

# TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN®

## of Pennsylvania, Inc.



### A Voice for LIFE in Education

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#### A Word From John Gordon Chairman

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania for placing their trust in me (the newest member of the board) to assume the role of chairman. It is an honor to serve with a group whose dedication to the pro-life cause is unwavering. It is humbling to think of "filling the shoes" of those who have preceded me in this role. I especially thank Robin Ross for her years of dedicated service and her encouragement to me as I begin this task.

As I do so, it is my goal to renew my personal commitment to protecting the unborn and preserving the lives of the living. It was out of my own brush with death that I resolved to finally take the steps needed to become more involved in this organization. I was diagnosed with cancer just a few days before the 2009 school year began. Facing one's own mortality helps to put life in perspective. My subsequent surgery and time in recovery led me to deep introspection about why my life had been preserved. **I pondered the question of what God has for me to do.**

**Won't you take time from your busy week to reflect on that thought?** The answer will reinvigorate you, I believe. Perhaps it will motivate you to a new resolve to take action. We are actively looking for new board members. Won't you consider if you are being led to serve with Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania? The time commitment is minimal: we have board meetings just twice a year, in May and September. If you would like to explore this option, please contact me at 717-944-7708.

Meanwhile, I thank you for your financial support of this organization, and I ask for your prayers for those who serve in leadership.

Yours for life, John Gordon

#### What Do You Really Believe About The Sanctity of Life?

By Pat Bartow, Board Member/Newsletter Editor

If you have studied "The Truth Project," the question title of this article is not a new thought to you. "The Truth Project" ([www.thetruthproject.org](http://www.thetruthproject.org)) teaches what a Christian worldview is, and one of the initial questions asked by presenter Dr. Del Tackett is, "**Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?**" You will likely agree that the question is both simple and profound, and does challenge one to examine personal beliefs on a deeper level.

The same question could be asked of all of us who believe in the sanctity of life. There are many people who have a general belief that human life is valuable and should be protected. But how resolute is our belief and how committed are we to protecting human life?

For example, do we truly believe that pre-born infants are indisputably human and that aborting a fetus at any stage of development is morally wrong, and are we willing to defend that belief? Gregory Koukl in an article titled "Fetal Personhood: It's Simple" (Stand To Reason at [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)) points out that in our discussions with pro-choice individuals we may find that they might accept our belief that an unborn infant is a human being - but not a person, in their opinion. And just how can we effectively respond to *that* statement?? Mr. Koukl suggests that we ask them, "What is the difference?" His experience has been that people are unable to explain the difference between the two.

He further states, "The fact is that human beings are persons. . .whether they are in an early stage or a later stage of development. That's what a human is and it remains itself from the beginning to the end. It's very simple. It's not hard. It's not complex."

## **What do we *really* believe about the rights of the unborn child and our responsibility to protect them?**



*And Speaking of Commitment...*

*By John Gordon, Chairman*

Since January 22, 1973, abortion has been legal in our nation. There are those who have been "in the fight" to oppose abortion for all of the past thirty-seven years. That's a long time – more than a lifetime for some who may read this newsletter. It is easy to become weary, lethargic, and even complacent when so much in our culture would seem to make the battle futile.

**How can we refresh our commitment to the "pro-life movement"?** We must consider what is at stake. All that educators need to do is to take a thoughtful look at the faces of children whom they see every day. Each child is unique and special – truly a gift from God and a reflection of our Creator's image. Now consider for a moment: How many other faces are missing whose lives were taken before birth?

**I encourage you to take a few minutes to read and ponder the mission statement of Teachers Saving Children® - National:** "...an organization of pro-life teachers and other concerned citizens whose primary purpose is a commitment to establishing a respect for all human life from conception to natural death, especially among professional educators' organizations" and a quote from Connie Bancroft, our National Executive Director, who stated that "It is only natural that educators, whose mission is to guide and enlighten their students, be concerned with the total well-being of all children. Therefore, support for the intentional abuse or destruction of children at any stage of development contradicts the high ideals of our profession."

As individuals, it is easy to feel powerless in the face of the opposition that exists to the pro-life cause, even within a profession whose reason for existence is to improve the lives of children. Yet, we must not become "weary in well-doing." Our cause is worth a lifetime commitment to patience and perseverance!

**What can YOU do in your sphere of influence?** Spread the word among your colleagues about Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania. Consider whom you know that might be interested in our message. Then take a small, bold step: offer them one of our brochures that has been included with this newsletter. Or, suggest they visit our website ([www.teacherssavingchildren.org](http://www.teacherssavingchildren.org)). Let's each commit to recruiting at least one new

member to Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania. By increasing our membership, we will increase our collective voice and our ability to be taken seriously by those with the power to affect change.

