

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

**August 2015**

## **How does the “Same Sex Marriage” Decision Impact Pro-Life Efforts?**

How will the U.S. Supreme Court decision Obergefell v. Hodges making “same sex marriage” the law of the land impact the pro-life movement?

The common thought is that these “same sex marriage” “couples” will desire children, and while adoption might be considered, most likely they will want a child who is biologically related to one of the parents. While the Supreme Court attempted to usurp the Natural Law relating to marriage as one man and one woman, even the Supreme Court cannot change the laws of biology; it still requires a male and a female to create a child. So in order for these “couples” to have children they will have to resort to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) that have many unknown risks, as well as being exploitive of women.

Let us follow the process as a same sex male couple attempts to obtain a biologically related child, by using the sperm of one of the partners, and consider the many ways this risks the health of and exploits women.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology journey begins by obtaining an ovum (egg) for in-vitro fertilization. Then the embryo(s) will be implanted in a gestational carrier/surrogate. Often the woman is poor and is offered a large sum of money to entice her into being exploited to meet the perceived needs of the rich as an egg donor and/or gestational carrier.

**Egg Donation** - Males can provide the sperm; however, an ovum/egg is needed for the in-vitro fertilization process. A woman will need to “provide her eggs” a risky, sometimes even fatal, process.

What are the risks involved in egg donation under the guise of promoting “family equality?”

- Short-term there is the real possibility of serious and potentially life-threatening harm to the health

of the young women making the egg donation. As Assisted Reproductive Technology becomes more and more common, women are speaking out about harrowing personal experiences when undergoing the egg harvesting procedure and recounting both the short and long-term health conditions they suffer. These conditions include ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS), loss of fertility, ovarian torsion, blood clots, kidney disease, premature menopause, ovarian cysts, chronic pelvic pain, stroke, reproductive cancers, and, in some cases, even death.

- Once the egg extraction is complete, there is little if any follow-up or tracking with the egg donor. Also, there is no peer-reviewed medical research on the long-term effects and safety of egg procurement on the health of the young women providing their eggs. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for fertility clinics to provide adequate information for informed consent relative to the health risks involved.
- Often egg donors are enticed to donate their eggs through ads in online classifieds, social media, and college newspapers offering anywhere from \$5,000 to \$100,000 per extraction. These ads are markedly coercive and manipulative of young college-aged women as they directly appeal to their financial need without any mention of the potential health risks involved.

**Surrogacy** – Once the egg has been obtained and fertilized “in-vitro” a “womb must be hired” to gestate the baby. A surrogate “contract” will be generated, creating yet another set of issues.

- Surrogacy often involves the exploitation of poor and vulnerable women. In many cases, it is the poor who contract or “rent out their wombs” and the rich who can afford to buy. Military wives are often gestational surrogates (which brings up the question: who is paying for her medical care during the pregnancy? Is she receiving medical care through the military? Are our tax dollars paying for this pregnancy?)

- What rights does this surrogate/gestational carrier have to an ongoing relationship with the child she carries?
- What if the pre-baby is determined to be handicapped and the couple wants the baby aborted? What rights does the surrogate have to protect the baby from abortion? Or what if the handicap isn't discovered until birth and the couple doesn't want the baby... what happens to the baby then?
- What are the ethical and practical ramifications of the further commodification of women's bodies; without regulation, including possible fraud committed by surrogacy companies?
- What are the moral and ethical consequences of transforming a normal biological function of a woman's body into a commercial transaction?

The practice is fraught with complexity and controversy surrounding the implications for women's health and human rights. Surrogate services are advertised, surrogates are recruited, and operating agencies make large profits.

The commercialism of surrogacy raises fears of a black market and baby selling, of breeding farms, turning impoverished women into baby producers, and the possibility of selective breeding at a price. Surrogacy degrades a

pregnancy to a service and a baby to a product.

(See more at: <http://www.stopsurrogacynow.com> )

Do we really want to build a society that promotes such practices under the false banner of "family equality"?

For further information on egg donation and surrogacy, the Center for Bioethics and Culture has produced several DVDs relating to the various facets of Assisted Reproductive Technology:

- "Eggsploitation" – addresses the process of stimulating the woman's ovaries in order to obtain several eggs needed for the in-vitro fertilization.
- "Breeders" interviews women who have served as surrogates, some for money, and others as an altruistic action – in one case the sister of a same sex couple gestated the baby. In effect these women are "renting their wombs" to people wanting to have a child.

To obtain copies of the DVDs visit <http://www.cbc-network.org/products-page/> or contact this office to borrow one or more of these DVDs from our video library.

## Library Corner

### God's Avenger

#### Michael, the Imprecatory Angel

by Dan Gura

*Our May newsletter carried a poem, "Letter from an Aborted Child" by Dan Gura. One of our members contacted Mr. Gura, and he has sent us several copies of a book he wrote entitled God's Avenger. We have several copies in our library if you would like to borrow a copy.*

Modern steel and concrete office towers don't just collapse, yet everyone was staring at one that looked as if someone had sat on it - someone really big - and that didn't make any sense.

God's Avenger opens with an act of destruction that is Old Testament in scope. How will the arrival of the Archangel Michael change the lives of...

