

# PROLIFE SOCIETY



## Prince George ProLife Society

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

Office hours: 9 am to 9 pm

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## Coming Events:

### January 2008

**26 Supreme Court Vigil**  
Outside the Courthouse  
250 George Street  
1:00 to 2:00 pm

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My very best wishes to you all for a new year that's filled with God's abundant blessings. May it bring you much love, laughter, peace, hope and joy!

As for the pro-life movement, I am pleased to tell you that this new year has begun with many blessings. There are so many encouraging signs and good things happening. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of these with you.

The results of the latest national survey on abortion, commissioned by LifeCanada, have just recently been released. Once again, the results indicate that the majority of people in Canada support restrictions on abortion (62%), legislation requiring parental consent for girls younger than eighteen (54%), informed consent laws (67%) and the withdrawal of tax funding for elective abortions (64%).

Newly added to this poll, was the question of whether Canadians would support or oppose legislation making it a separate crime to injure or kill a foetus during an attack on the mother. An overwhelming response of 72% of those polled showed support for

such a law. Even 55% of those who agree with unrestricted abortion favoured this legislation.

These last figures were presented by Conservative Member of Parliament, Ken Epp, as he introduced Bill C-484, the Unborn Victims of Crime bill, in the House of Commons. This bill calls for "criminal charges to be laid in the death or injury of an unborn child when the child's mother is the victim of a crime." It came about as a result of the outcry of family members and friends of five pregnant women who, along with their unborn children, died following violent attacks. Legally, at the present time, there can be no charges laid in the death of these children.

Gratefully, Bill C-484 was favourably received by the Subcommittee on Private Members' Business and it is now, with great hope, that this bill goes forward to a Parliamentary vote. Please contact your Member of Parliament, by phone, letter or email, and urge his support for this bill.

Exciting news concerning adult stem cell research has also recently come to my attention. Scientists, in both

Japan and Wisconsin, have discovered a method of reprogramming adult stem cells to act like embryonic stem cells. This means that adult cells can now be made capable of growing into all of the major tissue types. This news is very promising as it encourages an increased focus on adult stem cell research rather than on embryonic cell research, which results in the destruction of human embryos. This may very well mark the end of this kind of experimentation that has proven to be both unsuccessful and morally repugnant.

As 2008 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court Morgentaler decision to set aside the abortion law of 1969, LifeCanada has prepared a massive campaign to enlighten the public to the fact that abortion on demand is legal in Canada throughout all nine months of pregnancy. This campaign will involve the use of radio and newspaper ads, postcards, transit shelter ads, billboards, and a special website [AbortionInCanada.ca](http://AbortionInCanada.ca) to spread its message. The Prince George ProLife Society will be actively participating in this campaign with both radio

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**SUPREME COURT VIGIL**  
**January 26 — 1:00 to 2:00 pm**  
**Outside the Courthouse**  
**250 George Street**

Everyone is invited to come join the ProLife Society outside the Prince George Courthouse on Saturday, January 26 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for a prayer vigil petitioning for a law to protect the unborn.

*President's Message, cont.*

ads and a downtown billboard. I am very grateful to all who donated so generously to help make this possible.

On Saturday, January 26, this anniversary will also be remembered at our Annual Supreme Court Vigil, from 1-2 p.m. out-

side the Prince George Courthouse. Speaking at this event will be Fr. Tom Shymko, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. You are all invited, along with family and friends, to be a part of this prayerful vigil and, by your presence, to become a visible witness to the sanctity of life.

Change is in the wind and I thank you for all that you have done and continue to do – your letters to elected officials, your active support, your donations, and especially your on-going prayers – all these play a tremendous role in making “life-giving change” a reality.

*Laura Fowlie, President*

## HUGE "ETHICAL" EMBRYONIC-LIKE STEM CELL DISCOVERY NOT SO ETHICAL AFTER ALL - FETAL CELLS USED

TENNESSEE, January 8, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Children of God for Life reports that a recent stem cell breakthrough that turns adult skin cells to "embryonic" is not a pro-life solution as currently done. On November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka and Dr James Thomson published back-to-back studies that were hailed as moral alternatives to embryonic stem cell research. Both studies involved introducing genes into adult stem cells through a lentivirus, which reprogrammed them to become "embryonic" or induced pluripotent stem (IPS) cells, without destroying human embryos. But pro-lifers may have celebrated too soon, without studying the methods used in the papers. Both researchers used several versions of the 293 aborted fetal cell lines to modify the DNA of the host adult skin cells, in order to accomplish the reprogramming.

