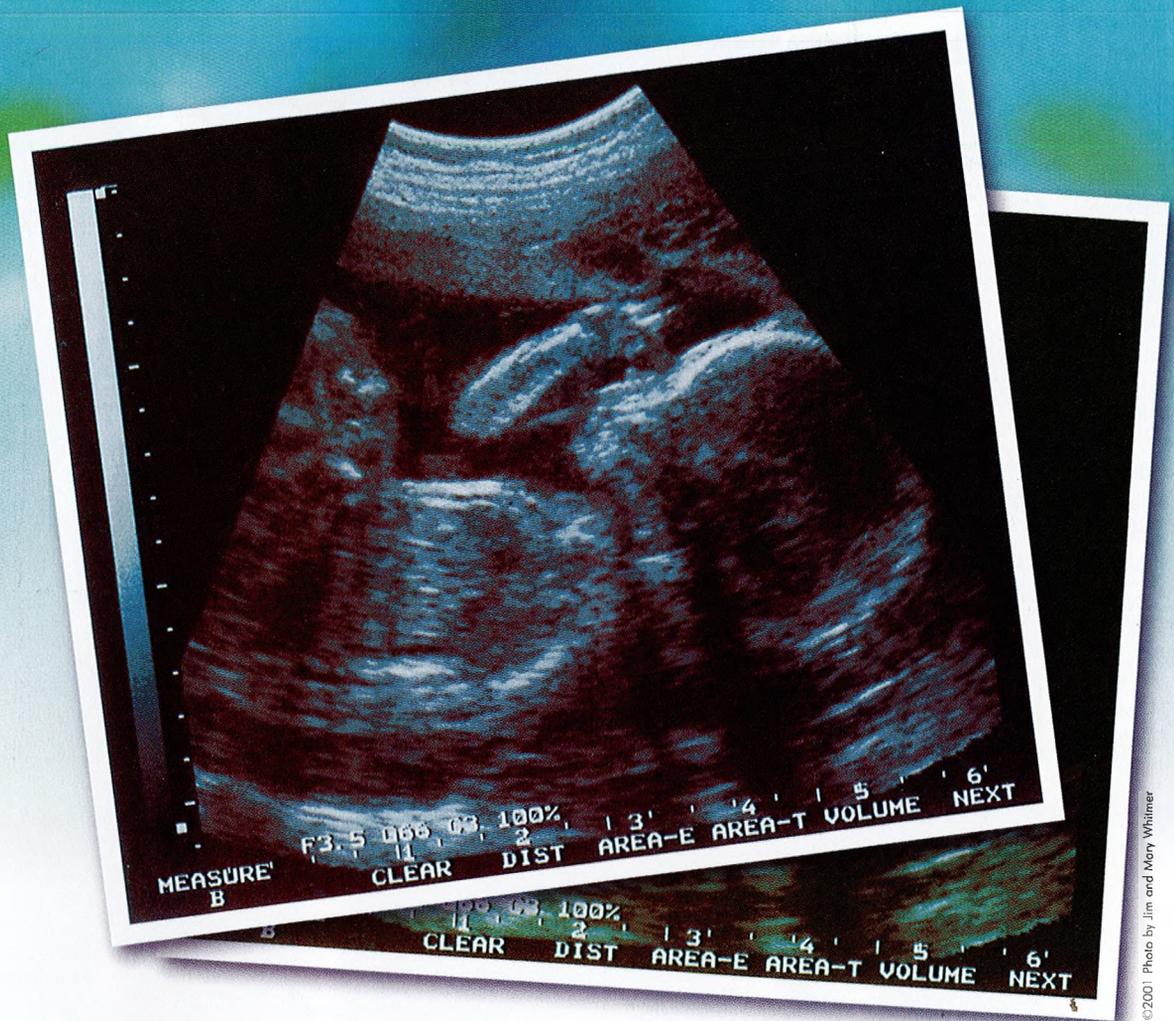
Obstetricians have seen a pronounced increase in the number of patients asking for "in utero 3-D portraits" of their children, reports *Ob.Gyn. News* (6/1/02). But sonographers say it is rare to capture an image of an unborn that is as dramatic as that publicized by equipment manufacturers. In fact, the report says at this time most 4-D images lack significant resolution and have the quality of an old movie.

While technological improvements in ultrasound equipment make the machines even more valuable, costs to purchase and operate the equipment—even the older technology—are staggering. The vast majority of pregnancy care centers cannot afford to purchase a sonogram machine, despite its value to their cause. That's where the **Psalm 139 Project** comes in.

The **Psalm 139 Project** exists to help some evangelistically oriented centers purchase equipment and pay personnel. **We need your help.** We are gratified at the response to earlier stories about the Psalm 139 Project, but unfortunately we remain far short of what it takes to purchase even one ultrasound machine—from \$12,000 to \$24,000.

Simply put, it's all about saving lives. Will you help? 

One hundred percent of the gifts received at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for the **Psalm 139 Project** will go to evangelistically oriented centers. Please send your tax-deductible gifts to Psalm 139 Project, c/o ERLC, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203. An acknowledgment and proper accounting of your gift will be provided. Call or write the ERLC with your questions.



©2001 Photo by Jim and Mary Whitmer

The Miracle of Life

*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

An unborn baby's heart begins to beat twenty-one days after conception. At seven weeks she sucks her thumb, and sometime between nine and ten weeks, this tiny wonder squints, swallows, and makes sounds. During her sixteenth week of development, her fingerprints are completely established.

At the moment of conception, every piece of the unborn child's genetic puzzle is in place—a miraculous blueprint of life.

Modern ultrasound machines provide a window into the womb, confirming Scripture's portrayal of God's amazing creation. When given a glimpse of the life within them, *nearly 100 percent of the women in a crisis pregnancy choose life.*

However, not all crisis pregnancy centers can afford ultrasound machines, which range in price from \$12,000 to \$24,000. The Psalm 139 Project provides precious resources for evangelistically-oriented centers to purchase them.

Psalm 139 PROJECT

It's all about saving lives.

Please send your tax-deductible gifts to: Psalm 139 Project ■ c/o The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission ■ 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550 ■ Nashville, TN 37203-3696
1-800-475-9127 ■ www.Psalm139Project.org

FELICIA'S
FIRST
FAMILY

Gathering around Felicia, their newest arrival via foster care, are Terry and Sally Caywood and their four children, Truett, front row, and back row, left to right, Bethany, Kristin, and Chase. The family has cared—so far—for 34 foster children.



Foster Care Expands Their Family of 6 to 40

BY LAURI ARNOLD (BP)

During the past two years Terry and Sally Caywood have become the proud parents of 34 children, in addition to the four children they already had.

Since October 1999, the Caywoods have served as foster parents to children from a variety of racial, social, and economic backgrounds; but a common factor unites them all—love.

"They say to take these babies into your home like they're your children, and we do," Sally said. "I love every one of these babies like they were my own."

Terry, a 1992 master of divinity graduate and business manager at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Sally began their foster-care ministry when their youngest child was two years old. Terry had been praying for a family ministry that would teach their children the significance of meeting the needs of others.

At the same time, Sally, unaware of her husband's prayers, learned about the foster-care program administered by the Gladney Center, a 100-year-old adoption agency located in

Fort Worth. The idea sparked her interest.

"When Sally told me about this idea, it fit together perfectly," Terry said.

After further research and completing the application and licensing process, the Caywoods assumed the care of their first foster child, Angel, in 1999. Today the children they have cared for literally live across the United States, but it's not hard to remember where all the children went. Terry keeps a map in the kitchen where he marks each child's name and their location.

"It's been everything that I

could have dreamed possible for a family ministry," Terry said.

Most babies, according to the Caywoods, are adopted soon after birth, but on occasion there is a period of time between birth and adoption. As one of sixteen families in Tarrant County serving in the intermediate care program, that is when the Caywoods step in. They have cared for babies for as little as one day and as long as four months before handing them over to the care of adoptive parents.

Parting is always difficult. "There are tears shed every time we say goodbye," Terry said.

He is quick to point out, however, that the tears shed are not only tears of sorrow at giving away a child they loved as their own, but also tears of joy for the people welcoming the child into their family.

"A lot of these situations are families who prayed for years and invested significant dollars in this process. And then they waited," Terry explained. "To see the joy on their faces when we bring the baby in and give it to them . . . for them it's the birth of their child."

The Caywoods are able to spend time with the adoptive parents on the day of the adoption. "I think every one of them has said, 'Why are you doing this?'" Sally said. "We're able to tell them that God has blessed us so much that this is one way we can give back to God. That gives us a way to witness to them, and that's been an amazing thing."

The Caywoods also have discovered considerable ministry opportunities among the birth mothers. Even after the Caywoods have the baby, Sally often meets with the birth mother at the Gladney Center so the mother can see her child.

When the couple began their foster-care ministry, Terry thought the babies were being adopted because the birth mothers didn't want them. He's found the opposite to be true, he said. "They're really expressing an incredible love for this child

to say, 'I can't do this. This baby deserves more than what I have to offer.'"

Sally has been able to encourage the mothers that they have made the right choice and also help them see how God fits into their picture. "God's in the adoption business too," Sally shares with the mothers. "He adopts us into his family."

Terry and Sally strive to involve their entire family in their ministry. They and their children have taken turns giving each child a temporary name starting with a different letter of the alphabet. "We've been through the alphabet once, and we're going through it a second time," Terry said. A recent addition to the household was Felicia, named by twelve-year-old Bethany Caywood. Other members of the immediate Caywood family are Kristin, 15; Chase, 8; and Truett, 5.

"I just pray that God will give us the babies He wants us to have, that we can minister to the families involved, and that the babies will benefit from our love," Sally said.

