

Teachers Saving Children® Inc.

Pro-Life Voices in Education...

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THOUGHTS FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Connie Bancroft

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior." -I Timothy 2:1-3

Election Day - November 8, 2016 - another dramatic turning point in national policitis – the result of grassroots activism all across America as the American people stated a resounding no vote to the liberal agenda.

What made the difference? I believe that prayer made the difference. The results of this past election season once again proved the power of prayer and the movement of God's hand across our nation. As individuals showed the importance of taking responsibility to pray, become educated about the candidates, and vote, many candidates who represented the values of the majority of the people of this nation were voted into office.

Now that God has shed His grace and favor upon us through this election, we must continue to spend time in prayer, in the Word of God, and to act. We must pray for our elected leaders who need strength and boldness in order to make moral and legal decisions that will benefit our nation.

The Bible instructs us to offer prayers for those who are in authority so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives (I Timothy 2:2). In Romans 13:1, Paul writes to the Roman church that "there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." God allows both good men as well as evil men to move into leadership. It is our responsibility to pray for those who govern over us. God alone is able to turn leaders toward righteousness and wisdom. Proverbs 21:1 states, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases."

How might we pray for elected officials who serve at various levels of government? I have a bookmark from Pray! Magazine (Issue #13) which lists 30 ways based on Scripture that we can pray for people in authority. The following is an excerpt from that list:

- That they be granted wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (James 1:5).
- That they value and regard the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ (Psalm 19:7-11; John 8:31-32).
- That they respect authority and practice accountability (Romans 13:1-7).
- That they be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors (Proverbs 24:6).
- That they be honest and faithful to spouses and children (Malachi 2:15-16).
- That they be honest in financial, tax, and ethical matters (I Corinthians 6:10; I Timothy 6:6-10).
- That they have thankful and teachable spirits (Romans 1:21).
- That they desire honesty, integrity, and loyalty (Psalm 26; Proverbs 11:3).
- That they have courage to resist manipulation, pressure, and the fear of man (Proverbs 29:25; II Timothy 1:7).
- That they desire humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate (John 13:14; Titus 3:1-2).
- That they endeavor to restore the sanctity of life, families. divine order, and morality in our nation (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).
- That they be God fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him for each decision and act (Proverbs 9:10).
- That they be prepared to give account to Almighty God (Hebrews 9:27).

We must remember that our true Kingdom is not of this world, but rather God has empowered His people to share the Gospel to America and a spiritually dying world until "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

God will use us to do mighty things for Him amid the challenges that we face. We must stay humble before God and remain true to His calling in our lives. Let's all take time in the days and weeks ahead to remember and act on this verse: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)

Sources: "30 Ways to Pray for People in Authority" Bookmark, excerpted from Pray! Magazine, issue #13 [adapted from "Intercessors for America" newsletter, Volume 22, Number 3]; "National Day of Prayer" Bookmark, National Day of Prayer Task Force; "Pray for Those in Authority, Pray for the Heart of America, Seek First the Kingdom of God" Pamphlet, by The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc. (CBN).

D.C. MARCH FOR LIFE SPEAKERS INSPIRE CROWD

By John Gordon

A long and varied list of persons addressed the tens of thousands of persons who gathered on the National Mall prior to the start of the March for Life on Friday, January 27th in Washington, D.C. Among them were a pro football player, a former Planned Parenthood Director, several members of Congress, a student, a priest, and a high-level advisor to the President. The persons who generated the most excitement were, undoubtedly, the Vice President of the United States and his wife, Mike and Karen Pence.

In introducing her husband, Karen Pence, formerly an elementary education teacher, claimed, "I have never met anyone who has more passion for women, for children, and for the American people." She thrilled the crowd when she stated that while this was the first time a Vice President had attended the March, "this is not our first March for Life." Pence brought greetings from President Trump, whom he said had asked him to address the crowd. Pence stated the Trump administration will "work with the Congress to end taxpayer funding of abortion and abortion providers, and we will devote those resources to health care services for women across America." He remarked that the nation's founders intended the "inalienable" right of life for all Americans, including those yet unborn. Pence said President Trump would fulfill his promise to nominate a Supreme Court justice who "will uphold the God-given liberties enshrined in our Constitution."

The speaker who most touched many persons' hearts was Representative Mia Love of Utah. Love's address focused on the hope for the future that is inherent in each child that is born, regardless of the circumstances of its conception. She related the challenges that could have led her own parents to abort her shortly after their arrival in the United States. She said that they would have never imagined that the child they chose to keep would become the first Republican African American woman elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.



John Gordon (PA) and Jan Luke (OH)

The presence of the Vice President led to security measures beyond anything done at past Marches. Our group noted that we observed no one complaining while waiting, many over an hour, to be permitted in the cordoned off area close to the main stage. The marchers could not all be contained within this space, so many watched the proceedings via large projection screens.