"Unless you read the papers published by Dr Yamanaka in Cell and Dr Thomson in Science, you would have no idea where the DNA came from that was used to transform the adult cells", stated Debi Vinnedge, Executive Director of Children of God for Life, a pro-life watchdog organization focused on stem cell research and aborted fetal cell lines in medical prod-

ucts. "And even then you would have to know what you were looking for to understand it", she added.

For example, while Dr Yamanaka reports using PLAT-E, PLAT-A and 293FT cells in his paper, the proper name for these cell lines is HEK (human embryonic kidney) 293. The cells were obtained from an electively aborted baby by Dr. Alex Van der Eb, Crucell NV, the same company producing aborted fetal cell line PER C6, derived from the retinal tissue of an 18-week gestation baby.

In the second study, Dr James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, also used aborted fetal cell line 293FT to produce DNA used to modify adult cells. Furthermore, Dr Thomson obtained the DNA sequences he used from human ES cells. And before using foreskin fibroblasts, Thomson tested the reprogramming on IMR-90 aborted fetal cell line, taken from the lung tissue of a 16-week gestation female baby.

"Pro-lifers may be deceived by the excitement about these publications", Vinnedge cautioned. "Using aborted fetal and embryonic stem cells from deliberately destroyed human beings is certainly not any

kind of moral victory."

Vinnedge noted that the research is fraught with other moral and clinical problems, such as fatal tumors, which are a well-documented attribute of embryonic stem cells, and which also occurred with the adult reprogrammed IPS cells. And while Yamanaka and Thomson allege the new cells generated would be "patient specific" with no immune rejection problems, this claim is premature because there is foreign DNA present from the lentivirus used to modify the cells.

However, it is not necessary to use aborted fetal cells to produce the lentivirus at all, noted Dr Theresa Deisher, R&D Director of Ave Maria Biotechnology Company, a research firm dedicated to pro-life alternatives for unethical human therapeutics.

"There are other ethical ways to produce the DNA needed for transformation, efficiently and morally," said Dr Deisher. "If these means were employed to produce the needed DNA, there would be no moral issues with the use of reprogrammed adult cells for research."

## QUINTUPLETS BORN IN UK IN DEFIANCE OF MEDICAL PRESSURE TO ABORT

OXFORD, January 4, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) The quintuplets of a Russian couple were born in the UK after doctors in Russia denied them care unless they aborted some of them.

Dimitri and Varvara Artamkin, both Russian natives, gave birth to five girls at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford last month. Each of the babies now weighs 3 pounds 3 ounces, and they have been separated since birth so they can undergo incubation in two hospitals.

Dmitri, a mathematics professor, says that the children are each a gift from God.

"We believe God has given them to us as a gift and sent us here, to Britain, to give

them the best possible chance," he said. "We don't yet know when we'll be able to take them home - it depends on the progress they make. But we're praying it will be soon."

Dmitri and Varvara come from strong religious backgrounds; both were brought up in the Russian Orthodox Church. They tried to have a baby but were unable to during the first seven years of their marriage. They eventually tried fertility treatments, and were surprised when they discovered that they were pregnant with five children instead of one.

"We love children so much and have always wanted to have lots," said Varvara, a

music teacher. "We both come from big families so to us, having lots of children seems normal. I am one of four children, Dimitri is one of nine, and we have 13 nephews and nieces. We have always been surrounded by children and we prayed to God to send us children. What happened to us last year was very sad but we always believed we would have another chance."

"We were very happy when we first found out but we couldn't celebrate because the doctors told us straight away that it would be impossible to have all of them," said Dimitri. "Then all we could feel was worry."

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The couple refused to have selective abortion, and because of that were turned away by most Russian doctors due to the risk to Varvara that was posed by so many children being born at once.

