



Choose Life...

Summer 2012

More News

India's Missing Girls

India has joined China and several other Asian countries in having outrageous numbers of sex selection abortions.

ABC News recently aired a story on the practice of sex-selective abortions in India. It is estimated that 50 thousand girls are aborted every month. And thousands more are killed after they are born. According to ABC News, "Since 1980 an estimated 40 million girls are missing though sex-selective abortion, neglect, or murder."

These numbers caused reporter Elizabeth Vargas to travel to India to learn the details. Once there, she was greeted with the sight of a mostly male population. "Everywhere we looked, we saw boys, young men, old men, but very, very few women. It was unsettling, especially because we knew this was not some freak of nature, but a result of the deliberate extermination of girls."

Though the use of ultrasound technology many women can learn the gender of their baby before birth. If the woman

is carrying a boy there is cause for celebration, but if she is carrying a girl, she is often pressured to abort the baby. Even though it is illegal in India to use ultrasounds to determine gender, it is a law that is largely ignored. The same is true for the law against sex-selective abortions.

The main reason so many Indian families prefer sons to daughters is because of the cultural tradition of the dowry. The expense dowries required to marry off their daughters can put many Indian families in debt, whereas a son will bring money to his family. And paying too small of a dowry is not an option for a family that loves their daughter. If the dowry is not paid or is too small, it is often an excuse for mistreating of the girl after she is married.

This systematic elimination of Indian girls is creating an alarming gender gap. And although many Indian families are aware of the problem and see the need for girls, they all would rather it be another family that actually raises them.

Supreme Court Upholds ObamaCare

Decision Attacks Religious Freedom, Mandates Abortion and Health Care

On June 28th the U.S. Supreme Court upheld ObamaCare by a 5-4 vote. The decision will allow the HHS mandates to continue to attack religious freedom and individual consciences and will lead to pro-abortion regulations and health care rationing that will deny life saving medical treatment and prevent individuals from using their own money to pay for life saving services.

Under the enacted law, federal tax-based subsidies will begin in 2014 to subsidize millions of private insurance plans that will cover abortion-on-demand, including some plans ("multi-state plans") that will be administered by the federal government. Under another provision of the law, the federal government could even order many plans that do not receive federal subsidies to cover abortion as a "preventive" service. The law also created an array of other mechanisms and funding pipelines by which

access to and subsidies for abortion can be expanded.

Unless repealed, ObamaCare will give federal bureaucrats the power to impose so-called "quality" measures on all health care providers, under which treatment that a doctor and patient deem needed to save that patient's life or preserve the patient's health but which runs afoul of the imposed standards will be denied, even if the patient is willing and able to pay for it. In 2015 and thereafter, an 18-member "Independent Payment Advisory Board" is directed to inform the federal Department of Health and Human Services how to use those imposed standards to limit what private citizens are permitted to spend on their own families' health care to below the rate of medical inflation.

This is the most serious threat the pro-life movement and faith based organizations have faced in our lifetime. Its anti-life threats are real and immediate.



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DEUTERONOMY 30:19

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE 512 10th Street NW Washington, DC 20004 202-626-8800



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

U.S. House of Representatives Votes 220 to 154 to Prevent Abortion of Pain-Capable Unborn Children

But 154 Voters Will Have to Explain to Their Constituents Why They Voted to Support the Current D.C. Policy of Legal Abortion for Any Reason Until Birth

In a landmark vote, a solid majority of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to reject the current abortion policy of the District of Columbia, which permits legal abortion for any reason until birth, and to replace it with a law that would generally prevent abortion after 20 weeks fetal age.

The legislation is the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 3803). The vote was 220-154 in favor of the bill – a strong majority (a 66 vote margin). The bill failed because it was short of the two-thirds vote required under the fast-track procedure utilized ("suspension of the rules").

"Today's ground-breaking majority vote constitutes a giant step towards this bill ultimately becoming law – perhaps after the replacement of some of the lawmakers who today were unwilling to protect pain-capable unborn children in the sixth month of pregnancy and later," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for National Right to Life. "154 House

members will have to explain to their constituents why they voted to endorse a policy of legal abortion for any reason, until the moment of birth, in their nation's capital."

H.R. 3803 contains findings that by 20 weeks after fertilization (if not earlier), the unborn child has the capacity to experience great pain. (This is equivalent to 22 weeks in the alternate "LMP" or "weeks of pregnancy" dating system used by ob-

gyns and abortion providers.) The bill prohibits abortion after that point, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother. Nine states have already enacted abortion limitations based on the pain suffered by unborn children; no court orders have blocked enforcement of any of those laws.



Douglas Johnson

Fortnight for Freedom Activates Catholics Nationwide ObamaCare Attacks on Religious Freedom

In direct response to ObamaCare's HHS mandates requiring compliance with health care regulations that violate private consciences and religious principles, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops organized a two week prayer and educational project to activate the laity on this critical issue.

