

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE

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Established 1981

September 2005

Pro-Life Effort in Kenya, AFRICA

In May 2005, two of our members and longtime volunteers with California Right to Life Education Fund (since our beginning), Mike and Anne Ronco, journeyed to Kenya and Tanzania visiting Maryknoll hospitals, schools, and parishes. Below is an account of their trip.

While in Kenya, we had an opportunity to visit one of the major slums called Kabura. What we saw is hard to imagine; there are over 70,00 people in this slum which covers less than 400 acres. The people have no piped in water, sanitation or electric power.

We went to Kabura's only church; a Catholic Church named Christ the King. The first person we were introduced to was a woman named Domtila. Would you believe it, she is the Respect Life Coordinator for her parish!

Domtila shared that in July she would be putting on an area Respect Life Conference, but she was very short of any materials for the conference.

When we returned home, we contacted California Right to Life Education Fund and, along with supplies we already had, we packed and mailed about 29 pounds of literature: pamphlets, bookmarks, newspaper articles to Domtila. We were also able to purchase 300 Tee Shirts for the youth at the conference. What an honor it was to help Domtila with her ministry half way around the world!

We had Domtila select one pamphlet that we would have translated into Swahili. She selected a pamphlet "*Before You Choose, Learn the Facts.*" I called Paul Broughton of LifeCycle Books and he has agreed to partner with us to produce this pamphlet. We will translate it into Swahili and use new pictures that are more reflective of the African Culture. This is very exciting to us and we are anxious to work with Paul and Domtila on the project.

One last bit of news that is very encouraging. While visiting St. Mary's Hospital in Naurbrozi we spent some time with Father Bill Fryda. Fr. Bill, a graduate of John Hopkins and also an ordained Jesuit priest, is the founder of St. Mary's Hospital. Five years ago it was only an empty five-acre lot; now it is a full-service teaching hospital that serves over 1,000

outpatients a day. The maternity ward, financed by members of St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church in Concord, delivers 30 babies a day. There are several small signs throughout the hospital that state that NO abortions are done at this facility.

In closing, Anne and I encourage you all to never abandon the cause of life. There are people all over the world joining us.

God Bless You All,
Mike and Anne Ronco
Clayton California

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)

I Can Live by Nick Cannon

When a rap singer is urging a young woman "to make the right decision and don't go through with this knife incision," America's abortion wars have entered a new and different psychological place.

Consider the song and video "Can I Live?" by rap singer Nick Cannon. It tells the story of a young expectant mother who goes to a women's clinic with the intention of ending her pregnancy. She is visited by the apparition of her son, who begs her not to go through with the abortion. The teenager runs out of the clinic, into the sunshine, where a chorus of children sing "Can I live? Can I live?" This powerful, emotional message is aimed directly at a young, hip audience. To listen to the song, please visit http://www.nickcannonmusic.com/index_main.html.

Pro-Life Bumper Sticker Prompts Teenage Mom to Reconsider Abortion

Millinocket, ME (LifeNews.com) -- When pro-life advocates Dave and Mary Labun left their house, they didn't expect to see a note on their car. What they found surprised them. In their hands they held not a complaint from a neighbor or a police citation. Instead, a teenager told them their pro-life bumper sticker prompted her to reconsider a decision to have an abortion. Maine residents Dave and Mary Labun sport a sticker with the phrase "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart," on their vehicle. The unnamed girl left the couple the following note:

Hello, This might be very weird, but I wanted to thank you. I'm not sure what you believe in, but I'm a strong believer in God, and right now I am 17 and pregnant. And on my way to school one day, I was really wondering what to do -- I was really thinking about abortion, because I was scared.

As that thought came to mind, I walked past your car, and happened to look over and saw your bumper sticker, "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart." My heart dropped. I believe God was talking to me, through that sticker, and I also believe I will never think about it again. I'm going to keep my baby, and I'm not that scared any more.

(<http://lifenews.com/state1150.html>)

"I walked past your car, and happened to look over and saw your bumper sticker, 'Abortion Stops a Beating Heart.' My heart dropped. I believe God was talking to me, through that sticker..."

Do you have a pro-life bumper sticker on your car? Make your car a moving billboard for life. Contact this office and we will send you a bumper sticker. Or if you live in the area stop by one of our Sunvalley Mall tables where we have a wide assortment of bumper stickers.

Stem Cell Update

The media continues to mislead people by trying to make our citizenry fund the unethical and immoral **embryonic** stem cell research (ESCR.) We daily hear such statements as, "This is such promising research - it seems like there's a new breakthrough every day." This is an erroneous and misleading statement... There have been **NO** treatment "breakthroughs" using embryonic stems cells. Yet we still hear attempts to push through "Emperor's Clothes" funding legislation. There are **NO** cures and **NO** treatments yet developed as a result of ESCR, and knowledgeable serious scientists say there won't be for a long time.

Meanwhile, treatments using **adult stem cells** continue to increase. Below are a few that were highlighted in the August 2005 issue of Reader's Digest. Other exciting developments show that embryonic-like stem cells are in umbilical cord blood,

and recent research shows promise in harvesting stem cells from the placenta.

1. Heart - Using bone marrow stem cells, Douglas Lorscheider, MD, chief of cardiovascular research at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston is rebuilding heart muscle for heart attack victims. This is one of several locations performing this treatment.

2. Cornea - Kohji Nishida, MD and coworkers at Japan's Osaka University Medical School Department of Ophthalmology implanted mouth tissue stem cells into the cornea of a nearly blind man, who can now see clearly a year later.

3. Skin - Using a postage stamp sized biopsy, doctors can now grow enough replacement skin to cover the entire body. The product is called "Epicel" from Genzyme, Cambridge, MA.