The peaceful but enthusiastic crowd of marchers was made up largely of young persons, including college and school age students. Notable was the presence of many young families, complete with infants and children, who were unhindered by sunny mild weather. The size of the crowd was difficult to estimate, but it was noted that over two hours were needed for the March to proceed past its beginning point. A unique approach to viewing the march is available via the time-lapse video that was posted to Facebook by Students for Life of America. It can be viewed at our Facebook page and is dated January 30, 2017.

FETAL MODELS FASCINATE STUDENTS AT SFLA CONFERENCE

By John Gordon & Jan Luke

Teachers Saving Children® was represented at the Students for Life of America East Coast Conference on January 28th, 2017, by John Gordon of Pennsylvania and Jan Luke of Ohio. The exhibit included a table with books, pens, and pamphlets; along with the fetal models that represented the different growth stages of a life. Our fetal models attracted interest from both student and adult participants who passed by our exhibit.

We spoke to many students. Several American students majoring in education were so enthused about our organization that they took advantage of our offer for a free year of membership and signed up "on the spot". Especially intrigued were a delegation of students from Scotland who



wanted to hold the baby doll models. They held them very gently, while commenting on their features. One of the girls commented that she was born early and that her Dad held her tiny body in the palm of his hand! These students were at the conference to gain training toward their goal to establish a similar organization in the UK. The students stated that there is little to no room for pro-life expression for students in Scotland. One young woman told Jan that, in their homeland, they can expect to be "screamed at, punched, and spit on" by opponents, since the prevailing cultural attitude assumes that abortion should be unlimited. The students expressed interest in having fetal models to use to educate their peers regarding the humanity of pre-born children. Several students from Ireland and Canada were also present.

In addition to overseeing our exhibit, we had the opportunity to listen to several wonderful speakers. Abby Johnson, a Planned Parenthood Clinic Director for 8 years, spoke about how she left her job at the clinic. She started "And Then There Were None (ATTWN)" which is the only pro-life group seeking to end abortion from the inside out. They believe that the end of abortion starts with abortion clinic workers leaving their jobs and finding healing from their past work. Abby introduced one of her friends, at the conference, that has also left her job, as a Clinic Director at a Planned Parenthood Clinic! Jan personally spoke to this woman and asked her if many Planned Parenthood Clinics are closing down. She said that there have been many closing throughout the United States! Thank You, Jesus!!!

Your contributions bore much fruit in our "Pro-life Voices in Education" in our Nation's Capital both in connecting with students as well as other pro-life organizations. Thank you!

WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST

By Frank Ebiner

The 13th annual **Walk for Life West Coast** was held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 in San Francisco. January weather in northern California had been the rainiest in at least 20 years. In the days leading up to the Walk for Life, a deluge of rain fell on California, a state in severe drought over the past 5 years. As the day dawned on Saturday morning, God provided a respite from the storms as there certainly was no drought of pro-life supporters as tens of thousands of men, women and children of all ages gathered at the San Francisco Civic Center in support of the sanctity and dignity of every human life. More than 50 pro-life groups, ministries, and organizations from all over the United States were set up under two large outdoor tents at the Civic Center for the Walk for Life Info Faire.

Teachers Saving Children[®] was well represented at the Info Faire where we were a sponsor for one of the pro-life ministry tables. Eager Walk for Life participants arrived throughout the morning to inquire about our respect life ministry of teachers. The response was extremely positive. For three and a half hours, hundreds of people of all ages stopped by our table to ask about Teachers Saving Children[®], our mission, and ways by which lessons can infuse the message of respect for the sanctity of human life at all stages. Gratitude and smiles and constant "thank you" was the message from the visitors to our table for being a positive presence in our schools throughout the United States. Two hours into the Info Faire and the gathering of the pro-life walkers, the Rally began and featured speakers such as Melissa Ohden who spoke about surviving being aborted, Archbishop Cordileone who presented the St. Gianna Molla Award to Dr. George Delgado for his research and work on a procedure to reverse the



abortion pill, Reggie Littlejohn, Pam Tebow, and Baptist Reverend Clenard Childress. The flow of people streaming to our table increased as the March for Life drew near. Families were elated to pick up brochures about Teachers Saving Children[®]. A common comment was how important the pro-life message is at all levels of the educational system. They all knew teachers in their lives. Some of the participants in the Walk for Life are current student teachers. Others are college students in teaching programs, while still others are currently substitute teaching, full-time teachers, home school teachers, or retired from teaching.

