



Prince George ProLife Society

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NEWSLETTER NO. 23

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PROLIFE SOCIETY

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

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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

January 2005

- 18** Info Table - CNC
- 19** Info Table - UNBC
- 29** Supreme Court Vigil
1 – 2 pm

March 2005

- 3** Natalie Sanesh - UNBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2004 drew to a close, the world watched as the horrific events of December 26 unfolded before our eyes. We witnessed the unbelievable devastation; we heard the screams of fear; we saw the tragic loss of lives. We were there. Through the modern miracles of technology, we were there and we were able to see, hear, feel and experience the effects of the deadly tsunami that ravaged the countries and the people of India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Especially heart wrenching was the sight of little ones who had lost their lives and of inconsolable parents searching for their children.

All the world was touched and people's hearts and wallets were open and generous, as everyone reached out, in whatever ways possible, to help comfort, heal and save.

As I reflect on all of this, my thoughts take me on a journey back in time, to the events leading up to World War II, when millions of other lives were brought to an end, not through an act of nature, but through the ignorance and hatred of fellow human beings. When the first stories of the holocaust leaked out, few took them seriously. It would be hard to blame anyone for not believing them as the stories were certainly beyond belief and the facts were difficult to know. Technology, at that time, was very limited. Television and many other forms of instant communication were not available. The truth wasn't seen and so, it wasn't believed. It wasn't until more and more of these stories were revealed over time, that people realized that the unbelievable was, in fact, a reality. It was only then that people reacted, but sadly, it was too late for too many.

And as my thoughts return to present day, I am hit with the image of millions of little ones throughout the world, more than two million in Canada alone, who have also had their lives tragically ended - through abortion. Where is the world's reaction? Where is the outrage? Where is the outpouring of love and compassion for the unborn whose lives are threatened? Ironically, in our high-tech world, many do not see, or choose not to see - and so, they don't believe. They don't believe that beginning life is, indeed, a new human being, individual and unique, who is as deserving of the same rights, privileges and respect as a child who has been born. The technology and the information are all out there to prove it, but through ignorance, fear and denial, many have become blinded to the truth.

(continued on page 2)



His New Year's wish is that "all Christian Churches will make the search for unity on moral matters their priority in 2005."

ABORTION HOLOCAUST

Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne, who will host the 2005 World Youth Day in Rome, compared abortion to the Jewish holocaust in his January sermon on the Epiphany. The Epiphany commemorates the visit of the three kings of the East to the infant Jesus. Herod ordered the killing of all infant males in an attempt to destroy Jesus, who he thought might be a rival to his position.

The widespread killing of innocent children we have with elective abortion merits such a comparison. Such a comparison always elicits a storm of protest from some quarters.

The Cardinal did not rescind his comments when attacked by the Green Party and the Social Democrats.

Source: January 7, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com)

PARENTS OF TEEN WHO DIED FROM RU 486 ABORTION DRUG FILE LAWSUIT

Livermore, CA (LifeNews.com Dec. 22/04) - The parents of California teenager Holly Patterson, who died last year after complications from the dangerous RU 486 abortion drug, are suing the maker of the abortion pill. The Pattersons filed wrongful death and product liability lawsuits against New York-based Danco Laboratories.

In September 2003, Holly Patterson received the RU 486 abortion drug, also known as Mifeprex or mifepristone, from a Planned Parenthood abortion facility near San Francisco. She reported severe pain and bleeding afterwards and died days later at a local hospital.

Mark Crawford, the attorney representing Monty and Deborah Patterson, discussed the case. "I haven't filed this thing to get publicity," he said. "It's filed because there's been some wrongdoing on the part of the drug manufacturer and drug sponsor here in not getting the warning out."

Last month, Cynthia Summers, marketing director for Danco Laboratories, claimed the abortion drug was not responsible for California teenager Holly Patterson's death. "We believe our drug is not to blame," she said. "The drug is safe. It's effective. And it provides another option for women to end early pregnancy." Summers again defended the drug after hearing of the lawsuit. She indicated that "no causal relationship between

the use of the Mifeprex regimen and the unfortunate death of Ms. Patterson has been established."

