



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

October 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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There is Love
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**We welcome newcomers to
our meetings and events**

[Donate Here](#)

Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month! This is a very busy time of year for pro-life activities. It eases off a bit for a couple months. But then it gets busy again in January.

We still have one board position open if anyone is interested in serving to help guide the local pro-life movement.

We're preparing for our annual financial appeal. If anyone is interested in helping to match funds, we'd welcome such donors. We hope that people who are willing to donate consider us in their year-end giving. With the ongoing costs of billboards, the new costs of showing the Unplanned movie, and purchasing the pro-life apologetics courses, we've had an eventful year and higher costs than usual.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events



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| <p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> | <p>CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in our organization! Where: St. Patrick’s Common Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Sep 25 – Nov 3 1-hour time slots 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>Sun, Nov 3 5 – 7 p.m.</p> | <p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Come help us finish strong with 40 Days for Life! Pizza afterward! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/</p> |
| | |

Wisdom

Where There is Life, There is Love

There's a passage written in the times of the Old Testament that I love, but have avoided bringing it up because of the differences in Biblical canons, since we try to unite across religions. But I really feel like I'm supposed to bring it up now.

For background, it's from the Book of the Wisdom of Solomon. I'm not trying to argue about Biblical canons, but want people to know where this passage comes from and why people might not find it in their own Bibles. It was in all Christian Bibles as canon up until the 1500s, having been identified as canon in the Council of Rome in 382 and used by the Church from the time of the Apostles. The Catholic and Orthodox maintained it as canon. Most other Christians excluded it from their canon in the 1500s. But the book remained in all Bibles until the mid-1800s, when publishers removed any books they didn't consider canonical. Until that time, all Christians could continue to read them as good reading, just like many other books that never made it into anyone's canon. It is in that spirit that I hope all Christians can appreciate this passage. I have some reflections on a passage that many of our members will hear it in churches on November 3rd — the day of our 40 Days for Life finale.

‡ Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2

²²Indeed, before you [the LORD] the whole universe is like a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. ²³But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook sins for the sake of repentance. ²⁴For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for you would not fashion what you hate. ²⁵How could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? ²⁶But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Ruler and Lover of souls, ¹for your imperishable spirit is in all things! ²Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, LORD! ‡

Many people don't ascribe the same value to a child in the womb as we do, especially when the child is in the single-cell zygote stage. As the first line of the passage clarifies, from God's perspective, we are microscopic, since the whole universe is tiny.

As we read in verse 24, God loves each of us despite how tiny we might be. He would not create what he didn't love,

and without God's will for us to remain, we wouldn't. This part shows the value in each of us, and is especially useful for someone who is depressed, since they matter.

Many people only think of the universe as tiny in the first moment of creation when considering it from the big bang theory's perspective. Science draws focus away from the glory in that moment, regardless of theory. The act of creation was an act of love. And being prior to the fall, God's presence was felt strongly everywhere. I'm reminded of an overwhelming love whenever I hear or read this passage. I pray each of us can experience that love.

We all fall short of God and would deserve death. Many people have been involved with deaths through abortion or other forms. But God gives us a chance to repent and reconcile with God.

There's much more I could add, but I wanted to share these reflections, especially since so many people never get to hear or read this passage, and homilies and sermons often focus on a great account of Zacchaeus responding to the call of God. Life is beautiful and God loves each one of us, including you.



Government Update

Federal Government

[H.R. 962](#) is the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. There are still attempts to petition it out of committee, where it will otherwise die.

Missouri

The Saint Louis Planned Parenthood's court case resumes in the last week of October. We will continue to follow any developments in their case. They will continue to perform abortions for now. Planned Parenthood continues to claim they must be allowed to perform abortions there. But they covertly built a Planned Parenthood abortion site just minutes across the border in Illinois. They might be planning ahead, but they just undermined their claim. People who could make it to St. Louis can go a few more minutes to get abortions in the lawless Illinois. Missouri has no need to try to preserve their last abortion site.

California

SB24 was signed into law by the Governor of California. So, California's state-run colleges and universities will start providing RU-486 abortions on their campuses.

Private funds initially cover the roll-out of this. But even one of their legislative committees expected this to cost taxpayers money long-term. College health centers usually focus on minor medical matters, so their liability will greatly increase. Several women per month already have complications from RU-486 and require real medical attention. If students couldn't go 5 minutes off campus to get an abortion, then what will happen when they are in their dorm experiencing side effects that could be as dramatic as seen in the Unplanned film?

We wonder if students might start 40 Days for Life vigils on each campus, considering they will all be abortion providers.

Goliath vs. David

The case against David Daleiden continues to reveal many things the abortion industry would typically try to avoid revealing. They may not have had to reveal much if they hadn't gone after David for doing what undercover reporters do all the time. But they may have had to defend themselves against the charges that would have been made against them. They are just buying time.

The judge has many conflicts of interest. Many actions made by the judge have concerned pro-lifers observing the case. Many of these concerns appear unfounded. Many things have not been allowed into the case, but I would contend that a good judge would prevent such things from being allowed into evidence. I can't defend all of the judgements though. David isn't out of the clear, but the case has been handled better than some might think, in my opinion.



