



Jailed for saving babies



My children and I are proud of him

Australia's Prisoner of Conscience

My husband went to jail this week

Liz Preston

"If a child is about to be killed, everyone should try to save

that child. Right? Now, hold that thought for a minute.

My husband went to jail this week. For eight months. His crime? Sitting down. Yes, I know, sitting down is not usually regarded as being a crime and especially not one you go to jail for eight months for. But it depends on where you do it and how often.

My husband, Graham, along with a few others at different times, has sat down on dozens of occasions in recent years in front of the doors of Brisbane abortion clinics, and refused to move. He has not been charged with "sitting down" of course, but with things like trespass. But sitting down and refusing to move is all that he actually does.

I know that at this point some readers, when they see that he is opposed to abortion, will say that being sent to jail for such sit-ins is just what he deserves. But let's try and think about this for a moment.

Graham, like myself and others, believes that when a woman is pregnant she is carrying a baby. There is surely nothing too controversial with that belief – I've carried a number of babies to term myself and I have no doubt that, yes, they really were babies that I was carrying.

Indeed, I would venture to say that every woman who is happily pregnant has no doubt that she is carrying a baby and there is always much delight in viewing the ultrasound images. If the baby should be lost through spontaneous miscarriage, then there

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is usually considerable grief at that loss.

Further, Graham, like myself and others, believes that abortion deliberately ends the life of the baby that is being carried in the womb. Again, this should hardly be a controversial claim: as noted above, pregnancy involves the carrying of a baby in the womb, so if an abortion is carried out, that means a baby's life is deliberately taken.

So back to where this article started: if a child is about to be killed, everyone should try to save that child's life. Right? Well, yes, normally, but apparently not if the child we are talking about saving is a child that is scheduled to be killed by abortion.

In the minds of some, if the mother or parents of a preborn child decide that they want to have an abortion, then their child loses absolutely all right to have their life protected. But not everyone is prepared to simply turn away and abandon such children to death." Such a person is Graham Preston.

He'd love to hear from you. Write to: John Preston (His second name is Graham), Brisbane Correctional Centre, Locked Bag 2600, SUMNER PARK QLD 4074. Visit the Protect Life website www.protect-life.info

If you would like to make a donation to support his family send it to Liz Preston, 22 Rigby St. Annerley Queensland 4103



JILL STANEK

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER at this year's CONFERENCE

Jill Stanek is a nurse turned speaker, columnist and blogger, a national figure in the U.S.A. in the effort to protect both preborn and postborn innocent human life.

As a registered nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department of Christ hospital, Illinois, U.S.A. she discovered not only that abortions were done but that babies were being aborted alive to die without medical care. When hospital leaders said they would not stop, she went public and risked her job, reputation and friendships. Her testimony was read in the PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT PUBLIC LAW 108-105, 2003 and BORN ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT HR 2175. She gives the insider's view to the atrocity of abortion. Read about her lobbying Obama, page 2.

BARACK OBAMA and the COMFORT ROOM

- Jill Stanek

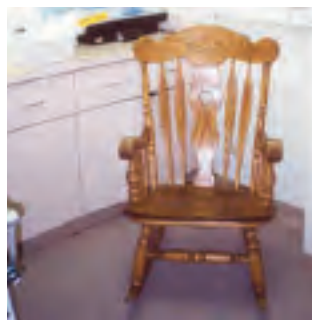
From www.jillstanek.com

"In March 2002, I spoke in favour of the Illinois Born Alive Infant Protection Act before the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Barack Obama was a member and a State Senator. The previous year, I told Obama and the committee of my experience holding a live aborted baby until he died, in my capacity as a labor and delivery nurse at Christ Hospital, Illinois. I said that personnel were shelving babies to die in the Department's soiled utility room next to dirty linens, bloody and biohazardous waste and a urinal. In 2002, I did not mention the Comfort Room, but Barack Obama did. He said,

"Ms Stanek, your initial testimony last year showed your dismay at the lack of regard for human life. I agreed with you last year, and we suggested that there be a Comfort Room or something of that nature to be done. The hospital acknowledged that and changes were made and you are still unimpressed. It sounds to me like you are really not interested in how these fetuses are treated, but rather not providing any medical care or life to them."

