

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

July/August 2007

Father's Day Weekend at the Mall

It was another wonderful day we had at the Mall on the Saturday before Father's Day, although there was an especially poignant and sad moment. A woman came up to the table in the late morning, looked at our fetal models and said, "I wish I had seen this months ago..." Then she said what will forever be etched in her mind... "Tomorrow would have been my due date!" As so many people were rushing through the stores looking for that last minute Father's Day gift, she was lamenting a motherhood (and fatherhood) lost.

Another woman told us she didn't think we should be allowed to be at the mall, and when we probed, it had nothing to do with exposing children to biology; we have yet to have anyone complain about our fetal models being inappropriate for children! Our display had ruined her shopping experience because she had had an abortion and was now facing the reality of what she had done. As well as helping people make the RIGHT CHOICE with our fetal models, we also provide information for women hurting from abortion with the "Silent No More" (I regret my abortion) and "Rachel's Vineyard" (post abortion healing retreats and evenings) materials.

The students were especially open to the abstinence materials we had out on the table. The most popular bookmark continues to be the "Cinderella didn't have to take off her dress to get her prince" and the "Safe Sex" pamphlet. We also run out of the silicon "Life is Precious" bracelets at every mall table.

Please consider a donation to help defray the costs of these mall table materials. Recently we restocked our supplies at a great savings, however it cost over \$500.

If you would like to join us at a future Mall Table, our next two events will be Saturdays August 11 and September 8. (For you Catholics in our organization, what better to way to commemorate the Birth of Mary – Jesus' Mother on her birthday than helping to proclaim life for all babies!)

Amnesty International's Identity Lost

The recent decision by Amnesty International to promote abortion "rights" is a betrayal of its identity since the human rights group no longer defends the right to life.

In April 2007, the Executive Council of Amnesty International (AI), preempting action by the International Council that is to meet in August, abandoned Amnesty International's neutral stance on abortion to take a pro-abortion position. Amnesty International's new policy advocates the global decriminalization of abortion. AI's policy also appears to apply to every stage of pregnancy and has already led AI-USA to oppose laws against the killing of partially-delivered children. Similarly, the new policy of advancing access to abortion to preserve women's "health," a word left undefined by AI,

does not confine the practice to narrow circumstances. At the International Council meeting, to be held in August, Amnesty International may reconsider its policy on abortion.

Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by Peter Benson as a defender and promoter of the inalienable rights of the human person. Now it has joined other international organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in promoting a so-called right to abortion, at least in certain cases.

Many of the great figures of our time who advanced human rights and compassion for the destitute - Susan B. Anthony, Mohandas Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Dorothy Day, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Fannie Lou Hamer - also opposed abortion. Many will find it incomprehensible that these giants of human progress must now be seen as enemies of human rights. The action of the Executive Council undermines AI's longstanding moral credibility, diverts its mission, divides its own members (many of whom defend the rights of unborn children), and jeopardizes AI's support by people in many nations, cultures and religions.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Ask Amnesty International to rescind its new policy on abortion at the International Council meeting in August

**Amnesty International USA
5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001
phone: (212) 807-8400
fax: (212) 627-1451**

email: aimember@aiusa.org

For address of a regional office, please see: <http://www.amnestyusa.org>

Some points to emphasize:

- 1 Point out that abortion injures the health and dignity of women at the same time that it ends the life of the unborn child.
- 2 Indicate that the action of the Executive Council undermines Amnesty's longstanding moral credibility, diverts its mission, and divides its own members.
- 3 Urge the members of the International Council of Amnesty International, when they meet in Mexico in August, to reconsider and rescind this new policy.

Adult Stem Cell Research Helps Children With Type 1 Diabetes

Another study has been published showing that adult stem cell research has just as much potential, if not more, than embryonic stem cells to help patients with various diseases.

Researchers at University of Florida found that stem cells from umbilical cord blood helped children newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

The study found that stem cell transfusions using the adult stem cells helped the children reduce the severity of their disease, possibly re-setting the immune system and slowing the destruction of their insulin-producing cells.

Michael J. Haller, MD, a professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine and lead author of the study, presented the findings at the American Diabetes Association's 67th Annual Scientific Sessions.

"After only six months, it is too early to tell how long the children will benefit from this therapy, but early signs indicate that it may have helped enhance blood glucose control and management," Dr. Haller said in a statement.

"But more important than the potential benefit in these children, this first use of cord blood in diabetes will help us focus on what it is in the cord blood that yielded the benefit," he said. "We then hope to isolate and grow that cell type to develop therapies for a larger pool of people, not just those who have stored cord blood."

The researchers recruited seven young (age 2 to 7 years at the time of infusion) children with type 1 diabetes who had their own stored cord blood and infused them with it.

