

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4343
(925) 944-5351 FAX (925) 944-5449

E-Mail: callife@calright2life.org

Web Site: www.calright2life.org

Established 1981

May 2006

An Afternoon at the Mall

By Cecelia M. Cody

In an effort to expand our outreach, California Right to Life Education Fund has expanded our presence at Sunvalley Mall in Concord to occasional weekday afternoons. We learned that today's teens "hang out at the mall" after school, and now so do we!

It turned out to be an exciting week; I had been staffing the Sunvalley Mall table with groups of students from St. Vincent/ St. Patrick High School in Vallejo as part of their junior year social justice project. We were there Monday and Thursday from 4-7PM and talked to about 50 teens each day.

About 6:30 on Thursday evening a gal came to the table and saw two of our stickers from American Life League: "Abortion is Mean" and "Abortion is Homicide" and looking right at us asked, "Why is abortion mean?" We politely explained that life begins at fertilization and so abortion is taking the life of an innocent person. We gave her a few pamphlets on fetal development and asked her to think about it.

A few minutes later I glanced over to the other side of the open area where we have our table and saw her talking to her friend.

As we were putting our materials away at 7:00PM, she came back to the table and said, "I had a good reason to have an abortion," and I could tell from the tone of her voice she wasn't being confrontational; this was a woman who has been "hurt by her abortion." So I paused in putting the materials away and talked with her for a few minutes, giving her the leaflet about Rachael's Vineyard, a process of healing after an abortion, and invited her to check out their website www.rachelsvineyard.org and consider calling the local Rachel's Vineyard/After the Choice office for further information and assistance.

I left the mall that day feeling we had not only educated a lot of teens on the life issues, including abstinence, we had also been gifted with an opportunity to reach out to a hurting woman.

If you or someone you love has experienced the personal tragedy of abortion and you are looking for

help, please check out the following websites for further information:

- Rachel's Vineyard
<http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>
- Project Rachel
www.hopeafterabortion.org
- Ramah International
<http://www.ramahinternational.org/>
- Silent No More Awareness Campaign
<http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org>

Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?

Make sure they get the facts first!

A LIFE depends on it...

1-800-395-HELP (4357)

"Life of the Mother"

Recent Success with Stem Cells

We hear a lot these days about abortions to "save the life of the mother." Here is an article from the BBC about a case where the medical profession was able to save both lives.

A Plymouth mother in the UK who discovered she had leukemia on the day her longed-for third pregnancy was confirmed has been given the all clear. Sarah Peck, 31, put off treatment for her illness until her daughter Charlotte was born in March 2005.

Sarah said: "It's a really good feeling, every day is a gift now." When Sarah and husband Chris, who have two other children, were told the news in July 2004, the couple knew they had to choose whether to continue with the pregnancy or have an abortion. Sarah decided to continue with the pregnancy. All available treatments such as a stem cell transplant or drug therapies were put on hold to give the baby the

best chance of survival. Charlotte was born a healthy 7lb 5oz in a straightforward birth on March 19, 2005.

Once Charlotte was born, Sara endured months of treatment to enable her to receive a stem cell transplant last June from her sister Vicky, who was found to be a bone marrow match. Sara was given the all clear last month and has recently returned to work.

“But what I am really looking forward to now is spending quality time with my children. My family has always come first but now even more so. Every day is a gift now.” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/devon/4841332.stm>

Menstrual Blood has 30 Times more Stem Cells than Bone Marrow Says Study

By Hilary White

ATLANTA, March 15, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A team of researchers from Japan has shown that stem cells are found abundantly in menstrual blood. The discovery was announced at the meeting of the American College of Cardiology in Atlanta.

Dr. Shunichiro Miyoshi reported that he and his colleagues at Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo had harvested stem cells from the blood of six women that originates in the endometrium.

U.S. Researchers Also Find Embryonic-Like Stem Cells in Testicles

Researchers in California say they have found stem cells in men's testicles that have embryonic stem cell-like qualities. They have been able to prompt the cells to turn into nerve, heart and bone cells and the discovery could be another alternative to embryonic stem cell research.

Scientists at the California-based PrimeGen Biotech presented their results to fellow researchers at a meeting of stem cell scientists in Spain on Saturday.

Their findings follow on the heels of an announcement last week from German researchers who found new adult stem cells in mice testicles that have similar properties to embryonic stem cells.

Francisco Silva and colleagues say they took the

German research a step further and found the same adult stem cells in human testicles.

"Germ cells isolated from adult human testis can be therapeutically reprogrammed to have the ability to differentiate into cells that can be used therapeutically for cell-based regenerative medicine," Silva's team wrote in a paper.

"We've already been able to reproducibly differentiate heart, brain, bone and cartilage cells, and we are excited to begin testing how these cells incorporate into tissues," Silva said, according to a Reuters report.

Silva's team used cells from the testes of men aged between 26 and 50 years, and created cell cultures using them.

"We have demonstrated that there's a novel source of adult stem cells which, aside from having a role in reproduction, can be reprogrammed and used therapeutically," PrimeGen chairman Thomas Yuen said.

