



Teachers Saving Children® Inc.

A Voice for LIFE in Education...

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connie Bancroft

“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”
-II Timothy 4:6-8

Reflective Thoughts of a Life Well-Lived

During the wee hours of the morning on December 30, 2011, at the age of 84, my father, Charles Edward Bancroft, went peacefully into the arms of Jesus. He had suffered from multiple sclerosis for many years, yet served his Savior faithfully for 73 years, as well as his church and his family.

My father was born in Hudson MI and was the youngest of three children. His sister and brother were 16 and 17 years old when my father was born, so basically he was raised as an only child. Though his family moved often during his early years, living in both Ohio and Michigan, in his late elementary years his family settled in Tecumseh MI where he graduated from high school.

My father was raised in church and at the age of 11 he found Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. His father (my grandfather) died in August just before my father's senior year of high school. As a result I only knew my grandfather through pictures and the stories my father would share. After graduating from high school, my father worked for 2½ years before feeling the leading of the Lord to study at Cleveland Bible College (now Malone University). While there, he felt the call to preach the Gospel and began taking classes which led to a Bachelor of Theology Degree and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and History.

My father met my mother the summer before he entered college and while they were in college, they were married. Together they accepted the call to ministry and served in

pastoral ministry for 50 years, serving 4 different churches in Ohio. In his early retirement years, my father also served as the chaplain of a large retirement complex.

For his leisure time, my father loved sports. He played basketball, baseball, tennis, softball, and golf. He served one year as the first head basketball coach of Malone University from 1957 to 1958 and was recognized during the 50th anniversary of the Malone University basketball program. He also refereed basketball for 16 years through the Ohio High School Athletic Association until the MS began to affect his physical body. In 1995, Malone University built the baseball press box in his honor, as he announced the baseball games for many years. And with his Michigan roots, he was a die-hard Michigan Wolverine fan.

My father served on many denominational boards and received numerous awards. But most importantly was his commitment to Jesus Christ. He loved people and had a deep compassion for people, as visitation was a special gift of his. He also was very gifted in administration and the teaching of the Word (the Bible). He read the Bible through a total of nine times; three times during the last three years of his life. He was also an avid reader and even finished reading a book during the last month of his life. Even through the date of his death, he prayed for and ministered to people.

My father also had a deep heart for missions. I can remember growing up and often having missionaries in our home and in our church services which had a major impact on my life. It was these connections that brought in me a deep heart for missions and during my teens years I had thoughts of serving in missions as a career. Instead, the Lord gave me the opportunity to serve in the public schools, in my local church, and with Teachers Saving Children®, all of which have been ministry/mission opportunities.

My father had written a brief bio just a few months before his homegoing. It was through this bio that I learned how my father found Jesus Christ as his Savior and his call to ministry. He concluded his bio with the following words: *“To God be the glory, great things He has done – in my life and through my life.”*

As we reflect on the lives of family members now with Jesus, may we also be found faithful to what the Lord has called each one of us to do. May our lives touch the lives of others for eternity so that one day we will hear *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant”*.

TEACHERS SAVING CHILDREN® MEMBERS YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON DC

Tickets for the **January 22, 2012 Students for Life of America Conference in Washington DC** sold out several months before the event took place, with 2,000+ registered participants! At the conference, Gayle Mazurkiewicz (MI affiliate), Judy Bruns (OH affiliate), and John Gordon (PA affiliate), represented Teachers Saving Children® and shared an exhibit table with Students for Life of America (SFLA). Many who reached for SFLA materials also picked up our information for their high school and college instructors. In addition, college students majoring in education received answers to their questions regarding the position of national teachers' unions on abortion.

During lunch time, while Judy and John took in a whole page of potential, new member sign-ups, Gayle made a sign that read "Pro-Life Teachers" and traveled through the crowds with membership forms and pamphlets. As she handed them to interested college students and to high school students for their teachers, Gayle met Nanette, a young pro-life enthusiast from Michigan currently attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, who took pamphlets to distribute to fellow students in the College of Education. Sparked by conversation and information, our pro-life message is being spread to aspiring teachers, one at a time.

