

It's been a year (!) since Scott spoke at our Banquet. Here's a reminder of some of the important things he shared with us.

How to Defend Your Pro-Life Views

By Scott Klusendorf www.prolifetraining.com

Suppose that you have just five minutes to graciously defend your pro-life beliefs with friends or classmates. Can you do it with rational arguments? What should you say? And how can you simplify the abortion issue for those who think it's hopelessly complex?

1) Clarify the issue. Pro-life advocates contend that elective abortion unjustly takes the life of a defenseless human being. This simplifies the abortion controversy by focusing public attention on just one question: Is the unborn a member of the human family? If so, killing him or her to benefit others is a serious moral wrong. Conversely, if the unborn are not human, killing them for any reason requires no more justification than having a tooth pulled.

2) Defend your pro-life position with science and philosophy. Scientifically, we know that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. True, they have yet to grow and mature, but they are whole human beings nonetheless. Leading embryology books confirm this.

Philosophically, there is no morally significant difference between the embryo that you once were and the adult that you are today. As Stephen Schwarz points out, differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not relevant in the way that abortion advocates need them to be, as the SLED test illustrates. Think of the acronym **SLED** as a helpful reminder of these non-essential differences:

Size: True, embryos are smaller than newborns and adults, but why is that relevant? Do we really want to say that large people are more human than small ones? Men are generally larger than women, but that doesn't mean that they deserve more rights. Size doesn't equal value.

Level of development: True, embryos and fetuses are less developed than the adults they'll one day become. But again, why is this relevant? Four year-old girls are less developed than 14 year-old ones. Should older children have more rights than their younger siblings? Some people say that self-awareness makes one human. But if that is true, newborns do not qualify as valuable human beings. Six-week old infants lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the reversibly comatose, the sleeping, and those with Alzheimer's Disease.

Environment: Where you are has no bearing on who you are. Does your value change when you cross the street or roll over in bed? If not, how can a journey of eight inches down the birth-canal suddenly change the essential nature of the unborn from non-human to human? If the unborn are not already human, merely changing their location can't make them valuable.

Degree of Dependency: If viability makes us human, then all those who depend on insulin or kidney medication are not valuable and we may kill them. Conjoined twins who share blood type and bodily systems also have no right to life.

In short, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely with respect to talents, accomplishments, and degrees of development, they are nonetheless equal because they all have the same human nature.

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Volunteer Month!



Sweet Alyssum is a hardy little plant that if tended, will keep volunteering. At our house, when the flower beds appear to be at death's door, the alyssum keep blooming, covering some of the tired ground with their cheery white clusters and—if my husband allows— will creep over the edge of the cement walkway welcoming visitors to the front door.

It's April and spring flowers are abundant around the neighborhoods, and even as we sneeze, we welcome their presence. They tend to stand out and take the limelight while the humble alyssum serves as a backdrop, to enhance their beauty

April is also the month chosen as **Volunteer Month**, perhaps because volunteers, just as flowers, brighten and beautify wherever they are found.

Here at Crossroads the Lord uses volunteers to do the bulk of the counseling and parenting instruction, work the Helpline and the reception desk; organize, clean, and display baby clothes; clean the Center, pray for clients on the prayer support team, act as liaisons for their church, write articles for Life Net, help with fund-raisers, and serve on the Board of Directors.

They remind me of my Sweet Alyssum. They are hardy, they keep showing up, and are cheerful and welcoming to our visitors in all aspects of the work they do. Even if our clients don't see them, the fruit of their labor is evident everywhere. Thus like the humble alyssum, each one glorifies the Lord, enhancing His beauty.

So this month we honor our faithful volunteers:

Jane Avitia, Gwen Bader, Barbara Beauchamp, Debi Bridgford, Whitney Davis, Katherine Hardin, Linda Jones, Ashley Kelso, Jennifer Koelewyn, Alicia Martinez, Katy Murray, Amy Rickman, Nell Stryd, Rose Twiford, Eneke Vandersteen, Liz Wagner, Heather Ward

Housekeepers: **Norm & Sharon Perkins & son**

Board of Directors: **Allyn Beauchamp, Jim Stryd, Paul Bringard, Marvin Rees, Rusty Brookshire, Rick Koelewyn**

Liaisons: **Marilyn Vierra, Sherry Arnold, Shela Cornell, Rebecca Fraley, Nora Hofmans**

Mom Store Workers: **Susan Bringard, the Bridgford family, Anna Brookshier, Naida Gomes, Kathy Hotchkiss, Leilia Johnson, Abigail & Hannah Rees, Pati Sheets**

and our 33 member **Prayer Team**

This is a group of individuals who have signed up and committed to pray through specific prayer requests which are mailed to them. They are "behind the scenes" but really "forward deployed" in the spiritual battle to under gird the ministry of Crossroads.

We have several new volunteers-in-waiting. They are

Robyn Kelso, Martha Valdez, Debbie Cooper & Lisa Purser

We can hardly wait!

We rejoice and welcome the opportunity to recognize our volunteers. We believe each one has been

News & Notes

Coming soon...

The center will soon be promoting our Spring Fundraiser, Changing Babies, set to begin on Mother's Day and end on Father's Day. This is a fun and easy way to support the pregnancy center.

Colorful baby bottles are distributed to supporting churches, then are taken home by individuals or families as "piggy banks" to catch loose change or cash. This will benefit the women and babies we serve here at the Center. The bottles can be returned to the church to be collected by CPC, or brought directly to the Center after Father's Day.

If you would like your church to take part in Changing Babies, you can check with your pastor and give us a call.



Many Thanks

...to **Harriet Vernava** for spending time in-center preparing baby bottles for Changing Babies.

Vanessa Kelly & her fellow employees who generously gave infant accessories as part of a work project.

Gabby Garman & Melissa Bair for baby items

First Christian Reformed Church GEMS Girls Group recently gave a wonderful assortment of baby clothing and infant care items.

St James Lutheran Church Ladies gave the Center a lovely baby shower complete with a luncheon, special dessert, a book reading, LOTS of sweet baby items and general all-around pampering! (Gee it's nice being on staff! We were really blessed and encouraged)

We Love Technology

Crossroads can be found on Facebook and at crossroadscpc.com

Many thanks to our webmaster, Geno Pensiero for keeping us current!



Get Ready for Summer Fun

Watch for us at Main Street Hanford's **Thursday Night Marketplace** (a.k.a. the Farmer's Market). Every other week beginning June 2, we will be at a table (with SHADE!) handing out informative brochures, business cards and little 12-week fetal models with prenatal development info. Last year brought hundreds of people by our booth, many who stopped with great interest in what we do, resulting in good conversation and even a few new clients.

Grab some fresh fruit or roasted corn, find us and hang out for awhile!

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