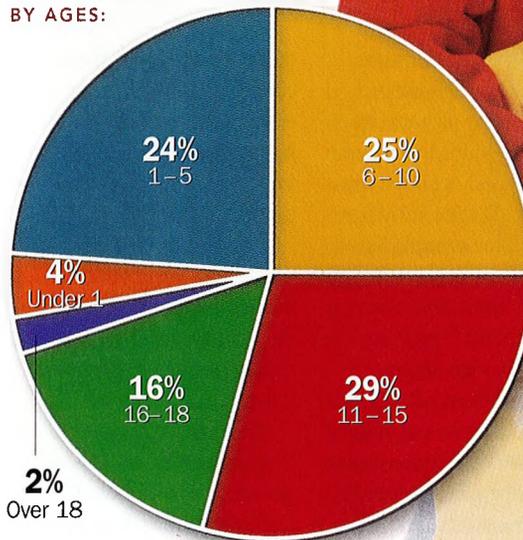
As with any ministry, there are challenges. For Sally, one of the toughest has been a lack of sleep. She recalled a recent morning when she was up at 4:00 a.m. rocking Felicia. She decided to check her e-mail while she was awake.

"There was an e-mail picture sent of one of our babies who lives in New York City.

I e-mailed them back and said, 'Thanks so much for the encouragement.'"

Sally enjoys shopping for clothing items for "her babies," and God has given her opportunities to minister even while

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AS OF SEPT. 30, 2000,* BY AGES:



The average age of the 131,000 children awaiting adoption in 2000 was **8**.*

shopping. "It has opened so many doors . . . people wanting to know why we have this baby," Sally said. "It's just an open door for me to tell them about God."

The Caywoods have learned about life, love, God, and even a new way of looking at people of other ethnic backgrounds through their experiences.

"This has given us a new level of understanding of

other cultures," Terry noted.

After two years of serving in foster-care ministry, the Caywoods continue to find God's peace in their assignment. "Looking back on it, we've gotten great confirmation that this was definitely something that God wanted us to be involved in," Terry said. "He gave us a great peace about it from the beginning, or we wouldn't have done it." ☪

51,000 children were adopted from the public foster care system in 2000.* The adoptive family structures were:



Married Couple **66%***



Single Female **32%***

Single Male **2%***



* Estimates for fiscal year 2000, as of August 2002, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

† Unmarried couples adopting were less than 1%. Total exceeds 100% due to rounding.

To Be or Not to Be

THE PILL MAY BE CONTROLLING BIRTHS IN WAYS YOU'VE NEVER CONSIDERED

BY TOM STRODE

Have pro-life Christians unknowingly aborted their tiny preborn children during the last four decades? Are some continuing to do so?

Some evangelicals, including medical professionals, say they probably have. Some say there is no such evidence. Others say they are unsure.

The horrifying possibility— as well as the debate and uncertainty— surrounds the use of one of the most popular contraceptives on the market: the birth control pill.

DEFINING PREGNANCY

Any debate over contraception should include a definition of pregnancy. To the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and its allies, pregnancy doesn't begin until the fertilized ovum is implanted in the uterine wall. To pro-lifers, and those who abide by the traditional understanding, pregnancy begins with the union of a sperm and an egg— also known as fertilization or conception.

ACOG's redefinition of pregnancy took place in the mid-1970s. Its equating of implantation, which occurs about six days after fertilization, with the beginning of pregnancy explains why ACOG and others can describe methods that prevent implantation as contraception rather than abortion.

The pill, available in the U. S. since the early 1960s, is a combination of two hormones, estrogen and progestin, that acts as a contraceptive in its first two mechanisms, or actions. Its primary means of contraception is to prevent ovulation, the release of an egg from the woman's ovaries. A secondary effect is the thickening of the cervical mucus, which impedes a sperm's path to an egg.

A third mechanism—and the one that has generated con-

troversy—is the pill's thinning effect on the uterine lining, the endometrium, creating a less hospitable environment for the implantation of a recently conceived child.

For pro-lifers—who accept conception, not implantation, as the beginning of a human life—the potential rejection of a tiny child by the lining of the uterus is a major problem.

The question for pro-life couples, doctors, counselors, pastors, and ethicists is: Does the birth control pill cause abortions?

Randy Alcorn—a pro-life leader, author, and former pastor—researched the issue in the 1990s and wrote a book with that question as the title. He hoped the answer would be no, he says. His wife and he had used birth control pills early in their marriage, and as a pastor he had recommended the method to young couples.

His book cites medical books and journals, pill manufacturers' materials, and research findings, as well as statements from physicians and pharmacists, in concluding use of the pill sometimes results in abortion.

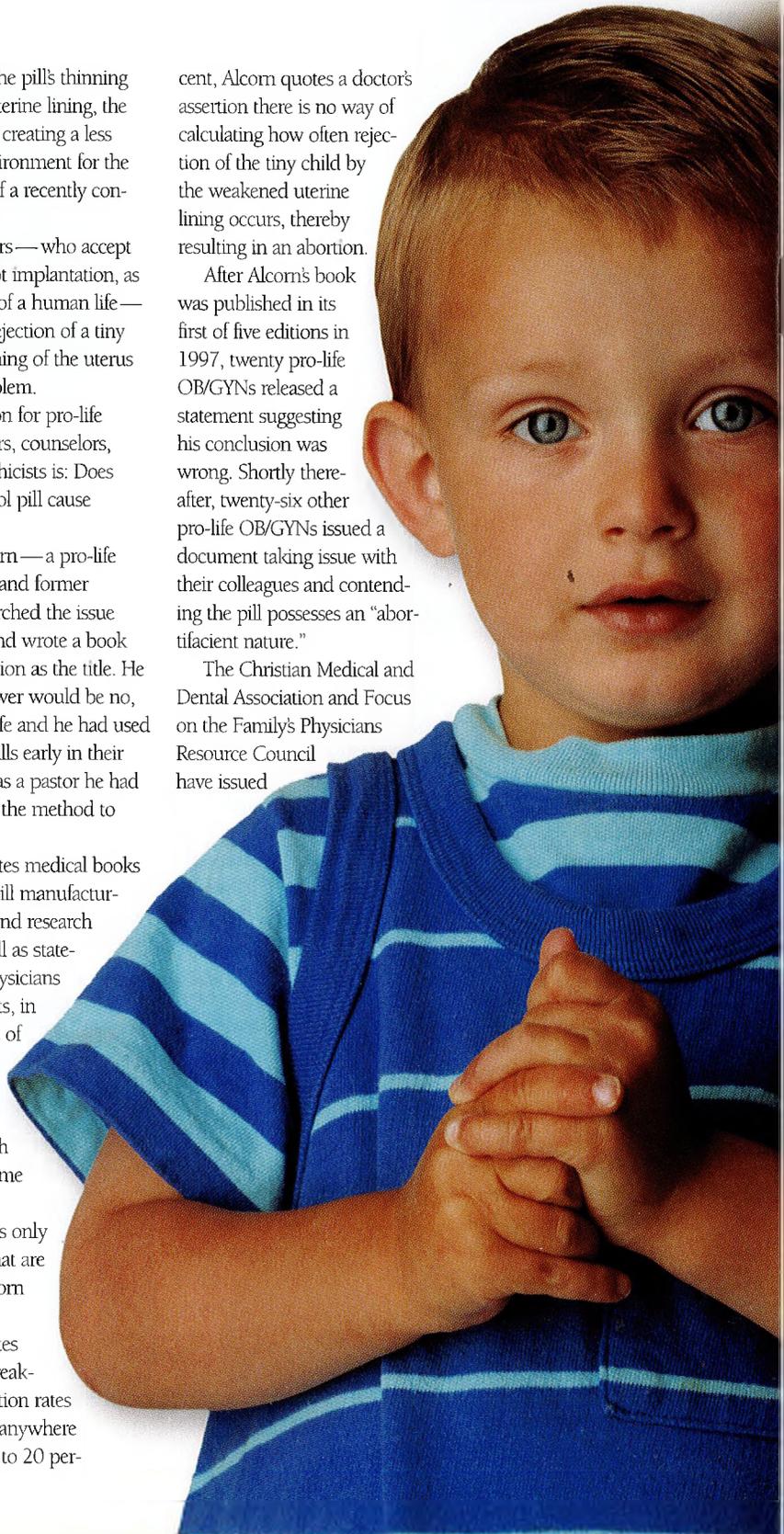
"My research has convinced me the evidence is compelling. It is only the numbers that are uncertain," Alcorn writes.

While he cites estimates of "break-through" ovulation rates by pill users at anywhere from 2 percent to 20 per-

cent, Alcorn quotes a doctor's assertion there is no way of calculating how often rejection of the tiny child by the weakened uterine lining occurs, thereby resulting in an abortion.

After Alcorn's book was published in its first of five editions in 1997, twenty pro-life OB/GYNs released a statement suggesting his conclusion was wrong. Shortly thereafter, twenty-six other pro-life OB/GYNs issued a document taking issue with their colleagues and contending the pill possesses an "abortifacient nature."

The Christian Medical and Dental Association and Focus on the Family's Physicians Resource Council have issued



CHEMICAL ABORTION

While pro-life medical professionals differ about whether there is evidence the birth control pill, featuring the hormones estrogen and progesterin, causes abortions, they appear to agree in general the following methods have post-conception mechanisms that make them abortifacient:

- ▲ Emergency contraception (morning-after pill)
- ▲ Intrauterine device (IUD)
- ▲ Progesterin-only pill (mini-pill)
- ▲ Norplant

statements acknowledging the controversy but taking no definitive position. CMDA says, "Current knowledge does not confirm or refute conclusions that routine use of hormonal birth control causes abortion."

William Cutrer, an associate professor of Christian ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, says Alcorn is "overstating what the evidence can now support." It is a "theoretical possibility" that birth control pills can cause abortion, but "no one knows" if or to what extent it takes place, says the obstetrician and former pastor.

