



Prince George ProLife Society

Box 2333 Prince George BC V2N 2J8 www.pgprolife.com info@pgprolife.com Phone / Fax 250-561-1148

NEWSLETTER NO. 32

April 2007

PROLIFE SOCIETY

This newsletter is a publication of the ProLife Society of Prince George.

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

President: Laura Fowlie

Secretary: Patricia O'Neill

Treasurer: Tracy Pfanmuller

Board of Directors:

Kim Klitch

Lorraine Lawrence

Rolande Matte

Jacque Ollenberger

Horst Thiele

Members of the ProLife Society believe in the right to life of all human beings from the moment of fertilization until natural death. We support only the use of peaceful means to promote the aims of the society.

COMING EVENTS

May 2007

14 DAY OF INFAMY
On 15th Ave at Burden
(west of PGRH)
4 – 5 pm

Visit us at
www.pgprolife.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The executive members of the Prince George ProLife Society were overwhelmed with the generous response and support of our Prince George community at the recently held "Focus on Life" fundraising dinner. For those who couldn't be with us, I want to share some highlights of this memorable evening. This event, which was held on February 24, at the Columbus Community Centre, was very well attended, and right from the onset, there was an atmosphere that spoke of this evening being something very special. The décor was elegant, the meal was amazing, and the tone was warm and welcoming.

Following dinner, our guest speaker, Malcolm Roddis, spoke to us about the "Focus on Life" TV media campaign which has been taking place throughout the province. Various communities have been hosting fundraising dinners, similar to ours, to provide funds for TV ads that are an outreach of hope and support to young women who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy.

From surveys taken, both before and after the ads have been aired, it appears that the public's approval of abortion declines after seeing these ads. In British Columbia, the most current stats on abortion have shown a drop in numbers while just about every other province, as well as the territories, have remained the same or increased. It is felt that these ads have played an important role in helping to change people's attitude towards abortion.

For these reasons, Malcolm invited us all to join in this outreach by donating towards the goal of \$15,000 - a goal that would provide for 10 weeks of pro-life ads to be aired in Prince George.

And what a response we received! Beyond the wonderful compliments that were shared about the evening, there was also an outpouring of generous giving. You donated over \$16,000 to help make this all a reality. Once again, I give you my heartfelt thanks.

These ads are now being shown in the Prince George area and will continue until the end of June. I hope you will get an opportunity to view them for yourselves and see how your donations are being put into action.

....2



(President's Message, cont)

As I was writing this message, I heard the good news that just came out of the U.S. On Wednesday, April 18, the Supreme Court upheld the partial birth abortion ban in a 5-4 decision. Justice Anthony Kennedy stated that the focus of this decision was centered on the pain experienced by the unborn child during this procedure. Surprisingly, for both sides of the abortion debate, he also touched on the issue of women's post-abortion problems and pain. He said that, "some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained," and that "severe depression and loss of esteem can follow." Many feel that this line of argument could eventually open the door towards overturning *Roe v. Wade*

I know we will all follow this very closely. For if there's a decision that ultimately affects legalized abortion in the United States, there could possibly be changes in the wind for Canada, also. And while we await that day, we pray for those who are struggling in crisis situations and who are facing difficult decisions, and we also pray that the message shared through our pro-life ads will be that outreach that provides these women with more loving options, along with the support and care that offers them hope.

License Prevents Dutch Abortion Boat from Operating in Countries Outlawing Procedure, Pro Life Group Says

Malta, April 30, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A Dutch abortion boat that was granted a license from the Netherlands government to enter international waters does not have an open door to operate in countries where the practice is outlawed, according to a report published April 28 by the Times of Malta.

The boat's license restricts abortion activity to countries where a "cooperation agreement has been reached with a regional hospital in the country of whose shores the facility is operating," Paul Vincenti, CEO with Gift of Life, told the Times.

"This boat is simply part of the global pro-abortion machine. Its intentions are to challenge the sovereign laws of those countries where abortion is illegal and to agitate the citizens of those countries that they visit."

Pointing out that the boat's permit is not as "watertight" as founder Rebecca Gomperts suggested in initial statements reported by media, Vincenti said any country where abortion is illegal could make it very difficult for Women on Waves to operate, under the terms of the license.

