



God's Heart for Pro-Life Action

DAY 1: SAVING A LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION

Deliver those who are drawn toward death and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. (Proverbs 24:11 NKJV)

It was a chilly morning as I stood at the front drive of the abortion mill in Wichita, Kansas. It was my last day as **a sidewalk counselor**, and I had prayed earlier, "O Lord, please save a baby today!" As I stood on my watch, a car started to pull in the drive but stopped abruptly. The driver hesitated to come in all the way and decided to drive down the street to the corner. My partner dashed down the street to talk to the couple as they sat at the stop sign.

As it turned out, the couple had been to the Planned Parenthood clinic that morning, and, by accident, the young man had seen the sonogram of his baby. It greatly affected his heart. The clinic sent the couple over to the abortion mill where I was standing my watch, and when they

started to turn in, they just couldn't do it. My partner was able to talk to them at length at a local restaurant. The couple consented to her help.



I lost contact with my partner, but sometime later our church was hosting a pro-life meeting. To my amazement, the special speaker was my partner from that morning in front of the mill! She shared the story of how she was able to minister to that couple, and how they decided to give their baby life! It was so exciting to reconnect with her and hear the rest of that wonderful story. Today, somewhere, there is a young adult, alive, because God's people were standing their watch, praying and loving.

I will never forget that day for as long as I live. The Lord answered prayer so powerfully. **His hand reached out and saved one who was "stumbling to the slaughter."** It was such a privilege to be a part of His plan that morning.

I want to challenge your heart today! The enemy has marked many for death; it may be a friend, a co-worker, a daughter or granddaughter, or a neighbor who is contemplating an abortion! Ask the Lord how you can be a part of His plan to deliver those marked for destruction.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJV)

Prayer Points:

- For this nation to be delivered from the culture of death. (John 6:35; 10:10)
- For the ending of abortion. (Isaiah 28:18)
- For your part in the plan of God to end abortion. (Proverbs 24:11)
- For discernment each day to minister to those bound by the enemy. (Isaiah 61:1-3)

Lord, today make me a part of Your plan to bring life to those who are bound by the enemy and his lies. I ask You to fill my heart with Your compassion and open my eyes to see Your strategy to save people from destruction. Thank you, Jesus, that You came to bring abundant life to this world. Let me be part of Your plan today!!!! Amen.

By Terry Schmidt, <u>The Moral Outcry</u>. What is the Moral Outcry? In the 1992 landmark case Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the US Supreme Court had an opportunity to reverse Roe v. Wade, and its companion Doe v Bolton. In conference the justices voted 5-4 to overturn Roe and Doe, but at the 11th hour, before the opinion was released, a centrist coalition of moderate judges – including Justice Kennedy, who switched his vote – was formed to write a compromise that would weaken the Roe and Doe decisions, but still leave abortion as the law of the land.

What might have happened that day if more pro-life voices had been heard? What if a massive moral outcry had emerged from the American people?

This petition will serve as a symbol of that moral outcry. It will wake up the nation and galvanize the national conscience to end the scourge of abortion in America. It will declare that, as a people, we do not accept the compromise that leads to the unnecessary death of millions of innocent babies.

Sign the petition. Spread the word. End abortion.

Go to www.themoraloutcry.com to sign the petition and end abortion.

DAY 2: A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP—BE ANGRY, SIN NOT, LIVE CREATIVELY

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into [error] sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. (Gal. 6:1-3 MSG)

In this passage, the Bible gives us the task of restoration, of stooping down and reaching out. These are commands that take time and a spirit of mercy. In Ephesians 4:26 we read, "In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry...."

How can we mercifully stoop down and reach out to those mothers who are angry? How can we bring restoration in the wake of pain or on the threshold of irreversible decisions?

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life answers this question with one word: Discipleship. He says, "**Pro-life is not simply a cause, a movement, a**

philosophy, or a political ideology. It is a spirituality, an aspect of discipleship." To truly help angry mothers and their children and families, the Church is commanded to offer agape love and service. In contrast, abortion does not cure anger; it brings death and anguish.