He respects researchers and Christian physicians on both sides of the question, Cutrer says. If "breakthrough" ovulation occurs, some contend larger amounts of progesterin are produced to ready the endometrium for implantation, he says, noting also that implantation occurs even where there is not a highly receptive

host, as with ectopic pregnancies lodged in a fallopian tube.

If a couple chooses not to use birth control pills because of concern they may cause abortions, "That's fine with me," Cutrer says. "It's when people are told that birth control pills are abortifacient, when we don't have the data, that I have a problem."

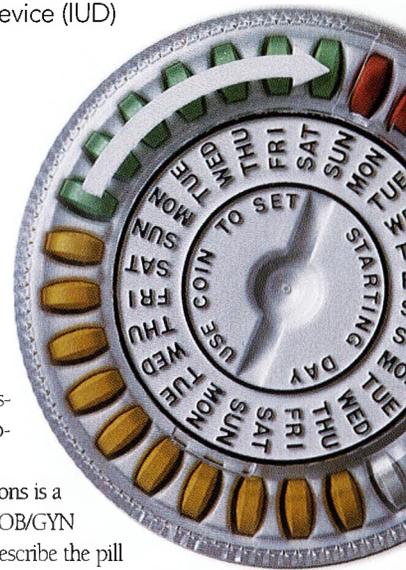
Bioethicist Ben Mitchell said although scientific evidence is lacking, he tries "to discourage couples from using birth control pills by educating them about the potential of the pill to cause abortions in some cases. Until more data is in, the decision should be considered a matter of Christian liberty."

"Christians, unlike the general populace, begin with the presumption in favor of having children," said Mitchell, a consultant to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and an associate professor of bioethics at Trinity International University in suburban Chicago. "We have a procreative privilege and responsibility. Contraception may be permissible in certain circumstances.

Abortion, even by prescription drugs, is not. Since there are relatively effective non-abortifacient alternatives, the pill is unnecessary for contraceptive purposes."

Orman Simmons is a Southern Baptist OB/GYN who refuses to prescribe the pill as a contraceptive. "My gut feeling is there probably are pregnancies that occur as a result of pill failure that may go to term or they may abort due to poor endometrial lining preparation," said Simmons. "I am so pro-life that I can't distinguish whether there is pill failure or patient failure."

Alcorn argues for such caution, even by those who question his conclusion. "If we are uncertain, shouldn't we take the ethical high ground by saying our uncertainty should compel us not to take or prescribe the pill? Shouldn't we give the benefit of the doubt to life?"



For more information

More information on the question of whether the birth control pill causes abortions may be found at the following Internet sites:

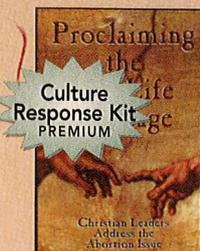
- ▲ www.aaplog.org — The Web site of the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists provides statements from specialists on both sides of the debate.
- ▲ www.epm.org — Eternal Perspective Ministries, headed by Randy Alcorn, offers condensed versions of *Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?* as well as other documents on the question at its site. The complete book also may be ordered on-line.
- ▲ www.apsire2.com — The site of Southern Seminary professor William Cutrer and his writing partner, Sandra Glahn, includes information on the issue.
- ▲ www.cbhd.org — The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity has the book *The Reproduction Revolution*, which includes material on this subject, and other related presentations available for order through its site.

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 Culture Response Kit, which includes valuable resources that offer biblical insights on critical life issues. For more information on Culture Response Kits, see p. 21.



Proclaiming the Pro-Life Message

This compilation of messages on abortion includes the works of Charles

Colson, W. A. Criswell, James T. Draper, Carol Everett, Beverly LaHaye, Richard Land, and others.

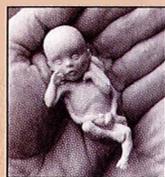
BKMES (190 pages)

\$10.95 ea.

"Baby Hope"

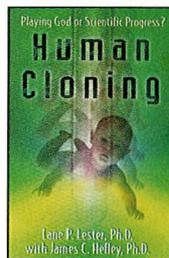
This exquisitely crafted resin model is identical to the size of an unborn child at 12 weeks and serves as a gentle reminder that life *does* begin at conception.

SABAB \$5.15 ea.
SABBY (plastic) \$5.55 ea.



Human Cloning

Is human cloning playing God, or is it scientific progress? A look at where genetic engineering is headed and the challenges posed by a mechanistic society that denies the God of creation.



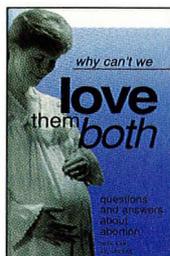
BKHUM (175 pages)

\$9.99 ea.

Why Can't We Love Them Both?

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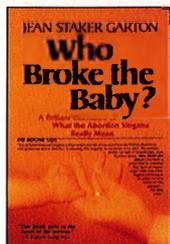
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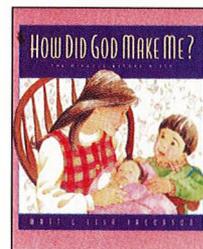
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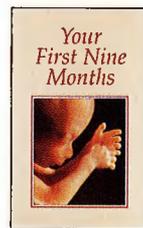


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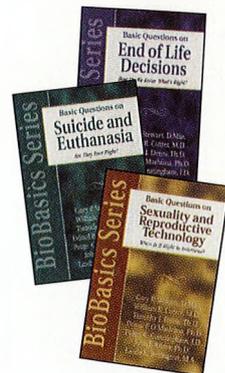
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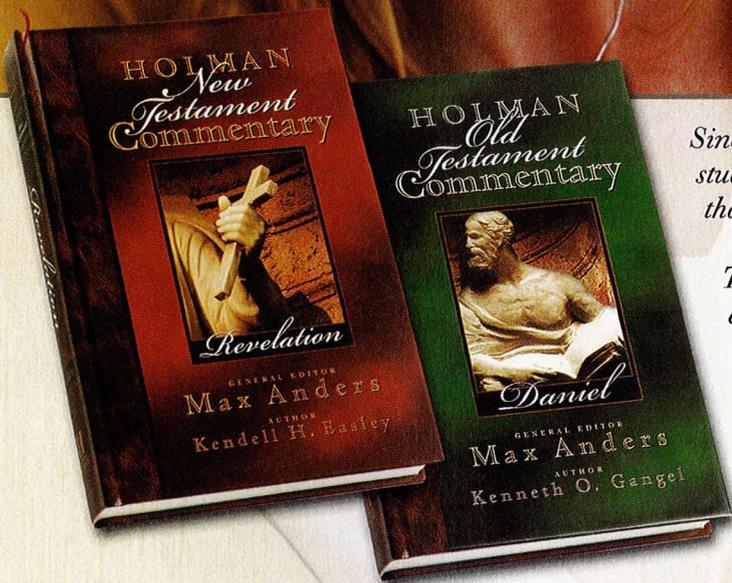
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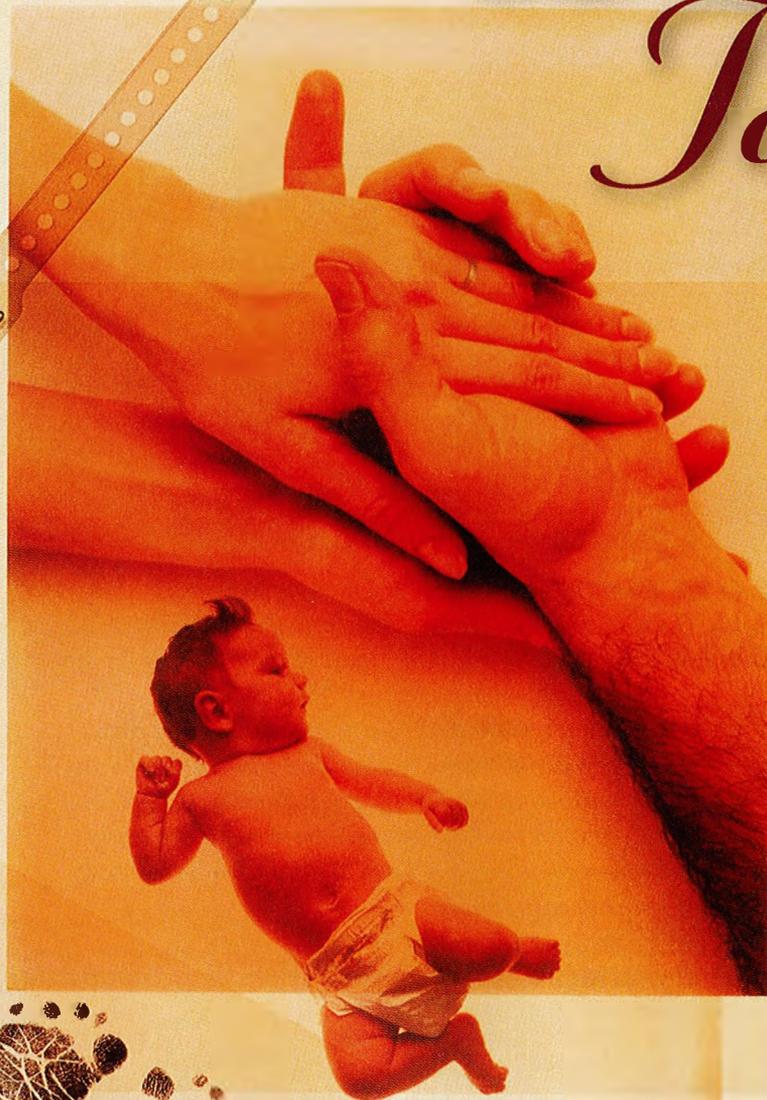
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V393

Losing You Too Soon

Awaiting the birth of a child can be a time filled with anticipation and hope as parents pray for a healthy child and look forward to holding him in their arms and placing those perfect little footprints in his baby book to cherish for years to come. But when a baby dies prematurely, couples are left with a painful emptiness, disappointment, and even anger.