4. Knee cartilage - Genzyme also produces "Carticel," a lab-grown human knee cartilage. It gives orthopedic surgeons an alternative treatment for injured knees. On reading about Carticel at the Genzyme web site we find there is an even better product mentioned - MACI. Both products involve growing new cartilage from a small piece of the patient's own cartilage.

5. Bladder - Using lab-grown ear cartilage, Anthony Atala, MD, professor of surgery at Wake Forest University is working to cure incontinence. He has also grown a human bladder and with FDA approval will begin testing it as a replacement bladder for patients who have lost their own due to cancer or injury.

6. Kidney - David Hume, MD, professor of internal medicine at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, has created bio-artificial kidney to treat the severely ill. It is part conventional prosthetic and part lab-grown cells.

- *Adult stem cell treatments cited in the Reader's Digest, August 2005, page 100*

Parents Right to Know Initiative

As we approach Tuesday November 8 Special Election, Proposition 73 is an issue of special concern for all of us. We are looking for volunteers to educate the general public on the Parents Right to Know initiative, Proposition 73, which will appear on the

ballot. We are organizing people willing to pass out flyers at places where the public gathers (BART stations, grocery stores, shopping malls...) If you are interested in assisting in this project, please contact this office at callife@calright2life.org and include your e-mail address, phone number, and general geographic area.

The Parents Right to Know initiative will require that at least one parent be given 48 hours notice that their minor daughter (under 18 years of age) is scheduled to have an abortion. The parents are then assured of being able to provide advice and counsel to her during this difficult time in her life. The scheduled provider of the abortion will be required to make the notification.

For more information: <http://www.yeson73.net/> or <http://www.parentsright2know.org/pages/1/index.htm>.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Mall Table for LIFE

Saturday October 15, 2005

10:00AM - 4:00PM Sunvalley Mall, Concord

One Saturday each month, members of California Right to Life Education Fund staff a table for life at Sunvalley Mall. Our next scheduled table is October 15. If you would like to join us at one of these tables contact Cecelia at (925) 944-5351.

Life Chain in October

See website <http://www.lifechain.net/> for information about Life Chain in your area. (If you know of a Life Chain in your area, and would like us to publicize it via our e-mail network, send an e-mail with all the details (date, time, place, and contact information) to callife@calright2life.org.)

Saturday November 19

Natural Family Planning Conference
Fairfield, CA

"Understanding NFP - Theologically, Medically, Practically," a one-day conference to be held on Saturday, November 19 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Fairfield, CA, is geared toward health providers, clergy, NFP teachers of all models and anyone interested in an approach to reproductive issues and technology consistent with Catholic thought. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. CME units are available for physicians and nurses for an additional \$30. For more information, call Kathy Conner at (916) 733-0140 or email kconner@diocese-sacramento.org

Sunday January 15, 2006 7-8 PM

Fifth Annual "Lights for Life" Prayer Vigil

Location to be announced later.

Friday January 20, 2006 7:30PM
Interfaith Committee for Life: Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Sanctity of Life and the Victims of Abortion.

Locations to be announced later.

Saturday, January 21, 2006

Walk for Life West Coast

San Francisco

If you joined us last year you know what an experience it was. If you missed it, put this event on your calendar right away and join us for the biggest pro-life event on the West Coast! Meet at Embarcadero, dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a bag lunch. For further information, please visit www.walkforlifewc.com.

Parable of the Stone Soup

Once upon a time, there was a famine in the land. People hoarded their food and hid it from neighbors and friends. One day, a stranger arrived in the village, all hungry and disheveled. He went from door to door looking for someone to take him in and give him something to eat. One after the other, the villagers told him they too were starving and so could not help him.

It was not until he reached the last house in the village that the poor woman who lived there told him that all she had left was water but he was welcome to share the water. He said that was more than enough. Then he told her that he had a magic stone with which he could make enough soup to feed the whole village.

The starving old woman was excited and went to alert her neighbors. The stranger filled a large pot with the water and threw a round shiny stone into it. Villagers supplied the firewood and surrounded the large cooking pot to see the miracle of the Stone Soup.

The Stone Soup cooked and the hungry villages waited. Then the stranger tasted the cooking soup and said loudly, "Ahhh! I love this Stone Soup. Of course, Stone Soup with a little cabbage is hard to beat." Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a cabbage he had retrieved from its hiding place. He gave it to the stranger to add to the pot. "Wonderful!" cried the stranger, "I once had some Stone Soup with cabbage which had some onions in it that made it fit for a king!" Soon a second villager appeared with some onions and garlic for the soup. On and on he went, through "If only we had a few potatoes...How wonderful it might be with a couple of carrots," and so on. At last, there was a delicious meal for all.

The villagers offered the stranger a great deal of money for the magic stone, but he refused to sell it and traveled on the next day. He probably made Stone Soup at the next village, too. Soon the famine ended but the people of the village never forgot about the finest soup they ever had. When each of us contributes a little, we can feed the whole world village.

The stone soup here at California Right to Life Education Fund is now cooking. A big "Thank You" to all of you who have contributed: a cabbage here, an onion there, and even a pork-chop. The miracle of the stone soup is brewing. If you are standing by and watching to see whether the soup is real, I have news for you. This is the time to add your potato or garlic and make our soup heavenly, fit for nourishing a people of the Culture of Life, through a Mall Table, media interview, newsletter, materials for a student research project.... The list is endless.

Help us "feed the village" with our pro-life message! Please send us your tax-deductible contribution today, using the enclosed envelope. God bless you for your sacrifice and generosity!

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.