

LIFElines

Editor, Gene McCoy

Summer 2008

Officers

Lori Morrison, Pres.
Rich Slagle, V. Pres.
Caron Davis, Sec.
Ted Osoba, Treas.

Meetings

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

Memorial Christian
Banquet Center
315 W. 6th St.
Mtn. Home

Information

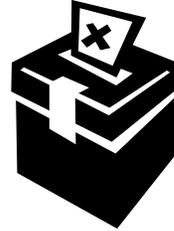
425-3910 or 508-4806
All are welcome!

The Most Important Election Issue by Gene McCoy

What constitutes the most important issue is debated during every election cycle. Among those most commonly suggested are the economy, immigration and the war on terror.

Albert Schweitzer said, "If a man loses reverence for any part of life, he will lose his reverence for all life." A candidate's position on the sanctity of human life measures integrity, principle, trustworthiness, character, and godliness more than any other issue. If you want to know the candidate's soul and the validity of his / her claim to know and love God, probe the strength of his / her stance regarding the sanctity of human life. This will also reveal the sincerity of any claim to be compassionate toward the poor and needy and the motive underlying their position. Is it really out of genuine concern for the individual and the country? Or is their true motive to simply gain power and influence? Is it *principle* or *politics*?

Most candidates claim to be Christians and will



make reference to the Bible and affirm their reverence for God. The Bible says God created all that is (Gen. 1:1) and that man is distinctly superior to all other creatures (Gen. 2:7). God recognizes viability and personhood before birth (Ps. 139:13-16). God not only knows each person before birth (Jer. 1:5), but He has a purpose for each (Is. 49:1, 5; Gal. 1:15-16).

Taking human life is a capital offense (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:12; Lev. 24:17). The only exception ordained by God, other than self-defense, is the execution of evildoers (e.g., murderers), and that only by government (Rom. 13:4).

God requires us to defend the innocent and protect the defenseless (Ps. 82:3-4; Prov. 12:6; 31:8-9).

We must not give consent of power to candidates who favor legislation that violates these Biblical values and principles.

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Register
to VOTE
and vote **PRO-LIFE**

BCRTL President Attends National Right to Life Convention

Representing Baxter County Right to Life at the national convention will be our president, Mrs. Lori Morrison. This year's convention is in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Featured speakers at the July 3-5 convention will include Karl Rove and Fred Thompson.



Mrs. Lori Morrison



Death Swallowed Up By Life by Gene McCoy

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.

On Sunday morning, June 24, 2007, Eva Elise Gregg entered the world, the daughter of Frank and Sonja Gregg and sister of Tim (5) and Ella (3). The family knew, however, that their time with this precious baby would be brief.

Several weeks before, Sonja's doctor detected that the baby she was carrying was anencephalic. Anencephaly is a neurological defect that occurs between the 23rd and 26th day of gestation in 1,000 to 2,000 pregnancies annually. The result is the absence of a major portion of the brain, making survival rare. Most babies die within hours or days. Eva Elise survived five days.

Sonja had been raised in a church and home that instilled within her a strong respect for human life. With a lingering sense of perplexity and in an apologetic tone, she recalls those fleeting moments of rationalizing consideration when her doctor offered the information that he could arrange for the pregnancy to be terminated. She admits that her consideration was "cowardly selfish."

She recalls thinking "the baby is not going to survive anyway, so why not spare us the pain and anguish?" But her faith in God, along with Biblical teaching, quickly overruled such rationalization. She and her husband were committed to the will and way of God.

Based upon passages like Psalm 127:3 and Psalm 139 that affirm that children are a gift from the Lord and that each is fearfully and wonderfully made, Frank and Sonja accepted their situation and prepared for God's blessings. They persevered in the conviction that you should rejoice in and accept God's gifts.

Sonja acknowledges, "We would never have asked for this, but God knew what we needed." She continued, "I'll keep receiving from this gift throughout life and others will be impacted." Although Eva Elise was in this world less than a week, her life continues to be a blessing.

The Gregg children have learned a lot about God and heaven. Frank and Sonja maintain their conviction that God has a purpose in everything and for everyone. They

are satisfied that their lives are better because of Eva Elise. "God showed me so much about love," testifies Sonja. Speaking of her baby girl, she says, "She was beautiful. I loved her for who she was."

