

FROM THE DIRECTOR

- Alleging that all crisis pregnancy centers in the United States mislead women by giving them information on abortion's risks and alternatives, Senator Robert Menendez, a pro-abortion lawmaker, has reintroduced a bill in the U.S. Senate that targets the centers. The so-called "Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act" would place burdensome regulations on pregnancy centers and force the Federal Trade Commission to create and enforce rules to prohibit deceptive practices that pregnancy centers say they never use to reach women—such as advertising under the "abortion services" section of the phone book. Tom Glessner, JD, President of NIFLA said the bill is what's deceptive, not the centers. (Taken from LIFENEWS.COM, 4-2-08)

This is just another cyclical attack against CPCs. The first one we heard of was in 1999, and since then they have been regularly recurring. The accusations are always the same, and older versions of this bill have never moved past their introduction.

- ACOG (American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) crafted new policy that would require OBGYNs to promote abortion as a requirement for certifying doctors. After a strong negative response from pro-life OBGYNs, ACOG has relented somewhat. In the face of a strong outcry from pro-life physicians, they replaced the first with a new policy entitled "The Limits of Conscientious Refusal in Reproductive Medicine," which insists that doctors who object to doing abortions should refer patients to physicians who will do them. Though there have been assurances from ACOG's board and Health & Human Services, Dr. Joe Cook, the vice-president of the American Association of Pro-Life OBGYNs, says the reassurances from ACOG and its board are not enough to alleviate his concerns; that "The policy as it's stated leaves significant potential for decertification and discrimination." And Gene Rudd, MD, VP of the Christian Medical and Dental Assns (also pro-life), agreed and said anything less than a retraction isn't good enough. The report states that ACOG is re-evaluating its position. (Taken from LIFENEWS.COM, 4-7-08)

If this policy stands as is, and Pro-Life OBGYNs lost their certification, it would have dire consequences for CPCs which have become medical clinics. It would be impossible to convince any pro-choice/abortion physician to come alongside and work with them to save the lives of the unborn. That exposes pro-choice for what it really is.

Please pray for our pro-life physicians. It's unsettling when a powerful group appears to misunderstand the nature and exercise of conscience, revealing instead an underlying bias against persons of faith; a bias against all who would dare to oppose ACOG's political activism on abortion. And as Dr. Sandy Christiansen has pointed out, "The paper indicates that ACOG views the exercise of conscience and faith not so much as a cornerstone right in a democracy or as a historic hallmark of medicine, but rather as an inconvenient obstacle to abortion access."

Take action whenever you can, and pray as much as you can. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)

Maranatha, Diane Clark

"THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH."

JAMES 5:16



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Volunteer Spotlight

KATHERINE HARDIN HELPLINE COUNSELOR



Life Net: How did you come to Christ?

Katherine: I came to the Lord when I was 9 years old. I still have the Bible my Sunday school teacher gave me! Here is a pretty cool piece of information: in 1997, I lost my home completely to a devastating fire. In many ways, the Lord moved for me, but one of the most significant things was this: I had kept that Bible with me for over 30 years. My home was a sodden, charred mess. But that Bible survived. To me that was one more confirmation about the enduring, indestructible nature of the Word of God.

Life Net: Where do you attend church?

Katherine: I attend Church at South Valley Community in Lemoore; I formerly attended EV Free in Hanford.

Life Net: How did you become involved with CPC?

Katherine: I volunteer at the Center because God lead me there. I was attending a service at EV Free, and there were inserts in the church bulletin searching for volunteers. I had the most profound feeling that this message was intended for me alone!

Life Net: Do you have any children?

Katherine: I have two sons, Andrew and Daniel ages 30 and 27 (whew, where has the time gone?) and one grandson, Darrian.

Life Net: Do you have any hobbies?

Katherine: I love horses, and enjoy them as my hobby.

Life Net: Do you have a favorite verse?

Katherine: A favorite verse is one that my sister-in-law handed my eldest son when I was laying on life support [after having been hurt at a team roping competition in 2003]. My sons were fearful and upset, and she printed this verse on a piece of paper for him and squeezed it into his hand. She told him it was okay to remind God of His promises to us! Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plan that I have for you, declares the Lord, a plan for welfare and not for calamity. To give you a future and a hope."

Life Net: Have you received any memorable helpline calls?

Katherine: A young woman called and asked to speak to Kathy Mundy. I explained that I was on the Helpline, and would certainly relay a message. She said, "I first came in contact with the Center through the Helpline." We chatted briefly, and I asked what message she wanted to leave, and she said she was in the hospital. She had just given birth to her daughter and to let Kathy know. That touched me so much. . . .