However, Dr. Lester Crawford, the FDA's acting commissioner of food and drugs, disagreed. "Our investigation reveals that it was due to mifepristone," Dr. Crawford said. In October 2003, the Alameda County Coroner's office determined that Patterson died as a result of septic shock brought on by an incomplete abortion.

AUTHORS OF FINNISH STUDY FAIL TO REPORT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCREASED SUICIDES AND ABORTION

January 7, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The December 2004 edition of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AJOG) has published a letter to the editor from Dr. Nathan J. Hoeldtke of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, pointing out the failure by authors of a Finnish study to report the relationship between abortion and increased incidence of suicide.

The 2004 study, Pregnancy-associated mortality after birth, spontaneous abortion, or induced abortion in Finland, failed to take into account the higher risk of death by intentional accident after abortion. Abortion advocates routinely scoff at any suggestion of long-term emotional effects of abortion and claim that it is more dangerous to carry a pregnancy to term.

In his letter, Dr. Hoeldtke says, for unclear reasons, the authors excluded deaths from unintentional accidental injuries and intentional injuries in their analysis of pregnancy-associated mortality. The author of the Finish study showed in previous research that a post-abortive woman is 6 times more likely to die from suicide (intentional injury) than women who give birth, and 3 times more likely to commit suicide than the general population.

Dr. Hoeldtke continued, "A woman obtaining an induced abortion appears to be at increased risk for dying from violent causes in the near future, including suicide. The stark reality underlying these statistics would seem to represent a significant public health concern that warrants further investigation".

Canada needs an informed-consent law on abortion: Write to your MP Jay Hill or Dick Harris letting them know that you would like them to support Garry Breitkreuz's Motion 70 asking for an informed consent law in Canada.

NOTORIOUS CANADIAN ABORTIONIST MORGENTALER FEATURED IN NEW CTV MOVIE

TORONTO, January 3, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The life of notorious Canadian abortionist Henry Morgentaler is championed in a new made-for-television movie, *Choice: The Henry Morgentaler Story*, produced by CTV. Morgentaler gained notoriety for defying Canadian law in 1967 by opening Canada's first abortuary in Montreal.

The *ctv.ca* description of the movie highlights that the "January 2005 airdate coincides with the 17th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada decision to change the country's abortion laws (Jan. 28/19wds88) and the 35th anniversary of Morgentaler's decision to end his practice as a GP and to begin illegal committing abortions (1970)."

While visiting the movie set in Montreal, Morgentaler commented: "This is my legacy to Canada, and I'm flattered to have been approached about the film as a record of my achievements."

Morgentaler's physical legacy, along with Canada's other abortion activists and allied pro-abortion politicians, has been the violent deaths of well over 2 million unborn Canadian pre-born children and the physical and psychological damage experienced by many of the mother of those aborted children.

According to an Ipsos/Reid polled commissioned by the CTV to correspond with the announcement of the movie, 73 percent of Canadian women aged 18 to 35 had never heard of Morgentaler.

To express concerns to CTV, write to: CTV Television Network P.O. Box 9, Station 'O,' Scarborough ON M4A 2M9 (416) 332-5000 entertain@ctv.ca

Editor: This CTV production aired locally on Channel 4 at 9 p.m. on January 5. If you watched it please consider writing, e-mailing or phoning your dismay. On January 6 they had a special line set up for phone-in comments about the film - it may still be up if you phone the CTV contact number right away.

PRO-LIFE COSTA RICA UNDER FIRE FROM ABORTION ADVOCATES TO REVERSE ITS IVF BAN

SAN JOSE, January 7, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com) In March 2000, Costa Rica became the only country in North or South America to prohibit in vitro fertilization. The Costa Rican constitution protects human life from conception to natural death. IVF is a

procedure that necessitates the killing of many of the embryos created for the process.