Bernadette Keaggy knows the heartbreak intimately. She and her husband, guitarist Phil Keaggy, lost not just one, but five babies through miscarriage or premature birth. Today she is a voice of comfort and encouragement for parents who have lost a child, either before birth or as an infant. Bernadette recently discussed her book, *Losing You Too Soon*, on *For Faith & Family* with Dr. Richard Land.



You and Phil lost five children through miscarriage or premature birth during the early years of your marriage. Describe that time in your life.

We had been married a couple of years the first time I discovered I was pregnant. We were very excited about starting a family. Everything was great until I was about five and a half months along. One Sunday morning I was singing during worship, and I started having contractions. I called my doctor, and he said I was having

Braxton-Hicks contractions that would stop. But they got worse very quickly, and Phil rushed me to the hospital. Within a few hours I had given birth to three beautiful, tiny sons. Two were stillborn, and the third lived just a few moments. Despite the heartbreak of such a loss, we concluded that what happened had been an isolated incident, and that it probably wouldn't have happened if I'd been carrying just one baby.

A few months later I was pregnant again. We were confident that everything was going to be perfect this time. However, I went into labor early again—

this time at six and a half months. The medication to stop labor didn't work, and Ryan was born, blue and gasping for breath. He was moved to a perinatal center in a hospital about an hour away, but he developed hyaline membrane disease and died two days later.

After that, I was haunted by the possibility that something was wrong that kept me from carrying a child to term. We saw a high-risk pregnancy specialist who discovered that I actually had two problems. One, a hormonal problem, could be remedied with injections. The other, an incompetent cervix, could be

managed though a relatively simple surgical procedure. The doctor warned us that the surgery itself could trigger labor, however. We left with a lot to consider. I remember thinking, *Is this what your hope is based on, Bernadette? On whether or not you can have children?*

A few months later I found myself pregnant for the third time, and we were glad to have a plan. My fears resurfaced as the weeks passed, but the doctor reassured me and confirmed that he would begin the hormone therapy and perform the surgical procedure in my fourth month.

Stillbirth — fetal death after 20 weeks of pregnancy

Miscarriage — fetal death prior to 20 weeks of pregnancy

Neonatal death — death in the first 28 days after birth

March of Dimes Web site, www.nodimes.org

Almost four months into my pregnancy, I awoke one morning with mild cramping. I lost the baby that afternoon and had a D&C the next day.

Most of us don't know how to help or even talk to a couple who have experienced these things. Tell us some of the emotions they might experience and how we can help.

They may feel tremendous anger and disappointment in God. They are dealing with the loss of their dreams, both for themselves and their child. The woman may feel like a personal failure or guilty because she was unable to carry a child to full term. She may struggle with depression and despair, all while she is coping with drastic changes in her body. She may put up a great front around friends, as I did. A man will tend to keep his pain to himself. He may feel clueless about how to help his wife — and his wife may not know how to let him help. He may feel like a failure

because he was unable to keep it from happening. He may feel anger, confusion, and sadness. He may pour himself into work as a way of coping.

Be supportive by telling the couple that you are sorry and you care. Listen without giving advice. Run an errand, do a load of laundry, or take any other children out for awhile. Be sensitive to the anniversary date of the stillbirth or miscarriage, as well as holidays and events such as baby showers. A brief call or note to let them know you care may be a ray of light in an otherwise dark day.

How have your experiences shaped who you are today?

We've learned strong lessons about life and faith. It was only when Phil and I learned to dig deeply into ourselves and work through painful situations that we discovered what was really important. Pain, physical or emotional, takes its toll on our relationships and alienates us from others. If we're not careful,

it can close us off from God.

I began to realize that our faith does not mold God into what we want Him to be. Our faith cannot force God to give us what we want, no matter how much we want it. His mercy and love for us far outweigh what we may desire.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." He has the strength to carry us through. When we cried out in pain and grief, Jesus listened. When we asked why, He understood. When we didn't have the strength to take the next step, He gently pushed us on.

Life is full of gray areas. When there are many questions, and the answers are vague or nil, it causes us to stretch a little further to open ourselves to God. Answers are not the real issue. Clinging to God through all of life's circumstances and helping others do the same is what's important. My hope is that I've become more open and vulnerable to God and to others.

Life's lessons never end. We can either gain wisdom and understanding from them or let them beat us down. I choose to learn and grow through life's circumstances — and that's a daily choice. Mercy and grace enough for each day — that is what we are promised. And that is enough. 

Emotional and Spiritual Recovery

- 1. Give yourself time.** Release your emotions to God. He understands our weaknesses and knows our sorrow.
- 2. Share your pain.** Although most won't understand your grief, there will be those who will listen and support you. Choose wisely who you open your heart to. You may want to seek help from a pastor, counselor, or support group.
- 3. Fully embrace your grief.** Give yourself permission to grieve. Let yourself feel.
- 4. Avoid blaming yourself or your spouse.** We live in a fallen world, and we are not exempt from suffering. We choose what to do with our feelings. Choose to let your experience make you stronger.
- 5. Look to God for healing.** Our God is a God of love and compassion. Go to His Word for comfort and consolation.
- 6. Use your experience to help others.** By reaching out to others, we often can help heal ourselves.
- 7. Be thankful.** Lay your burden down at the foot of the cross. Jesus understands your pain as no one else does. Bless God at all times.

From *Losing You Too Soon*, available at www.familybookstore.net

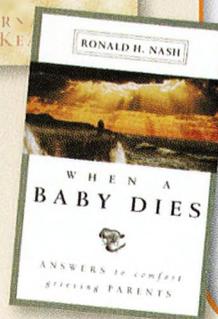
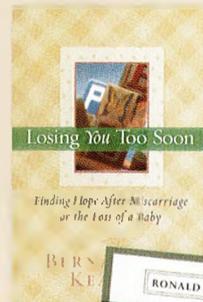
resources

Losing You Too Soon

In *Losing You Too Soon*, Bernadette Keaggy writes with honesty, compassion, and ultimately hope about the hurt and confusion she experienced and the effect this loss had on her self-esteem, her marriage, and her relationship with God. Phil Keaggy shares his perspective in a chapter "Just For Husbands." Their story doesn't offer simple solutions, but it does show how to find the strength and courage to go on. This book will be a source of encouragement and a reminder that God promises grace and hope in the midst of even the deepest pain.

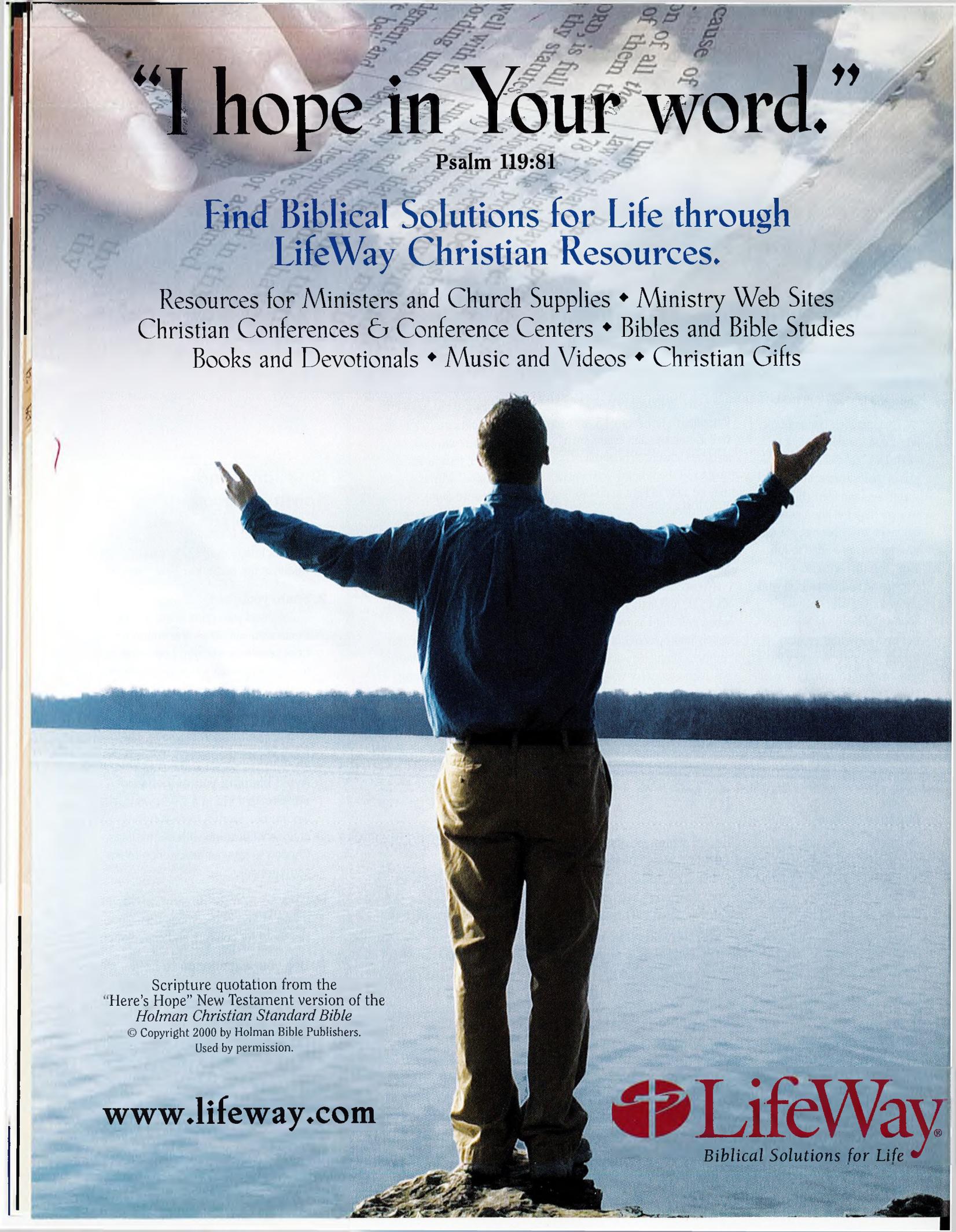
When a Baby Dies: Answers to Comfort Grieving Parents

"Is my baby with God now?" What does the Bible say to such a question? What hope does it offer parents grieving the loss of a precious child? The answers are merciful. For pastors looking for biblical grounds to offer comfort and assurance, or for parents seeking solace for their grief, this book offers insights that are rich in hope and grounded solidly in Scripture.