"We just said no as soon as they told us. We prayed to be given children and God granted our prayer - to kill them would be totally against everything we believe," said Dimitri. "We go to church every week and believe very strongly in our faith. Varvara's father is a priest in the Russian Orthodox church. For us, having the abortions was not even an option. It was a frightening and sad time for us but we knew we had to have all the babies. We could see all of them on the ultrasounds and each one was a little person. It was not something we even had to discuss."

The quintuplets, named Elizaveta, Alexandra, Nadezhda, Tatiana and Varvara, are the first to be born in the UK in five years. The parents are waiting for them to be strong enough to all be gathered together again. They were very thankful for the amount of support that people have shown them in the past weeks.

"The people we have met since being in this country have been fantastic," said Varvara. "The level of care the babies have received is amazing and strangers have been so kind in sending us gifts. We want everyone here to know how thankful we are. We are a little overwhelmed by all the attention but we know we have everyone's best wishes."

The couple had the babies baptized the day after their birth and their families are planning a big celebration and to help with childcare when they return to Russia. Both Dimitri and Varvara say that they would like to have even more children, although both hope eventually to return to their jobs.



Two of the Artamkin Quintuplets

## CANADIAN WOMEN DON'T SUPPORT CURRENT ABORTION POLICY

LIFE CANADA - Two-thirds of Canadian women support legal protection for unborn children, according to an Environics poll released in late October 2007. A smaller majority of men (57%) support legal protection. Currently in Canada there are no legal restrictions on abortion at any stage of pregnancy.

More than one-third (34%) of women support legal protection from conception onward, 21% after three months of pregnancy and 12% say babies should be protected after six months. Overall, 62% of Canadians supported legal protection at some point before birth.

The Focus Canada poll of 2,047 Canadians was conducted between September 17 and October 14, with a margin of error of  $\pm 2.2\%$  nineteen times out of twenty. The poll also asked about legislation that would make it a separate crime to kill or injure a fetus during a violent attack on a

pregnant woman. Seventy-five percent of women and 72% of men said they would support a fetal protection law.

In the past three years at least five pregnant women have been killed along with their babies in violent attacks. The most recent occurred earlier this month in Toronto.

"Most Canadians support the families of these murdered women who grieve not only for the sudden and violent loss of their daughters and sisters but for the baby whose birth they looked forward to," said LifeCanada President Joanne Byfield. "Canadians see this as a violent attack on two people, members of a family, and it is outrageous that the law denies the humanity of one of those family members."

The poll, the sixth one commissioned by LifeCanada, also found majority support for informed consent legislation for

women considering abortion, and parental consent for abortion for girls under 18. Environics also asked about tax-funding for abortions. Most of the over 100,000 abortions performed each year in Canada are paid for by taxpayers through the publicly funded system. Almost two-thirds polled said that abortions should be privately funded except in cases of medical emergencies or for rape and incest.

"This week marks the anniversary of the famous 'Persons' case which overturned a court decision that found women were not persons," said LifeCanada President Joanne Byfield.

"Canadian law now says that babies in the womb are not persons until birth. That means that they can be shot, stabbed, kicked and punched with no repercussions. In this poll, Canadians are saying that this is not acceptable. We need a new 'Persons' case to end this injustice."

## Midas, Carlson Among Newly Identified Corporate Supporters of Planned Parenthood

FRONT ROYAL, VA, January 3, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Life Decisions International (LDI) has released a revised edition of The Boycott List, which identifies corporations that are boycott targets due to their support of Planned Parenthood, the world's primary abortion-advocacy group.

"As a direct result of the commitment, action and prayers of pro-family people, at least 160 corporations have stopped funding Planned Parenthood," said LDI President Douglas R. Scott, Jr. It is estimated that the boycott has cost Planned Parenthood more than \$40 million since the Corporate Funding Project (CFP) began nearly 16 years ago. "This should be a testament to those who believe it is impossible to change corporate philanthropic behavior," Scott said.

Corporations appearing on The Boycott List for the first time include BBJ Linen (home products), Carlson Companies (travel agencies, hotels [Country Inns & Suites, Park Inn, Park Plaza, Radisson, and Regent], and restaurants [T.G.I. Friday's and Pick Up Stix]), FastSigns (graphics/printing), InterContinental Hotels (Candlewood, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, Indigo, InterContinental, and Staybridge), Midas (motor vehicle care), and Paul Ecke Ranch (poinsettias), among others.

