

LifeNet *Sharing the Life...that gives life!*

JANUARY 2009

CROSSROADS PREGNANCY CENTER

It was wonderful to read the article in *LifeLink*, a newsletter from Right to Life of Central California.

In the article RLCC's Education Director, Jonathan Keller "happened" to see a billboard while praying outside an abortion clinic on Fulton Street in Fresno. It struck him that anyone who was headed to the abortion facility, situated on a one-way street, would have to see the billboard as they approached. The message should be targeted to those who had already decided to have an abortion.

After quite a bit of research and gathering ideas from pro-life leaders and activists, including Pregnancy Care Center in Fresno, they found the best message for the billboard. It features a precious picture of an unborn baby in the womb with the message, **my heart starts beating at 22 days. It's not too late**, along with a number to call for help. All involved agreed that this billboard will save lives.

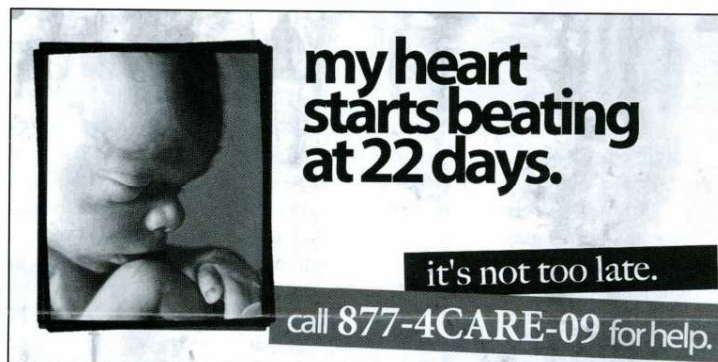
In times like these, those of us who want to save unborn lives need to pray and be prepared to pull out all the stops in order to protect innocent lives.

Our friend Brenda Fernandes, Director of Care Pregnancy Center in Visalia, had this to say in her recent newsletter, "I personally believe that if God told Satan that he could only use one tool from now on to get us to sin, it would be abortion" She then lists the effects of one abortion:

- ◆ One child made in God's image – dead.
- ◆ One mother hurting for her child – done.
- ◆ One father who should have protected – alienated.
- ◆ One family who never stood a chance – destroyed.
- ◆ One God who had the plans for these lives – grieved.

For those of us here at Crossroads, we are deeply concerned about the actions the new President may take and the Cabinet he is currently putting together. But this isn't the time to be overwhelmed. We must diligently pray for the President, the cabinet, Congress and the media, calling out to God on behalf of our country and for the souls of Americans. And we must continue to serve the Lord as He has called us.

The other morning as I was praying about all this, the Lord brought King Nebuchadnezzar to mind. Here was a pagan king, used to getting his own way. God throws a curve (more than once) and gives him a vivid dream he can't understand. None of his wise guys can come up with an interpretation; someone then remembers that fellow in prison who believes in One God and is able to interpret dreams. He's called into the King's presence, relates the dream's message and some things begin to change in Babylon (see the book of Daniel for details). I was so encouraged after that and am setting my heart to pray. I hope you are encouraged too.



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From the Director

As Christmas week came to a close, I knew that whatever our vision of Christmas day, it often doesn't turn out the way we plan.

During that week, a grandchild's sore throat escalated into a battle to breathe on Christmas day, requiring a trip to the ER. After treatment and several prescriptions were written, she was able to return home. God is gracious.

At day's end, some reflection on "giving" resulted in pondering the sacrifice required to gift another. Every gift is a sacrifice—the giver must give up something.

In almost every instance it is a sacrifice of time: making something for members of the family, cookies & food gifts for the neighbors, helping serve meals, hours shopping for just the right present; in addition, the economics of it all. One has to be unselfish.

Many say Christmas presents were inspired by the gifts the wise men gave. Though Jesus was not a newborn when He received them, it is nonetheless a wonderful example. This year found me considering yet again God's gift to us, the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13). The birth of Christ was the beginning of His journey to the cross where He willingly sacrificed His sinless life, becoming sin for us, and shedding His blood to cleanse us from sin. And for all who have believed ever since, death and hell no longer have dominion. What a gift; what a Savior! There was nothing selfish about it; it was driven by His love for lost mankind.

We don't have to wait for Christmas to roll around again. Let's remember the next time we give a gift to think about the coming of Emmanuel—God with us—and how He laid down His life for you and me. Then let's ask Him to help us give unselfishly and with a heart of love, just as He's given to you.