The Fortnight for Freedom began on June 21st and culminated with a mass at Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception attended by almost 5,000 on July 4th.

Most dioceses nationwide included local events to stress religious freedom during the two-week period, from special prayers and liturgies to processions, educational forums, and picnics.

The homily at the Shrine was delivered by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia. Archbishop Chaput explained "Here's what that means for each of us: We live in a time that



Archbishop Chaput

calls for sentinels and public witness. Every Christian in every era faces the same task. But you and I are responsible for this moment. Today. Now. We need to "speak out," not only for religious liberty and the ideals of the nation we love, but for the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person – in other words, for the truth of what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God."

The Fortnight for Freedom did not end on July 4th. Promoters say it's just the beginning of an effort that will go on until religious liberty is restored.

Please continue to pray and support efforts to repeal ObamaCare. ObamaCare mandates attack religious freedom, require health care rationing, and will support abortion.

August 19 – An unwed American girl and her Syrian immigrant boyfriend conceived a boy in 1955. Circumstances forced them to give up the child for adoption. Paul and Clara Jobs became the parents of Steve Jobs, showing once again that “adoption is loving act that transforms, not only the life of the child, but the entire family. And sometimes the world.” Columnist Ryan Bomberger

August 26 – Former Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson, states that, “Given that one-third of Planned Parenthood’s funding comes from taxpayers and that Planned Parenthood’s own reporting notes it perform over 324,000 abortions each year, it defies all logic and common sense to say taxpayers are not financing abortions at these clinics.”

September 2 – As the nation celebrates Labor Day, it is a good time to reflect on the economic impact of almost 40 years of abortion on demand. In addition to reducing the number of consumers, abortion thereby reduces the number of jobs. Most significantly, abortion denies us the talents and the creativity of 54 million unique human beings. Economist Julian Simon has observed that “in the long run, the most important economic effect of population size and growth is the contribution of additional people to our stock of useful knowledge.”

September 9 – Responding to a reader who asked what she should do with extra embryos resulting from in vitro fertilization, “Dear Abby” provided this straightforward answer: “The biological fact is that human embryos are human beings in the embryonic stage of development. I was once an embryo, and so were you, the reader of this post. Destroying embryos, or donating them to be killed for scientifically dubious research, are not ethical options. Those practices treat intrinsically valuable members of the human family as mere raw material to discard or dissect in order to harvest useful parts.”

September 16 – There is a new blood test that allows the mother to know earlier in her pregnancy (perhaps as soon as 10 weeks) that her child may have Down syndrome. The test is hailed as a breakthrough because “if a couple finds an abnormality and chooses to terminate the pregnancy (as a majority of women do), it’s better to do it earlier.” The test is known as MaterniT21, sadly ironic in that it allows women to end their maternal status through abortion.

September 23 – Oregon was the first state to legalize assisted suicide. An article analyzing the Oregon data, published in the Journal of Medical Ethics, explains that the elderly are at greater risk than the general population and that the possibilities of coercion are real. Further, the article concludes that some patients in Oregon are cleared for assisted suicide and have taken their own lives while suffering from depression at the time.

September 30 - Leticia Velasquez, author of, *A Special Mother is Born* writes of mothering a child with special needs: “We see beauty in bodies and minds which are less than perfect because we see through them to the purity of our children’s souls. They show us glimpses of heaven, where we all will be whole, and bring a bit of heaven to earth in their whole-hearted love. They are our means to sanctity, and we are grateful to God for them.”

October 7 – The late Rev. Richard J. Neuhaus wrote words appropriate for Respect Life Sunday: “We contend, and we contend

relentlessly for the dignity of the human person, of every human person created in the image and likeness of God...every human person, no matter how weak or how strong, no matter how young or how old, no matter how productive or how burdensome, no matter how welcome or how inconvenient.” (First Things, Summer, 2008)

October 14 – A probing question for those on the sidelines of the pro-life struggle: Can the Christian, who declares that the human person is called to the very heights of heaven, stand idly by when those same human beings are thrown in the garbage by abortion, or disposed of by euthanasia? (Father Frank Pavone)

October 21 – Dr. Colleen Malloy, testifying before a House Subcommittee in support of a Pain Capable Child Protection Act for the District of Columbia, asserted that medical and scientific findings show that the unborn child at 20 weeks and beyond is capable of feeling pain, and may even be more sensitive to pain at that point than newborns are. The bill passed the House with 220 voting in favor and 154 against. In spite of having a 66 vote majority under a special House rule it needed a two thirds margin in order to pass.