This group was matched with 13 randomly selected youngsters of similar age and diabetes duration who had been intensively treated with insulin and served as a control group.

Nearly 21 million Americans have diabetes, a group of serious diseases characterized by high blood glucose levels that result from defects in the body's ability to produce and/or use insulin.

Diabetes can lead to severely debilitating or fatal complications, such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, and amputations. It is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the U.S.

From: <http://www.lifenews.com/bio2164.html>

For the third time in three years, Assisted Suicide fails to get support in the Assembly

As we briefly mentioned in our June newsletter, the California "Physician Assisted Suicide" bill once again was unable to muster the votes to pass. Below are more of the details...

California State Assembly bill 374 (Berg/Levine), the bill to sanction assisted suicide in California, was to be pulled once again from the Assembly Floor on June 7 due to lack of support.

The bill, modeled after Oregon's Doctor-Assisted Suicide law received widespread opposition in California from Democratic and Republican lawmakers, a long list of state

and national disability rights organization, California Medical Association, the California League of United Latin American Citizens, the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Oncologists Association of Northern and Southern California, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association and many others.

Quotes from opponents regarding the reported action on AB 374:

“I think legislators understand the devastating impact assisted suicide would have on the disability community in California. Anyone should see a huge red flag over this bill when you consider the wide collection of disability rights organization opposed to this legislation.” – Marilyn Golden, Disability Rights, Education and Defense Fund.

“Assisted suicide would lead California further down a path of cost versus care inherent in HMO decisions. No matter what so-called ‘protections’ are in this bill, the most vulnerable will be open to pressures of an earlier death so they will not be a financial burden to their loved ones, or to the health care systems already overburdened with the uninsured. I think that was a real concern for many legislators. As an active Democrat, I am thankful that many members of my party serving in the Legislature have consistently opposed this issue.” – Angel Luevano, Immediate Past Chairman, California League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

For further information see www.CA-AAS.com

Calendar of Events

Sunvalley Mall Tables in Concord

Saturday August 11 10:00AM-4:00PM

Saturday September 8 10:00AM-4:00PM

For further information contact Cecelia Cody at 925-944-5351.

Life Chain - Sunday October 7, 2007

Annually, on the first Sunday in October, LIFE CHAIN across North America stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for **one hour**, while holding one of the following approved pro-life sign messages:

- **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN**
- **JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS**
- **ADOPTION: THE LOVING OPTION**
- **LORD, FORGIVE US AND OUR NATION**
- **ABORTION HURTS WOMEN**
- **PRAY TO END ABORTION**
- **LIFE—THE FIRST INALIENABLE RIGHT**

In 2006, well over 1,200 Life Chains were built in America and Canada, and the focus is now on **National Life Chain Sunday 2007**—to be held **October 7**, across North America. For a listing of Life Chains in your area see <http://lifechain.net/>

Life Legal Defense Foundation Banquet

Saturday, November 10

Keynote Speaker Dr. David Prentice on Stem Cell Research, Bellevue Club in Oakland. If interested, contact Mimi Streett by email streett@fastmail.fm or at (707) 224-6675.

“Men and Abortion—Healing the Fathers.” November 28 and 29

Vicki Thorn from the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing (NOPARH) If interested Vicki Thorn or for a copy of the brochure/invitation to the conference contact Vicki at noparh@juno.com or vickithorn2006@yahoo.com. She is particularly interested in “secular” organizations, like nurses, Marriage and Family counselors, physicians, etc.

This is just a sampling of events happening in the pro-life arena. For an ongoing calendar see www.calendarforlife.org.

Around the Office

June was a VERY busy month! The “Project Mustard Seed” group took on a special project, contacting several corporations not yet on the Boycott List but being considered; and through the efforts of these letter writers, to date over ten corporations have agreed to stop funding Planned Parenthood.

We are also working with a wonderful gal in Napa who is starting a youth pro-life group. We will be providing the pro-life materials: pamphlets, stickers, silicon “Life is Precious” bracelets, bookmarks etc. It costs about \$200 to provide the materials for each group we assist with start-up materials. Could you make a special summer sacrifice to help us provide the materials this young lady needs? Recall a few years ago we started a group in Marin; that group is now approaching 100 youthful members! This is yet another “mustard seed into a huge bush” opportunity.

Finally, one of our members discovered that Planned Parenthood was being invited as a speaker at a low-income assistance center. With our help she was able to meet with the director of the program and provide information on Planned Parenthood. We are currently looking for a Natural Family Planning speaker for the center. If you know of a speaker in the Concord area who might be willing to assist in this project, please contact our office at 925-944-5351.