"We have taken the most well preserved, highest-quality stem cell and made it pluripotent (capable of growing into any cell type), representing one of the most significant breakthroughs in regenerative medicine," Yuen explained. "These cells advance the potential for cellular replacement therapy for everyone."

According to Silva, an independent German laboratory has confirmed the findings.

Dr. Gerd Hasenfuss, of Georg-August University in Göttingen, indicated his team was also beginning to study the cells in human males and has found similar results so far.

"These isolated spermatogonial stem cells respond to culture conditions and acquire embryonic stem cell properties," he wrote about the new cells.

If the results can be repeated in people, Hasenfuss said the cells could result in patient-specific matches "without the ethical and immunological problems associated with human embryonic stem cells."

Embryonic stem cells have never been ready to be tried on humans and treatments on animals have found that the cells were rejected by the immune system. Claims by South Korean scientists to have overcome the problem proved fraudulent.

Reprinted from: <http://www.lifenews.com/bio1431.html>

Readers' Corner

Anyone interested in reviewing a book relating to a life issue may submit a review to callife@calright2life.org or P.O. Box 4343 Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343

Abortion: The Silent Holocaust

By John Powell, S.J.

- * Is anyone there?
- * Does anyone see what I see?
- * Does anyone care?

These are the questions Fr. John Powell, S.J. asks throughout his book Abortion: The Silent Holocaust.

I first read this book when it came out in 1981, and recently reread it. The message is just as true now as it was in the 1980's. Fr. Powell packs a powerful message with the beautiful aroma of the red rose that graces the cover. When the pro-life movement is maligned (and worse), it is important to return to the essentials of our effort, which are so beautifully detailed in this small book.

The book proclaims a love regarding all human life and the proclamation that ALL life must be respected. Pro-life people are not insensitive, but rather we care and love the babies AND their mothers.

The section on experiments that are being done on aborted babies and the "behind the scenes of what really goes on in an abortion mill" as well as the segment on euthanasia gives one pause to ponder.

This is a good solid book, well worth reading to maintain our focus on the life issue and our compassion towards all involved, including the babies, their mothers and fellow pro-life advocates.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you have any pro-life events you would like us to publicize, send the announcement via e-mail callife@calright2life.org or call (925) 944-5351.

BIRTHRIGHT HIGH TEA – Saturday June 10, 2006, 12 Noon, Christ the King Church Hall, 199 Brandon Road @ Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25. Reservations are required. Please call Birthright at 925-798-7224 or Martha Joanes (925) 947-2543 for further information.

Pope Benedict XVI His First Year in Review

Anyone following in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II would have a difficult time equaling the remarkably clear and eloquent pro-life message the former pope conveyed throughout his pontificate.

Pope Benedict XVI has admirably accomplished this. In his first year he has stood strong against practices such as abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research, fearlessly challenging the Culture of Death.

Pope John Paul II, who died last April at age 84, left behind an incredible pro-life legacy. Pope Benedict has proven himself more than capable in continuing to raise the pro-life standard for the Catholic Church.

In his first speech on pro-life issues last May, Pope Benedict urged church leaders to resist the temptation to "water down" the church's pro-life teachings. He referred to John Paul, whom he said, "when ... faced with erroneous interpretations of freedom, underlined in an unequivocal way, the inviolability of human beings, the inviolability of human life from conception to natural death."

Pope Benedict wasted little time in using the print media to publicize the Church's pro-life position. In June 2005, he released The Europe of Benedict, in the Crisis of Cultures, a

book that takes to task European nations that have legalized abortion. In this book, the former Cardinal Ratzinger criticizes countries which condemn infanticide "while becoming virtually insensitive to abortion."

"Maybe because in abortion you don't see the face of who will be condemned and never see the light," he wrote.

Pope Benedict has been just as forthright in his condemnation of euthanasia, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

In February he urged Catholics to do everything possible to care for the "sick or damaged." "Every human life as such deserves to be always defended and promoted," Benedict observed. "Life is exalted while it is enjoyable, but there is a tendency to stop respecting it when it is sick or experiences some kind of disability."

**"Every human life as such deserves to be always defended and promoted."
- Pope Benedict XVI**

Around the Office

Your contributions make it possible to continue to send this newsletter and work with so many students. We run on a budget of about \$2,000 a due to a generous contributor last month, our year to date deficit is \$1,000 While we would like to continue our expanded mall table schedule and help even more students, without the financial resources you provide we may not be able to continue this important work.

A news reporter commented that it is getting harder to locate a pro-life spokesperson – so many of the phone numbers they have in their rolodex are no longer answered. Your donations insure we will be there to counter the message of the likes of Planned Parenthood and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Can you spare a few dollars to allow us to proclaim the message of life, from the single-cell stage to natural death? **All donations, large or small, are gratefully accepted** and prayerfully put to good use in the cause of Life. And as detailed in the box to the right, all donations to California Right to Life EDUCATION FUND are fully tax-deductible.

WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of California Right to Life **Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.