Corporations continuing as boycott targets from the previously released Boycott List include AlphaGraphics, Basics Office Products, Wachovia, Nike, Time Warner (Cinemax, HBO, AOL, etc.), Bank of America, the Dallas Cowboys, CIGNA, Walt Dis-

ney, Johnson & Johnson, Lost Arrow (Patagonia, etc.), Chevron, Wells Fargo, Whole Foods Market, and Nationwide (insurance), among others.

The new Boycott List includes a significantly expanded Dishonorable Mention section, which identifies charitable groups that are associated with Planned Parenthood and/or its agenda. Groups named in this section include Amnesty International, the American Cancer Society, Camp Fire, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, Human Rights Watch, Kiwanis Clubs, Doctors Without Borders, the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Rotary Clubs, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the YWCA, among others.

"This has not been some sort of

'Jesse Jackson boycott' where we make news for a few days and then go away," Scott said. "Corporate officials are learning that those who value life are among the most dedicated people on earth. We will not go away until corporate involvement with Planned Parenthood comes to an end."

"The Pro-Life Movement will succeed only to the extent that pro-life people are willing to be inconvenienced," Scott said. "The very lives of children are worth that much – and a whole lot more."

Visit Life Decisions International:



[www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org)

**Life Decisions International**

## UNFPA ANNUAL REPORT PUTS "REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES" BEFORE DEVELOPMENT

By Samantha Singson

NEW YORK January 3, 2008 (C-FAM) -United Nations Fund for Population Activities recently released annual report says that promoting "reproductive rights" and contraception, especially among adolescents, is the primary focus of the organization's work. Claiming that "every minute, 190 women are forced to confront the possibility of an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy—one that could have been easily prevented if only they had access to contraceptives," the report justified the UN agency's spending two thirds of its annual budget on the reproductive health agenda, but said that even more would be needed in the future.

UNFPA intends to put pressure on countries to spend more money for "reproductive health services" but spending more on national health priorities will not be enough, according to the report. The

report acknowledges that many governments have already established reproductive health programs but laments that "millions of pregnancies are still unwanted or mistimed."

Besides spending money governments will be pressured to change policies. Specific measures to get countries to comply will be: undertaking advocacy to increase national investments in family planning services, promoting increased access to condoms and advocating more condom distribution, "expanding the choice of methods," improving the quality of services, increasing the number of service delivery points and undertaking advocacy and capacity-building to expand services to adolescents.

Despite numerous claims that the organization is "abortion-neutral" and that "UNFPA does not speak for or against the legalization of abortion," the report states that the

organization is working to promote "family planning as a means to reduce unsafe abortion." The term "unsafe abortion" is used by UNFPA officials to mean "illegal" abortion.

The report also states that UNFPA will promote "reproductive rights" and "reproductive health services," both of which have been misused by UN agencies and committees to be synonymous with abortion.

During the last meeting of UNFPA's executive board meeting, several nations expressed serious concern about UNFPA's lack of accounting transparency and accountability and demanded reform of the agency. Executive Director Thoraya Obaid does not acknowledge these concerns in her forward to the report and the report is silent on these concerns. Obaid says she is heartened by UNFPA's successes but that even "more needs to be

done" and that the future work of UNFPA will seek "to link reproductive health, population and gender with the broader issues of poverty reduction."

The report stated that 60% of UNFPA's budget of \$389 million, or \$148 million, went to the reproductive health programs, compared with \$51 million dollars on population and development programs.

UNFPA was charged by investigators from the US and British governments with aiding and abetting the forced abortion program of the government of China. As was reported in the New York Times, UNFPA was also charged with supporting a coercive family program in Peru, where native women were sterilized without their consent or were made to exchange their fertility for bags of groceries. The US government withdrew its annual contribution from UNFPA many years ago and has never reinstated it.

