

Friendship Center for New Beginnings

162 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Winter 2024

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**“DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE WEAK AND FATHERLESS,
MAINTAIN THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED.
RESCUE THE WEAK AND NEEDY” PSALM 82: 3-4**

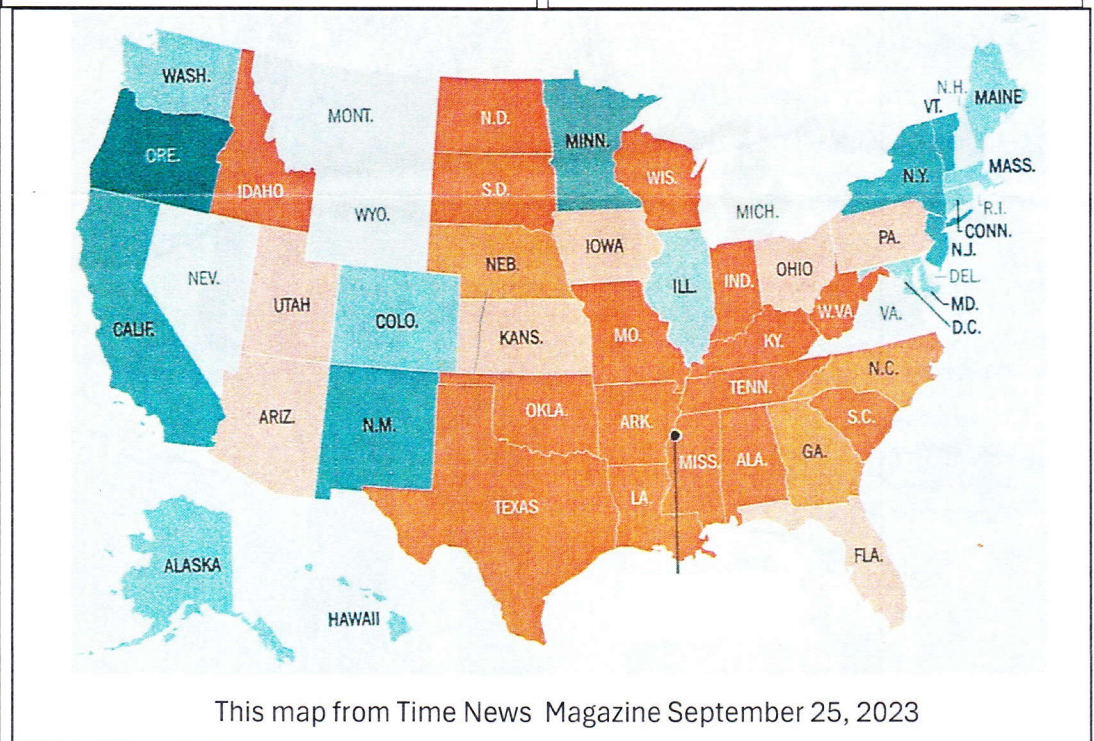
As you will see from the map below, it divides the states into deeper shades of red for abortion restriction, to deepest shades of blue for states with no restrictions on abortion.

In this month in which we celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life, we rejoice to see so many states who have chosen to restrict abortion following the Supreme Court resolution, which reversed Roe vs Wade PTL!

The summer 2023 newsletter of the National Pro-life Alliance reported that 95% of over 5,000 U.S trained biologists now affirm the Biblical truth that a human life begins at conception PTL!

Knowing that nearly 90% of abortions are on unmarried mothers, it was so encouraging to read in the Washington Stand in Dec 2023 that research still confirms that teen girls say their faith is the main reason that they save sex for marriage. This confirms the priority for the Gospel that we have always maintained at the Center, as being of first importance in our efforts to lower abortion rates.

While we always seek to ensure that those facing an unplanned pregnancy can easily find us when they are in need, we have always believed that God placed us here to *prevent* as many women as possible from having to face such a choice.