Do not let the sun go down on our nation's pain. This means interceding that God would peel back the hidden hurts of countless mothers and put His arms around them, one by one. He can do this through His people, through those of us who choose to shoulder the burdens of others and calm the fears of those who are hurting. This is a valid choice that comes hand-in-hand with promoting life.

Years ago, I made some angry decisions, including having two abortions, which were pitched to me as "safe and legal." Those abortions cost me three lives, including my subsequent miscarriage. My mother, too, was not only angry in 1950, she was also pregnant and scared. Thank God my Granddaddy and Daddy promised to help my mother through that first unexpected pregnancy. I was born to A. D. and Naomi Ruth Barber King on January 22, 1951.

Over the years, my mother recovered from her anger, finding grace in Jesus Christ. Over the years, I too have come to understand that I never needed those abortions and miscarriage. I needed help. In light of my own story, **may the Church not only know the truth, may we help and be a family to those who need to see and know as we do now.** This calls for discipleship. Let us commit to a new future and a new promise: No more angry mothers.

Prayer Points:

- Take time to repent of any tone of accusation and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with truth and mercy. Prayerfully consider your frail humanity as you meditate on the following verses: James 2:13; Hebrews 4:16.
- · Pray for the strengthening of the American family. Ask that your church family may be a refuge of love and a beacon of truth for the accused and the accusers. Ask the Lord

to give your church opportunities to intervene in the lives of families that are without understanding of His divine grace. Read Zechariah 12:10 and 2 Corinthians 12:9.

• Meditate on Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." All. Remember that sin is real and repentance is a gift. Pray that we may all be free to "go and sin no more" (John 8:11, KJV). Ask God to allow you to deliver truth that shines light with a heart to bring liberty as part of the judgment process.

By Dr. Alveda King. *Dr. King is a pastoral associate with <u>Priests for Life</u> and founder of King for America. To learn more, please visit: http://americareturntogod.com/.*

DAY 3: REDEMPTIVE BEAUTY

If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]. (1 John 1:9 AMP)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. (2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP)

The wound of abortion is deep within the heart our nation.

This deep wound results from the sin of abortion. Since 1973, over 60 million babies have been aborted. One in five women have had an abortion by age 45. Over 65% of women feel they were forced or coerced into their "choice." A recent survey also revealed that close to 55% of survivors of sex trafficking were forced to have one or more abortions.

The wound of abortion is deep within the heart our nation. Only Jesus can heal and restore us.

Sometimes, in healing a wound, looking deeper helps us to see the root of the wound, to understand, to heal, and turn the ashes of the past to a place of Jesus' Redemptive Beauty.

What if we could live in a place where the ashes of our life are truly washed away? A place where we feel peace and not torment from the past, or present. No longer swayed with a chameleon-type personality of learning how to adapt to the people and places around us in order to be accepted. No longer wearing two faces, or two identities, of outward happiness and inward sorrow.

What if we can choose to be washed in a river of life that cleanses our past, heals every wound, and provides living water to drink deeply, transforming our minds, bodies, and souls? What if the aroma of shame, regret, deep trauma, sadness, guilt, anger, the smell of reminders of the past, are diffused with the sweet aroma of a fragrant oil that is personally created to heal, comfort, counsel, calm, bring clarity, create, and produce new life within?

This is Redemptive Beauty--a place where the wounds of the past are used to produce a life beyond healing, transformed by our Creator for His original purposes (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We choose to walk forward in healing. We bring hope and new life in Jesus Christ, understanding our identity, worth, value, purpose, and fulfilling destiny in Him.

Layers upon layers of "old emotional skin" are lifted, peeled, and washed away and the Redemptive Beauty that has been hidden begins to rise to the surface. The crutches, addictions, behaviors, and relationships used to adapt are no longer needed. We become whole and understand we are loved beyond measure. Our minds are healed, our words give life, and hope arises in our hearts. In many, our countenances change. There is a radiance where once there was darkness.