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“I hope in Your word.”

Psalm 119:81

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OPERATION OUTCRY: Silent No More

Dr. Richard Land, host of the *For Faith & Family* radio program, recently interviewed Allan E. Parker, Jr., founder of the Texas Justice Foundation. Through **Operation Outcry: Silent No More**, his group, in cooperation with the Center for Reclaiming America and the National Foundation For Life Litigation Project, hopes to reopen two infamous cases, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which effectively legalized abortion on demand in the United States.

Tell us about the Texas Justice Foundation.

We're a non-profit, public interest litigation foundation that represents people in important landmark cases at no charge. Right now we have the honor of representing Norma McCorvey, who was *Roe* of *Roe v. Wade*, and Sandra Cano, who was *Doe* of *Doe v. Bolton*. The cases of these two ladies together brought legalized abortion on demand to the United States. The amazing thing is that they want to go back to the Supreme Court to overturn those cases. This is, as far as I know, the first time in American history that two people who won major landmark cases want to try to see them overturned.

What is Operation Outcry?

The goal of Operation Outcry is two-fold. The first is to reach out to post-abortive women in the name of Jesus Christ to bring salvation and healing. The second is to gather affidavits, sworn testimony in a form that can be used in a trial, to tell the court that *Roe v. Wade* was a bad decision.

There are two great lies about abortion. One is that it's not a baby being killed; the other is that it's good for women. The goal of Operation Outcry, legally, is to completely destroy those lies with the testimony of women who have had abortions and have been injured—physically and emotionally—by them.

How precisely is Operation Outcry different from all of the other pro-life efforts?

The collection of affidavits makes us different. We are gathering actual evidence to be used in trial. Our goal is to have thousands, if not tens of thousands, of affidavits from post-abortive women where-in they tell the court their story.

We believe that in the hearts of these women, some of whom have been silent about their abortions for twenty or thirty years, there is a story that must be told. They've lived with the shame and humiliation of that event. Some have not even told their husbands. We are discovering they are willing to come forward and say, "*Roe v. Wade* was poorly decided. I was led to do something that was wrong. I was injured severely by this decision. Now is the time to put a stop to it."

Norma McCorvey and Sandra Cano have a unique role because they were the original plaintiffs. They can go back in under federal rules and present this evidence to the court, forcing the court to at least consider the sworn affidavits.

The ultimate goal is to file these affidavits in the original district court in Dallas, Texas, that decided *Roe v. Wade*. Because Norma was a party, she can file a motion to reopen the case. We have to go back to the original court—there will be different judges today, of course, but the same courthouse. We are hoping to have thousands of these affidavits to present to the court. We believe it will be an overwhelm-

ing mountain of evidence to strip away the lies about abortion. We encourage ladies who have had an abortion to contact us. Norma McCorvey needs you. The unborn need you. The Lord desires you to speak the truth and be silent no more about your abortion.

I imagine you're hearing heartbreaking stories from the women who contact you.

Yes, we are. We have heard from many women who were pressured or even forced to have an abortion. Donna Santa Marie is one example. She didn't want to abort her child, but her parents compelled her to do so. They took her to an abortionist. When she told the man she thought abortion was murder, he refused to do the abortion. Her father took her home and hit her in the stomach, hoping to force a miscarriage. When that didn't work, they took her to another abortionist who didn't ask Donna any questions. The child was removed from her own body against her consent.

When will you move to have the *Roe v. Wade* case overturned?

The case will go to court as soon as we have enough evidence to take it back. That's why it's so important for women who have had an abortion to call or download an affidavit at www.operationoutcry.org. There also is a Friend of the Court form for anyone who is in support of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. These completed forms will be presented as evidence to the court to show that what the court thought was a good thing in 1973 is in fact a very bad thing for women. 

In order to publicize their efforts and to tell America the truth about abortion, Operation Outcry encourages post-abortive women to participate in press conferences in every state capitol and in front of the Supreme Court during the 30th Anniversary week of *Roe v. Wade* (Jan. 19-26). For information about plans for your state, visit www.operationoutcry.org.

*For information on the Texas Justice Foundation, Operation Outcry, or to secure an affidavit or Friend of the Court form, visit www.operationoutcry.org or phone 210-614-7157. By completing a Friend of the Court form, you authorize attorneys in lawsuits seeking to end legalized abortion to list your name on briefs stating your belief that *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned. You will not be required to appear in court or testify in any lawsuit on which your name is listed as a Friend of the Court.*

“Satan is terrified by the ministry of reconciliation.”

John Dawson in *Healing America's Wounds*, Regal, 1994

CROSSING THE DIVIDE

God's Way to Unity Is Through Reconciliation

BY A. CHARLES WARE

Many discussions of the race problem in America generate more heat than light. What we need is to hear from God and to be responsive to His position on the matter. As we examine the issues related to biblical reconciliation, we must follow specific biblical principles to avoid the abuse of Scripture. Some of these principles are so generic that stating them seems to be needless. But we must think of those foundational principles specifically in the context of racial reconciliation, even as we are called to invite the lost to reconciliation with God.

- The Bible speaks to every issue of life and to every relationship (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- Biblical truths have preeminence over culture or heritage (John 4:23-24).
- Every human being has common ancestry in Adam and Noah (Gen. 1:26-27; 8; 9; Acts 17:26-29).
- All human beings are sinners in need of a Savior (Rom. 3:9-23).
- Jesus Christ is the only Savior (Rom. 3:24-30).
- Those justified through the blood of Christ are part of one family of God (John 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:13-14; Eph. 2:1-22; Rev. 7:9).
- Therefore, the Bible exhorts us to accept diversity within the bonds of unity (Eph. 4:1-6).
- The earliest Christians struggled with diversity, but they modeled a unity based upon love for Christ and one another (Acts 6:1-7; 10; 11; 15; Gal. 2:1-16).
- Love for the brethren is a mark of authentic faith (1 John 3:14-18; 4:7-11).
- Mutual love and acceptance testify to the world of the meaning of Christian discipleship (John 13:34-35).
- Love is nurtured when Christian fellowship is characterized by humility (Phil. 2:1-8).
- Christian love listens and forgives while correcting past errors.
- Christian love upholds brothers and sisters in prayer.
- Christian love perseveres and expects the best in others, provoking them to love and good works.
- Christian love shares all good things in thanksgiving.
- Christians must recognize that the church is God's possession, purchased with the blood of Christ.

By keeping these principles in our hearts, we are ready to follow God's counsel regarding the makeup of the church and the dynamics of church life.

Godliness speaks of a new compatibility. Regarding our relationship with God, it means that we have changed. We see better the value of the divine perspective. This compatible relationship is called brotherly kindness. Groups founded on brotherly kindness among Christians may be seen as cliques. Relationships are formed around a sense of togetherness because of common goals, rejoicing together in victories, and weeping together in defeats (Rom. 1:7-12; Phil. 1:3-8; 2:1-18). Many saints would probably consider reaching this stage in relationships to be heaven on earth. Yet, the text

positioned. Any sacrifice that Christ asks of us for the sake of the kingdom we give joyfully. Our desire is to help, heal, and bless those whose lives are impoverished to the degree that they are ignorant of loving God and their neighbor.

Second Peter 1:5-7 communicates a process of personal maturity from faith to *agape* love. Although this process of growth is gradual, it is achievable by every believer (vv. 1-4). With maturity comes fruitfulness in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (v. 8), a strong, intimate relationship with God. These principles offer great hope in the racial reconciliation struggle. Solid cross-cultural friendships must be built on sound doctrine and held together by love.

.....

"It is now time to act. We have had plenty of sensitivity training and racial focus groups. While those things are important, the crisis we are now facing as a culture doesn't allow time for theory without practice. It is time to make a difference and not just discuss making a difference. The key is starting where you are. If everyone does a little, a lot will get done. God never blesses good intentions. God blesses obedient action that is based on the right heart attitude."

Tony Evans in *Let's Get to Know Each Other*, Thomas Nelson, 1995

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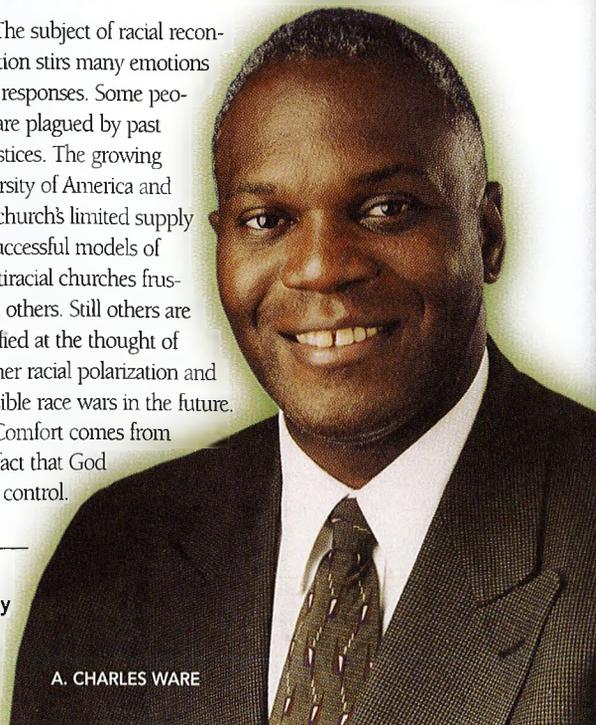
challenges us to a higher level.