Since the court decision that banned IVF, the Costa Rican government has been under constant fire for its pro-life policies. Now a group of eleven complainants and their doctor, Delia Ribas, will take the government to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to force the government to overturn the law.

On December 10th, the New York based abortion advocacy organization, the Center for Reproductive Rights, added its legal and financial support to the case. The Center's website says that the case could effect laws regarding IVF all over North and South America.

Whatever the outcome, the case will reveal the threats posed by numerous international treaties that promote abortion and anti-family policies. The challenge will be taken out of the country in an attempt to overturn existing laws to conform to the anti-life agenda of the Cairo and Beijing UN conventions.

Costa Rica's pro-life efforts have not been confined to its own country. The Costa Rican delegation attempted to introduce a complete ban on human cloning at the United Nations this past fall. Seventy-six percent of Costa Rica's population is Catholic. International pro-abortion organizations have recognized that countries with a strong Catholic culture present the greatest threat to their population control goal

SCHINDLERS ASK COURT TO VOID ORDER REMOVING TERRI SCHIAVO'S ASSISTED FEEDING

PINELLAS PARK, Florida, January 5, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The parents of brain-disabled Terri Schiavo filed a new court motion Thursday, asking that Terri's feeding tube not be removed, as ordered by a judge in November, arguing that their daughter has been denied due legal process.

"In reviewing the many boxes of court filings," said Attorney David Gibbs III, who is now representing the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Schindler, "we cannot find a single instance where Terri was afforded the right of every American to have a lawyer who would represent her own interests. Her parents have an attorney. Her husband has an attorney; but Terri has never had an attorney who could attempt to communicate with her and could represent her interests while her parents and husband battle over whether she should live or die."

Gibbs and associate Barbara Weller visited Schiavo Christmas eve with the Schindler's, commenting that

Schiavo was "very much alive and responsive," as reported by LifeSiteNews.com Wednesday.

The new motion also argues that the courts have applied the wrong law to statements Terri allegedly made in the mid-1980s that she would not want to live on life support. Her parents vehemently deny that Terri ever made such statements.

However, says Gibbs, "even if she did, in the 1980s under Florida law, assisted feeding was not considered to be life support." Therefore, the motion argues, whatever Terri may or may not have said about not wanting life support, she could never have meant that she would now want to have her assisted feeding discontinued.

Finally, the Schindlers' motion argues that the courts in this case have violated the constitutional separation of powers. By acting as judge, lawmaker, and proxy-guardian, the Schindlers emphasize, the court is intruding into the roles of the legislative and executive branches of the Florida government. In so doing, they conclude, it has shed the neutral and objective judicial function to which Mrs. Schiavo is entitled and which is required by law.

FAT CELLS USED IN BREAKTHROUGH SURGERY TO CREATE BONE FOR INJURED GIRL'S SKULL

GIESSEN, Germany, December 21, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Despite the persistent claims of some researchers, adult stem cells continue to prove their ability to produce a vast array of new tissue types. In the latest news, a 7-year-old German girl with severe damage to her skull from a fall, has been treated with stem cells derived from her own fat cells. Dr. Hans-Peter Howaldt of the Justus-Liebig-University Medical School in Giessen, Germany had attempted to repair the 19 square inches of damaged bone with grafts but the surgery was not successful. "Chronic infection resulted in an unstable skull with marked bony defects," he said in a summary of the case.

Two years after the initial injury, the doctors tried again, this time with the addition of stem cells obtained from the girl's fat cells. The bone recovered from the girl's pelvis was milled into chips about .1 inches long and placed in missing areas of the skull. The bone chips appeared to direct the stem cells to make bone, Dr. Howaldt said. "I cannot prove that our success comes from the stem cells alone," he told the Associated Press, "but the combination of the two things simply worked." The girl's head is now smooth to the touch and is covered with thin but solid bone.

