



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2017

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events

What is Sex Ed Doing?

Many years ago, administrations took it upon themselves to try to address issues like teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). There are various ways to address such issues.

Parents are ultimately the primary instructors for their children. Many parents are uneasy about teaching such subjects. This opens up options for schools to provide such education.

This issue of our newsletter examines the approaches to sexual education in more detail.

- Jim Burke

Upcoming Events

<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meeting (2nd Tuesdays) Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization! Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Working Meeting (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in planning the activities for our organization! Where: St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Thurs, Sep 21 6 – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Equipping Youth Banquet Hear how <i>Powerful Choices</i> positively changes our community's youth! Where: Hotel Kirkwood Center 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA http://www.equippingyouth.org/upcoming-events/2017-equipping-youth-banquet/</p>
<p>Sun, Sep 24 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally Join us to kick-off our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sep 27 – Nov 5 24 hours / day</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>
<p>Sat, Sep 30 9 p.m. – 12 noon</p>	<p>Bridgehaven <i>In Her Shoes</i> 5k Fun Run/Walk Raise awareness and funds for the services Bridgehaven offers! Where: Bridgehaven (701 Center Point Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA) to Treasures Quality Resale Shoppe More info: https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/?e=12447</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 1 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>National Life Chain Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil! Where: Sidewalk along 1st Avenue, starting at Planned Parenthood First Ave, starting at 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: http://lifeiowa.org/Life_Chain.html</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 5 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p>



Sex Ed or Patterning?

As former abortion business owner [Carol Everett has made clear in the past](#), Planned Parenthood uses sexual education as a sales strategy for selling abortions. They write some of the curriculum used throughout much of the country.

They tend to oppose abstinence-based programs, which they claim are ineffective. I've seen comparisons where the only abstinence programs were discontinued, having been replaced by far superior abstinence programs. The "just say no" approach doesn't tend to work well for sex, drugs, or other things. But there are better programs out there.

What Planned Parenthood promotes tends to be the so-called "Comprehensive" sex ed. It's called comprehensive, regardless of what it teaches. When people

are asked what they want taught, who wouldn't want something that's comprehensive? Thus, it gets popular support, regardless of results.

In some states like California, comprehensive programs include information about all legal options, including abortion. They teach students what their "rights" are regarding abortion.

What are the results? Comprehensive sex ed fits what the FBI considers a sexual predator grooming program. A [new study from the UK](#) offered very interesting, but predictable results. When the UK eliminated funding for comprehensive sex ed programs, some schools funded it themselves, while others discontinued the programs. The schools that stopped the comprehensive programs saw

more than a 40% reduction in teen pregnancies!

When the D.A.R.E. program was used in schools to get kids to say no to drugs, the program didn't last long. It had numerous issues. In part, it was a "just say no" approach. But it also taught kids the street names for drugs and other things that made them experts in doing drugs. It's like sex ed that shows kids how to use condoms and learn everything about how to engage in risky behavior. D.A.R.E. was cancelled, but comprehensive sex ed remains.

It appears that Planned Parenthood's solution might cost a fortune AND make things significantly worse! Who would trust an abortion provider to reduce abortions anyway?



What Really Works Best?

It's important to consider what is true, what students need to know, what is the right timing for them to understand and make use of that information, what do they want to know, and what is the most effective?

First of all, students fairly consistently want to know how to say no to sexual advances without ruining their relationship or making anyone feel bad.

The most effective approach is not abstinence-only, nor is it the "comprehensive" method. The most effective methods teach students to say yes to the good things that come with chastity, which is different than abstinence. It teaches students the value of the human body. But if students ask questions about contraception or the content that's in the "comprehensive" method, instructors should have accurate answers for them.

When students ask questions and get no answer, they find answers of their own, often in bad ways.

We could use more programs like the lessons taught by Jason and Chrystalina Evert, Theology of the Body, or similar programs.

Many of the programs that worked best were forbidden from receiving federal funds during the last administration. That tended to leave us with the programs that make things worse, as statistics from the UK suggested. (This was cited in the prior article.)

Unfortunately, Planned Parenthood has played a major role in influencing and writing so much of the curriculum regarding this matter. They also spend time in our schools, even in Linn County. That's why students are taught how to use condoms to be "safe", even

though that has almost certainly contributed to the HPV epidemic. HPV was mostly ignored before there was a vaccine, since it still spreads easily with condom use. Yet, it's one of the leading causes of cervical cancer.