## MOTHER AND UNBORN CHILD FATALY SHOT IN WINNIPEG

Double Murder Reignites Debate on Unborn Victims of Crime Bill Currently Before Parliament

WINNIPEG, MB, January 3, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A twenty-eight year old pregnant woman and her unborn child were fatally shot yesterday morning in Winnipeg. According to a Canadian Press (CP) report the woman was deemed to be about eight months pregnant.

Yesterday's incident is only the latest in a series of murders in which a pregnant woman and her unborn child have been victims of violent crimes, and which have precipitated families of the victims, in conjunction with politicians, to introduce legislation that would recognize the unborn child as a separate victim of a violent crime. Currently in Canada the fetus is not considered to be a separate victim of a violent crime since the foetus is not recognized as a person.

Bill C-484, the so-called Unborn Victims of Crime Bill, which was introduced as a private members bill by Conservative MP Ken Epp, is currently before Parliament, having been debated for the first time on December 13. The bill, if passed into law, would require a minimum ten year sentence, and a maximum life sentence for anyone who causes "the death of an unborn child while committing an offense", and a maximum fourteen year sentence for anyone who injures an unborn child.

The Bill has received widespread support from Canadians from every walk of life, with support cutting across party lines.

An Environics poll released in October 2007 found that 72% of Canadians (75% of women) would support "legislation making it a separate crime to injure or kill a foetus during an attack on the mother."

Even amongst those Canadians who support unrestricted abortion for the full nine months of pregnancy, 55% support "legislation making it a separate crime to injure or kill a foetus during an attack on the mother."

Further, 77% of Conservative supporters, 71% of Liberal, 71% of the Bloc Quebecois, 67% of the Green Party, and 66% of the NDP supporters are in favour of "legislation making it a separate crime to injure or kill a foetus during an attack on the mother."

The Winnipeg Sun is currently running an informal poll on its website, on the question "Should the person who shot a pregnant woman to death be charged with killing her unborn baby?" At the time of the writing of this article, an astonishing 86% of 1802 respondents have voted "yes." (To vote in that poll go to:

<http://www.winnipeg.sun.com/News/Winnipeg/2008/01/03/>

Last month, just before the Bill went up for debate, Mary Talbot, mother of murdered Olivia Talot and grandmother of Lane Jr., Olivia's unborn child who also was killed said, "My daughter Olivia and my grandson Lane Jr. were taken from our family in November 2005. The day before Olivia and Lane Jr. were brutally murdered, I had spent time picking her up from her Baby classes, taking her home and together putting blue curtains into what should have been the baby's nursery...Nothing can prepare you to cope with such a loss."

"I firmly believe that the Canadian Criminal code should be amended so that perpetrators of such horrible crimes can be tried for the deaths of the two people they killed. I hope no other family will have to endure what we have been going through for the past two years," she concluded.

Aydin Cocelli, brother-in-law of crime victim Aysun Sesen and uncle of her deceased daughter Gurl, recalled that after Aysun was killed, "Doctors tried to save her daughter Gurl by performing a caesarian section but nothing could be done to revive her baby."

"Our family has been extremely

affected by these dramatic events. No one can tell us that we only lost one loved one," said Cocelli. "We were so happy to get ready to welcome a new member in our family and loved Gurl with all of our hearts despite not having yet seen her. Someone has taken future Christmas and birthdays from us and we demand justice."

"There is absolutely no reason why a civilized and democratic country like Canada would not protect unborn victims of violence," he added. "My family intends to keep fighting until Canada acknowledges that in crimes such as the ones committed against Aysun and Gurl, there are two victims, two murders."

They concluded jointly: "We can only hope that Canadian parliamentarians understand that Olivia and Aysun's cases are not isolated incidents and that Canada must incorporate protection for unborn victims of violence in the criminal code. We joined together in the hopes that the Prime Minister and the Members of parliament will hear our cry for justice."

Bill C-484 is set to go before Parliament for a second and third hour of debate after Parliament reconvenes in late January.

## TWO CANADIAN WOMEN DIE FROM USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE PATCH; SIXTEEN MORE SUFFER BLOOD CLOTS

By John Connolly

TORONTO, January 11, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Two Canadian women have died and sixteen more have reported serious blood clotting in connection with the use of Evra, a hormonal contraceptive patch that releases estrogen directly into the bloodstream through the skin.