The ultimate mark of maturity in a reconciler's life is love. This love is more characteristic of the divine nature than brotherly kindness. This love does not wait for compatibility but seeks the good of the one loved at great personal sacrifice (1 John 4:9-19).

Love motivates reconciliation and compels us to reach out to all, seeking nothing in return. We have a compassion for the racist, the prejudiced, the perplexed, the protective, and the

The subject of racial reconciliation stirs many emotions and responses. Some people are plagued by past injustices. The growing diversity of America and the church's limited supply of successful models of multiracial churches frustrate others. Still others are terrified at the thought of further racial polarization and possible race wars in the future.

Comfort comes from the fact that God is in control.

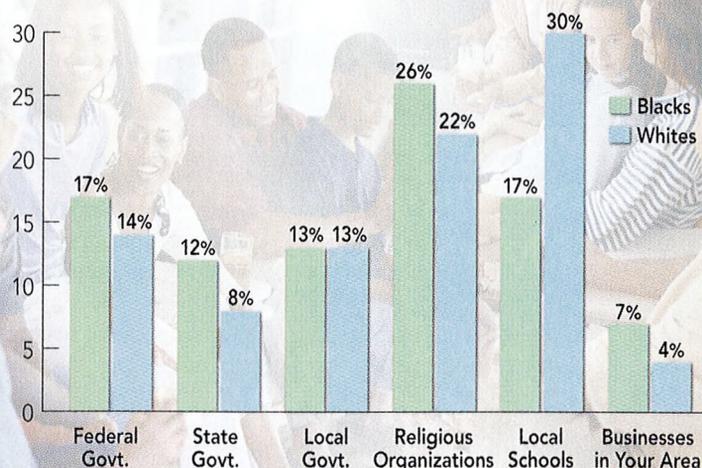


A. CHARLES WARE

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OPINIONS VARY AMONG RACES WHEN IT COMES TO IMPROVING RELATIONS

Which one of these groups do you think could do the best job of improving race relations in this country?



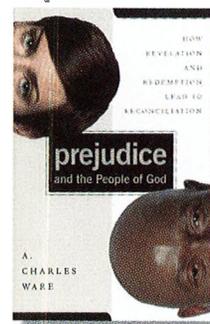
Data: Gallup Tuesday Briefing, July 9, 2002

Hope for the future brightens when we consider that Christ has promised to build His church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Furthermore, the church that Christ is building is a multiracial church, which was the goal and teaching of the apostles. Unity with diversity is a major New Testament theme. Critical to such ministries are committed relationships built on sound doctrine and glued together by divine love.

The color of Christianity is love. 

PREJUDICE AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD

In a culture plagued by racial division and unrest, the church has convinced itself that prejudice is not a pressing issue. But visit a local congregation on any given Sunday and a quick scan of the crowd will reveal that subconsciously held attitudes and presuppositions continue to divide the very body of Christ.



Sharing his own experience with prejudice and his expertise in racial reconciliation, Charles Ware traces the history of the misunderstandings behind racism, examines the biblical model for reconciliation, describes the role of love in the church and community, and explores the answers to questions including: Do people of different races prefer to be with "their own"? How do you assimilate several races and cultures into a cohesive congregation? Does the Bible address interracial marriage?

Interested in this recommended resource? Visit us on-line at:

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Toward a Reconciled Church: A Testimony

BY PAUL HOSKINS

Dr. Paul Hoskins holds degrees from Cornell University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where he is an assistant professor of New Testament.

God desires that the church be unified. He is not pleased when the Body is fragmented. God wants the church to be a place where our bond in Christ naturally leads to the bridging of the racial, cultural, and economic gaps that so often divide our world (Eph. 2:11-22; Rev. 7:9). God has opened my eyes to this issue over the past few years.

As a child in Louisiana, I experienced firsthand the desegregation of the state's public schools. I was comfortably unaware, however, of the fact that although my school could claim some measure of racial and economic diversity, my church was primarily middle class and completely white. Thankfully, that blissful naivete began to change during my studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where I was exposed to the great need for Christians to communicate

and cooperate across racial and cultural barriers. I saw this need embodied in real people when I became involved in ministry to Russian-speaking immigrants.

In 1997, my wife, Cheryl, and I moved to Deerfield, Illinois, for my doctoral work. God led us to a Chinese-American congregation where we were further challenged to examine the racial and cultural divisions in our society and the church. We began to sense God's call to be involved in Christian community development in line with the three-pronged model of John Perkins: relocation to the community of need, reconciliation among racial groups, and resource redistribution within the community to create economic opportunity. (John Perkins is the founder of the modern Christian community development movement. For more information about ministering to an at-risk community, read his book *Restoring*

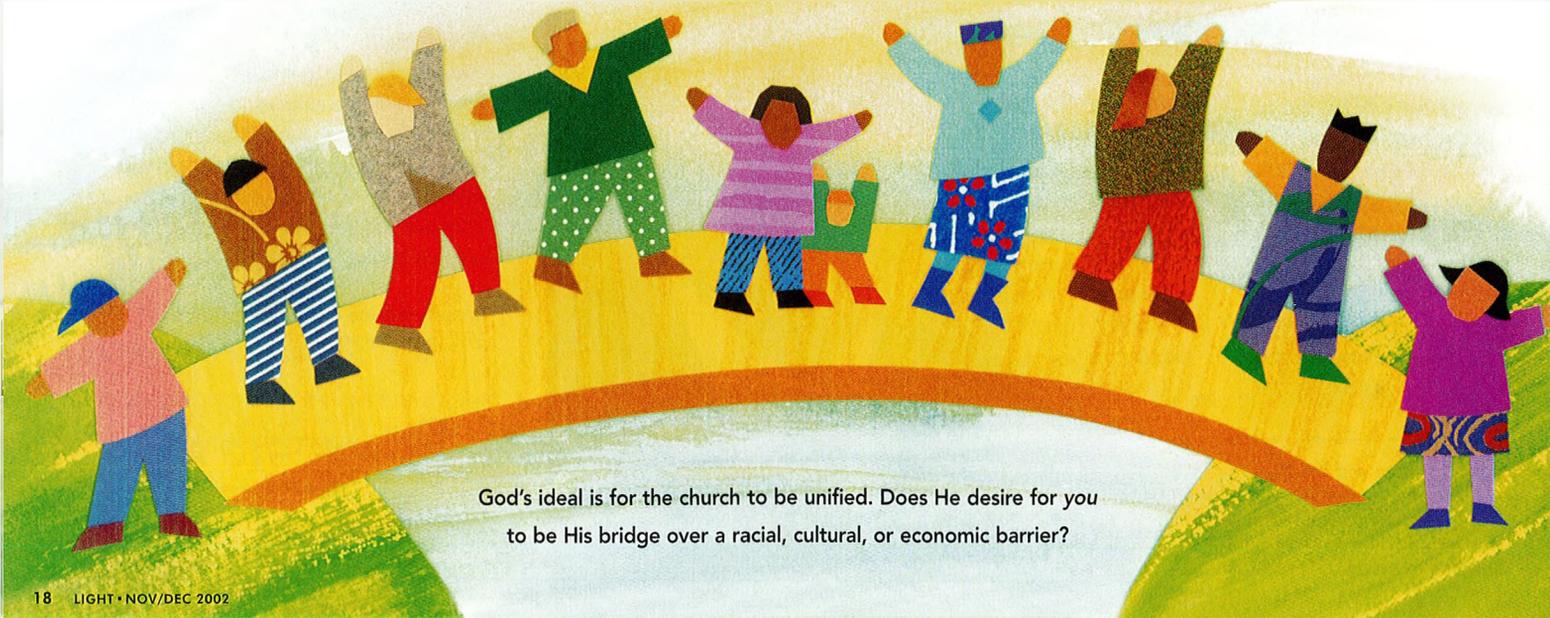
At-Risk Communities, available at www.familybookstore.net.)

Earlier this year, God led us to move north to Waukegan. This city of nearly ninety thousand is racially, culturally, and economically diverse. We became part of a church that is purposeful about reflecting the diversity of the community and is actively ministering to the needs of its citizens. The church is primarily African-American with some Hispanic and Caucasian families. It is a place where Cheryl, our daughter Hannah, and I are learning—more than ever before—to practice reconciliation across racial, cultural, and economic lines. My brief experience in this church, like my experience in the Chinese-American church, has taught me to appreciate that diversity is a tremendous gift to the church and to individual Christians. For instance, I have never seen church members so enthusiastic about door-to-door evangelism. Even those with very little training and experience

appear to be far better than I am at communicating to people their need for Jesus Christ. In addition, our worship services are wonderful celebrations that stir Spirit-led joy and excitement in my all-too-Stoic German-American soul.

God continues to teach me that the church needs to be and can be a place where Christians reach out to cross racial, cultural, and economic barriers. In doing so, we experience and display the richness and power of God's kingdom. Our witness to the world will become stronger, and our ability to minister in a changing world will increase as brothers and sisters in Christ who are different from ourselves enrich us and we enrich them.

Does God desire for you to be His bridge over a racial, cultural, or economic barrier? You undoubtedly will be challenged, but you also will be incredibly blessed. Most important, you will honor our Father, the Creator of diversity. ☪



God's ideal is for the church to be unified. Does He desire for you to be His bridge over a racial, cultural, or economic barrier?



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you've been asking

You hear references to "cord blood" in the stem cell research debate. What exactly is it?

Cord blood is the blood that remains in a newborn baby's umbilical cord and placenta following birth. First transplanted in 1988, cord blood is a rich source of stem cells that can be used to treat a variety of life-threatening diseases including leukemia, other cancers, and blood and immune disorders. Cord blood is collected safely and painlessly after the baby is born and the umbilical cord has been clamped and cut. The stem cells are immediately available for transplantation after storage. The cells can be banked for family use or entered into donor registries.

