

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In April, I shared a bit about embryonic stem cell research and hadn't planned on bringing it up again. However, I received a well-thought-out article in *Solid Ground*, written by Greg Koukl, and with permission from Stand to Reason we've decided to share it as a series, which reveal the misconceptions foisted upon us. I think you will appreciate Greg's clear thinking. Diane Clark

"Responsible Science" & ESCR

by Greg Koukl

On March 9, 2009, newly elected President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order entitled "Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells." The president's order explicitly revoked President Bush's Executive Order 13435 that, among other things, clarified certain limits on federal funding for research involving human embryonic stem cells.

President Obama signed the order to "lift the ban on federal funding for promising embryonic stem cell research [ESCR]," because science itself was at stake. "We make scientific decisions based on facts and not ideology," he said that morning.

He assured his listeners, however that "appropriate safeguards" would be in place. "We will support [this research] only when it is both scientifically worthy and responsibly conducted." Further, "We will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction." This practice, he said, is "dangerous, profoundly wrong, and has no place in our society, or any society."

For a president who candidly admitted that questions about the beginning of human life were "above my pay grade," this was a stunning development. Worse, both the language of this Executive Order and the President's own explanation and defense of it are deeply misleading.

MISCONCEPTION 1

President Obama's Executive Order did not "lift the ban on federal funding for promising stem cell research," for one simple reason. There has never been a "ban" on federal funding for ESCR. In fact, there have been no bans of any kind on any stem cell research of any sort.

Quite the opposite is true. George W. Bush was the first president to provide federal funds (more than \$200 million) for stem cell research, including existing lines of embryonic stem cells that came from embryos long since sacrificed using private funds. Federal funds would also be available for any new ESCR projects as long as the cells were "derived without creating a human embryo for research purposes or destroying, discarding, or subjecting to harm a human embryo or fetus."

There were restrictions on federal funding, but no ban. Federal funds for education are also restricted according to Title IX guidelines, but it would hardly be fair to call this a "ban on educational funding."

Continued next page

**MY FRAME WAS
NOT HIDDEN
FROM THEE
WHEN I WAS
BEING MADE IN
SECRET...
THY EYES
BEHELD MY
UNFORMED
SUBSTANCE...**

PSALMS 139



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Executive Order 13435 justified the funding restrictions by actually detailing a moral argument—characterized by President Obama as "ideology" interfering with science:

(c) the destruction of nascent life for research violates the principle that no life should be used as a mere means for achieving the medical benefit of another;

(d) human embryos and fetuses, as living members of the human species, are not raw materials to be exploited or commodities to be bought and sold; and

(e) the Federal Government has a duty to exercise responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, both supporting important medical research and respecting ethical and moral boundaries.

Obama's order and statement contained no such argument. There was no attempt to wrestle with the weighty moral issues, or to balance policy with the ethical concerns of thoughtful critics. Their moral apprehensions were simply brushed away by presidential fiat.

To be continued next month

1http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Removing-Barriers-to-Responsible-Scientific-Research-Involving-Human-Stem-Cells/.
2president's complete remarks:[http:// www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks) of the President-As-Prepared-for-Delivery-Signing
3<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-3112.pdf>.

SPRING SHOWERS...

Last Sunday Diane and Kathy attended a baby shower given by the **Women of Grace** Bible study groups at **South Valley Community Church in Lemoore**. Along with games, 2 delicious cakes and sweet fellowship were some great encouragements, prayer and a PILE of gifts for the Mom Store. The ladies also raised over \$1,100.00 in Changing Babies!



The **MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers) group at **Glad Tidings Church** presented us with **MANY** darling infant onesies. The group had met together to tie dye the little outfits in bright colors and affix each one with a personal note or scripture. These are already very popular with the new mothers we see at the Center!

We also want to thank the following for infant and maternity items:
Matt & Cori Rowe, Kings Christian Thrift Store, Shirley Ollech, The Ward Family, Kathy Jordan, Jillian Lopes, Raquel Reenders, Eddica Robles, Jennifer Wyzewski, Connie Bonham, and Lee & Jean Massey.



LOTS TO BE THANKFUL FOR...