Stem cells derived from a patient's own tissue, from cord blood, bone marrow, blood or fat cells are being used in experiments with animals and human beings to treat many diseases and injuries. This latest result is being called a breakthrough by others working in the field. Dr. Roy C. Ogle of the University of Virginia, an expert in skull reconstructive surgery who is studying the possibility of growing bone from fat stem cells called the treatment "a landmark." Most research of this kind has been done with animals and Ogle thinks this is the first time adult stem cells have been placed so close to the brain in a human being without damage.

A summary of the experiment in the December issue of the *Journal of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery*, said, "The CT-scans showed new bone formation and near complete calvarial (skull bone) continuity three months after the reconstruction."

CANADA NEEDS AN "A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW" LAW

...Saskatchewan MP Gary Breitkreuz introduced a motion calling for informed-consent abortion legislation. He said his motion would guarantee a woman contemplating abortion be given complete information about risks associated with the procedure and provide penalties for any physician who performs an abortion without the informed consent of the woman.

This was an important and timely initiative. Typically, women who abort find out about unwanted side effects the hard way - after the fact. But, the detrimental effects of abortion are not limited to grief and loss. There are more than 1,200 studies on the adverse psychological and medical consequences of abortion. These include severe psychiatric symptoms, suicide, breast cancer, infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease and an increase in pre-term and low-birth weight babies.

Parliament should have held health hearings on abortion by now, but Breitkreuz's earlier motion, proposing just that, was defeated last fall. The problem is that many politicians share an elite consensus that abortion is purely a matter of personal choice - no more medically or morally complicated than tooth extraction - and won't listen to any evidence to the contrary. But, rather than ensuring reproductive freedom, unregulated access to abortion is a breeding ground for coercion and defective consent, as documented by numerous social studies. Support groups for post-aborted women, with names like *Afro-American Women Exploited by Abortion and Victims*

of Choice [as well as Silent No More], illustrate the fact many women feel their abortion decisions have been pressured, or made in a vacuum of real options.

. . . The [Canadian] Leger Marketing firm asked 1,882 survey respondents if they would support informed-consent laws similar to those in the U.S., which require before a woman has an abortion, her physician provide her with information about fetal development, possible complications and alternatives to abortion. 69 per cent said yes; 24 per cent said no and 7 per cent didn't know. These findings dispel the belief Canadians support abortion-on-demand.

. . . Federal politicians' responsibility to bring transparency to the abortion issue is long overdue. There is no reason why abortion should remain outside the ethical norms that govern the delivery of health care. It is absurd informed consent is required for organ donation after death, but not abortion before birth.

Informed consent is a fundamental principle of patient care and attempts to bypass it where abortion is concerned are a violation of patients' rights. After the election, the next federal government, whichever party forms it, must act to correct the errors of the past by enacting legislation that will truly protect the health and well being of Canadian women.

Source: Montreal Gazette, May 16, 2004, Editorial Op-ed, Deborah Rankin

'I WOULD HAVE HAD AN ABORTION' - "WRONGFUL LIFE" CLAIM REJECTED BY SOUTH CAROLINA COURT

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, December 21, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A woman, who says she would have aborted her son had her obstetrician not failed to warn her of his serious handicap, has had her "wrongful life" lawsuit thrown out of the state Supreme Court.

Jennie Willis claimed that, had she known most of her son's brain was missing, she would have aborted him. The high court decided unanimously against Willis.

"Even a jury collectively imbued with the wisdom of Solomon would be unable to weigh the fact of being born with a defective condition against the fact of not being born at all," Associate Justice E.C. Burnett wrote in the unanimous decision, as reported by the AP. "It is simply beyond the human experience."

South Carolina is one of 27 states that does not recognize the "wrongful life" claim. California, Washington and New Jersey are the only states that allow the claim.