Our table had a variety of materials catering to all ages. Young children, teenagers, and adults were drawn to the table when they saw the life-size models, from months one to seven, of the unborn child. Wonder and awe was evident in their eyes as they asked questions about the development of the unborn baby. Parents took the opportunity to teach their children of the sanctity of life at that moment. A number of people asked if we would give talks at their schools. Many marveled at the large magnetic poster of the detail of the 11-week pre-born baby's feet. We distributed membership brochures, monthly milestones of the developing unborn child, information cards for Students for Life in America, brochures regarding options for teachers belonging to NEA and state-affiliated unions, pro-life balloons, Teachers Saving Children® bumper stickers, business cards, and books such as *Persuasive Pro-Life, Angels in the Waters, Mi Angelito En Las Aguas, Now I'm a Big Boy, and Now I'm a Big Girl*. The response was extremely positive. The message of our advocacy for human life was very well received at the Info Faire as people were pleasantly surprised to hear that there are pro-life public school teachers who could actually infuse the pro-life message into the public school curriculum. Praise God for His provision for 2017.

STUDENTS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA WEST COAST CONFERENCE

By Frank Ebiner

Throughout the United States, on the final two weekends of January, pro-life individuals participated in various events to remember the 1973 Supreme Court decisions of *Roe vs. Wade* and *Dole vs. Bolton* which legalized abortion on demand in the United States. The 13th annual West Coast Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on Saturday January 21st and the 44th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 27th were once again two well-attended events of individuals advocating for the respect of the sanctity of human life. Hundreds of thousands of people walked together showing determination, solidarity, courage and hope for the vulnerable in our society. Teachers Saving Children[®] had members play a part in each of these events on both sides of our nation.

Students for Life of America (SFLA) scheduled two conferences this year to coincide with the March for Life and Walk for Life West Coast, one in Washington, D.C. (East Coast) on Saturday, January 28rd and the other at the San Francisco (West Coast) on Sunday, January 22th. The theme of this year's conferences was *Heroic*.

More than five hundred heroic pro-life college and high school students attended the SFLA West Coast Conference, most having been at the Walk for Life West Coast the day before. The students' enthusiasm for being a voice for life was palpable. Speakers at the conference included Alison Howard from Alliance Defending Freedom, Kristan Hawkins (Students for Life of America), Josh Brahm (Equal Rights Institute), Jason Jones (Movie to Movement) who all presented uplifting dynamic speeches. Breakout sessions were led by Kathleen Bravo, Dawn Baker (Bethany Christian Services), Cristina Barba (The Culture Project), Kelsey Hazzard (Secular Pro-Life), Kristan Hawkins, and Christina Martin (National Black Pro-Life Coalition).

Teachers Saving Children® members Frank and Noreen Ebiner attended the conference. Teachers Saving Children® did not sponsor a table at the West Coast event, but Noreen and Frank went to the various sponsor tables to spread the message of Teachers Saving Children® respect life ministry in our public schools. In this way, our pro-life message about Teachers Saving Children® being *Pro-life Voices in Education* could be heard.



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PRO-LIFE BOOKS FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN

Two recently published books by Board member and author Judy Bruns provide a means to educate young children about life in the womb. *Now I'm a Big Boy* and *Now I'm a Big Girl* depict a child describing his or her life from conception to young childhood through clever rhyme and cute illustrations. The books are suitable to read to children age four and above and would make a great gift for young children, mothers, or educators. Judy hopes to see the books placed in waiting rooms at doctors' offices and crisis pregnancy centers. Copies are available from the author or on Amazon.

NEA CONVENTION 2017

This year's NEA RA will be held in Boston, MA from June 30 – July 5. If you have remained a member of the NEA, it is vital that you know who will be casting your vote at the NEA Representative Assembly. All delegates are selected by their colleagues in local and state affiliates to represent their views at the assembly. If you are interested in being a delegate, check with your local president. It might not be too late to run for that position. Most importantly, watch those local memos and newsletters carefully for NEA delegate election information. Many elections will be taking place between now and mid-March. Pro-life, pro-family educators will only be represented when those who have decided to remain union members take the time to run as delegates or find out the positions of the delegate candidates – and then **VOTE!** Remember – they are your representatives!

WINDOW INTO THE WOMB: PREGNANCY APPS

A fairly new tool is available to help present life-affirming information in the classroom. A variety of free mobile apps are available that hold great possibility for educating students regarding life in the womb. Some, such as WebMD's app, offer week-by-week information that gives accurate illustrations or even video footage of fetal development.

Care Net has modified one secular app to present the information from a Christian perspective. Entitled *B4uDecide*, this tool is being used by pro-life counselors with women and men facing pregnancy decisions.

You may find it helpful to use your favorite web search tool to locate information regarding the various apps prior to downloading them in an app store.

This newsletter is published by Teachers Saving Children® Inc.
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