



From the Director

It's September and with that, the usual rituals are taking place: students back in school, football, Labor Day, savoring the remaining cookouts along with a growing yearning for menu changes, i.e. stews, hot soups, pumpkin pie and the like. Then there's the weather making spasmodic attempts to cool down with nary a leaf dropping as yet. There's a lot to like about September, but my mind keeps returning to the students back in school. Driving by the high school and seeing the kids going in, my heart aches and trembles for them.

Before I left for vacation, there on the front page of our local paper was an article, "'Get checked' drive kicks off," with a photo of a young man attending a local high school (Hanford Sentinel, July 28). The article explained that a group of students decided to confront the problem of STDs & teen pregnancy by creating public service announcements urging young sexually active people to "wear condoms and get checked." Colorful wristbands were provided by the County Public Health Department to reach out to teens to get tested for STDs. The prevalence of Chlamydia in the County (highest in California) appeared to be a major motivator in creating the PSA. Sadly, research shows that condoms offer little or no protection against Chlamydia as well as other STDs.

I studied the student's photo many times and though it might have been a trick of lighting, I can only describe his eyes as "dead looking." This is not a judgment; rather an observation and I'll never forget that face, praying for him when he comes to mind.

Here I want to go on record to say that I know of fine teachers in the system, dedicated to their students; many are Christians. But I also know that the State of California puts a heavy burden on them, and ultimately on their students. We're also aware that there are teachers who are convinced that the above message is the answer to this problem and sincerely believe they are helping these young people (as does the Health Department). The bottom line is, it doesn't matter how sincere you are if you are sincerely wrong. And young people are suffering the consequences of years of this, dare I say, indoctrination.

Yesterday there was an article on my desk from a CEO of a residential treatment facility that focuses on treatment and educational services to girls and young women, ages 12 to 21. The article is entitled "Self Injurious Behavior (SIB) increasing among young women".

The article begins, "As if sex, drugs and alcohol weren't enough," then what follows is a litany of other problems, including "cutting," other kinds of self-mutilation, and eating disorders. The intentions of the treatment center are fine, but it is only attacking the symptoms and not the real problem, i.e., the tragic decisions being made about sex, drugs and alcohol.

In like manner, the "safe sex" approach is not dealing with the basic problem, which is teens' decisions regarding their sexuality. And the results of that approach have been disastrous.

But the foundational issue is of the heart out of which proceeds "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication..." (Matt. 15:19). Our heart condition determines our choices: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" John 6:16. (See also 2 Peter 2:19 and John 8:34.)

continued



For He made
Him who
knew no sin
to be sin
for us,
that we might
become the
righteousness
of God
in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21



In addition, the Bible clearly says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

But God has provided an answer. Jesus said, "*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...*" (John 10:9). He proved His pure selfless love for us by dying for our sins and giving eternal life to all who believe on Him.

That message isn't allowed in the public schools, but Christians are called and equipped to share it. Pray that we'll see more eyes "alive" as the gospel is spread abroad in our community; that *many* hearts will be opened to receive the truth that sets men free.

Maranatha, Diane

Since our cover article deals with this subject, I thought it would be helpful to bring to your attention an article from MADE4MORE Abstinence Update printed in May 2003 by Focus on the Family.

New Study Clobbers Condom Claims

In 1999 the Alan Guttmacher (Planned Parenthood's research division) released a report on its study of teenage pregnancy trends, claiming that about 25% of the [teen pregnancy] decrease since the late 1980s is because of decreased sexual activity, and 75% of the decrease is because of more effective contraceptive practice..."

Ever since the release of that report "safe sex" advocates—often parroted by the mainstream media—have confidently quoted that statistic to point to their successes.

But a new benchmark study recently published in the journal *Adolescent and Family Health* refutes that Guttmacher study. Joanna Mohn, a New Jersey internal medicine physician, was the primary author of the new study, called "An Analysis of the Causes of the Decline in Non-Marital Birth and Pregnancy Rates for Teens from 1991 to 1995." Ultimately, the new study found that abstinence accounted for 67 percent of the decline in the pregnancy rate for single teen girls.

But here's another discovery from Dr. Mohn's study that's even more troublesome for "safe sex" advocates:

The birthrate to sexually active single girls increased, and thus had a **negative** contribution of -47.3 percent to the change in the birthrate to all teen girls. If the birthrate to the other groups had remained unchanged from 1991 to 1995, the overall birthrate would have increased. It is NOT accurate to claim that the increased use of condoms or other forms of contraception by single teen females contributed to the decline in the teen birthrate. In fact, just the opposite is true.

In other words, the birthrate among unmarried, sexually active teen girls increased despite an increase in their use of condoms.

The new study confirms what most parents already know: Teens are still kids, and kids are not ready for the awesome responsibility of sex. Kids, even kids in their late teens, forget things; they do irresponsible things without thinking. No contraceptive method can adequately compensate for kids being kids. And no contraceptive can prevent the loss of the God-given gift of innocence that takes place when two people give themselves to each other sexually. Abstinence works every time.

As stated in the December 2002 *Made for More Abstinence Update*, Senate Democrats stalled so long that the 107th Congress never voted on whether to reauthorize Welfare Reform (including Title V abstinence Education funding).

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Many Thanks
to those who have
given maternity and
baby items to the
Mommy Store:

Walk for Life

We're getting enthused and hope you are too! Walk plans are going smoothly and we would love to see a lot of you out celebrating with us next Saturday, September 30th.

Our "home base" will again be the shelter area nearest 11th Avenue at Hidden Valley Park, accessed from the front parking lot.

Considering how hot this summer has been, that area will provide welcome shade. Select your size t-shirt, and pick up a free pen, pencil or even a temporary tattoo while you wait for the walk to start!

As the walk begins, a **full pancake breakfast** is provided at Grace Bible Church.

So fill your sponsor form and get ready to join us for some great fellowship and an energizing walk, Saturday morning, September 30.

More forms available at the center, or we'll send you one!