"Obama had not actually agreed with me the year before. He agreed with attorney Colleen Connell that "living is not the same as viability" when he voted against the Born Alive bill at committee and was the sole Senator speaking against it on the Senate floor. And "we" suggested the Comfort Room? I was the one who told him about the Comfort Room four months after the fact, providing photo evidence." I responded, "What the Hospital did was try to make things look better. What it really is, is that the baby is still dead."

Obama was pleased with the green killing room. "I didn't know it then but I was describing his campaign of repackaging liberal extremism to look comforting."



From the U.S.

by Kathy Edgeworth

The Presidential race is now officially competitive. The Gallop Poll (May 12th -18th) shows Mr. Romney leading 47 to 44 per cent. This is still within the margin of error (about three percent) and the election is more than five months away. The Rasmussen poll was even more favorable to Mr. Romney.

Importantly, though the Gallop Poll showed Mr. Romney ahead with women. This is very significant since Republican candidates have done poorly with women in the last few elections. The Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of Obama Care in June, with most of the discussion revolving around the mandate requiring all Americans to buy health insurance. I should explain that Americans tend to have a stronger libertarian streak than most Australians. Laws requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets are very controversial, for instance. The oral arguments did not go well for Mr. Obama, but whether a striking down of the individual mandate would help or hurt him is hard to say. The crisis in Greece is another unknown. If Greece defaults and European banks stocks take a hit, there is a fear this could spread to the U.S.

The financial gap is narrowing as the Romney campaign catches up. In addition the super-pacs are heavily pro-Romney. But, expect more personal attacks on those who fund the super-pacs. It's already started. The NY Times attacked Billionaire Joe Ricketts (founder of TD Ameritrade) for considering an ad connecting Mr. Obama with the Rev. Wright. Afterwards Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel (Mr. Obama's former chief of staff, who had previously been pushing state support for a \$100 million expansion of the Cub's stadium, Wrigley Field which the Ricketts family owns), stopped taking the families' calls. Surprising how often there is a Chicago connection.

One thing is certain we can look forward to an ugly campaign.

The proliferers will almost certainly turn out and vote for Romney and may work for him, because there is a good chance he will keep his word on abortion and everybody knows Obama is terrible on the issue. The elder George Bush switched on abortion and did stay on the right side of the issue. He appointed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and George W Bush appointed John Roberts as Chief Justice, both perceived to be pro-life.

Kathy Edgeworth
US Correspondent

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Concern over Advance Health Directives

A Passport to suicide

"The proposal being considered by the State government, to legislate to allow people to sign advance health directives to be used to reject treatment in the event of serious illness, such as stroke, dementia, head injuries and brain damage, is nothing short of a passport to suicide," said Margaret Tighe, Vice-President of Right to Life Australia.

Mrs Tighe was commenting on a report in the Sunday Age (22/3/12) of a proposal by the Victorian Law Reform Commission, to see such legislation enacted.

Mrs Tighe said that many innocent people could sign these advance directives without realising that they could be authorising the withholding of treatment for conditions from which they might well recover and be glad they are alive.

She went on, "A classic example of someone with serious head injury, who was not expected to live, is well known Melbourne entertainer Molly Meldrum, who judging by his appearance on T.V. at a St Kilda Football match on 19/4, has made a remarkable recovery, although no doubt he still suffers some impairment. But he looked happy to be alive watching his team." She continued, "Similarly a 48 year old, father of three, of my acquaintance, who suffered a serious stroke whilst riding to work, and who had six months off as part of his recovery, would be dead now if he had an advance health directive on his person."

Margaret Tighe said, "Victoria's advance health directives which signed while in good health could well lead to premature death simply by the rejection of life saving treatment."