Health Canada released safety information for the drug in late 2006, but the warnings about increased possibility of blood clots in the legs and lungs have not been enough to prevent women from using the patch.

Two Canadian women who used the drug died from complications induced by the patch in 2006. One of the deaths was caused by a heart attack, which the manufacturers blamed the woman's smoking habit for. Multiple other women, however, have complained of dangerous blood clotting caused by the patch, conditions that may lead to a stroke or even death.

Siskinds, an Ontario-based law firm specializing in business law and class actions, has filed a class suit against Janssen-Ortho Inc., the manufacturers of the patch. A hearing

has been scheduled in Toronto to determine whether the case can through the court system as a class action suit.

The patch, controversial since its release to the market, has faced class action in the United States, where women suffered from blood clotting in their lungs after using the patch. While some of those women have asserted that the drug is not worth the risk, advocates of the patch claim that there is no problem, since women are warned of possible blood clotting on the patch's label.

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"Everybody who you start on this product - whether it's a pill or a patch or a ring - gets the same warning," said Dr. Melissa Mirosch, former fellow of the contraception research fellowship program at Queen's University in

Kingston, Ontario. "What I tell people is that any estrogen-containing birth control product will slightly raise your risk of having a blood clot in your leg or in your lung. But it does not raise it nearly as much as being pregnant or having a baby. And that risk is a very small increase."

Some doctors refused to prescribe the patch after its bad publicity, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required Janssen-Ortho to include the warnings about blood clots and possible stroke on the product's label.

## OFFICER SUES COAST GUARD FOR FORCING VACCINE INJECTION DERIVED FROM ABORTED BABY

By John Connolly and John-Henry Westen

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 8, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit on January 2 on behalf of a Coast Guard officer who was refused an exception from injection with a Hepatitis A vaccine derived from an aborted child, even though the injection conflicts with the officer's Catholic beliefs.

The U.S. Coast Guard refused to grant Lt. Commander Joseph J. Healy an exception, even though it allows injection exemptions based on other religious beliefs. The injection, required by the Coast Guard in lieu of proof of immunity for Hepatitis A, uses cells taken from the lung tissue of a dissected child aborted at 14 weeks.

In compliance with Coast Guard requirements, Healy filed a memo requesting religious exemption based on his Catholic faith and strong opposition to abortion. Capt.

Brent Pennington denied the request because he disagreed with Healy's theology, claiming that Catholic teaching "does not state that these immunizations are against the religious tenets of the Catholic Church."

However, Dr. Thaddeus Kozinski a professor of Philosophy at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Ontario said the case was an example of the invasion of a sphere of religious freedom. "The state shouldn't be engaging in this kind of interpretation," he told LifeSiteNews.com. "It doesn't have the authority or the jurisdiction in these matters. It should defer to the person's conscience and the Church's teaching unless it's a grave matter concerning the common good."

"Those who lay their life on the line to defend our shores are entitled to the same religious freedoms as anyone else," said ADF Legal Counsel Matt Bow-

man. "Members of the U.S. military should never be forced to make an unconstitutional choice between honoring their country and honoring their faith."

The ADF has filed a motion to block Healy from being given the injection against his will during the court proceedings.

To contact the U.S. Coast Guard by mail:  
Coast Guard Headquarters  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard,  
2100 Second Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20593

To submit an e-mail comment:

<http://www.uscg.mil/global/mail/>

Read the complaint in Healy v. United States Coast Guard:

<http://www.telladf.org/UserDocs/HealyComplaint.pdf>.

## TOP U.S. EVANGELICAL LEADER: ALL INVOLVED WITH IVF RESPONSIBLE FOR "VAST HUMAN TRAGEDY"

LOUISVILLE, January 11, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com)- A leader of the evangelical movement in the United States recently came down hard on the effects of in vitro fertilization on his blog, decrying the destruction of millions of embryos for the sake of IVF.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the primary school of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of the largest seminaries in the world, called the destruction of embryos in IVF a tragedy, after reading a report in the London Times that over one million human embryos have been killed in IVF procedures (See LifeSiteNews coverage: <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2008/jan/08010201.html>)

"Human embryos are being produced, almost factory-like, and then routinely destroyed or indefinitely frozen," he observed. "This phenomenon might be described as an unintended complication of the IVF technology. Nevertheless, all involved in this technology are responsible for this vast human tragedy, intended or not."

