

HeartBeats

Service From the Heart Since 1984



From the Director..

On January 22, 2003, thirty years will have passed since the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion "on demand" - and over 42 million preborn children - human beings created in the image and likeness of God - have lost their lives to abortion. In 1997 (the most recent year for which statistics are available) there were 1,328,000 abortions performed - over 3,600 abortions per day - 151 per hour - one every 24 seconds. There were more than 140,000 second and third trimester abortions in 1997 - and many of these babies would have survived outside of the womb had they been "wanted." In 1997, more children died from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars combined.

I see these things happening, and I want to cry out, "Is anyone there? Does anyone see what I see? Does anyone care?"

A survey of women seeking abortions indicated that only 7% of them cited typical "hard cases" (rape, incest, or some health concern with either the baby or the mother) as the primary reason they were seeking an abortion. This, in spite of a Wirthlin Poll done in June of 1999 that found that 62% of respondents support legal abortion in only three or fewer circumstances: when the pregnancy results from rape or incest, or when it threatens the life of the mother.

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Nearly half of all abortions are obtained by women who have already had at least one abortion. In 1994 and 1995, women who had already had 3 or more abortions obtained 7% , or nearly 100,000 abortions each year. When Silent Voices first began offering Post Abortion Healing and Recovery support groups, we rarely had women in our groups with a history of two or more abortions - now we routinely work with women who have had five or more. We recently had a 19 year old client come to the office for a pregnancy test who had already had five abortions between her first pregnancy when she was 17, and her sixth pregnancy.

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At an average cost of \$316, the abortion business is a \$400 million a year industry, operating with little - if any - governmental oversight. Those of us who have labored in this work for any length of time have heard our share of stories about abortions being performed by non-medical personnel - or by doctors who have lost their licenses due to gross malpractice - but who are welcomed with open arms by clinics looking for doctors who are willing to perform abortions. Many women have been injured by "doctors" who were working too quickly - or too carelessly - and some of these women died.

I see these things happening, and I want to cry out, "Is anyone there? Does anyone see what I see? Does anyone care?" These words were first written by General George Washington during the Revolutionary War - and were repeated by John Powell, in an article entitled "The Silent Holocaust," published in 1983. He goes on to say, "These things aren't happening in secret; they're reported in the press; everyone knows about them. In the United States every day 4000 babies are killed by abortion. But when I look around for people to speak out, I find a great deal of indifference. 'I'm not going to have an abortion. I don't want to get involved with that. I'm not a fighter anyway.' My plea, then, to my Christian brothers and sisters, is to please do something about abortion. We are the priestly people of God. We are supposed to be bringing the world to God and God to the world, not playing the innocent bystander. Four thousand babies will be killed today. If we are really Christ's witnesses in the world, we've got to speak up."

We (Silent Voices) are Christ's witnesses, and every day we speak up for the preborn - for the woman who feels hopeless and pressured into an abortion - and for the women who are suffering in silence because of an abortion in their past.

Every day we ask ourselves, "Is anyone there? Does anyone see what we see? Does anyone care?"

And - we wonder if the 30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade will go unnoticed by the "church" - again. For the past nine years we've been a part of an organization that has planned and held a Memorial Service on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of this decision - and with all of the advertising - all of the announcements - all of the promotion - we've been lucky if we can get 100 people from all of the churches in San Diego County to attend.

I see these things happen, and I want to cry out, "Is anyone there? Does anyone see what I see? Does anyone care?"

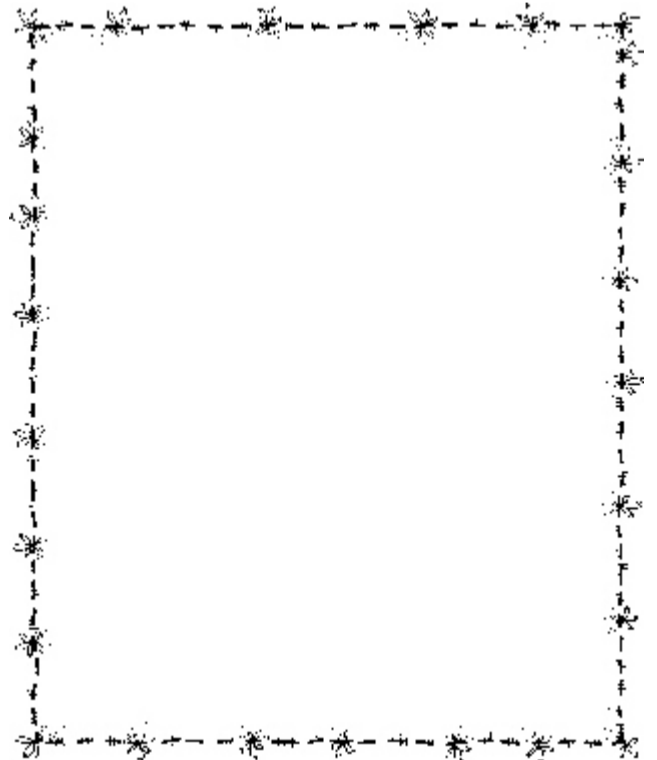
This year there will be no Memorial Service - but that doesn't mean that the Body of Christ can't do something to remember. We hope you will choose to speak up - and to respond in love to those who have been hurt by abortion. And - we hope that in the year ahead, you will participate with us when we ask for help - because we can't do this alone. Yes - we know that GOD is on our side - and that in the end, He will prevail. But in the meantime - as we wage this battle - we need our brothers and sisters in Christ by our side - and praying for us.