Sonja hopes that her baby's life, though brief, demonstrates to all that life is so important and precious. She insists that we should not give up on someone because we detect imperfection, because God makes everyone. "God had a plan and purpose for me," Sonja states. "Who am I to say God didn't have a plan for her?" It is the Gregg family's conviction that God gives life. So it was for Him to determine the length of her life.

Sonja delights in the fact that the baby's heart rate increased whenever Sonja spoke. She cherishes the photo album that chronicles the birth and life of their precious Eva Elise. With abounding joy and gratitude to God, the Gregg family considers her life as an answer to their prayers and a living testimony to God's promise that death is swallowed up by life. 



Become a Friend 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 visible in our 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 (see return address on p. 4). A minimum of \$10 for individuals and \$15 for married couples makes you one of our valued Friends for Life!



Minuscule Yet Monumental

She told us the story when she and her seventeen-year-old son visited our exhibit at the Baxter County Fair. They had both visited our exhibit seventeen years ago, but there was no way he could have recalled it. His mother had just learned she was pregnant with him.

Pressure from family and friends to pursue an abortion was weighing heavily upon her, resulting in emotional and mental trauma. But the decision to give birth to her son resulted from seeing the Precious Feet lapel pin at our exhibit. That representation of a baby's feet after ten weeks following conception dispelled her confusion and compelled her to deliver the baby.

Our volunteers celebrated the young man's life and assured him that he was fortunate

to have a mother who cares for him.

The most popular item in our exhibit in recent years has been the soft, squeezable model of a baby resembling a fetus. It has been especially interesting to observe the teen-age young men who pick them up and study them. Your financial participation in this cause is paying rich dividends locally. Young people are educated as they are exposed to the resources your gifts have provided.

Our friends for life should share the credit for the decline in the number of abortions in recent years. Research by the Guttmacher Institute reveals that the number of abortions in the U.S. in 2005 was significantly less than in 1990 (1.2 million from 1.6 million). Such declines are due in large part to legislation (e.g., Women's Right to

Know laws), enhanced ultrasound technology, and education, all of which are major thrusts of the National Right to Life organization, state affiliates, and local chapters.

Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., NRLC director of education and research, says, "Falling abortion rates are a sure sign that, given truthful information about abortion, about its impact on their lives, about the child growing inside them, and given even the slightest help and encouragement, many women will choose life." (www.nrlc.org)

This is what your contributions to Baxter County Right to Life produce. Though seemingly minuscule, they produce monumental results. Just ask the mother of the seventeen-year-old son! Thank you for your support.



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May we add your name?



Baxter Co. Chapter

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

Register to **VOTE** and vote PRO-LIFE




Pro-Choice is NO choice for the unborn.

The likelihood that two pieces of such legislation will be enacted depends upon the person who next occupies the White House. One is the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which would nullify the ban of partial-birth abortion and reverse virtually all laws that protect the unborn. Another related issue is the Equal Rights Amendment. This would have sweeping implications on abortion laws, resulting in the continued slaughter of the innocents.

Educate yourself on these issues and vote accordingly. Access the information at www.nrlc.org. Click on Legislation, then Current Issues, and scroll down to these two issues.

The Declaration of

Independence states that we have not only the *right*, but the *duty* to remove or prevent a government that does not promote and protect the unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To fail in this is not only to jeopardize our liberty and to become subject to godless despots, but also to forfeit the blessing of Almighty God.

The Declaration of Independence states the fact that government derives power from the *consent of the governed*. The Christian citizen must recognize and reject any candidate who does not honor the government's role as it pertains to preserving our unalienable right to life.

Any candidate who favors the taking of innocent life (e.g., the

unborn, the sick and infirm, etc.) and the preservation of a capital offender's life is not only self-contradictory but also rebelling against God. **We cannot honor God by giving government the power to destroy human life!**

Your consent is given at the ballot box. Voting for a presidential or congressional candidate who can justify the taking of any human life apart from capital punishment and self-defense is consenting to government-sanctioned murder. 

For an online comparison of the presidential candidates' positions on life issues, go to www.nrlc.org