She concluded, "How will paramedics react if they find on a seriously injured accident victim a properly signed advance health directive? Is this the way the government proposes to reduce pressure on availability of hospital beds? And is this the way they propose to treat dementia?"

Margaret Tighe (Vice-President)



Euthanasia is "putting us out of your misery."

Paul Kelly

Editor-At-Large, The Australian

Death, once invited in, leaves its muddy boot prints everywhere

South Australian Death Bills continue

Katrina Haller Ph.D. LLB.

Stephanie Key's Euthanasia Bill seems to have died a natural death. But now Bob Such, independent member of the S.A. Legislative Council, has put forward his "Voluntary Euthanasia Bill 2012" which would allow patients "who are in the terminal phase of a terminal illness" to request euthanasia. In his speech to the South Australian Parliament in March 2012, he said,

"This is a reintroduction, in a slightly modified form, of a bill that has been previously introduced but in which debate was never completed. Following some suggestions... changes have been made."

It contains conditions that make it more acceptable than the Key's Bill. Four witnesses have to witness the "Request." A Request form is provided in Schedule 1. The request may be oral. One witness has to be a treating medical practitioner, another, a non-treating medical practitioner, and two adults, who are not relatives, nor beneficiaries of the estate. The non-treating medical practitioner gives a "Certificate of Confirmation." Then, at least 48 hours after the patient has been examined, a medical practitioner may administer euthanasia.

The medical practitioners must certify that, "having examined the person who made the request for symptoms of depression immediately before the request (i) has no reason to suppose that the person is suffering from treatable clinical depression; or (ii) if the person does exhibit symptoms of depression – is of the opinion that treatment for depression, or further treatment for depression, is unlikely to influence the person's decision to request voluntary euthanasia."

At least they know that most people who ask for euthanasia are depressed. If they are properly treated for depression, how does anyone know whether they will ask for euthanasia again or whether they will regain their joie de vivre?

Although it provides that a person may revoke their request, there is no Revocation Form in the Schedule. The Requests for Euthanasia will be maintained in a Register, kept by the Minister. The cause of death will be noted as "Voluntary euthanasia" not "suicide" nor "homicide."

There is not much of a conscientious objection clause – "...if a medical practitioner who has the care of the patient declines to administer voluntary euthanasia, the medical practitioner must inform the person that another medical practitioner may be prepared to consider the request. The administering authority of a hospital, hospice, nursing home or other institution for the care of the sick or infirm may refuse to permit voluntary euthanasia within the institution, but, if it does so, must take reasonable steps to ensure that the refusal is brought to the attention of patients entering the institution." This tries to entrench euthanasia as the norm and you have to advertise if you disagree.



The Intrepid Life Walkers 2012

Moya Roadley -
Caterer extraordinaire

(right) A wind-swept afternoon at the Royal Women's Hospital



Joe Molloy and Louise Fossey - our faithful supporters



Mary Collier accepts the cheque from Paul Donohoe - the highest sponsorship money raised. Paul raised \$6560.

A determined group of walkers set out on Thursday May 10th 2012 for a three day protest, by walking between abortuaries from one side of Melbourne to the other. This was Right to Life's annual Life Walk - formerly a week long walk through Victorian countryside, which was abandoned because of safety concerns about walking on busy country roads. The money raised (\$35,000 so far) will be used to support Pregnancy Counselling Australia funded entirely by Right to Life Australia.

Over three days we stopped at seven abortuaries in 6 different council municipalities - including the Royal Women's Hospital and the infamous late term abortion clinic at Croydon - for approximately 30 minutes, in silent protest at the **killing of the unborn**. We aimed to raise awareness of the injustice of abortion with members of the public.