We need to do a better job equipping our children with the information they want to know, using these programs that offer truth, and are thus more effective. We need to stop training them to engage in risky behavior. Rates of STDs and STIs have spiked in recent years.

Of course it also helps if parents reclaim their roles as the primary educators of their children. We cannot be afraid of certain topics. If necessary, seek out good resources. The abortion industry thrives when children can't trust their parents when it comes to sexual subjects.



40 Days for Life

Are you ready for this fall's 40 Days for Life?

We will take to the sidewalks again outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood for the 40 days from Wednesday, September 27 until Sunday, November 5. We have a Kick-off Rally on Sunday, September 24 from 2-3 pm.

Sign up for a 1-hour time slot on the [40 Days for Life website](#). Most people sign up for the same hour each week. We love to see people make it part of their routine to pray on the sidewalk. It's saved many lives globally and multiple lives locally.

The national 40 Days for Life team developed a 40 Days for Life app that will

be available starting September 12th. It will make it easier to sign up for time slots and do other things related to 40 Days for Life. It should include some tips to help discussions go well with people who might come up to us.

They also created an online store with many great 40 Days for Life items at [40daysforlifegear.com](#). I have a few of the items, and they look better than ever. As a leader, I'm able to order items with a discount. So if people want many items, we may consider a larger bulk order. Otherwise, it works better if people order directly.

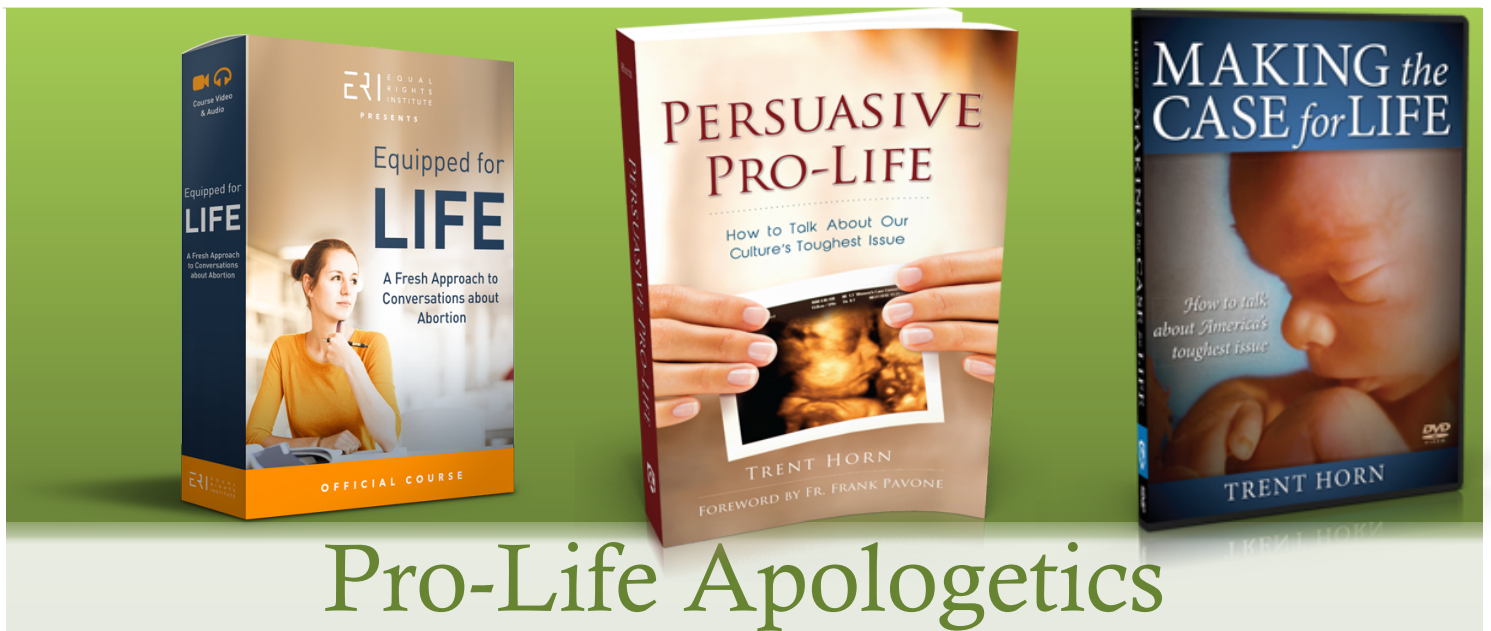
Please invite family and friends to our kick-off rally. The more people show up, the more exciting a rally gets. We will have a few of the

smaller items from the online store available at the kick-off rally.