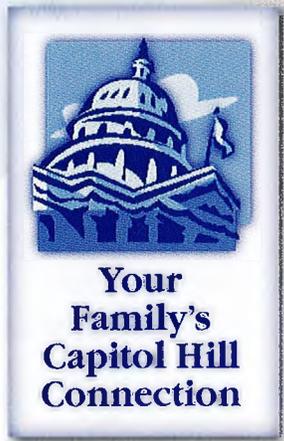
As of the year 2000, more than 2,000 cord blood transplants had been performed worldwide. There are a growing number of cord blood banking and research facilities and increasing numbers of families saving their cord blood, so these numbers should increase dramatically. Make prior arrangements with your physician if you want your newborn's cord blood collected.

I'm looking for a "one-stop-shopping" way to keep updated on pending legislation and contact my legislators.

The ERLC provides these services and more through the Capitol Hill Connection feature of its Web site. Go to the main page, www.erlc.com, then click on "Capitol Hill Connection." From here, the possibilities are amazing.

An Action Alert page shows what legislation needs your immediate attention. You'll find background information on each bill as well as suggested actions. You can send an e-mail to the decision makers directly from the site. This section also gives the daily schedule for the House of Representatives, the Senate, and any committee meetings. Also included are links to reports from advisory groups such as the President's Council on Bioethics.

The Elected Officials feature allows you to find detailed background and contact information for your representative and senators by entering your zip code.



Or, if you need to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the president, or the Japanese embassy in Washington—that information is here, too!

The Media Guide allows you to locate and contact any local or national media outlet, as well as any person at that outlet. From your local news anchor to the editor of *Newsweek*, they're all just a click away.

First transplanted in 1988, blood from a newborn baby's umbilical cord is a rich source of stem cells that can be used to treat a variety of life-threatening diseases including leukemia, other cancers, and blood and immune disorders. As the number of cord blood banking and research facilities increases, many families are opting to save their newborn's cord blood. Consult your physician in advance if you are considering that option.

Where can I find a particular Southern Baptist Convention resolution?

SBC resolutions from 1845-2002 are on the Web site of the Executive Committee. First, go to the site at www.sbc.net. At the top of the page, click on "Faith & Facts" and a page titled "About Us—Meet Southern Baptists" will open. Scroll down until you see "Resolutions" in the list on the left side of the page.

Click on that word, and it will open to show "Introducing Resolutions" and "Search Resolutions." Click on "Search Resolutions," and a page will open allowing you to search by phrase or keyword, topic, or year.



God calls His followers to be prepared and to be on the front lines.

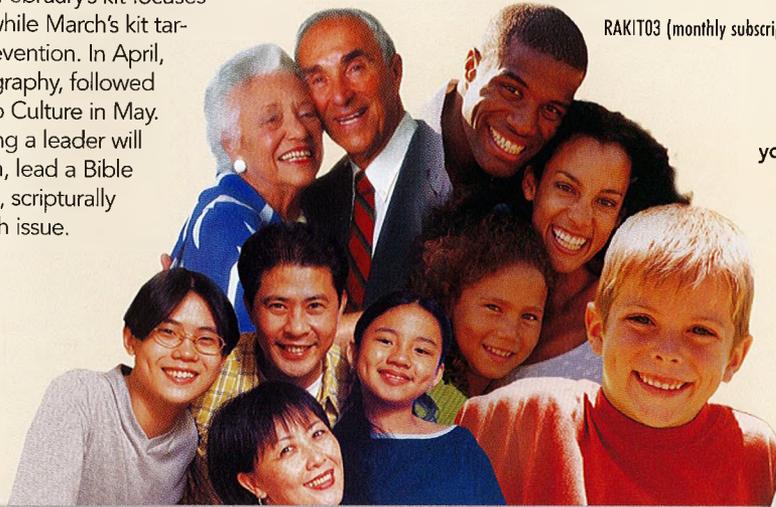
God calls those in church leadership to equip those in the pews to live victorious, Spirit-filled lives. *For Faith & Family's Culture Response Kits* offer timely, Scripture-based resources targeted toward the pressing moral, ethical, and social issues of our day. This special packaging of some of our time-tested resources and new materials will outfit your church to strengthen families and change society for good.

Each month, CRK subscribers will receive a kit targeting a specific issue. February's kit focuses on Racial Reconciliation, while March's kit targets Substance Abuse Prevention. In April, the kit will address Pornography, followed by Entertainment and Pop Culture in May. 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.



\$24.95
per month
plus shipping & handling

Individual kits offered for \$29.95 each



RACIAL RECONCILIATION KIT*

- Bible study and sermon helps
- *Faith & Family Forum* handouts (formerly *LifeLights*) (qty: 100)
- Racial Reconciliation Fact Sheets (qty: 10)
- Full-Color Promotional Posters (qty: 2)
- Book: *Beyond Black and White* by George Yancey
- Video: *We Shall Not Be Moved* (see description below)



Culture Response Kit PREMIUM

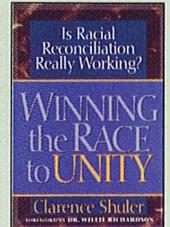
RAKIT03 (monthly subscription)

\$24.95

Call to place your order today!
1-800-475-9127

Winning the Race to Unity

Despite progress in some areas, the gulf between black and white evangelicals remains wide and deep. Clarence Shuler shares blessings that can be ours if we address the issues that separate us and obediently follow Jesus.



BKRAC (231 pages) \$12.99 ea.

PAMPHLETS

The Bible Speaks on Race

Examples from Scripture that can be applied to race issues, evidencing God's sovereignty over all men.

BSRACU \$3.80/20



The Bible and Race

Paul Griffin Jones and Elizabeth King Holmes clarify passages from Scripture often misinterpreted and used to support and perpetuate racist attitudes.

RABIBU \$6.80/20



Coloring Poster and Activity Booklet

The 11"x17" poster includes a line drawing of children of many races in a neighborhood parade. The 8-page booklet (pictured) contains coloring and activity pages to help children see similarities among people and teach them how to respond to the differences. Both are wonderful teaching tools for church or home.

RACHIU (poster) \$15.00/20
RAKIN (8 1/2" x 11" booklet) \$8.50 ea.

Colors of the World

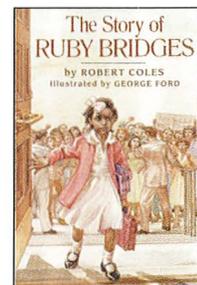
This set of crayons includes a variety of skin, hair, and eye colors for coloring people of the world. When used with the children's coloring poster or activity booklet above, they make a great tool to teach children to "love one another" across racial and ethnic lines.

RACRA \$1.65 ea.

The Story of Ruby Bridges

The first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, Ruby faces angry mobs as she is escorted to and from first grade by federal marshals. With courage beyond her years, she becomes an important part of American history.

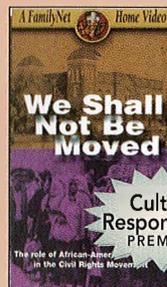
BKSTO (softcover) \$12.76 ea.



We Shall Not Be Moved

This award-winning FamilyNet documentary examines the pivotal role several African-American churches played during the civil rights movement. The emphasis is spiritual as well as historical, sharing the perspectives of pastors, activists, and lay people and how their Christian faith shaped their involvement.

VTWE (60 min.) \$19.45 ea.

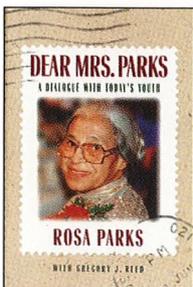


Culture Response Kit PREMIUM

Dear Mrs. Parks

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks changed the course of history when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, launching the 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system by African Americans. *Dear Mrs. Parks* is a collection of letters between Rosa and children over the last 40 years in which she challenges young people to be a force for positive change in society.

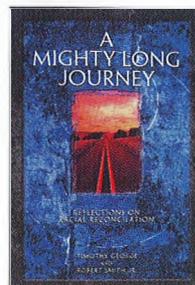
BKDEA (111 pages) \$4.48 ea.



A Mighty Long Journey

Timothy George and Robert Smith reflect on the state of race relations in the church, the sins of the past, repentance in the present, and redemption for the future.

BKMIG \$17.99 ea.

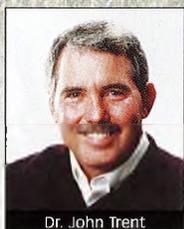
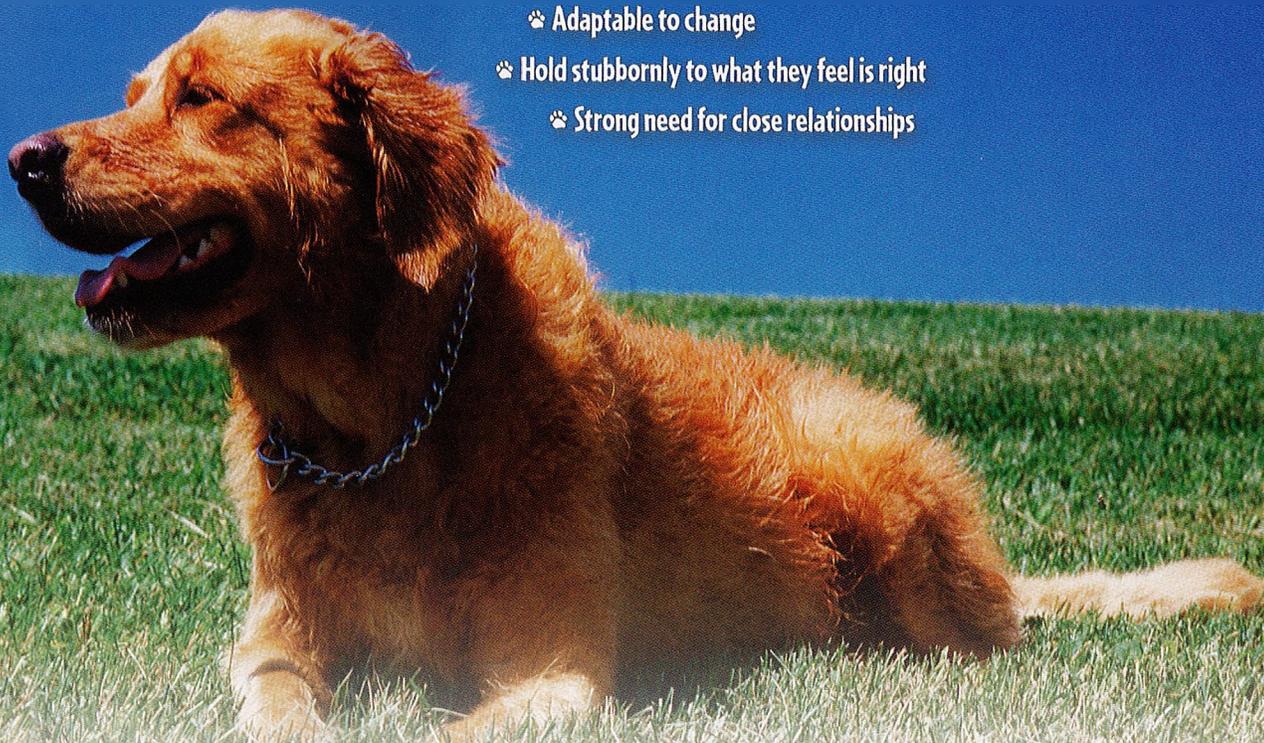