Gift of Life contacted the prime minister immediately after the boat's organizers announced their intention to target Malta, asking whether he would allow the Women on Waves boat to enter Maltese waters, the Malta Star reported. The Malta Home Affairs Ministry has said it would respond in "strict accordance" with Maltese law if the ship attempted to sail into Malta's waters.

"If the abortion ship enters Maltese territorial waters we intend to mobilise the island," Vincenti told the Star. "They have no right to enter into a country where 93 percent are pro-life."

The boat was banned from operating outside Dutch waters in 2004, under the previous government. Under the terms of the new license, Women on Waves has permission from Dutch authorities to enter international waters and hand out "abortion pills" to women up to seven weeks pregnant, under the restrictions requiring an agreement with a local hospital.

Gomperts has pledged to seek an increase of the allowable gestation rate for abortions to 12 weeks, according to coverage by the ANP.

Research Provides New Clues about How Adult Stem Cells Work

WASHINGTON, DC, April 30, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A new study shows that not only do stem cells from the patient's own body readily repair all sorts of damaged tissue, they stimulate the growth and differentiation of existing stem cells. Dr. Darwin J. Prockop, Director of Tulane University's Center for Gene Therapy says his research suggests multiple strategies to treat diseases using adult stem cells.

Injected stem cells taken from bone marrow transfer mitochondrial DNA to existing local cells whose own mitochondria are inactive, and stimulates those cells to start working.

While scientists and doctors are seeing increasing success with treatments using adult stem cells, the actual mechanism by which the cells are able to repair and even replace damaged tissue has remained largely a mystery.

It has been shown that even small numbers of stem cells taken from a patient's own body, often from bone marrow, have been used successfully to treat Parkinson's disease, kidney and liver disease, diabetes and various forms of heart disease and cancer.

Speaking at the American Association of Anatomists in Washington April 19, Prockop described experiments in which human stem cells were injected into diabetic mice. The cells traveled to and engrafted themselves into the pancreas. They increased the production of insulin and lowered the mice's blood sugar.

The cells also engrafted themselves onto the kidneys and repaired the damage normally associated with diabetes. Mitochondria provide the energy for a cell's parts to function.

Mexico Catholic Lawyers to Take Abortion Law to International Rights Court

MEXICO CITY, April 27, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Mexican lawyers plan to take the capitol city's new abortion law to an international human rights court next week, according to a Reuters report published earlier today.

A law permitting abortion on demand during the first three months of pregnancy passed Tuesday in Mexico City in an assembly vote dominated by left-leaning members. Lawyers argue however that the abortion law violates the Mexican Constitution, which states that human life must be defended "from conception until its natural end."

"The College of Catholic Lawyers, a secular association of believers, is going to start an international campaign to take this case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ... to show the world the lack of democracy in Mexico City," said Father Hugo Valdemar, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Mexico City.

The Church is prevented by law in Mexico from appealing the case to the Supreme Court. An appeal could be launched by opponents in the Mexico City assembly, but they lack the strength to bring one forward.

While support for the abortion law is divided in Mexico City, elsewhere in the country about 70 percent are opposed to abortion. Over 90 percent of Mexicans identify themselves as Catholics.

"Mexican culture is profoundly rooted in Christianity," Valdemar said. "The church feels a pastoral right to defend life from the time it starts and to raise its voice and oppose these kinds of perverse laws."

The liberal policies of Mexico

City lawmakers resulted in the passage recently of a law recognizing homosexual civil unions, also passed in one other state. Next on the agenda is legislation permitting legal euthanasia in the country, which the city assembly has already been promoting.

Mexico City lawmakers flouted the policies of Mexico President Felipe Calderon and the National Action Party in legalizing abortion. President Calderon, who has taken a strong pro-life position, condemned the Mexico City push to introduce abortion.

Cardinal Norberto Rivera, Mexico's leading clergyman, is expected to address the new abortion law at Mass on Sunday. Pope Benedict XVI had encouraged the Mexican bishops to fight against the legislation.

Please tell us what you think !

We are considering some changes to the PG ProLife Society newsletter, and we welcome your feedback.

Some things we are considering:

- Shorter newsletters
- More original content
- E-newsletter for members who have email

If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions, please let us know. You can either:

Email us: info@pgprolife.com (Use "Newsletter Suggestions" as your subject)

Or call us:

561-1148 (leave a message indicating that you have some newsletter ideas or suggestions, and the best time to call you back)

European Nations Demand World Bank Continue Forcing Abortion on Developing Nations

Stephen Mosher asserts that forcing population control on poor nations via financial pressure is "economic assassination"

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - For decades the World Bank has been pressuring developing nations into implementing population control in order to qualify for receipt of loans. That program accelerated during the Clinton era in the 1990s as the Bank, which is controlled by the United States, more openly insisted countries wishing to receive funding permit abortion, and institute 'family planning' programs.