I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. (Psalms 34:4-5 NLT)

If we do not heal a wounded or broken part of our physical body, we limp around and are susceptible to our hidden pain being triggered when touched. The same thing happens when we do not heal a wounded emotional or spiritual part of ourselves. We are held in a place of trauma unknowingly, having learned how to adapt, live, and function in the pain. A generation has been raised in the post-abortion, unhealed pain of mothers and fathers.

The wound of abortion is deep in the heart of our nation. It is time to heal.

In the healing, we will have a continual opportunity, a choice, to say, "Yes, Lord. Take me to the place of healing. Please heal our nation, heal us, and heal me. Uncover every wound, lie, wrong belief. Lift the shame. Remove and heal every relationship and emotion that holds me captive. Heal me. Heal us, Lord Jesus. Please heal with your forgiving, Redemptive Beauty and love."

As we pray for our nation and those held in the aftermath of abortion, the Lord will unlock the pain of the past to bring healing and set captives free. He will also raise up people and places of His healing, within the Body of Christ, where the broken will experience Jesus' forgiveness, love, and new life.

Prayer Points:

- · Pray for those affected by abortion trauma, especially those directly involved: women, men, mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends, relatives, others, as the Holy Spirit directs.
- · Pray for the healing of siblings whose parents have aborted brothers and sisters. Often the children sense a loss and are raised in the woundedness of their parents.
- · Pray for Jesus' healing and Redemptive Beauty to arise from the ashes of abortion. Pray for people and places of hope, for Jesus' transforming love, and for new life to arise.

By Cindy Collins. Cindy is the founder of <u>SpeakHope.net</u>, SpeakHope radio, Louisiana Abortion Recovery, and a Pregnancy Help Center. She is an international speaker and serves as Global Advisor for Operation Outcry, a ministry of the Justice Foundation. She also provides outreach to young adults at risk for predatory relationships, sexual exploitation, trafficking, abortion, and abuse--providing help, hope, healing, and Jesus' transforming love.



DAY 4: PRAYING FOR PHAROAH

What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the

Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." (Romans 9:14-17, NKJV, emphasis added)

My family often tells about an incident that took place when I was about three years old. I had crept out of bed and, standing at the top of my grandparents' staircase. I was eavesdropping on the adults down below. My brother, who is only a year older than I and whom I affectionately called "Bink" at that age, saw me being naughty and tried to get me to go back to bed. However, I stubbornly ignored him even while he insisted repeatedly, "Nicky, that's sin." Much to his frustration (and the amusement of the adults down below), I finally yelled, "I know it's sin, Bink!"

Little did I know that our three- and four-year-old minds were illustrating one of the Church's age-old debates on grace and free will. My underlying message to Bink was, "Back off. Ignorance isn't the problem." My disobedience bugged me much less than my brother's assumption that I must be ignorant of my wrongdoing. In my mind, that would be stupidity, and I preferred being openly defiant to being considered stupid.

Every time I read Romans 9, I can't help but picture the ruler of Egypt standing at the top of his grandparent's staircase: strong-willed, defiant, and impervious to the words of Moses. The fact is—and it applies to all of us— more often than not, **ignorance isn't the problem; the real issue is self-will**. This applies to our nation's curfew-defying three-year-olds just as much as it applies to Pharaoh and to strong-willed 80-year-olds standing at the top of the staircase to the Supreme Court.

No issue in our nation illustrates this principle more than abortion. Four decades ago, when Roe v. Wade made abortion on demand the law of the land, pro-life supporters worked to educate America about the essential humanity of babies in utero. Decades later, ultrasound technology has proven that fetuses are not only living humans, but are also capable of experiencing the pain of abortion.



Augustine, an early Church father, wrote: "It is one thing to be ignorant, and another thing to be unwilling to know. For the will is at fault in the case of the man of whom it is said, 'He is not inclined to understand, so as to do good.""