As a word of encouragement and a reminder to all of us, I offer this thought as we strengthen our resolve to be a Voice for Life: "And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right." (2 Thessalonians 3:13)



*Pace and You*

*By Jeff Remington, Former Board Member*

If you are an educator, you will be especially interested in this information. The **Political Action Committee for Education (PACE)** is the Pennsylvania State Education Association's (PSEA) political action fund. Money contributed to this fund goes toward lobbying and other political activities of the PSEA and National Education Association (NEA). Local associations ask members to contribute to PACE early in the school year. In contributing, you will be supporting the pro-choice position. If you feel as though you do not want to contribute to PACE because of the NEA-PSEA's position favoring abortion, **you may simply decline to make a PACE contribution, and also consider submitting a letter of explanation such as the following:**

Dear PSEA/NEA:

I respectfully decline to contribute to PACE due to the NEA/PSEA's pro-choice position, as evidenced by the NEA policy and past practices stated below:

### **New Business Item 1990-65:**

*"NEA will oppose any legislation which will erode the status of Roe v. Wade and/or which impedes access of choice. . ."*

### **Resolution I-16:**

*"NEA supports. . .reproductive freedom."*

### **Hospitality Center for Reproductive Freedom:**

- *The NEA headquarters in Washington, D.C., has been a hospitality center for those participating in reproductive freedom protests in the past.*
- *Some NEA state associations have sponsored transportation to such events.*
- *NEA has a history of backing political candidates who are strong opponents of pro-life issues.*

Respectfully,  
(Your Signature)

## Board Meeting Report By Julie Myers, Board Secretary

At the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees for Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania Ad Hoc Committee, board members discussed a variety of ideas for better communicating the message of Teachers Saving Children®. We agreed on some ideas which we will explore. John plans to attend the March for Life in January and will design and carry a banner promoting Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania. (Readers, if you have suggestions for us about promoting our pro-life message, please contact John at 717-944-7708. Thank you!)

We also discussed offering members the opportunity to receive our newsletter electronically in the future, pending approval from the National Board of Trustees. The board also approved the 2009-2010 Financial Report and our 2010-2011 Budget, which are detailed on this page. The board will meet again in May 2011.



### Some Thoughts about Adoption

"More than 150,000 adoptions take place each year, but there are still 127,000 children waiting for adoption in the United States in the foster care system as well as infants born to birthmothers not ready to parent. The number of children without loving families is a significant social concern."

Adoption is an important social practice that promotes the well-being of children, families, and society. Adoption positively impacts all involved with the process. It gives birthmothers the assurance that their children will be raised in stable families, gives adoptive parents the joy of parenting, and gives children the opportunity to join a permanent family and grow up in a loving home.

Adoption is also connected to important social issues, such as the sanctity of human life and the definition of family. Adoption upholds the sanctity of human life by providing a positive alternative to abortion for birthmothers who feel unable to parent." ([www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues))

Given the importance of adoption, please join with Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania and other pro-life organizations in promoting adoption among churches and families.



### Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania Financial Report

September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010

Balance September 1, 2009	\$1605.13
Revenues:	
Membership dues	787.50
Contributions	75.00
Total Revenues	2467.63
Expenses:	
Postage	101.20
Donations	
TSC National Expo	200.00
Union County Library	25.00
Printing	26.00
Accounting	140.00
Supplies	116.75
Total Expenses:	608.95
Balance August 31, 2010	\$1858.68

### Budget

September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011

Beginning Balance	\$1859.00
Revenues:	
Dues	\$ 600.00
Total Revenues	\$2459.00
Expenses:	
Rent	100.00
Travel	200.00
Postage	75.00
Printing	150.00
Accounting	150.00
Supplies	100.00
Reserve	1684.00
Total Expenses	\$2459.00

**Mark your calendars!** The **March for Life Rally** will be held in Washington, D.C., on **January 24, 2011**. This is an opportunity to join others in publicly supporting the pro-life cause. You may also choose to meet with your Congressional delegation to discuss your support for pro-life legislation - and **be a Voice for Life!** More details at [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org). A delegation of Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania members will attend the march. Contact John Gordon for more information.

**Teachers Saving Children® of PA, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 214, Pen Argyl, PA 18072

**A VOICE FOR LIFE IN EDUCATION**



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### *Breakaway Invitation*

Richard Armstrong and Edward Watkin tell the story of a biologist's experiment with "processional caterpillars." On the rim of a clay pot that held a plant, he lined them up so that the leader was head-to-tail with the last caterpillar.

The tiny creatures circled the rim of the pot for a full week. Not once did any one of them break away to go over to the plant and eat. Eventually, all the caterpillars died from exhaustion and starvation.

The story is a kind of parable of human behavior. People are reluctant to break away from the rhythmic pattern of daily life. They don't want to be different.

We must break away, however, and be different, even though this is especially difficult in today's world. Being different and thinking independently rather than accepting the "status quo" thinking of the culture is often when we begin to become more aware of the needs of others, and to impact society more creatively. (Adapted from *Breakaway: Twenty-eight Steps to a More Reflective Life* by Mark Link, Argus Communications, 1980)

#### **TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN® of PA, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

If you have questions regarding Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania, Inc., or concerns for the attention of the board, please call the board member that lives nearest to your area.

John Gordon, Chairman, Dauphin County	717-944-7708
Patricia Bartow, Lancaster County	717-872-7283
Julie Myers, York County	(unpublished)
Patricia Yamrick, Indiana County	724-349-7489

This newsletter is a publication of **Teachers Saving Children® of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
John Gordon, Chairman  
Pat Bartow, Newsletter Editor

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