The current Administration has attempted to alter this abortion-pushing stance with the guidance of Juan Jose Daboub, a former El Salvador finance minister, who was last year appointed as a managing director of the bank under President Paul Wolfowitz. The new health strategy sought to relax requirements that recipient countries implement population control 'family planning' policies as a condition of receiving loans.

However the World Bank Board of Directors deferred a decision on accepting the new health strategy on Tuesday after receiving complaints from European World Bank Directors. In an April 19 letter, a copy of which was obtained by LifeSiteNews.com, Bank Directors from Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany and Norway demanded that the bank continue its coercive population control policy.

Reuters and AFP are quoting sources from the Tuesday meeting who say that talks broke down as the US tried to insert language in the health policy update which would distance it from forcing abortion on recipient countries. The language would have asked countries to provide "age appropriate access to sexual and reproductive healthcare" rather than the currently worded "reproductive health services" which include abortion.

LifeSiteNews.com spoke with Population Control expert Stephen Mosher, the founder and director of the Population Research Institute about the

developments. Mosher who was the first to expose to the West the barbarity of China's one-child policy, said, "as former finance minister in El Salvador, Mr. Daboub, has personally experienced the pressure to legalize abortion by the World Bank and other international institutions."

Mosher explained that the World Bank is controlled by the US since the US is by far the largest contributor to the Bank. "If we are about promoting democracy how can we allow the World Bank to run roughshod over the democratic values of small nations like Nicaragua and El Salvador?" asked Mosher.

Mosher noted that the mass media campaigns attempting to influence Nicaragua's Supreme Court judges to rule that the new law giving full legal protection to unborn children is unconstitutional were financed in part by the Inter-American Development Bank, a division of the World Bank.

Mosher wondered whether the pro-abortion pressure would result in Mr. Daboub's ouster from the World Bank. But, "the U.S. will decide", rather than Europe, he concluded.

Rather than accepting the pro-abortion rhetoric that population control is key to development, Mosher asserts that forcing population control via financial pressure is "economic assassination."

"Taking poor countries and deliberately eliminating their primary resource - young people," he said, "is criminal". He explained that developing nations with higher infant mortality rates require higher birth rates to sustain their populations. Without social security systems in place elderly parents rely on children to sustain them in old age. For all their talk of women's rights, he said, the population controllers are doing women in developing nations no favours by forcing depopulation.

Brazil Supreme Court Begins Hearings on Human Embryonic Research

BRASILIA, Brazil, April 24, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Debate over the morality of destroying human embryos in research began last week in Brazil, as the Supreme Court opened hearings on the issue to the general public.

For the first time, the Court permitted public attendance during the testimony of 25 doctors, researchers and scientists--dozens of citizens crowded the court during debates on the contentious issue, Reuters reported.

Brazil opened the door to embryonic stem cell research in 2005 with the passage of the biosecurity law. The attorney general challenged the law before the Supreme Court that same year, arguing that research which destroys human embryos violates the country's constitutional protection for the right to life of the unborn.

"We must always take into account that this is an embryo, it's a human being," said Dom Odilo Schere, a leader with Brazil's National Council of Catholic Bishops, to the press during the hearings.

Predominantly Catholic, Brazil has faced an onslaught of liberal influences in recent years. The country's newly-appointed Health Minister Jose Gomes Temporao triggered a public outcry earlier this month when he called for open debate on legalizing abortion. Brazilian law only permits abortion in cases of rape or risk of death for the mother. The Brazilian Catholic Church is preparing for a visit from Pope Benedict XVI next month, which may act as a rallying point to encourage Catholic support for laws protecting the unborn.

An opinion poll released early in April showed 65 percent of Brazilians would oppose any change to the abortion law.

Supreme Court Justice Carlos Britto has said the court should reach a decision in the case before July of this year.

Just weeks ago, a team of scientists working in Brazil announced the success of a study treating type 1 juvenile diabetes with adult stem cells. Fourteen out of 15 participants in a study conducted by the University of São Paulo were able to stop their insulin injections for a significant period of time following treatment with stem cells taken from their own bone marrow--one patient is still insulin-free 34 months after treatment.