Life Net: Katherine, thank you for blessing us through this "interview," and by your willingness to minister as a helpline counselor. May His face shine upon you!

Coming soon...

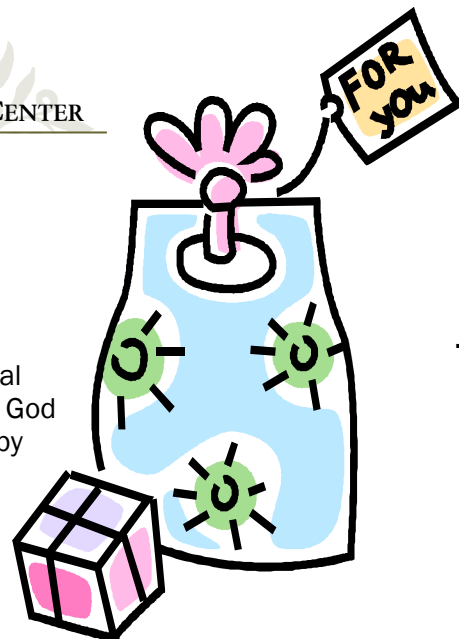
The center will soon be promoting our Spring Fundraiser, Changing Babies, set to begin on Mother's Day and end on Father's Day. This is a fun and easy way to support the pregnancy center. Colorful baby bottles are distributed to supporting churches, then are taken home by individuals or families as "piggy banks" to catch loose change or cash. This will benefit the women and babies we serve here at the Center. If you would like your church to take part in Changing Babies, you can check with your pastor and give us a call.



News & Notes

Gems Visit

The **Christian Reformed Church** young ladies group, **Gems**, brought their special project to the Center and spent an evening with Diane sharing about the ways God works in the lives we see here. The girls gave gift bags filled with beautiful baby items for our clients' new little ones, and as a sewing project, they had made baby bath towels which are a very popular item! A special thank you to all the girls, leaders and moms.



Scientists Admit Embryonic Stem Cell Research Hasn't Been Successful

London, England – While pro-life advocates have repeated the mantra for years that embryonic stem cell research hasn't helped a single patient while adult stem cells have already been used in humans afflicted with dozens of diseases, a leading scientist in England is beginning to admit defeat.

Lord Patel of Dunkeld, the chairman of the UK National Stem Cell Network and a chancellor at Dundee University, says embryonic stem cell research is simply not working. He conceded in an interview with the Scotsman newspaper that the controversial science may never deliver new treatments for diseases. "In terms of embryonic stem cell therapy, there is currently no such therapy that is available in a large number of patients," he said. Patel also admitted scientists may never be able to overcome the hurdles -- such as the development of tumors or immune syndrome rejection issues -- that plague embryonic stem cell research and make it risky in humans.

"We have to be cautious," he told the Scotsman. "It may not deliver therapy for anything. We may find that stem therapy is quite a risky business."

"We had a lot of hype about gene therapy, and while we still use it in some cases it did not deliver the great promise we thought it would because of the side effects," he said. Despite downplaying the prospects for success, Lord Patel told the newspaper he still thought embryonic stem cell research should move forward.

The newspaper also interviewed Dr. Willy Lensch, from the Children's Hospital in Boston, who also confirmed the possibility that the prospect of embryonic stem cell research may never play out. "I could not guarantee to anyone that this work will actually lead to improvements in disease as a definite," he admitted.

For American bioethics watchdog Wesley Smith, the admissions aren't surprising. "For the last ten years, 'the scientists,' in order to win the political debates over embryonic stem cell research and [human cloning] often wildly hyped the potential for cures," he said. "In the process, they convinced Californians--now facing a \$16 billion budget deficit and tens of billions in bond debt--to borrow \$300 million every year to pay for human cloning and embryonic stem cell research," he explained.

"States vied with each other in an Oklahoma land race type scramble to throw money at Big Biotech. The focus of the media became obsessed with overturning President Bush's funding policy, to the point that it committed serial journalistic malpractice with biased reporting and a news blockade on non-embryonic stem cell successes," Smith added.

"Well, those cures have not even appeared as distant silhouettes on the horizon yet, and finally, a few in the media are beginning to notice," Smith concluded.

"By hyping the potential, the politicized science sector misled people to win a political debate, and in the process reduced science to just another special interest spinning and obfuscating to get a greater share of gruel in the public trough."

