

“...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God...” - Deut. 30:19b-20a



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Definition of injustice: Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

“Truly the righteous attain life, but whoever pursues evil finds death.” - Prov. 11:19

Paths of Justice

What's So Motivating About Injustice?

Answering that question requires considering the great love that God has demonstrated for you and me in the person of Jesus. We recently celebrated His birth, after Mary had one of the most humanly unplanned pregnancies of all time. He lived a perfectly virtuous life. And then, even though we have fallen short of God's glory and were lost in sin, Jesus died for us to pay the penalty for our sin so that we could have a restored relationship with God. Because of His love for us, that same love can overflow in our lives to those around us.

We are so coddled today, with many comforts and conveniences. This is not to minimize the real sufferings and difficulties we sometimes face. Yet there are people in our community, our nation, and our world who are suffering under the weight of unjust aggressors against them. A clear

example of this is defenseless, voiceless, fragile, precious babies who are brutally murdered by the instruments of abortionists today.

Other victims of theirs often include those children's mothers. One young lady in our community recently brought out this reality as follows: “I have a one-year-old daughter. I went through pregnancy and can say it was amazing. Out of my close friend circle of seven girls, two of us have had children, and four have had abortions. I have seen the results of pregnancy and abortion and can say that I would never choose the latter. It has affected my friends emotionally in a terrible way, and most of them have expressed their regret numerous times. Had they never been given the option to terminate their babies, they wouldn't be living with guilt and the [thoughts] of [what] their [children would have been like]. My best friend had an abortion two years ago, and to this day,

every few months or so, she will slip in our conversation somewhere and tell us how old her baby would have been right now. If everyone who has had an abortion would've went through with her pregnancy, [they] would be happier now than ever. Your children bring out the best in you, and motivate you to become someone you never thought you could be.”

May we be tireless in helping others know about the realities of aborting babies' lives, in caring and providing for those who are going through difficult situations involving pregnancy, in bringing healing and forgiveness to those who have an abortion(s) in their past, and in equipping others with the wisdom to make choices that will bless both them and those around them. As Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). - Doug

Progress in Legal Protection

Government is a God-ordained institution to protect people's lives, liberty, and property. Yet there are many examples in history of how not everyone has been rightfully protected under the law. Recently, more have received that protection. On December 21, 2018, dismemberment abor-

tions, also known as dilation and extraction (D&E), were outlawed in Ohio, which became the tenth state to do so. The Dismemberment Abortion Ban has also been introduced in 17 other states in the past three years. In the last eight years, abortions have decreased by more than 25% (Over)

Progress in Legal Protection (Continued)

in Ohio, half of Ohio's abortion clinics have closed, and 21 pro-life initiatives have become law, including the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which protects babies who are 20 weeks old or more.

Last month, both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives voted to approve the Heartbeat Bill, which would protect babies from being aborted once a heartbeat is detected. However,



Governor Kasich vetoed it for the second time.

The House voted to override his veto, but then Senator Bill Beagle changed his vote at the last minute, so the Senate fell short of overriding the veto by one vote. Incoming Governor Mike DeWine has pledged to sign the bill next year though, so it is likely that there will be legal protection in Ohio in another year for all lives with beating hearts.

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

In addition to working through the government to protect more lives, hopefully someday at every stage, we can also work together with those who are actively reaching out to fathers and mothers who are pregnant and in need of resources. Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) are pregnancy resource centers in the Columbus area. PDHC is made up of many volunteers along with some staff to provide health, hope, healing, and care for those who are having a baby.

In November, they helped moms and dads choose life for 74 babies - that's 74 people rescued, made possible in part by your prayers and support! In a recent update, PDHC shared how Hanan (not her real name) walked in for a pregnancy test. The test was positive, and she indicated that her boyfriend, Omar (not his real name), would be happy about having a baby. She made an appointment for an ultrasound two weeks later. However, just a few days later, Hanan contacted her volunteer consultant to say that she had changed your mind and was now seeking an abortion. They talked about her thoughts, concerns, and the importance of this decision, and then she came in sooner for her ultrasound.

Hanan and Omar were both able to see the baby and the baby's beating heart, yet they were still undecided about what to do. Hanan said that their faith does not condone abortion, but now was not a good time for a baby. The PDHC nurse offered to follow up with them, and she added them to the PDHC prayer list and PDHC supporters began to pray for them and their child.

Hanan contacted the PDHC volunteer and said that she was still looking into an abortion. Her voice grew quiet and she confided in the volunteer that she "thought about it all the time." They talked for quite a while, discussing adoption and abortion, including procedures, risks and side-effects. Afterwards Hanan said she would think about it further, and the PDHC volunteer said that she would continue to pray for them; Hanan expressed her gratefulness.

Two days later, Hanan called to say that she and Omar decided to continue the pregnancy and are preparing to be parents! She thanked PDHC for the care she received, and the volunteer is keeping in touch with her. Let us pray for Hanan and Omar as they prepare for the birth of their baby.

Changed Lives

In the book unPLANNED, Abby Johnson shares her true story about being a former director

of Planned Parenthood in Bryan, TX, assisting in the abortions of about 22,000 children. (over)

Changed Lives (Continued)

In 2009, she was watching the ultrasound of a baby who would not be given the freedom to make choices, and as the abortion doctor began to take another life, Abby chose to turn in her resignation. "I just thought I can't do this anymore, and it was just like a flash hit me. [A]nd I thought, that's it." Abby now works to save lives, love others, and reach out to those who are employed in the abortion industry. Here is her website: <http://www.abbyjohnson.org>.

As a movie was being made about Abby's story, which will be coming out soon, another life was changed. Actress Ashley

Bratcher plays Abby in the movie. Ashley was concerned about telling her mom about her role in the movie, because her mom had previously shared with her that she'd had an abortion when she was 16. It devastated Ashley. Three years later, at 19, "she became pregnant with me. 'I knew I could never have an abortion again,' she told me."

However, after telling her mom about her role in the movie, she learned something new.



Through tears on the phone, her mom said: "I need to tell you something that I've never told you before. I was going to abort you. I was at the clinic sitting on the table when the nurse who was very pregnant came in to talk to me. I felt sick. I couldn't do it. I got up and walked out... and I chose you."

Stunned, Ashley later called her dad. "Is this true? Why didn't someone tell me?" He said that they thought they were too young to have a baby.

"We didn't have enough money, so I pawned a shotgun so we could pay for the abortion." As her dad sobbed, he shared something that

put this in a new light: "You being there making this movie is proof to me that God is so real. That he has a plan for your life."

Ashley shared her hope "that one of the outcomes of all of these 'coincidences' is that many will find the courage my mother found when she listened to her conscience and made the choice that gave me life." An interview with her can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnpHHJTRgpQ>.

Opportunities / Activities / Resources

- Thank you for your help with our Angel Tree outreach! We served a record of 30 children of prisoners in our community.
- Please pray for our third SOAR survivor group for ladies that will begin on January 21, and get the word out. Direct people to <http://tinyurl.com/support2SOAR> for information and to sign up.
- Go to <https://pregnancycentertruth.com> to learn more about pregnancy centers.
- Baby bottles! Pick them up and keep them at home for the next month, adding your spare change to them. All of the money raised will go to PDHC to provide hope and help to pregnant mothers in our community. Whenever you see the baby bottle, remember to pray for those at PDHC and the people they serve, as they are facing life or death situations every day.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.