The study was reviewed in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

New Abortion-Cancer Study Severely Flawed, Says Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer

Group Calls on Journalists to Challenge Researchers to Do a Proper Study

NEW YORK, April 23, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A new study by Karin Michels and her colleagues on the link between abortion and breast cancer is seriously flawed, said the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer.

"We call on journalists to challenge Michels et al. to conduct a proper study that allows sufficient follow-up time between exposure to abortion and the development of breast cancer," said Karen Malec, president of the Coalition.

At least four other studies in recent years have been criticized for the same reason.

"This isn't the first time that Harvard Nurses Study researchers [8] have produced the wrong epidemiological results," said Joel Brind, president of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute. "They were wrong about combined hormone replacement therapy {HRT} reducing the risk of heart attack and stroke, and they're wrong about abortion."

The U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded the new study, Michels et al. 2007. Ten years ago, NCI expert Patricia Hartge concluded, "In short, a woman need not worry about breast cancer when facing the difficult decision of whether to terminate a pregnancy."

"So why has the NCI continued to spend millions of dollars to fund studies on the abortion-cancer link?" asked Malec. "Clearly, its scientists must either suspect a link or know that it exists."

The study, Michels et al. 2007, focused on the debated breast cancer risk - whether abortion leaves women with an increased number of cancer-vulnerable breast lobules. It did not focus on the recognized breast cancer risk - the loss of the protective effect of a full term pregnancy.

"Even the NCI agrees that increased childbearing, starting at an early age, protects women from breast cancer," said Malec. "Legislators have a moral obligation to require abortion providers to inform expectant mothers that if they have an abortion, their breast cancer

risk will be higher than it would be if they have a baby. That's settled science."

Canadian Bishop Clarifies Catholic Position on Nutrition and Hydration - Main issue in Schiavo Case

LONDON, ON, April 20, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - London Ontario Bishop Ronald Fabbro has issued a statement clarifying the teaching of the Catholic Church on the provision of artificial nutrition and hydration. The issue has been contentious, even in Catholic hospitals, and was raised to international attention with the starvation death of Terri Schiavo in 2005.

"In an address which he delivered on March 20, 2004, Pope John Paul II referred to a particular medical condition called persistent 'vegetative' state (PVS), or post-coma unresponsiveness," said Bishop Fabbro. "In reference to this condition, the pope stated that artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH) 'should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate and as such morally obligatory insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality.'"

Explained the Bishop, "In the case of a PVS patient, then, nutrition and hydration are required as basic care. A PVS patient is not terminally ill, and denying ANH would be an act of killing the patient by dehydration and starvation."

Commenting on the Bishop's statement, Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition told LifeSiteNews.com that his group "is pleased with the clarification by Bishop Fabbro on issues related to hydration and nutrition."

"The question is," said Schadenberg, "when will Catholic hospitals and Catholic physicians begin to follow their Church's official position on this question?" Schadenberg added, "The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition continues to be challenged not only by secular physicians but also Catholic physicians on the fact that we correctly recognize that euthanasia by omission does exist and in fact usually refers to euthanasia by dehydration. This is often called "slow euthanasia".

Bishop Fabbro also noted in his clarification that "It would be wrong, however, to conclude from the pope's speech that there is an absolute

obligation to provide nutrition and hydration to all patients, regardless of their state."

"Providing nutrition and hydration is a general obligation," he said, "but Catholic teaching recognizes that there are circumstances where nutrition and hydration are no longer required and could, in fact, be harmful to the patient." The teaching, he said, is reflected in the ethics guidelines of the Catholic Health Association of Canada. "There are instances, for example, of terminally ill patients for whom death is imminent from an advanced progressive and progressing disease, where ANH is harmful to the patient and may be removed," said the Bishop. "In these cases, the cause of death is not the removal of nutrition and hydration but the disease."

Schadenberg concluded, "When a person, who was not otherwise dying, is intentionally dehydrated to death, this is euthanasia by omission. When a person who is dying and experiencing organ failure or other body 'shut-down' symptoms, that to remove all hydration and nutrition with the intention of preventing further pain and suffering is not euthanasia but rather accepting the limits of life."