A Happy New Year to you all. Diane Clark

Many Thanks

There was a **wonderful** response to our appeal in the December Life Net. Thanks to all who so generously gave to help us help the needy. Many caring people brought in diapers and warm clothing. One family threw a *Birthday Party for Jesus* which was a tremendous success. The kindergarten class at McCarthy School did the same and all the gifts were given to the Center.

It's especially meaningful this time of year. We were able to give to our parenting class clients as well as minister to people who were referred to us by other agencies. A woman who had nothing to give her grandchildren received warm clothing and sleepers to wrap and give to them on Christmas morning. Another young mother, short on funds because her child was recently hospitalized, was blessed to receive diapers and formula.

While trying to
serve our two year
old a vegetable
she didn't like at
the dinner table,
she boldly stood
straight up in her
high chair and
proclaimed to
everyone
in the family,
"I go OUTSIDE!"
And she had every
intention of
leaving the house.
I think it was the
spinach.
-Michelle Jones



The God of Life

Most likely this issue of Life Net will not be published before January 18, which has been designated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday this year. However, on January 22, which is the exact date in 1973 when the Supreme Court decided on Roe v. Wade, one of our own local pastors, Kenny Burchard, will be the keynote speaker for the Tulare-Kings Right to Life's Roe v. Wade Memorial Observance. This will be held at Trinity United Reformed Church on 6400 W. Walnut in Visalia, beginning at 7:00.

We've included some of Pastor Kenny's story below. Pray for clear skies that evening and try to attend this event. It will be a blessing.

Pastor Kenny Burchard is the Senior Founding Pastor of The Oasis Four-square Church in Hanford, CA. Kenny was born in 1969 - the child of a teen mother who gave him up for adoption as a new-born. His birth-father, then married to another woman, unsuccessfully attempted to pressure Kenny's teen mother into an abortion. When facing a lack of support from her parents, and cultural pressure to abort her child, she instead chose LIFE for Kenny! In 1987, Kenny became a Christian, and six years later entered pastoral ministry. In 2005, Kenny and his wife, MaryJo, traveled to Ukraine where they adopted their son, Victor who was born with a severe birth defect. Pastor Kenny's life is marked by the "spirit of adoption" and a strong pro-life belief that there are no accidents with God - and all human life is precious.

Pastor Kenny has been in fulltime pastoral ministry for fourteen years, and has served as a senior pastor for seven years. He was raised in Salt Lake City, UT, and became a Christian at the age of seventeen. He served in the U.S. Navy for six years as a Hospital Corpsman. He first felt strongly called to the ministry, raking leaves outside the church he was attending while stationed with the U.S. Marines in Okinawa, 1990.

Pastor Kenny will share his own pro-life testimony, as well as three important facets of the pro-life message that he shares with his congregation and anyone who wonders why they should be pro-life.

This is a free event and open to the community.

January 22, 2009

7:00pm

Trinity United Reformed Church

6400 W Walnut, Visalia



PASTOR KENNY
BURCHARD

Crossroads Pregnancy Center

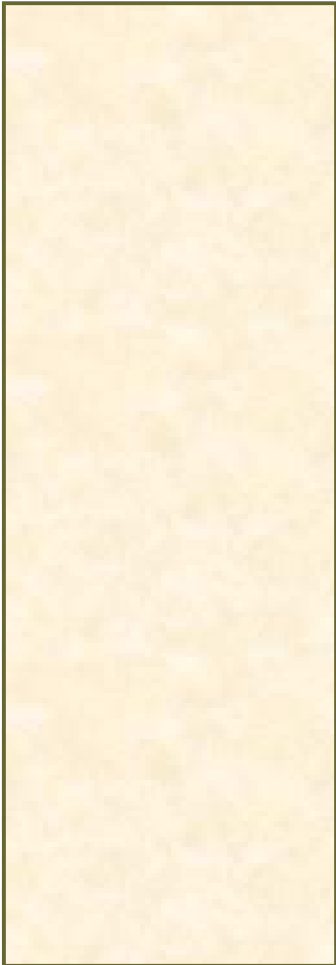
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We would like to hear from you.

Please fill out the form below regarding any specific interest or need you have.

I am interested in volunteering.

I am most interested in:

- Helpline counseling in my home.
- Working with clients at the Center.
- Providing support services (clerical, housekeeping, Mommy Store).
- Opening my home to a woman in need.
- Committing myself to praying on a regular basis for individual clients.
- As the Lord provides, I would like to pledge \$_____ per month.
- I would like to donate \$_____ at this time.
- Please add my friend to your mailing list.
- So that we can be good stewards, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please check here.

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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