40 Days for Life & Life Chain

40 Days for Life

We have a little time left for this fall's 40 Days for Life campaign. Our finale rally is Sunday, November 3rd. We start at 5 p.m. outside of Planned Parenthood. We gather for a final hour of prayer together. We head to the Godfather's Pizza just one block north of the Planned Parenthood at 6 p.m.

We recommend that you park in the Town & Country Shopping Center parking lot. It can hold many more people than the streets. We plan to do business there for the meal, which helps justify parking there. It's just one block to walk to get to the rally. When we are done, it's just one block back.

And when you are done eating, then your vehicle is right there.

Please continue to pray on the sidewalk and fast for an end to abortion. We'll have pizza and drinks available to end the fast at our rally! We cover the cost of the meal. We accept freewill donations to help defray our costs and to continue to carry out our life-saving work.

It's always such a wonderful event. People who cover totally different hours all come together to unite as one voice in prayer. I love the warm meal in a warm restaurant with friends after weeks of weather growing colder.

National Life Chain

We brought a pro-life witness and prayer to our community as part of the National Life Chain. We spread across several blocks holding our signs. We spread out better than in past years, which allowed us to stretch farther than usual.

We thank everyone who was able to show up and join us. It was great to see so many people for such a distance. Let's try to extend the chain even farther next year!

We would love to see more people from more churches. So if you know others who might want to participate, let's start growing this for next year!

JOHN PAUL II MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Support Campaign for Cures to Raise
\$300,000 to Replace Aborted Fetal Cells**

Opportunity for Ethical Vaccines

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute ([JP2MRI](#)) in Coralville has the world's largest supply of adult stem cells and does amazing research. They fill a gap in medical research while sticking to morally good approaches to their research.

They recognized a window of opportunity in the area of vaccines. Many pro-lifers have already been very concerned about the use of cell lines from aborted children being used for vaccines for chicken pox and various other diseases. Many vaccines don't depend on abortion, but a few have no good alternative. Aborted fetal cells are used in:

- Rubella & MMR vaccines
- Enbrel
- Polio, chickenpox, shingles, hepatitis A vaccines
- Ebola vaccine, some protein drugs, gene therapy, CRISPR, CAR-T, and viral research

The vaccine business doesn't have high profit margins, and it takes

lots of time and money to develop new vaccines. When one works, most companies won't waste resources to develop an alternative.

The cell lines can go on for a very long time. But there's still a need to prepare for the end of its useful lifecycle. That's where the window of opportunity comes in.

The [JP2MRI is trying to raise \\$300,000](#) this year to develop morally acceptable cell lines for the next generation of vaccines. The WALVAX2 (2015) line that was created from abortions in China already used a window of opportunity to try to replace the WI-38 and MRC-5 lines. WI-38 was used in some MMR vaccines, and MRC-5 was used for vaccines for: polio, chickenpox, shingles, and hepatitis A. This is a great opportunity for ethical medicine.

Not only is there a desire to replace old lines with morally good lines, but just imagine how many new vaccines will be created in the

coming decades. Many of us grew up in a time when we were required to have a tiny fraction of the number of vaccines children require today. If aborted fetal lines are plentiful and we don't create good cell lines, then we could subject generations of children to mandatory vaccines that depended on abortion.

Recent research has also shown that vaccines that used fetal cells had hundreds of genes tied to cancer. This is reminiscent of the way embryonic stem-cell research often led to tumors.

Medical researchers shouldn't require the killing of children to help others. And we shouldn't have to support immoral medicine. Each of JP2MRI's projects are impressive. But this one has more urgency in order to avoid missing any more windows of opportunity. We really hope they succeed at raising funds for this project.

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);

Çantana (pro-lifer);

St. Louis, MO PP;

Cedar Rapids, IA PP;

University of

Minnesota pro-life group

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Unplanned Showings

The Unplanned film came out on DVD, Blu-ray, other formats before 40 Days for Life began this fall. A few local churches and a school have shown the film. It's likely to show at a few more before too long, but we don't know about any solid plans at this time.

The film depicts Abby Johnson's progression from before her time with Planned Parenthood until after she left them. She was raised in a pro-life family, but hadn't thought about it much when Planned Parenthood got her to volunteer. She would eventually work for them and become their youngest director. After witnessing an ultrasound-guided abortion, she left Planned Parenthood. She has been a strong pro-life advocate ever since.

The movie does a good job of showing how pro-lifers don't all use good approaches to getting women to choose life. It shows that people who work at Planned Parenthood are real people and can be very compassionate. As the film progresses, it becomes abundantly clear that there are good pro-lifers

who stand by their promise to help Abby.

The film depicts the realities of abortion. Abby experienced some of the bad side effects. Not all abortions have such effects on women. But too few women ever hear of the real risks.

40 Days for Life was already a national effort by the time Abby Johnson left Planned Parenthood. Her resignation brought national attention to 40 Days for Life. It was only through the loving and respectful relationships formed through the fence that allowed Abby to trust pro-lifers enough to accomplish what she has accomplished in standing up to Planned Parenthood. After successfully fending them off, she founded an organization to help people leave the abortion industry. She's also been supportive of NaProTechnology.

We hope more churches and organizations show the movie to help get the truth out about Planned Parenthood and abortion.

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