"Far too many evangelicals seem to turn a blind eye to this reality," he continued. "While we celebrate the birth of a child and the gift of life, we cannot blind ourselves to the harsh and grotesque reality that this technology also means the destruction of human life. Many evangelicals fail to see what many proponents of human embryonic stem cell research have noted - a glaring inconsistency in condemning the destruction of human embryos through stem cell research, while ignoring or dismissing the destruction of embryos in IVF clinics."

Dr. Mohler has been recognized by such influential publications as Time and Christianity Today as a leader among American evangelicals. Time.com called him the "reigning intellectual of the evangelical movement in the U.S."

Mohler hosts a daily live nationwide radio program on the Salem Radio Network, and is a leader in the Southern Baptist Convention. He has served in several offices, including a term as Chairman of the SBC

Committee on Resolutions, which is responsible for the denomination's official statements on moral and doctrinal issues.



**Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**

## REVIEW OF MOVIE " A DISTANT THUNDER "



A court-room drama, revolving around a partial birth abortion incident, *A Distant Thunder*, draws viewers into an intense, shocking and amazingly only 35 minute encounter with the realities and implications of abortion decisions, especially at such a very late stage. From professional acting and filming, elaborate special effects, to sound and sets, everything says Hollywood.

By John-Henry Westen and Steve Jalsevac

TORONTO, (LifeSiteNews.com) - *A Distant Thunder* is an engrossing thriller with character development, subtleties and artistry that would normally be impossible in a half-an-hour film. This is plain and simple a high level Hollywood production.

That's not a surprise since Jonathan Flora, the main brains behind this production, is an award winning producer of DVD releases for Disney (*A Distant Thunder* is not a Disney related production) and his wife Deborah Flora, who plays the lead role in the film, is also a professional in the movie and television industry.

But like most Hollywood productions there is some risqué material. A shower scene and another, while not showing overt nudity, are certainly suggestive, but there is the option of an edited version on the DVD which has specifically removed those two brief scenes.

While inappropriate for children because of the above and some very intense and frightening scenes, including demonic illustrating special effects, the movie is excellent for bringing the pro-life message home to high school seniors and college/university students. It is in a genre they are familiar with and in a style and presentation they have become accustomed to.

Without moralizing or pushing any specific views on the abortion issue, *A Distant Thunder* addresses the issue in a provocative and spellbinding way so as to pique interest and leave a lasting impression. It reveals the horrific nature of partial-birth abortion and, as the producers intended, leaves viewers with many more questions and concerns about all abortion.

In his review of the film, Fr. Frank Pavone of Priest for Life states, "Without a doubt, this film will become one of the most powerful tools to make people think and wrestle with

the abortion issue, and will challenge them to do something about it."

See the LifeSiteNews.com interviews with Jonathon and Deborah Flora:

Part 1: Husband and Wife Team Using Hollywood Skills to Produce Pro-Life Theme Films  
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2007/feb/07020507.html>

Part 2: Jonathon & Deborah Flora Interview  
<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2007/feb/07020604.html>

See the *Distant Thunder* website at:  
<http://www.adistantthunder.com/main.html>

See especially the Internet video, *A Conversation with the Filmmakers* at:

<http://www.adistantthunder.com/conversation.php>

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## PRO-CHOICERS' WORRIED ABOUT GROWING NUMBER OF MEN WHO SAY THEY HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIZED BY WIVES' OR GIRLFRIENDS' ABORTIONS

California Catholic Daily—January 8, 2008—Abortion rights activists are "warily" watching the "mobilization" of a movement of men who claim that aiding and abetting abortions gotten by their wives or girlfriends has left them with emotional or psychological scarring, reported the Jan. 7 *Los Angeles Times*.

"If anecdotes from grieving women can move the Supreme Court, what will testimony about men's pain accomplish?" asked the newspaper.

"They can potentially shift the entire debate," answered Marjorie Signer, an activist for the interfaith abortion rights group, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (formerly known as the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights).