So how should we pray for our leaders/rulers today, especially for those legislators and judges, who, although they hear pro-life arguments again and again about the dignity of the unborn, still remain impervious? Remember, God gave Pharaoh several opportunities to hear and respond to His Word through Moses, but to no avail. Only then did He say (in essence), "All right, have it your way," and hardened Pharaoh's heart.

Prayer Points:

- That God would show His power in our nation's leaders (Romans 9: 17)
- That His name would be declared throughout all the earth (Romans 9:17)
- That God would have mercy on hardened hearts—that they may no longer resist His will (Romans 9:18)
- That we believers, wanting to be like our God, would endure long suffering (Romans 9: 22)
- · That He might make known the riches of His glory (Romans 9:23)
- That we may remember that it is God who works in us (and all godly leaders) to will and to act to fulfill His good purpose (Philippians 2:13) ... and that we may not boast except in Him (1 Corinthians 1:31)

By Nicole Arnoldbik, IFA Staff Writer

DAY 5: SUPPORTING STRONG FAMILIES IS PRO-LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Imagine that one morning we wake up to learn that Roe v. Wade has been overturned. Suddenly, the usual more than 1 million abortions taking lives every year come to a complete standstill, declared illegal. Our dreams come true at last. Except for one thing: unplanned pregnancies continue.

Are we prepared to win this ongoing battle?

John 10:10 reminds us to let our hearts brim with passion for life after birth. We are called not just to fight for life inside the womb, but abundant life for children when they are born. That is the abundant life that Jesus Christ came to give, as well as the spiritual blessings that a strong family and a loving, shepherding Church Body can nurture.

How can we allow God's transformative love and compassion to reach through us and provide a loving context to help care for infants by strengthening women and men as parents?

First, consider this: Christ warns that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Remember to identify the enemy's strategies. He whispers lies, calling the abortion issue "complicated." He tries to chase men from the fight by calling it a "women's issue." As our culture falls for that lie, the family structure crumbles and children suffer.



Approximately 85 percent of the women who experience abortions are unmarried. Research shows single mothers are more likely to have low birth-weight babies and live in poverty. Some parents face unexpected pregnancies as the result of lifestyles we would never choose. Others face pregnancies with health, financial, or social complications. And, when approximately 65 percent of women who experience abortion identify as Christian, church families are not immune.

Meanwhile, studies find that a father's church attendance has a profound impact on the future church attendance of his children, even greater than a mother's attendance. And how children view their Heavenly Father depends a great deal on how they view their earthly one.

So, let's remember another verse, letting it resonate in our prayers and steep our conscience: But after he [Joseph] had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." ... When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him.... (Matthew1:20, 24)

The story of the Holy Family affirms that God's design is for children to be born and then raised by a mother and father. Mary could have raised Jesus alone, but God gave Joseph-a righteous man-a special charge. He was called to take Mary as his wife and to be a provider and protector for her and Jesus.

What a beautiful testimony of God's abundant supply! Our Heavenly Father's exceeding grace, care, and provision come to light through Joseph's actions.

As advocates for precious unborn lives, let's **pray especially for fathers, loving husbands, and spiritual leaders in homes** to mirror the abundant provision, protection, and grace shown through Joseph's life. Intercede for righteousness and obedience.

Prayer Points:

- Intercede that more and more fathers will speak up for their unborn children and defend them. Pray for compassion and softening of hearts (Psalm 103:13).
- Life decisions require life support. Pray that advocates for life will find solutions and build partnerships that are not just about saving babies, but about raising children in Christ-centered families and bringing them into the full promise of the Kingdom of God. Pray that today's children, as well as the next generation, will reap an inheritance of blessing and righteousness (Proverbs 13:22).
- Pray that women and men, when facing pregnancy decisions, will be encouraged and empowered to choose marriage and parent their children together as a family. (Ecclesiastes 4:11-12).

By Roland C. Warren, <u>Care Net</u>. Founded in 1975, Care Net is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports one of the largest networks of pregnancy centers in North America and runs the nation's only real-time call center providing pregnancy decision coaching.