The SFLA Conference not only provided opportunities to connect with other pro-lifers and potential Teachers Saving Children® members, but it educated, updated, and "pumped up" participants for the tasks that lie ahead in 2012. John, Judy, and Gayle attended numerous workshops, including Taking Down Planned Parenthood & the Abortion Industry; Creating a Culture That Respects All Life [Bio-Ethics]; Taking Your Pro-Life Group to the Next Level; and How to Bring Healing After Abortion. They heard tremendous speakers, like investigative journalist Lila Rose; former Planned Parenthood clinic director and author of Un-Planned, Abby Johnson; Kevin Burke of Rachel's Vineyard, Georgette Forney of Anglicans for Life, Matt and Kelly Clinger of Silent No More, FOX News Channel's Governor Mike Huckabee, U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), David Bereit of 40 Days for Life, Troy Newman of Operation Rescue, former abortion mill director Carol Everett, and the director of SFLA, Kristan Hawkins. After lunch, our Teachers Saving Children® representatives joined others in watching the new video *The Gift of Life*, narrated by Governor Huckabee, which met with enthusiastic standing ovation.

The SFLA Conference was bittersweet for Pennsylvania's Teachers Saving Children® chairperson, John Gordon and his family. Their son Ben's wife, Kortney Blythe Gordon, and her preborn baby Sophy, had died in a tragic car accident while Kortney and Jon Scharfenberger were doing field work for SFLA. Days later, Jon also died. The Gordon, Blythe, and Scharfenberger families presented "Hero Awards" in honor of Kortney, Sophy, and Jon.

Editor's Note: Teachers Saving Children® Inc. wishes to thank pro-life friends Charlie and Judy Mann, who live outside DC, for providing lodging for Gayle Mazurkiewicz and Judy Bruns during their recent stay in Washington.

"EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH"

During the fall Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved changing the "NEA Wonder of Life Exhibit" line item to "Educational Outreach." This change allows Teachers Saving Children® to utilize "The Wonder of Life" exhibit more extensively than we have in the past.



As a result of this change, Teachers Saving Children® was able to send representatives to the Students for Life of America (SFLA) conference in Washington DC on January 22, 2012. Sending Judy and Gayle to the recent

SFLA conference involved travel and registration costs. Lodging was provided by a local family. In addition, the Board of Trustees made the decision to, again, purchase exhibit space at the NEA Expo in Washington DC, June 30-July 2, 2012, which precedes the National Education Association's Representative Assembly. Hundreds of exhibitors participate in this Expo and thousands of educators, their guests, and NEA staff visit it, but, again, costs are involved.

For the NEA Expo, the exhibit space application, along with a check for \$1400, is due this spring. It is my plan to send the application with full payment by March 15, 2012, when exhibit spaces are assigned. In addition to the exhibit application fee, there will also be miscellaneous fees, such as for the 8' display tables, electricity usage, and other items needed at the convention center. These miscellaneous fees amount to another \$900.

Costs are involved, too, as we order materials, which include approved, age-appropriate brochures -- especially appealing to science and health teachers -- and which are positive, colorful, and scientifically accurate. Besides these items, we distribute a limited number of videos, CDs, and books that encourage a respect for human life. Each year we exhaust our supply of these materials and need to replenish them. Last month it was possible to place orders early, at reduced costs. As a result, though, monies normally used for the application fee have been put toward materials. Other needed items for distribution will be purchased only as funds are available. To allow for shipping, we will have to process additional orders in late April or early May.

We rely on the goodness of God and His people to raise the money needed for these effective pro-life educational outreach ministries. Through your giving of \$5, \$10, \$20, or more, the Lord has miraculously provided the needed finances, and for that provision we are grateful. Thank you for prayerfully considering taking part in these educational activities by mailing in your contribution today.

Note: Please make checks payable to "TSC Inc. - National". Carefully note how the amount given is to be designated ("Educational Outreach") so that the contribution will be appropriately allocated. As a tax-exempt organization approved under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions received are NOT tax deductible.

BOOK REVIEW
“Christian Teachers in Public Schools”
by Julia and Gloria Stronks
Review written by Gayle Mazurkiewicz

For those of us working in public schools, as pro-life teachers, our rights are often challenged and in question. But for many of us, our pro-life position is one small part of a broader Christian worldview that is challenged even more frequently and in countless different ways. That's why it is important to be informed on your legal rights and prayerfully consider how we can be respectful of just laws and the rights of our students and co-workers, while still remaining faithful to our call to spread the Gospel and build up the Body of Christ. We can walk this line with the help of the Holy Spirit first and foremost, but also through the information available on numerous websites, legal and political associations, and guidebooks for teachers like you and me, such as the aptly named, Christian Teachers in Public Schools by Julia K. Stronks and Gloria Goris Stronks.

Christian Teachers in Public Schools begins with a chapter that immediately addresses the concerns of Christian teachers. Often, we feel a conflict between our desire to bring Christ's love to our students and a vague feeling that somehow anything having to do with Christ is off-limits in the classroom. It is that vague feeling we must do away with, because it freezes us with fear and prevents us from doing God's work in whatever way He may have planned for us, here, now, in 21st century America, as Christian teachers in public schools. To be free from the arresting power of this fear, we must do three things.