JESUS SAID "AT THE BEGINNING THE CREATOR MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE... AND THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH, SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE. THEREFORE WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET MAN NOT SEPARATE" MATTHEW 19:4-6

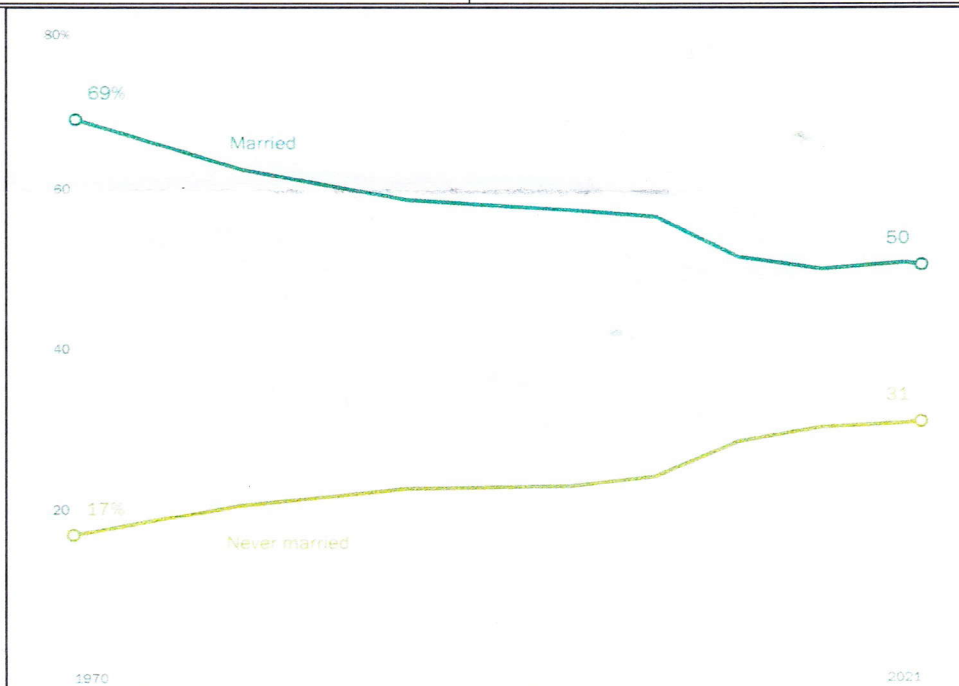
The graph at the foot of the page shows the dramatic decline of marriage in the U.S. in the last 50 years. As we stated on the first page, nearly 90% of unplanned pregnancies that end in abortion are done on unmarried women. Therefore, in doing all we can to lower abortion rates, we *must* also focus on helping teens and young adults to save sex for marriage, while making equal efforts to strengthen marriages, in order to lessen the risk of abortion by divorced and co-habiting mothers with unstable relationships with their partners.

Research states that about 40% of first marriages end in divorce. Many divorces occur due to problems that *can* be solved, and there is evidence that at least some couples in the divorce process say they would be interested in reconciliation. Offering resources for such couples, as we do, could help to save some marriages: topics include the effects of divorce on child well-being, and the likelihood of a strained marriage improving. In some states like Oklahoma, divorcing parents are required to participate in co-parenting education, which includes a section on reconciliation as an alternative to divorce.

In 2023, we saw over 900 visits to the Center from about 90 different families in our community, together with a continuing small group for strengthening marriages, and about 20 teens gathering weekly for Biblical training in godly life choices. We are grateful to the Lord for every client family, but we are praying earnestly for God to enlarge the field of our influence in this community.

We have learned also what a key to marriage stability is achieved through financial self-sufficiency. Research constantly confirms how poverty increases the risk of family breakdown. You, our donors, abundantly blessed our client families at Christmas, and we are so very grateful for your generosity, but we are acutely aware of the difficulties our families are facing to make ends meet. Most clients rent their homes, and rental costs approached record levels last September at over \$2,000 a month, compared to \$1,500 in 2000. In fact, the increase was 15% in just 2021. Unemployment, or even just the risk of it, is a huge marriage stressor. This is the reason that we are so grateful to the Dreams R Us Foundation for providing funds for further training and education for single parents, especially as robots are increasingly replacing unskilled jobs.

Please pray that God will bless these efforts!



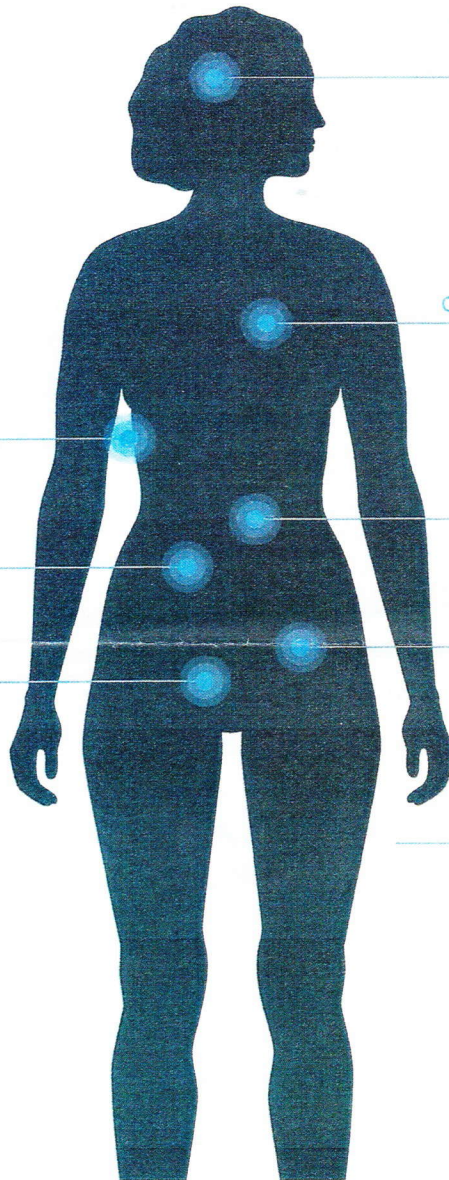
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of census data from the American Community Survey