New Ad at Hanford Mall

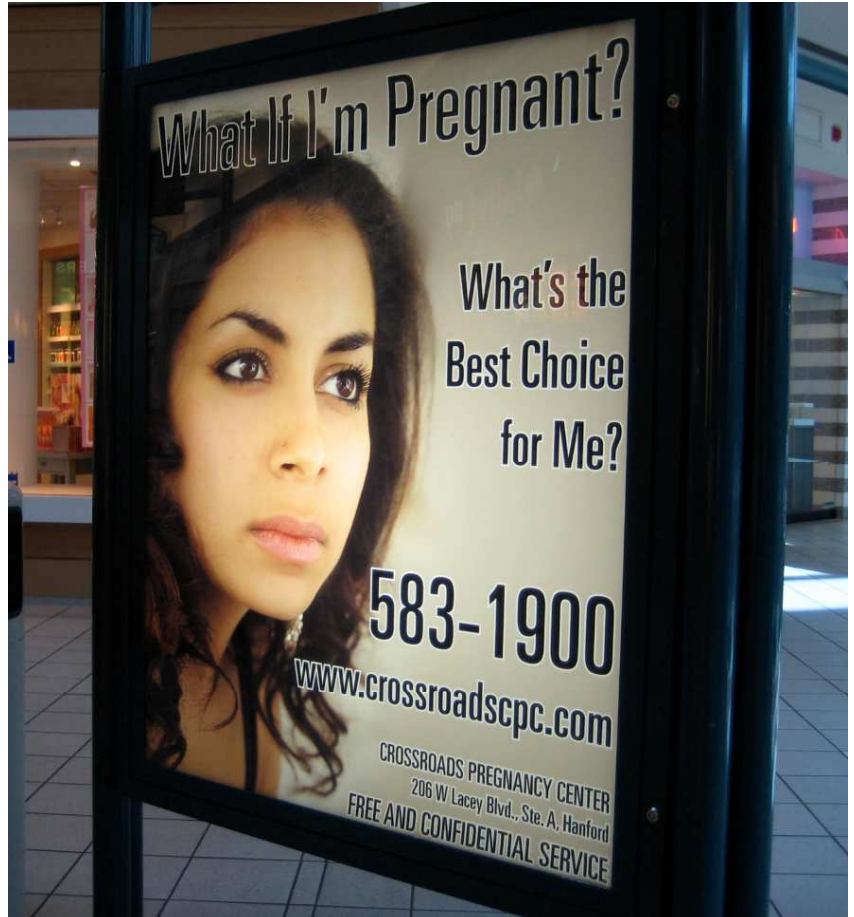
On May 4th our new ads went up at three entrances inside the Hanford Mall. They are large, backlit posters as seen on the right.

Walk For Life This Fall!

This year's Walk will take place at **Lacey Park** (on Douty and Florinda, near St. Brigid's church) on **September 26th**. Mark your calendar, obtain some sponsors and plan on joining us! Tour the Center and check out what we do while sampling an array of breakfast goodies.

Changing Babies

Over 850 baby bottles were distributed by local churches on Mother's Day. This simple FUNdraiser involves taking home a bottle to fill with loose change or cash and returning it on or near Father's Day. This year we placed a simple tax deduction form in each bottle for your convenience.



Summer Fun

Watch for us at Main Street Hanford's **Thursday Night Marketplace** (a.k.a. the Farmer's Market). Every other week beginning May 21st, we will be at a table (with SHADE!) handing out informative brochures, our new business cards and little 12-week fetal models with prenatal development info. CPC's promo video will be shown. (Video can be seen on crossroadscpc.com home page.) Grab some fresh fruit or roasted corn, find us and hang out for awhile!

Crossroads Pregnancy Center

206 W. Lacey Blvd., Suite A
Hanford CA 93230
Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage Paid
Hanford, CA 93230
Permit No. 16

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please return this panel to us in the enclosed envelope.

LifeNet

is a monthly publication of Crossroads Pregnancy Center, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

Correspondence, inquiries, and tax-deductible gifts may be mailed to:

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Hanford, CA 93230
Phone:(559)583-1900
General E-mail:
contact@crossroadscpc.com
For the Director:
dianec@crossroadscpc.com

Website:

crossroadscpc.com



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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