IN WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE POPE NOTES THE NEWLY CONCEIVED CHILD DESERVES RIGHTS

VATICAN CITY, December 16, 2004

(LifeSiteNews.com) - In his message for World Day of Peace, January 1, 2005, Pope John Paul II made yet another effort to give instruction on the humanity of the unborn. The Pope used the construct of a "citizen of the world" to teach that the basic rights of persons are inalienable.

"As a member of the human family, each person becomes as it were a citizen of the world, with consequent duties and rights, since all human beings are united by a common origin and the same supreme destiny," said the Pope. John Paul outlined several basic rights and responsibilities flowing from a principle of world citizenship, but also included in that category newly conceived children.

"By the mere fact of being conceived, a child is entitled to rights and deserving of care and attention; and someone has the duty to provide these," he wrote.

LEGALIZING ABORTION MORE LIKELY TO INCREASE RATHER THAN DECREASE MATERNAL MORTALITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

NEW YORK, December 10, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) -

The population control arm of the United Nations, UNFPA, and its abortion-pushing allies, most notably International Planned Parenthood, relentlessly press for legalizing abortion with the claim that it is needed to reduce maternal mortality by reducing "unsafe" abortions, particularly in the Developing World.

However, Jeanne Head, R.N., the chief pro-life lobbyist at the United Nations, and herself a former labor and delivery nurse says the reality is quite different from the UNFPA claims. She told LifeSiteNews.com that statistics from the United Nations World Health Organization itself demonstrate that maternal mortality decreases with the overall improvement of national health care and the general health status of women rather than with legalization of abortion. Moreover, UN figures demonstrate that the legalization of abortion can lead to an increase in maternal mortality.

"The legalization of abortion does nothing to solve the underlying problem of poor health care in the developing world," "Women generally at risk because they lack access to a doctor, hospital, or antibiotics before legalization will face those same circumstances after legalization. And if legalization triggers a higher demand for abortion as it has in most countries (as Stanley Henshaw of Planned Parenthood's research arm, the Guttamacher Institute, admits it does), more injured women will compete for those scarce resources." Head told LifeSiteNews.com.

She explained that even in the United States, with some of the best medical care in the world, official figures indicate that over 300 women have died from legal abortions since the procedure was legalized nationwide in 1973.

Head, the UN representative for the National Right to Life Committee, and International Right To Life Federation, points out that the combination of poor medical conditions in the developing world and the increase in abortions which inevitably result from the legalization of abortion, are a deadly combination for mothers. The UN Population Division publication, 'World Population Monitoring 2002', notes several countries in which abortions rose rapidly after the law's liberalization.

In a research paper published in the magazine "The World and I" in June, Head compared UN statistics on Britain, where abortion has been broadly legal for decades, and the nearby Republic of Ireland, which has long banned the practice. "According to the 1990 UN Demographic Handbook, Ireland's maternal morality rate for 1988 was some three and a half times lower than Britain's," wrote Head.

In her paper, Head also points out that the UN Population Division report 'Abortion Policies: A Global Review' reports that in India, where abortion is broadly allowed, the procedure is still practiced under dangerous conditions and the maternal mortality rate remains high. However, the same report notes that in Paraguay maternal mortality rates have been declining, even though abortion is generally prohibited and "clandestine abortion is common."

Head who co-authored the paper with PhD student Laura Hussey, concludes, "Despite these facts, arguments about high levels of 'unsafe' abortions and the need to legalize abortion to decrease maternal mortality still dominate the international abortion debate. Yet the facts suggest that maternal morality can be reduced in the developing world the same way it has been done in the developed world since 1935

(long before any legalization of abortion) - by improving basic and maternal health care and the general health status of women, not by legalizing abortion."

PRO-LIFE GROUP PRAISES BEATIFICATION OF ANTI-EUTHANASIA GERMAN BISHOP

VATICAN CITY, December 21, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Cardinal Clemens August von Galen, known as the "Lion of Munster", has been approved by Pope John Paul II for beatification, a step on the road toward being declared a saint in the Catholic Church.

Cardinal von Galen was best known for his stand against Hitler, which was ignited mainly through his defeat of Hitler's program of euthanasia for the mentally and physically disabled. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) welcomed the announcement of the German Cardinal's upcoming beatification.

John Smeaton, SPUC national director, commented: "Cardinal von Galen is a model of fearless opposition to euthanasia, and we thank the Holy Father for honouring such heroic pro-life witness."

Historians relate that Hitler's eugenics policy called for euthanasia of those with incurable diseases. By 1940 busloads of unsuspecting victims were taken to medical centers for extermination. Then-Bishop von Galen's famous August 3, 1941 sermon against the euthanasia program is regarded as a turning point in the war.

Using language today's pro-lifers will find very familiar, Bishop von Galen condemned the attempt "to give legal sanction to the forcible killing of invalids, cripples, the incurable and the incapacitated." He said, "Once admit the right to kill unproductive persons, then none of us can be sure of his life. A curse on men and on the German people if we break the holy commandment 'Thou shalt not kill'... Woe to us German people if we not only license this heinous offence but allow it to be committed with impunity".

By the end of August the euthanasia program was cancelled. While Nazi leaders contemplated killing the good bishop, they were concerned about a public uprising given his vast popularity among the people.

QUEBEC WILL CHALLENGE FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON ARTIFICIAL HUMAN REPRODUCTION

QUEBEC CITY, December 17, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Quebec's intergovernmental affairs minister, Benoit Pelletier, says the province will challenge the constitutionality of the federal law on cloning and embryo research. He says that the jurisdiction is not Ottawa's. Quebec already has a law prohibiting experimental research on living embryonic human beings. When the cloning bill, C-6 was being debated, Quebec MP's raised concerns that it would infringe upon the rights of provinces to legislate on the issue.

Jurisdictional matters are always touchy between Quebec and Ottawa, and Quebec has introduced provincial legislation to "regulate" what is broadly referred to as "assisted reproduction," a term covering a broad range of topics in the federal legislation.

In 2002, Quebec passed legislation that prohibited the extraction of stem cells from embryos, even when the research was privately funded. At the time, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, David Cliché said that there was little danger of a conflict should Parliament pass legislation regulating embryo research. The Quebec government has been praised by pro-life groups for its promotion of research in adult stem cells.

**Natalie Sanesh,
Campus Outreach Director**

**CANADIAN CENTRE
FOR BIO-ETHICAL REFORM**

THE REALITY OF ABORTION

Public Lecture
UNBC – Weldwood Theatre

Thursday, March 3, 2005
7:30 p.m.

A freewill offering will be collected.

SUPREME COURT VIGIL

Saturday, January 29, 2005
at the Courthouse
on 3rd and George
1 – 2 p.m.

Held to remind the populace and politicians
that the Supreme Court Justices agree
that the protection of the unborn is a valid
parliamentary objective

UGANDAN FIRST LADY DEFENDS ABSTINENCE IN FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

KAMPALA, December 21, 2004 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Uganda's First Lady, Janet Museveni, said critics of Uganda's successful abstinence campaign, who promote so-called safe-sex, are leading the youth of her country to "death," in remarks Monday, as reported by allafrica.com.

Museveni reiterated her stance of calling on young people to abstain from premarital sex, and for married couples to remain faithful within marriage.

"What is not practical about that? Why should young people in colleges and universities run around with sex? What is the hurry? Why should we allow ourselves to listen to voices that lead us to death and debate with those that save lives?" she said. She was addressing the annual general assembly of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa (AMICAALL) Uganda Chapter in Kampala.

Uganda's successful campaign has focused on the ABC's: Abstinence, Being faithful within marriage, and, as a last resort for those living with HIV, use Condoms. Uganda's HIV infection rate has fallen by as much as 75% in some demographics, an unprecedented success in the story of African AIDS combat.

Museveni also called on mayors to eradicate pornography from their cities.