



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

January 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, CFLI Board Meeting  
Jan 13

Saturday, Midwest March for  
Jan 17 Life, Des Moines

Sunday, Cedar Rapids March  
Jan 18 for Life

Thursday, March for Life WDC,  
Jan 22 42 years of Roe v Wade

Tuesday, CFLI Work Meeting  
Jan 27

**We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings**



## Start of a New Year!

It's rare for our list of upcoming events to only include activities from a single month, but that's how busy January is. There are numerous ways to show support for life this month. Within the same week, the Midwest March for Life in Des Moines, the Cedar Rapids March for Life, and the National March for Life in Washington D.C. take place.

These marches offer an easy way to get new people involved. It's easy to walk. But these marches usually include some educational component. For larger marches, conferences and breakout sessions provide a range of opportunities to learn something. Smaller marches sometimes include a little bit of education and a few announcements.

Don't miss this month's pro-life activities!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

Vehemently Pro-Choice

Now Pro-Life!

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# January Activities: March for Life

On the weekend of January 18 and 19, join us in marching for life! The first of the two events is in Des Moines. The second is in Cedar Rapids. Some local teens will travel to Washington D.C. a few days later for the national march.

## Des Moines

For decades the March for Life has been held in January in Washington D.C. The March commemorates the dreadful Roe v. Wade decision, which paved the way for abortion on demand. In recent years, the West Coast began their own January March for Life. Now it's Iowa's turn! Stand with us – March with us – for the 3rd Annual Midwest March for Life.



Send the message throughout Iowa and the Midwest: We have not been silent! We will not be silent! We are the voice for the voiceless—the unborn, the infirm and the elderly. We will not rest until every life, born and unborn, is safe from the pervasive culture of death.

Co-Leader of the 2015 Midwest March for Life will be luncheon keynote, Josh Brahm! Josh is the Founder and President of Equal Rights Institute; he does an amazing job of simplifying the effort to make a solid case against abortion. We encourage you to post positive Facebook comments and tweets about attending the Midwest March for Life using the hashtag #midwestmarch. See you there!



## Cedar Rapids

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, we will host the annual Cedar Rapids March for Life. The event memorializes the anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton rulings made by the US Supreme Court in 1973.

We start in the parking lot of St. Matthew's Church, located at 2310 1st Ave NE. We make signs available at the starting point, but you can bring your own. Then we head to the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. We pray, witness and visit outside Planned Parenthood for a while, and then we walk back to the starting point.

Upon returning, we will offer some chili and snacks inside the church building and mingle with other pro-life members of our community. After such bitterly cold weather, you can take this opportunity to spend time outside when it's not so cold.

The website for the Midwest March for Life is:  
<http://www.iowartl.org/midwest-march-for-life/>

The website for local pro-life events is:  
<http://lifeiowa.org/Events.html>

# When Abortion Was Made Illegal

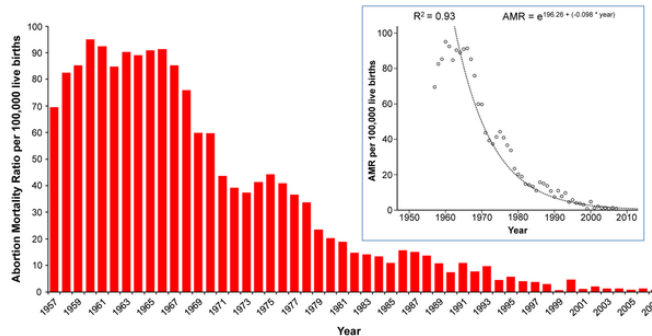
Many people who defend abortion suggest that making abortion illegal won't solve anything. They allege that women will still have abortions like they did before abortion was legalized. Few people realize there is precedent we can use to assess these claims.

Chile made abortion illegal in 1989. The number of women seeking illegal abortions continues to decline. The estimated rate of abortion is 2%.

Since 1989, maternal deaths decreased from 41.3 to 12.7 per 100,000 women. That's a reduction of 69.2%. Their current rate of maternal death is better than the rate in the U.S. While some improvement is expected in developing countries, the physical consequences of abortion can also contribute to this.

Malta, Ireland, and Chile all have lower maternal mortality rates than the U.S., and all of them prohibit abortion. When people suggest that abortion is

critical healthcare for women, they don't usually understand that women in nations that prohibit abortion are healthier.



We should note that there are a variety of explanations given for this effect. Increased sterilization is one of the oddest explanations, since maternal mortality only applies to women who give birth. A sterile woman does not give birth. Increased use of contraceptives and abortifacient drugs leads to a similar result. If the drugs work, birth does not occur.

Perhaps the best explanation offered by people who don't pay attention to the long-lasting complications that can arise from abortions is the increased use of antibiotics by the doctors

performing illegal abortions.

This is reminiscent of the rapid decline in the rate of maternal deaths from illegal abortions prior to the Roe v Wade decision in the U.S. While abortion defenders suggest that legalizing abortion led to the increased safety for women, there is little correlation. The clear drop in rates among women occurred when antibiotics started being used in common practice in the U.S. The U.S. also witnessed the effects of making abortion legal. The number of abortions skyrocketed 10-fold compared to when abortion was illegal.

So we see that legalizing abortion leads to more abortions, and making it illegal drops the abortion rate dramatically. Maternal health is better in nations where abortion is illegal. Facts speak loudly.

## Vehemently Pro-Choice, Now Pro-Life

Jewels Green used to work at an abortion facility. She said she used to be a “vehement and vocal advocate for abortion.” But two women spoke with compassion and clarity, articulating the pro-life side of the issue. She credits them with changing her views.

Jewels has personal experiences that include both having three children and being coerced into having an abortion at age 17. As often happens to women who have abortions, other issues developed. She attempted suicide a few times.

She bought into the lies that unborn children are nothing more than a “bunch of cells,” rather than the far more developed persons they are. The two women challenged that view, yet they respected her and others with her view. She began questioning things, which is the abortion industry’s worst nightmare, because a person seeking truth will find it, and soon

after, they tend to become strongly pro-life. They often feel deceived and don’t want others to walk in darkness, nor do they want people to be tricked into killing.

“What was life if not a continuum from conception to death? Wasn’t I once a tiny collection of cells? I finally began thinking about these issues of life in a new way.”

Jewels gradually came to know the truth: “Abortion kills a living, growing member of the human family.” She overcame what she saw as ignorance, avoidance and stubbornness.

Her story is one of a rapidly growing list of stories of workers in the abortion industry who, when pro-lifers approach the issue correctly, lead women like Jewels to seek the truth. Truth wins.

It’s because of dozens of testimonies like hers that it’s more clear than ever that we need to be ready to provide a



defense for life in the right ways. It’s critical that we be approachable, or we won’t even start the discussion. We need to be informed about the foundational parts of the issue, or we won’t have a solid argument. We need to be compassionate and care about seeking truth, or others will not listen. We also need to be consistent, or people won’t trust what we say.

It’s because of this that we will try to provide our members with training prior to our next 40 Days for Life. There’s more about that on the next page. Imagine having this kind of effect on someone. It is possible. Be prepared! It’s easy...really!

Content based on:

<http://www.lifenews.com/2014/12/23/she-was-pro-choice-and-worked-at-an-abortion-clinic-heres-what-changed-her-mind/>

## Pro-Life Challenge



### March for Life!

Attend at least one March for Life this month. Attend the Cedar Rapids March for Life, Midwest March for Life, or National March for Life!



### Invite Others to March

It's always more fun and meaningful to march with others. So invite friends and family to join in a march for life.

## 40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is coming up again. We've heard people's desires to learn how to make a solid case for life. This works well when you're out on the sidewalk, and it works well when defending life in your daily life.

To address these desires and equip our members better, we plan to show "Making the Case for Life" at our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally. This provides training just in time for our spring 40 Days for Life campaign.

We will host the kick-off rally at St. Patrick's Parish Center on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. It begins at 2 pm and ends by 4 pm. It shouldn't take the entire time, so you'll have time to chat afterwards.

This spring, 40 Days for Life begins on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and ends on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. That's Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday.

In 2008, women living in Linn County sought 556 abortions.



That year, we began praying for 40 days, modeling our effort loosely on the national effort. The number of abortions plummeted!

Then we followed the full model, and abortions have continued to drop. In 2013, only 320 abortions were performed. That means abortions decreased by more than **42% in just 5 years!**

We are nearing the point where abortions are cut in half! All of this happened while we prayed. Some of it happened while we were physically present. The tides are turning in favor of life. Imagine what can be done with the training we will offer at our kick-off rally!

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