The testimony of women with post-abortion trauma helped proponents of a nearly successful 2006 abortion ban in South Dakota, said the *Times*. And the U.S. Supreme Court cited accounts of post-abortion trauma in its decision last year upholding a federal partial-birth abortion ban.

The idea of post-abortion trauma is "hotly disputed," said the *Times*, which noted that "several studies published in peer-reviewed

medical journals suggest that women who have had abortions are more prone to depression or drug abuse." Yet, Dr. Nada Stotland, president-elect of the American Psychiatric Association, told the newspaper that such studies have not proven cause and effect, since women who have abortions may tend to be more emotionally troubled to begin with.

Such groups as the Justice Foundation and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign have publicized accounts of women. Both groups of late have been seeking affidavits from men who claim post-abortion trauma, as well. Last November, at St. Mary's Cathedral, the Archdiocese of San Francisco co-sponsored the first conference on the effects of abortion on men.

One sociologist, Arthur Shostak, who, the *Times* said, has interviewed thousands of men waiting at abortion clinics, said he is alarmed by the new pro-life activist movement. Church retreats, Bible studies, and support groups that look to help men with post-abortion trauma, ask them to see themselves as fathers, to ask forgiveness of the children that their partners aborted, and

even to picture the children dancing at the feet of Jesus. "They draw in men who may have a little ambivalence, possibly a little guilt, and they exacerbate those feelings," Shostak told the *Times*.

The *Times* interviewed three men who say they have been troubled by abortions they've aided. One, Chris Aubert, said he had been unconcerned about the abortions of two of his girlfriends – one of which he helped pay for. But then he and his wife saw an ultrasound image of their first child, and he saw abortion was wrong. Aubert and his wife subsequently became Catholic, and they now have five children.

A successful Houston lawyer, Aubert admitted that, had the abortions not occurred, he might not have "the blessings I have now... that's an intellectual debate I have with myself. I struggle with it." His former girlfriends, too, he said, might have a better life, now. Yet, he always goes back, he said, to the fact that abortion is immoral. And though he does not feel the angst other men say they feel, "I have this stain on my soul," Aubert said, "and it will always be there."

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**SUPREME COURT VIGIL**

SOCIAL JUSTICE is needed for today's holy innocents and hurting women in Canada, the only democratic nation, since January, 1988, where there is absolutely no law to protect the most vulnerable - the preborn - and where women are often pressured to discard their preborn for any reason, at taxpayer expense.

During the time-span starting from 1969 with the passing of a weak abortion law through January, 1988 when the Supreme Court eradicated all legal protection for unborn, continuing up to the present, Statistics Canada data indicates that nearly 3 million legal killings of the unborn have occurred. No wonder that educational institutes are closing, workplaces cannot fill work positions, and pensions are threatened!

Everyone is invited to come join the ProLife Society outside the Prince George Courthouse Saturday, January 26 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for a prayer vigil petitioning for a law to protect the unborn.



Please contact the ProLife Society if you wish to make an "In Honour" donation or to arrange for "In Memorium" donations for your loved one.

**In Honour Donations**

What better way to honour a special person or occasion (perhaps a birthday, wedding anniversary or holiday) than by helping others? An honour donation provides a significant way to bring recognition to a living friend or loved one by helping a cause that has an impact in your community. Once a donation is made, the ProLife Society will send a letter to the honouree acknowledging your contribution. You will also receive a letter confirming your donation.

**In Memorium Donations**

Nothing can ever replace the loss of a friend or loved one, but we can commemorate their life with a tribute reminding us that they are not forgotten. Memorial donations are typically made in memory of a deceased family member, friend or coworker. A memorial donation is a fitting way to remember a special person while at the same time helping others. The ProLife Society responds to memorial donations by sending a letter to the deceased's family acknowledging the donation, as well as sending notification to the donor acknowledging the gift has been received and notification has been sent to the deceased's family.

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

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

Please send cheque to: **Prince George ProLife Society, PO Box 2333, Prince George BC V2N 2J8**  
Note: Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations. If you wish to receive a tax receipt, please make your donation a separate cheque, payable to **BC Pro Life**, noting "Prince George" on the memo line, and send to the above address.