If anyone hasn't participated in the past, the kick-off rally really helps you get started. Just find some parking on the streets. Don't park in the parking lots. The address of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood is 3425 First Ave SE.

National Life Chain

About one week after our kick-off rally, don't miss the National Life Chain, where pro-lifers line up along 1st Ave, starting at Planned Parenthood and reaching out as far as we can. It is Sunday, October 1st from 2-3:30 pm.



Pro-Life Apologetics

The last few weeks have given me an opportunity to speak to people about what we are doing when we pray outside of Planned Parenthood. Oddly enough, abortion itself hasn't come up as much. But I still find it of great value to talk with people.

Rhetoric too often drives division between the two major sides of the abortion issue. Each is made to believe the other side does not care about others or is evil. It's amazing how disarming it is when people are willing to talk respectfully with each other.

One day, I spoke to someone who started out rather loud. People near me were just starting praying the rosary. I didn't move the conversation away from the people

praying, but they made it through a decade (about 3 minutes or so) with the conversation still at a loud volume. But then he toned it down. Later he would tone it down some more. There were more misconceptions about the issue than we had time to address, but we talked for about 15 minutes. We ended rather well, not necessarily changing the minds of the other on the abortion issue, but there is more respect now.

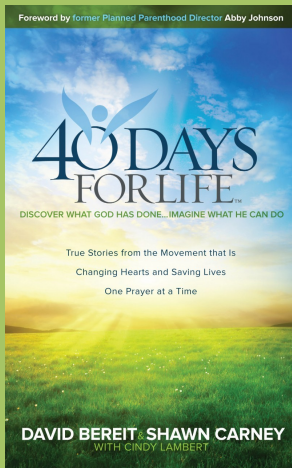
One week later, a woman asked several questions about the people who prayed outside of Planned Parenthood. She started in a very respectful way, but again, there were many misconceptions that pro-lifers only cared about life in the womb and not

afterward. After a few minutes, she came to realize that not only our group is not the way the pro-choice rhetoric conveys, but many other pro-lifers do much to help children out of the womb.

There are organizations like the Equal Rights Institute, Justice For All, and a few other organizations that offer training. Once trained, one usually welcomes an opportunity to discuss the abortion issue with others. There are still times like when there was the opportunity to talk with the woman when I wasn't in the mood to talk. But it was important and chose to do it anyway. I am happy that I did so. It was so easy.

Continued on next page

Pro-Life Challenge



Attend 40 Days and Life Chain

Sign up for some 40 Days for Life shifts and make a witness to the pro-life message at the National Life Chain!



Invite Friends!

Invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. There are many needs. The harvest is plenty; harvesters are few. Many hands make for light work!



Apologetics (continued)

I personally find the work of the Equal Rights Institute beneficial, especially their Equipped Course. Their podcasts and online training sessions provide a wonderful balance of truth, reason, and compassion. As people have been impressed with the way my conversations with people strongly opposed to us, I credit the programs the Equal Rights Institute offer.

In times of hardship or war, there is often a voice of hope or peace. FDR offered some of that in his radio broadcasts. I find it in the Equipped Course's podcasts. With good arguments grounded in truth and reason, with promoting a proper attitude in connecting with people, it is a much-needed voice.

I find it relates well to the Beatitudes. When people

insult us, or we see pro-lifers persecuted in some way, it's easy to associate that with the Beatitudes. We even hunger and thirst for righteousness. Some pro-lifers mourn. But when confronting people with opposing views, do we approach it with meekness? Are we peacemakers? When all of our attitudes of being align with the Beatitudes, conversations make progress.

Although I just associated the apologetics with the Gospel, the arguments that work the best with the most people—are provided in the training—are not religious in nature.

Even when I make mistakes, having the right attitude has helped make arguments effective. If you are interested in training, please contact us.

coalitionforlife@gmail.com

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Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

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