Amounts shown are suggested donations.

* Additional quantities are available. For more information call 1-800-475-9127 or e-mail questions to orders@erlc.com. Most of these recommended resources are available online at www.familybookstore.net.

We All Can be a **DOG** sometimes

- 🐾 Deeply loyal
- 🐾 Heart full of compassion
- 🐾 Adaptable to change
- 🐾 Hold stubbornly to what they feel is right
- 🐾 Strong need for close relationships



Dr. John Trent

Ever considered yourself a Golden Retriever?

What about a Beaver? A Lion or perhaps an Otter? Actually, we all have characteristics of these animals to some degree.

Learn how your individual strengths and communication styles can lead to improved communication between spouses. **Marriage Insights**, a behavioral assessment tool, uses the characteristics of these four animals to provide detailed feedback on participants' core strengths and styles of relating to each other.

Developed by Christian counselor and best-selling author Dr. John Trent, this 24-question assessment tool has helped countless couples for more than two decades in pen-and-paper form. LifeWay now brings it to you on-line with immediate, in-depth reports.

Unlock the secrets of effective communication in your marriage. Blend differences with your spouse. Discover your spouse's motivations and create ways to avoid conflict.

For more information, visit www.lifeway.com/insights or call toll-free **1.888.408.5580**.

Also for your church:

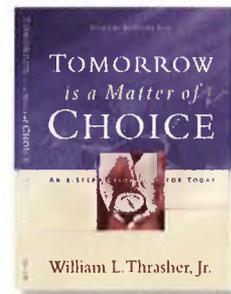
- Ministry Insights:** team-building with staff, integrate new church members into ministry, leadership development, and other group or individual uses
- Marriage Insights:** couples retreats, counseling for engaged or married couples
- Position Insights:** help match the behavioral requirements for a position with candidates' core strengths



Rebuilding the Foundation

There is no better day than today to make a commitment to know God better by reading and applying His word on a regular and systematic basis. We cannot think biblically and act Christianly when we fail to make His Word a part of our life. In order to properly respond to the social and cultural issues that are impacting our families, we need to know and appreciate God's responses as outlined in the Bible. When we fail to reinforce the foundation of our life with the steel of Scripture, we are on sinking sand.

— EDITOR



BY WILLIAM L. THRASHER, JR.

Several years ago I saw a televised interview with Dr. Billy Graham and David Frost. I have never forgotten one of the questions that Mr. Frost posed to Dr. Graham. He asked, "As you look back over your wonderful career and ministry, what is the one thing you most regret?" Without even a moment of hesitation, Dr. Graham responded with "I wish I had studied more." Think about that! Here is someone who no doubt had spent countless hours in the Bible and in study as he continued to prepare for the opportunities he had to address millions and millions of people around the world. Yet he felt he had not devoted enough time to studying.

I realize every day how easy it is to not take advantage of the wonderful opportunities God gives us to read and study His Word. If a believer misses this, nothing else will work the way God has desired in that person's life. God's best will be lost because the person will miss instructions and directives that only God can give. The foundation that we must have if we are ever to fulfill God's purpose and plan for our lives is knowing and applying the truths from the Word of God. This point is so basic, but failure to grasp it will have lifelong and even eternal consequences. Not only do we learn to live out the life of a disciple, but even more, we begin the journey of knowing God as He

has revealed Himself in the Bible. As we learn of Him, we learn how to truly love and serve Him and others.

You can ask yourself some critical questions to prepare to develop a plan to read and study the Bible.

First, are you sure you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? You must be born again—you must have experienced a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that brought you from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive. It is at this point that the Holy Spirit comes to live in a person who is a new creation in Christ. Many people are religious, but not born again.

Many people own Bibles but have no idea what the contents mean. Some people even read the Bible but are not spiritually able to discern the true meaning. You must have the person of the Holy Spirit living within you, because it is from Him and Him

alone that true understanding comes. Without the Holy Spirit our minds and hearts will only experience a book of words—no different from any other book. It is the Holy Spirit who give us a new life in Christ and equips us to understand and apply truth. Tragically, many people are trying to do something that is impossible.

Second, have you prayed and asked God to help you to be sensitive to the drawing toward His Word, and have you prayed that the Holy Spirit will continue to convict you of the importance of developing a daily habit of reading and studying the Bible?

Third, do you really understand the importance of daily Bible reading and why it is so critical to your entire life?

Fourth, do you really have a hunger for God's Word and the instructions and guidance it provides?

If anyone is going to get really

serious about making tomorrow different from today or yesterday, it starts here. Ask yourself these questions, and be intentional about establishing the only foundation that will withstand all that life will throw at it. What a difference this will have on every part of your life.

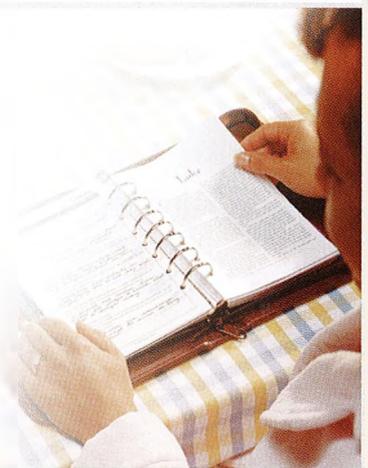
When we are led by the Spirit of God through the truths of the Word of God, our outcome is sure. Did you catch that?—the outcome is sure. We are promised by God's Word that if we truly seek wisdom and truth, He will provide it through the work of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God. We will grow in confidence, in spite of circumstances, that we are living out God's plan for our life and, most important, that we are being faithful and obedient to His will.

Excerpted with permission from Tomorrow is a Matter of Choice: An 8-Step Action Plan for Today, by William L. Thrasher, Jr. (Moody Press, 2002).

Time management is an important facet of a focused life, but it is not the end goal of a Christian's life. The **Believer's Life System** is a well-designed planner with all the important tools necessary to manage time effectively, but it is also designed to put God at the very center of everything you do. With features such as devotional helps and tips on family life and finance, it will keep God's Word before you daily and help you keep God the focus of short and long-term goals for you and your family.

Visit our on-line family bookstore at www.familybookstore.net to order the **Believer's Life System** along with its many helpful components.

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Building a Foundation for Life

God Is Creator of All

BY DWAYNE HASTINGS

When I was in elementary school, there was hardly a week when we didn't use Play-Doh®.

After the teacher would remind us to keep the different colors separate and to make sure the Play-Doh® didn't get on the floor or in our hair, we would pop off the lids of the containers and start fashioning our masterpieces in clay.

We would work to turn a lump of Play-Doh® into a dog or a dinosaur or a snake that threatened to gobble up our classmate's handcrafted animals. I would stick my thumb into the clay and see my fingerprint or push the clay onto a newspaper page to see a backward copy of the print or picture captured in the Play-Doh®.

If what I was working on didn't look just right—Bam! I would smack my fist into the creature of clay and roll it in a ball so I could start again.

I knew all of my creations would be stuffed back into that bright yellow can at the end of playtime. But I knew there was always tomorrow and another opportunity to create some mythical beast in Play-Doh®.

I have never known anyone—child or adult—who could resist working with Play-Doh®. But I have to admit that most of my creations hardly looked like what I said they were.

In the day and time in which we live, there are some people who think they can create animals and humans. And they are not using

Play-Doh®. Some people have forgotten that it is God who creates. We make a big mistake when we think we can do something better than God.

The Bible makes it clear that God created everything. Nothing came into being by accident or on its own. God created the universe and everything in it. The Bible tells us it was God who put us together.

Each time a baby is born, we are reminded that God is still in the business of creating. It's not just people He creates either—it's African Pygmy hedgehogs and dogs and Little Brown bats and cats.

I'm glad that God, not my friend Mike from second grade, created me. Nothing Mike made with Play-Doh® ever looked like what he said it was.

Bible truth: God is Creator.

Bible verse: Psalm 95

RECOMMENDED READING

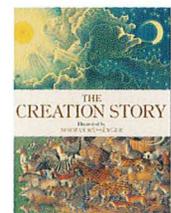
The Creation Story

ILLUSTRATED BY NORMAN MESSENGER

Bursting with intricate artwork that celebrates the origins of our planet and universe, this beautifully illustrated picture book enables young readers to marvel at God's powers of creation and the wonders of nature. With text from the New Living Translation, *The Creation Story* is the perfect book for parent and child to share together or a marvelous addition to a church library.

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