First of all, we must pray. Pray for our students, pray for our co-workers, but always pray for ourselves, that we may be able to hear the Holy Spirit and have the grace to respond to Him in love. In 1 Kings 19, when Elijah was on the mountain, God did not approach him in great wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the "tiny whispering sound." Prayer makes our souls attentive so that we are able to hear God when He speaks to us about any new situation that may arise at work.

Secondly, we must have confidence that evangelizing for God's kingdom can happen through our actions as well as through our words. St. Francis told his followers to "preach the Gospel; use words if you must." The evidence for Christ's love for us came not only through His words, but through His actions. It was not His parables (important as they are), but His obedience unto death on a cross that ultimately opened for us the doors of Heaven. We, too, must really value the sacrificial love we are called to have while being interrupted by the student that annoys us, holding firm to our deadlines for students who need the discipline, and making the calls home for students we see struggling. It is our day-in, day-out love for them and willingness to make sacrifices that shows them God's love more than anything else, so we must never be discouraged when as a representative of the state, we are not permitted to evangelize explicitly under certain circumstances.

Lastly, we have to arm ourselves with knowledge: we have to get informed so we know exactly what we *are* allowed to do. It is only through learning about our rights *for sure* that we will be free of the fear that paralyzes us from doing *anything* having to do with our religion in the workplace. We are called to be

"wise as serpents and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16), understanding how the system works so that we can play according to the rules while still being faithful in the eyes of our King. It is here that the book Christian Teachers in Public Schools can help.

The book Christian Teachers in Public Schools addresses our rights as they affect our ability to plan curriculum, incorporate religion into classroom discussions, relate to our students, respond to questions in the classrooms, support Christian student groups, and protect the rights of individual Christian students.

Find the answers to other questions you may have, such as:

- May I acknowledge religious holidays in my classroom?
- What limits are legitimately placed on my religious expression during nonclass time?
- May I sponsor an after-school Bible club?
- May we have religious books in the public school library?
- May students evangelize on school grounds?
- How may I teach about religion in my class?
- What is the difference between teaching values and teaching religion?

The Stronks' have balanced and reflective responses to these questions using far-reaching legislation such as the First Amendment, the Equal Access Act of 1984, various Supreme Court cases, and guidelines to protect religious freedom issued by the Department of Education during the Clinton Administration. And for questions that have no clear answer, they do an excellent job setting the stage for our individual discernment, requiring on our part, temperance, prudence, wisdom, and prayer. For anyone wishing to carefully and joyfully "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God," this book is an excellent guide and an invaluable read.

Editor's Note: Gayle Mazurkiewicz is a teacher at L'anse Creuse High School in Michigan. She is also a member of the Teachers Saving Children® Michigan Affiliate Board of Trustees.

MARCH FOR LIFE - JANUARY 23, 2012
WASHINGTON DC



Khullen Roberts (student), Judy Bruns, Connie Bancroft, Charlie Mann, Judy Mann, John Gordon, and Gayle Mazurkiewicz



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WHO WILL REPRESENT YOU AT NEA?

Quick! – If you have remained a member of the NEA, WHO casts your vote at the NEA Representative Assembly? If you don't know your area delegates, you *should* know.

Often educators know the names of their local officers and building representatives. However, most union dues money – in fact, hundreds of dollars – goes beyond the local to other levels of the Association. Knowing who represents you and how they vote isn't just a matter of principle; it's a matter of how your dues money is being spent.

NEA and its state affiliates maintain they have a strong tradition of democratic governance. The NEA Representative Assembly, the main governing meeting of the Association, is the largest deliberative body in the world. During the Representative Assembly, delegates vote on issues that affect educators in many ways. They adopt all the policies of the NEA, the budget and resolutions; enact legislative agendas; and consider many new business items. They also elect officers and vote on amendments to the governing documents.

All delegates are selected by their colleagues in the local and state affiliates to represent their views at the assembly. If you are a NEA member, it is not too late to get involved. Some local Constitution & Bylaws allow officers to serve as the delegates or allow multi-year terms for delegates. Some deadlines are past for submitting candidacy forms at the state

level; however, if you are interested in running, take the time to check. It might not be too late to be a delegate! You will never know for sure unless you talk to your local president or someone at your state affiliate office.

Finally, watch those local memos and newsletters carefully for NEA delegate election information. Many elections will be taking place between now and mid-March. Even if you do not feel led to be a delegate, you can always vote. 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!**

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