"Is anyone there? Does anyone see what I see? Does anyone care?"

In His Service,

Sharon Pearce
Director

(Statistics for this letter were found at the National Right to Life website (www.nrlc.org) - a GREAT source of information for prolife issues.)



Silent Voices believes that God is the Author of life, that all human life is valuable - born and preborn - and that abortion is never the answer to an unplanned, "crisis" pregnancy. We are dedicated to giving compassionate, practical assistance to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies, providing accurate information about the realities and possible consequences of abortion, and offering help, hope and healing through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to women already struggling with the trauma of abortion.



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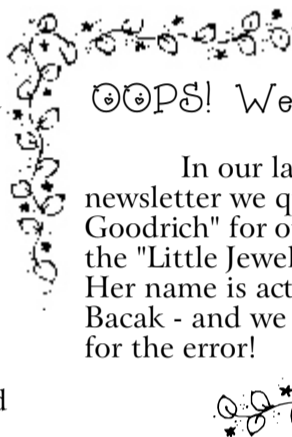
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Bridges Moms Say "THANKS!"

THANKS to all of you who gave so generously to our "Bridges to Motherhood" moms this Christmas! Your gifts made it possible to bless ALL of our moms with gift certificates to several stores, as well as to McDonalds! We want you to know how much your gifts were appreciated!

Barbra Says "THANKS!" Too

Due to several gifts, Barbra, our Director in Zambia, was able to pay off all the Centre debts, and has funds in reserve to help them next year. We praise the Lord with her for His faithfulness - and your generosity!



OOPS! We Goofed!

In our last newsletter we quoted "Vi Goodrich" for our story on the "Little Jewels" quilt. Her name is actually Vi Bacak - and we apologize for the error!

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HeartBeats
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Silent Voices
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Newsletter-
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Open Door to India..

Late last year we were introduced to Sam Jothimani - a man in India who runs an orphanage for abandoned girls. We were able to help him acquire a grant from the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation that has allowed him to develop a dairy and poultry farm that now provides food for the orphanage, as well as revenue to help them become self-supporting.

They currently have 51 girls in their home, ranging from 1 to 12 years in age. The average cost for maintaining a child is about \$15/month, which provides them with food, housing, education, school uniforms and medical care. These girls are the precious few who have been rescued from a life of poverty and death at an early age. Because of slavery that results from the caste system, and dowries that are expected at the time of marriage, most parents in rural areas do not want a girl child. It is not uncommon for baby girls to be killed at birth (via poisoning, asphyxiation, exposure or abandonment) - simply because they are females.

Although it is technically against the law, if a pregnant woman learns through ultrasound that she is carrying a female child, she will most likely choose to have an abortion and to try again for a baby boy.

Sam visited us this month, and asked us to help him develop a pro-life ministry in his state (Tamil Nadu), which is situated on the east coast, at the southern most part of the Indian Sub-Continent. He has contacts throughout the state who need to be trained and equipped - but who already have a desire to protect the unborn child - male or female. We are praying about what we can do to help Sam, and are considering a preliminary trip to India in February. We don't know what our involvement will be yet, but we believe that this is an open door from the Lord, and we want to be faithful to follow Him wherever He leads. Please pray that His will is made clear to us.

Don't Forget Vons and Albertson's!

If you haven't registered your Vons card with eScrip, it's not too late! You can register your Vons card on-line at www.escrip.com - OR we can send you a form to fill out and mail to eScrip. Then, every time you "swipe" your Vons card, you're also making a donation to Silent Voices!

If you shop at Albertson's, be sure to call us for a Community Partner's card - all you have to do is have the card scanned every time you shop at Albertson's, and we'll receive a percentage of your purchase!

Our Annual
Walk for Life
will be
April 12, 2003!



Please put this date on your calendar now - we'll be sending you more information as the Walk approaches!