Top Russian Scientist Warns Euthanasia Will Increase Human Organ Trafficking

MOSCOW, Russia, April 19, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A leading Russian scientist and politician has warned that trafficking in human organs will explode in the country if legal euthanasia is introduced, Regnum News Agency reported earlier today.

Sergey Kolesnikov is a member of the Russian State Duma, a doctor of medicine and a member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. He told a Regnum correspondent that a law permitting euthanasia would "sharply increase" the risk of criminal seizure of human organs, already a significant problem in the country.

"I strongly oppose legalization of euthanasia," Kolesnikov said. "Corruption and crime rates in this country make me take such initiatives very seriously. So, it will become one of legal ways to seize property of an individual, depending on how the procedure is stated by the law."

"It is no secret that there is a practice of signing contracts with elderly people on using their

organs after their death. In this case it would be legal," he said.

"As a doctor I know that when it becomes impossible to sustain immune activity of the human organism (for instance, in case of brain death), a decision is made to stop resuscitation with consent of the family," Kolesnikov said. "But this is not euthanasia.

"[Euthanasia] can be called 'a voluntary decision to take one's life.' How voluntary is it here? They would say it is necessary to relieve pain, but today the level of painkilling is almost in 100% enough not to make it a reason to take one's life."

"There is another question: who will make the decision and who will carry out the procedure? Doctors should be in no way involved in it. Well, will the family want to be the executioner? Thus, a special position of the executioner is to be introduced in hospitals, but I do not know whether this is legal," Kolesnikov said.

Proposed by Senator Valentina Petrenko, the euthanasia legislation has been criticized by Russian State Duma deputy chair Vladimir Pekhtin, who said the law would contradict the president's commitment to improve Russia's demographic situation. With one of the lowest birthrates in the world, Russia is facing a growing crisis of an aging and dwindling population.

Adult Stem cell patch restores vision

Corneal cultivation opens way to assist people with eye surface damage

MELBOURNE, April 18, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A man's vision has been restored by a corneal patch grown from adult stem cells by a team at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Eye

Research Australia (CERA) and the Bernard O'Brien Institute of Microsurgery (BOBIM).

The patch, which replicates the cornea, was cultivated from a single stem cell from a donor eye and was transplanted to the surface of the man's eyes.

The research team was led by Dr Mark Daniell (CERA) and Dr Erik Thompson (BOBIM).

The process, known as a limbal stem cell transplant, is thought to be the first of its kind in Australia. The Melbourne success significantly advances international research in limbal stem cell transplantation in the eyes.

The patient had severe vision loss caused by stem cell failure on the surface of the eye, causing scarring and a vascularised and opaque appearance.

"He had reduced mobility, could not read and could not work, but he has now resumed duties as an accountant, enjoys sight (slightly lower than normal 20/20 acuity) and has increased mobility and

quality of life and renewed optimism," Dr Daniell reports.

He says the surface of the man's eyes was removed and the patch (about 50mm long and a micron thick) was applied and is healing well. "This technique can now assist people with alkaline burns who have damage to the surface of their eyes."

Dr Daniell and his team are now working toward developing a totally bio-engineered cornea, using a stem cell extracted from elsewhere on a person's body other than the eye.

Websites to check out:

Prince George ProLife Society

www.pgprolife.com

Canadian Physicians for Life

www.physiciansforlife.ca

Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer

www.abortionbreastcancer.com

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

www.epcc.ca

Focus on the Family (Canada)

www.fotf.ca

Just The Facts (Fetal Development)

www.justthefacts.org

Stem Cell Research News

www.stemcellresearch.org

DAY OF INFAMY

Monday, May 14
ON 15TH AVENUE AT BURDEN ST
(west of PGRH)

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

On May 14, 1969, the Liberal Government of the day passed a bill that opened the door to unrestricted abortion in Canada. Since that time, over 3 million unborn babies have been slaughtered by surgical abortions. An unknown number have been killed by chemical abortion. There has been no law restricting abortion in Canada since 1988.

The Prince George ProLife Society invites you to join them as they mark this "**Day of Infamy**" with a quiet, prayerful witness on 15th Avenue at Burden Street on Monday, May 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. For further information, call Patricia @ 564-0643 or Laura @ 563-3874.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: New Renewal (Membership year starts from AGM each October)

Individual/Family \$24 Senior/Student \$12 Donation _____

Make Cheque payable to: ProLife Society, PO Box 2333, Prince George BC V2N 2J8
(Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations)