



LIFE lines

Editor, Gene McCoy

Spring 2009

More Than A Baby Dies by Gene McCoy

This speech was prepared for the dedication of the 4,000 Crosses for Life exhibit sponsored by Baxter County Right to Life during April.

The primary and obvious focus of the display we are dedicating here today is upon the millions of babies who have been brutally and savagely murdered upon the altar of “Convenience” and “Women’s Rights.” But there are other victims besides the babies. We should also here commemorate every survivor of abortion, a part of whom also dies when a baby is aborted. I refer, of course, to post-abortive women. But that group comprises fewer than half of the post-abortive casualties. My focus is upon the post-abortive men who are commonly overlooked, if even considered, in discussions about abortion. They have been accurately described as the “forgotten fathers.” Consider further, however, the fact that more than a person dies when an abortion occurs. There are valuable ideals and principles that also die.

EQUAL RIGHTS

Proponents of the misnamed Equal Rights Amendment persist in their efforts to pass that legislation that supposedly died years ago. Oh that those who fight among the ranks of the righteous were as persistent and undaunted! In most cases, abortion disregards the rights of men. The desires of men are not even considered in most cases. Hence, one reason I say the Equal Rights Amendment is not about equal rights at all. That aside, my point today is that more than a baby dies when an abortion takes place. So do the rights of men involved in the pregnancy.

The experience of Dr. Christopher Moore (American Medical News, October 14, 1991) represents that of countless other men who have actively attempted to stop the abortion of their own babies. He writes, “Even though I was the father and wanted to care for my child, I couldn’t unless my wife wanted to have it. She controlled her life, our child’s life, and

my life. I controlled nothing. I had no rights. I was just the father . . . I sat in the waiting room alone. Somehow it was like attending a funeral, but there was no one to mourn our loss with me.”

In a very real sense, all reproductive rights have been relegated to women and stripped from men. In the April 2003 publication, “Reason,” Cathy Young wrote, “Men are rarely mentioned in pro-choice commentary, except to celebrate women’s freedom from male control over their reproductive lives.” According to a 2006 article written by Catherine T. Coyle, RN, Ph.D, “current U.S. laws allow women to have an abortion for any reason at any time during pregnancy. Men have no legal power in the abortion decision even if they are married to women who choose abortion. Furthermore, there is no legal requirement to inform the father of the child being aborted.” Basically, “women have rights and men merely have

Officers

Dan Nelson, Pres.
Rich Slagle, V. Pres.
Caron Davis, Sec.
Ted Osoba, Treas.

Meetings

3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Elmcroft
of Mtn. Home
715 W. 6th St.
Mtn. Home

Information

425-3910 or 508-4806
All are welcome!



The Baxter County Right to Life organization welcomes participation from all advocates for life. We are eager to make a presentation to any church or organization that wants to be involved in assisting newborns in need through the local Right to Life chapter.

Grateful Acknowledgement

Baxter County Right to Life has a web page, thanks to the generous contribution of Dr. Bill and Lois Smith. The page may be viewed at the address provided under the return address on page 4.

responsibilities” (Glenn Sacks and Dianna Thompson).

PEACE

Regardless a person’s relationship to the Creator, guilt is a consistent consequence among those who participate in an abortion. Those who counsel abortion survivors testify that many, if not most post-abortion men and women experience severe guilt. Men know they are guilty of getting the woman pregnant, of pressuring her to get an abortion, of not actively seeking to rescue the unborn child.

Anger is another consequence. Not only are participants later angry about their decision and act, but angry at God for permitting it to happen at all. The man whose child is aborted against his will or without his knowledge will experience intense anger and rage that affects every aspect of his life, including his present and future relationships.

According to Linda Perry, who writes about helping post-abortive men, 70% of the relationships will not survive an abortion. “The relationship may become abusive as a result of the guilt and anger that follows an abortion. Post-abortive men often have difficulty with **trust** and **intimacy**. A sense of loss or a hollow relief may be experienced, and loneliness and numbness are common complaints.”

According to God’s design, the father is to be the family’s provider, protector, and head. When an abortion

is forced upon him, his ability to function according to God’s design is, at the very least, damaged. But more than likely that ability dies.

Let me expand a little with regard to the trust and intimacy factors Linda Perry mentions.

TRUST

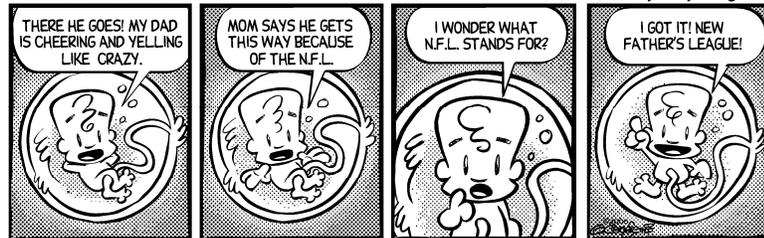
Once a man has experienced the helplessness of preventing an abortion, having been overruled (if even considered) by his wife, physician, and others, his ability to trust any of them is greatly diminished, if not destroyed.

INTIMACY

Vicky Thorne of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, points out that “men who tried to prevent the abortion are rage-filled with a sense of impotence that they couldn’t protect the child and they couldn’t protect the woman.” Whether or not she used the term “impotence” in the context of performing sexually, there is evidence that such a result is possible. Such feelings of impotence definitely affect a man in areas related to intimacy. Specifically, men who were unsuccessful in stopping the abortion of their child have experienced the “beginning of acceleration of avoidance behaviors and addictions, . . . [including] drug and alcohol abuse, promiscuity, sexual addiction, pornography addiction, eating disorders, and workaholism . . . sexual dysfunction, sleeplessness and bad dreams . . . anger or guilt . . . inability to relax . . . depression, fear of failure, fear of rejection . . . and the inability to bond with future children.” (Linda Perry)

Kevin Burke is the associate director of the international post-abortion healing ministry, Rachel’s Vineyard. His wife, Theresa, is the

Umbert the Unborn





founder and Director. How's that for equal rights?!! Kevin writes, "Men grieve as deeply as women from abortion. . . But men have the capacity to really bury the pain, to compartmentalize it, to put it off in a corner, and get on with other areas of their life, such as the work area. . . But they're going to act out on that loss in some way. It may affect their ability to bond in future relationships and really be present in their marriage and family life." He adds suicide to the list of self-destructive behaviors documented among post-abortive men.

HEALING GRIEF

Dr. Wayne Brauning of Coatsville, PA is the founder of Men's Abortion ReCovery. He tells of a friend whose father's mysterious disappearance in Mexico has produced more pain for him than if his father had died in his arms. How do you grieve for a father who has simply disappeared? In like manner, how can one grieve for a child who has simply "vanished?"

Some might say that it would be similar to healing grief following a miscarriage. But abortion is unlike a natural process such as a miscarriage. It is not a mysterious disappearance but the deliberate act of taking the life of a defenseless person. (c. 1996)

There is a difference in the way men and women grieve. After an abortion, a man's emotional health often dies. Warren Williams, Director of Fathers and Brothers Ministries, said, "Men don't have the social permission to grieve the loss of these children. So men get stuck in their anger and never move on to grief. Eventually their feelings come out in self-abuse or physical abuse of the wife. And I am talking about extreme anger here. If a woman wants to have an abortion, there is nothing the man

can do to talk her out of it even if he wants to raise the child. We have relegated all reproductive rights to women, yet both people were involved."

Steve Arterburn is a post-abortive father who speaks out about the pain men experience. He says, "Guilt haunted me and seeped into every fiber of who I am. . . The post-abortion syndrome I had experienced is the same as that which hundreds of men have shared with me after hearing my story."

A 1997 intervention study conducted by Catherine T. Coyle, RN, Ph.D involved men who identified themselves as having been hurt by their partner's decision to abort. Among other findings we have already listed, this study revealed "confusion about the man's role in society. Role confusion was expressed as a direct result of the seemingly contradictory demands of a society that wants men to care for and support their offspring but simultaneously denies them the ability to care for their children before birth. A majority of men also discussed their perceived need to put aside their own discomfort as they attempted to support their partners."

This repression of emotions among post-abortive men was also documented by Shostak and McLouth (1984) who note that "the typical man rushes to placate his partner, repress his emotions, and take his cues from an environment that others structure for him" (p. 22). Similarly, Patterson (1982) reports that a survey of men in an abortion clinic revealed that 77% of the men believed that the most valuable way they could help their partners was by maintaining control over their own emotions. A 2004 case study by Holmes highlighted the

F4L Friends for LIFE

Membership carries no obligation. The annual contributions from our Friends for Life provide a large portion of the funds we use to keep the pro-life message before the community.

These funds also help us do the positive things you read about in this publication and the newspaper throughout the year.

Please cut or tear off this section that has your name and address on the reverse and mail it with a check or money order made payable to Baxter County Right to Life (return address on p. 4). A minimum of \$15 for married couples makes you one of our valued Friends for Life!

Current Members

Marshal & Clara Berg
 Bill & Sandra Butler
 Vernon R. Hudder
 Christine Mosier
 Rhonda Rust
 Mary Ruth Peebles
 Jean Scott
 Richard & Joan Slagle
 Caron & Mike Davis
 Jim & Carolyn Neff
 Clare & Ted Osoba
 Henry & Fern Frazier
 Bernie & Mary Alice Wiesner
 Bruce & Christine Tuthill
 Dr. William & Lois Smith
 Gene & Becky McCoy
 Phil & Gail Hahn
 Ed & Lori Morrison
 Jo Byrd Huddleston
 Dan Nelson
 Melva Derrickson
 Suzanne Vaughan
 Michael & Barbara Crimmins
 Tom Deehan
 T.J. & Joanne Mustion
 Robert & Gwen Buege
 Elaine Leu
 Bernard & Berta Lee Dorci
 Misty Cullipher
 Joe Haley

May we add your name?



effects of abortion on a young man who learned six months after the fact that his partner had obtained an abortion. Holmes describes the effects of worthlessness and emasculation.

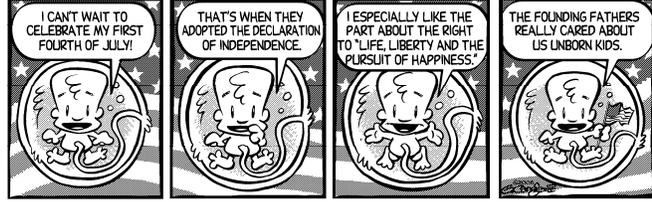
POTENTIAL

Even before e-rumors, a story about Beethoven was circulated to bolster the prolife message. As the story goes, three of his seven siblings were deaf, two were blind, another was mentally retarded, and his mother had syphilis. Based upon that, many would say she should abort the pregnancy, which would have deprived the world of Beethoven's musical genius.

I relate this to say two things. First, check the facts before you use such an argument. Apparently, that illustration is factually faulty on various levels. But the point it makes is valid. An abortion results in the death of more than a baby. It means the death of unknown blessings and potential for good.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Baxter County Right to Life



The printing of LIFElines is made possible by the generous contribution of Rick & Barbara Peglar of Good Impressions Printing.



Please submit the names and addresses of people you think would like to receive this publication.
www.baxtercountyrighttolife.org

Baxter Co. Chapter
 1911 Arbor
 Mtn. Home, AR 72653



NON PROFIT
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Mtn. Home, AR
 72653
 Permit # 35