**“RESCUE THOSE BEING LED AWAY TO DEATH,
HOLD BACK THOSE STAGGERING TOWARDS SLAUGHTER” PROVERBS 24:11**

The number of U.S. abortions has for the most part trended downward for three decades from its peak of 1.6 million in 1990. While we thank God for every restriction on abortion in every state where laws have been passed, it needs to be remembered that nearly 90% of abortions take place at or before 9 weeks of pregnancy. This reflects the fact that in 2022 Guttmacher reported that at-home chemical abortions accounted for 54% of all abortions in the U.S. The diagram below from 40 Days for Life is shared with you in the hope that together, we may clearly warn abortion-vulnerable women of the risks associated with chemical abortions, especially as they are now prescribed so freely.

In New Jersey, Governor Murphy signed into law the Reproductive Choice Act in January 2022, which codified into state law the ability to abort the life of a child up to the moment of birth. Sadly, New Jersey has become the destination of patients traveling from other states to obtain abortions, and this number has doubled in the last year or so. We are understanding even more clearly the need to win hearts and minds to the undeniable truth that the unborn child is a person, and abortion kills him or her. As Mary Szocho writes at Family Research Council “we aren't for limiting a women's rights... we are for protecting a defenseless person from death, and helping her mother flourish.”

ABORTION PILL RISKS, SIDE EFFECTS, AND COMPLICATIONS:



HEAD

Headacheⁱⁱ, dizzinessⁱⁱⁱ, fever, chills^{iv}, and hot flashes^v, 81% increase in mental health problems^{vi}

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Septic shock^x, blood loss^x

BACK

Pain^{ix}

STOMACH

Nausea, vomiting^{vi}

LOWER ABDOMEN

Diarrhea, cramping^{viii}

PELVIS

Pain^{xvii}

WOMB/FALLOPIAN TUBES

Isoimmunization (which threatens future unborn babies)^{xii}, hemorrhage, infection^{xiii}, undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy rupture^{xiv}, incomplete abortion^{xv} requiring a surgical abortion, blood clots^{xvi}

DEATH

According to the FDA, dozens of women have died after taking the abortion pill since it hit the market.^{xviii}

**' I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU,
I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP' PHILIPPIANS 1: 3-5**

SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Calvary Bible Church of Readington
Calvary Community Church of Phillipsburg
Cherryville Baptist Church
Clinton Presbyterian Church
Cornerstone Christian Church of Stockton
Evangel Chapel of Bridgewater
Flemington Assembly of God
Hillsborough Reformed Church
Hunterdon Christian Church of Flemington
Immaculate Conception Church of Clinton
Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian of
Ringoes
Knights of Columbus
St. Joseph's in High Bridge
Maranatha Baptist Fellowship of Somerset
Montgomery Evangelical Free Church,
Belle Mead
New Life Riders, Christian Motorcyclists
Old Rock Church of Lambertville
Pottersville Reformed Church
Rockaway Reformed Church of
Whitehouse Station
South Ridge Community Church of Clinton
St. Catherine of Siena Church of Pittstown
Stockton Wesleyan Church
Valley Bible Fellowship of Milford

**Thanks also to all those who donated gifts-
making Christmas so special**

for our Moms and Babies!

Clinton Presbyterian Church
Flemington Presbyterian Church
Immaculate Conception Church of Clinton
Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church
New Life Riders, Christian Motorcyclists
St. Catherine of Siena Church of Pittstown
United Way of Hunterdon County
Weichert Realtors of Flemington
Several Individual families



FOUNDATIONS

Dombal-Vogel Foundation
Dreams R Us Foundation
The Gaius Foundation
The Large Foundation
The Longship Foundation

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Van-Con Inc.