**Do we really want to  
build a society that  
promotes such practices  
under the false banner of  
"family equality"?**

- Fred McBarker, Senior Building Inspector
- The Reverend Jackie Jefferson, Pastor at Large
- Michell Staylor, President of the Council of Women
- Dr. Muhammad Ali Hammudiluh, Abortionist

Add talk radio conspiracy theories, city bureaucrats fighting the truth, and scores of genuine believers who put themselves on the line, and you'll find a story that is as enthralling as it is unforgettable.

Daniel Gura weaves pro-life fervor through an electrifying story of an avenging angel who answers righteous imprecatory prayers by delivering true justice. Yet, the story has an intrinsic irony and situational humor that brings a smile and wraps itself around your heart. The issue is timely, the characters are fascinating, and Gura's style is spellbinding.

DANIEL GURA is a dedicated pro-life activist and a prolific writer. One of his greatest achievements was *being fired as a newspaper columnist for being "too Christian, too conservative, and too controversial."* To borrow the book from our library, contact our office at [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org) or 925-944-5351. For further reviews or to order the book visit <http://godsavenger.com>

## Around the Office

Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

The other day the bank teller noticed my Precious Feet Pin and commented she liked my pin, and used to have one herself, but didn't know what happened to it. So I asked her if she would like another one.... she said yes, so I gave her one. (Precious feet pins – don't leave home without a few extras!) I wasn't even officially "on duty" and yet I given an opportunity to "evangelize for life"! Who knows how many people may see the precious feet pin I gave the teller and ask about it? Like a pebble dropped into the pond, the ripples go far and wide.... Do you wear your precious feet pin "all the time?" Do you (like this bank teller) need a replacement for a long-lost or misplaced "Precious Feet Pin?" Where did someone last comment about your Precious Feet Pin, or ask what it was? Do you have an extra pin to share? Contact our office if you need precious feet pins or any other supplies. It comes mounted on an informative fetal development pamphlet that fits easily in a wallet.

We had our annual "America Born to be Free – Too Bad Many Aren't Free to be Born" information table for Life on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a very busy day at the mall, and as the day was winding down, my energy was spent. As I was putting away the materials a lady stopped at the table and who told me she was 13 weeks pregnant. She wasn't really excited about the pregnancy, so I showed her the 10-12 week "Precious Preborn" model. She kept saying, "I didn't realize the baby was so fully developed." I continued to share several fetal development facts: baby's heart beats at 23 days, baby has brain waves at 44 days, and mentioned that next week – at 14 weeks her baby will have fingerprints, the same fingerprints the baby will have for life. I gave the now excited "Mommy" several pamphlets and a bookmark detailing the fetal development facts I had shared. She left the table excited about her "baby-to-be." We recently posted an article on our Facebook page recounting several babies saved by information tables and the fetal models, especially the "precious preborns" that our table visitors often take with them and show their friends and associates.

July 14<sup>th</sup> a story broke about Planned Parenthood selling fetal parts. It took several days for the major

media to pick up the story; however, if you are part of our e-blast network, you received our "Breaking News Flash." If you didn't receive the e-blast, it means we don't have a current e-mail address for you. Contact our office at [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org) and ask to be added to our e-blast list.

Did an article in our newsletter spark an interest? Would you like extra copies to share with friends? We usually print extra copies, so let us know if you would like some extra copies of any of our newsletters. Or perhaps you would like your friend(s) to receive our newsletter directly each month. Send us their address, and we will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

We are always looking for information table volunteers. There have been several requests to expand to other malls, and we receive requests to participate in summer events and health fairs; with more volunteers, we could take advantage of more of these opportunities. If you have a few hours and would be interested in joining us at a tabling event please contact the office. "On the Job Training" will be provided.

Another ongoing need is for media statement volunteers. I cover as many interview requests as I can, but occasionally I am unable, mainly because the news reporter needs an on-camera interview with someone outside my geographic area (I'm in the San Francisco East Bay), or I am already doing another pro-life event. If you would be interested in considering joining our list of media spokespersons, or if you know of anyone who might be interested, contact the office. Central Valley and Los Angeles basin area spokespersons are especially needed.

Summer has been especially dry this year, not only for the grass but also for our donations. As of mid-July we hadn't even received sufficient donations to cover the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter. If you haven't given in a while, please consider sending us a check. If you are a regular donor, THANKS!

**It may not be too late...  
Abortion Pill Reversal**

**If you know someone who has taken the  
Abortion Pill (Mifeprex or RU-486)**

**Call (877) 558-0333**

**<http://www.abortionpillreversal.com>**

## *Calendar of Events*

*For the latest updates of events see  
[www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org)*

### **Male and Female He Created Them August 21-22, 2015**

#### **St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco**

Two-day forum of presentations and discussions of masculine and feminine spirituality and sexuality; empowering sexual integrity for individuals and couples, while building healthy, happy, holy marriages. For more information see [canfp.org](http://canfp.org) Or e-mail [info@canfp.org](mailto:info@canfp.org) or call 1-877-33-CANFP

**Do you know someone who might be  
considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-712-HELP (4357)**

**Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>**

### **WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?**

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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