October 28 – “Young people, in particular, are now casting a critical eye on the culture of abortion, maybe asking themselves if they were once considered a choice rather than a person.” (Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, CT, 1/21/12)

November 4 – As political candidates contest for our support, it is vital to remember that “no amount of good social policy, such as programs that feed the hungry and shelter the homeless—as vitally important as they are—can make up for bad policies concerning the protection of life itself. Without the fundamental right to live, the right not to be killed, no other rights are meaningful. In fact, without life no other rights can exist.” (Respect Life pamphlet, USCCB, 2006)

November 11 – Despite the fact that embryonic stem cells continue to receive the majority of news coverage, they remain the least likely stem cells to help patients despite the millions of dollars spent on private and government research. The first company approved to inject embryonic stem cells into a few patients gave up on their trial and shut down all their embryonic stem cell research. Adult stem cells remain the only type of stem cell used successfully to treat human patients. (David A. Prentice Ph.D in NRL News, 5/12)

November 18 – Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the largest abortion provider in the country. It has an annual budget of more than \$1 billion. Roughly 46% of that comes from the government (federal, state and local) health service grants and reimbursements. This is the organization that participated in a pro-abortion press conference to oppose a bill to protect pain-capable unborn children from abortion. NRL News, Spring, 2012

November 25 – Most Americans assume that sex selection abortions are a problem only in Eastern cultures. Yet, recent Planned Parenthood statements and video proof indicate the organization has no problem aborting unwanted female babies. The idea that a child can be aborted because she is a girl gives new meaning to the phrase, “abortion on demand.”

December 2 – The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) provides free genetic testing during pregnancy for conditions that cannot be treated prenatally. This provision will expose more unborn children to abortion as government-funded genetic testing provides an increasing number of parents the opportunity to abort children with disabilities. (Pro-Life Reporter, Spring, 2012)

December 9 – As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, there are many depictions of Mary with her just born-child resting in the manger. Contrast this with a widely circulated photo of a young Chinese woman and her dead unborn child beside her in the hospital bed, both victims of a government-sanctioned, forced abortion. What a graphic photo of the reality of abortion, a desolate mother and a dead infant.

December 16 – A recent article in the Journal of Medical Ethics (March, 2012) argues for euthanasia for newborns with disabilities based on the Italian and Australian scientists’ belief that these children would have been killed before birth had the genetic disorder been identified. Citing these children as burdens to their families and society, they conclude, “Therefore, we claim that killing a newborn could be ethically permissible in all the circumstances where abortion would be.”

December 23 – Mary knew the trials and tribulations of an unplanned pregnancy, but she also knew that the baby growing inside her was a gift from God. All pregnancies are a gift from God that should never be returned unopened.

December 30 – An article in Life Site news (1/11/12) contains the following observation by a British physician: “This year we were introduced to the ugly practice of selective reduction, a euphemistic term that describes the killing of one fetus in a multiple pregnancy. Selective reduction is becoming more commonplace because fertility treatments like IVF are creating more and more multiples and doctors are advising patients to “reduce” their quadruplets, triplets and even twins down to two or even one baby.

Suggested Prayers

August 19 – For all those who hold public office that they may seek the wisdom of God in matters affecting human life, we pray

August 26 – That all families may teach their children respect for life at all ages, we pray

September 2 – That the laws of this country might protect those made vulnerable by their special needs or age, we pray

September 9 – That our communities may reach out to help young, frightened pregnant teens choose life, we pray

September 16- For those in the medical profession, that their actions may always respect the right to life of those they serve, we pray

September 23 – That those persecuted for their pro-life beliefs may place their trust in God, we pray

September 30 – For those who daily end the lives of unborn children, that their eyes may be opened to the results of their actions, we pray

October 7 – That our country may restore legal protection to the unborn, we pray

October 14 – That those who counsel pregnant women may always advise them to “choose life,” we pray

October 21 – For our government leaders that they may recognize the need to legally protect religious liberty and the unborn, we pray

October 28 – That God may remove the blindness of those who support and promote abortion, we pray

November 4 – That as we go to the polls, we may choose candidates who respect religious liberty and all life, born and unborn, we pray

November 11 – That we may come to realize that the unborn child, the disabled and the elderly are our neighbors whom God commands us to love, we pray

November 18 – For leaders of the pro-life cause, that God may endow them with wisdom, we pray

November 25 – For women who have had abortions, that they may turn to a loving God for healing and forgiveness, we pray

December 2 – For all in the medical profession, that they may use their skills to heal rather than harm, we pray

December 9 – For a growing love of God’s little ones, in the womb, in the nursing home or at death’s door, we pray

December 16 – For all expectant mothers, that they may find joy in their role as a co-creator of life, we pray

December 23 – As we worship at the crib of the newborn Jesus, may we pray for all those whose lives are threatened by abortion, we pray

December 30 – For all those who cannot see the preciousness of each God-given life, we pray

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