I would like to thank the wonderful walkers and support crew who worked tirelessly to bring the event together. Les Jones diligently mapped out the route-Les Jones. Moya Roadley, Lettie Morrison, Anne O'Dwyer, Michelle Griffiths and Mary Hart provided delicious food. Walkers were well looked after with accommodation donated and provided by Father Leo Size (Sacred Heart Parish, Croydon) and Father Leo Mifsud (Oblates Seminary, Mulgrave). Ray and Maree Clay "drove" the toilets; Gary Hynes

assisted the bus driver Ron to manage the walkers on the bus, Joe Molloy and Denis Wood drove the support ute carrying a prolife sign "Abortion Kills, Choose Life".

Vehicle support was also provided by Mary Royce Hall and Michael Freeman who ensured drinks and snacks arrived at pit stops on time! Paul Donohoe worked on the Code of Conduct for Walkers which was especially important due to council and Vic Roads requirements for Risk Management Plans.

We were complimented by the Victoria Police State Event Planning Unit who said the event was very well organised and commended us for our adherence to the route and code of conduct. We look forward to 2012 to a new walk venue, maybe with an interstate flavour...

Mary Collier, Secretary

The Issue that refuses to Go Away

When the Menhennit ruling was pronounced in Victoria's Supreme Court, in September 1969, Melbourne's leading abortionist, the late Dr Bertram Wainer, stated that it would open the abortion floodgates and from then on, the word 'abortion' would just be another word in the English language.

Wainer was both right and wrong. Firstly he was right that the Menhennit ruling would open 'the abortion floodgates'.

This was because the late Mr Justice Menhennitt declared that an abortion was unlawful unless it was carried out in order to prevent serious damage to the 'physical and/or mental health' of the woman - that not being the normal dangers of pregnancy.

The then Victorian government of the day, led by Rupert Hamer, decided that a doctor's 'good faith' could not be questioned. And so the abortion floodgates were opened.

Although we now live in a state in which there are no restrictions on abortion (right up to birth!), it would seem that the abortion issue has not gone away!

The Age newspaper (18/5/2012) featured recently a major article by an Australian woman who recently returned after some time in the U.S. warning that we must be vigilant against the 'anti-choicers' so as we don't go down the American path seeking 'personhood' for the unborn!

Secondly, Channel 9's 60 minutes program on Sunday May 20th 2012 featured the 'selective reduction of multiple pregnancies'

as the infertility industry's 'dirty little secret'. The interviews with the doctor who 'specialises' in plunging a syringe full of potassium chloride into the foetal hearts of the unwanted twin or triplets and with the two women who were proud of having selected one child, were sickening.

The most refreshing aspect of the story was the Australian mother of triplets who was appalled at the procedure, and the attitude of the reporter who seemed just as shocked.

What they failed to tell the viewers is that 'selective reduction of multiple pregnancies' is not confined to the U.S. It has been widely used in the infertility business for years in this country. Human babies being treated like too many puppies in a litter!

Margaret Tighe
Vice-President

SAVINGDOWNS

Conservationists for Down Syndrome

From mike.b.sullivan@xtra.co.nz

Mike Sullivan, a New Zealand father of Rebecca with Down Syndrome, is leading the fight for children with Down Syndrome. He will be speaking at the RTLA Conference in July. He has joined with other parents to launch a petition to ensure that eugenics does not become a human right, through the European Court of Human Rights. The case before the Court, *Kruzmane vs Latvia*, specifically relates to Down syndrome and seeks to determine the elimination of one's unborn baby because he or she has Down syndrome to be regarded as a fundamental human right. The European Court of Human Rights is preparing a ruling on the fundamental right to "the procedure for the prenatal screening and elimination of children with diseases or disabilities."

A positive decision would not only amount to a violent aggravation of the stigmatization of people with disabilities but would also generalise and make into a human right the process of selecting and eliminating people deemed to be "not in conformity."

www.stopeugenicsnow.org

TAKE MY HAND NOT MY LIFE

http://issuu.com/savingdowns/docs/screening_for_down_syndrome_-_a_community_perspective

Midwives and General Practitioners have been invited to a series of nationwide workshops in May and June 2012 in New Zealand to further enhance skills, knowledge and understanding of antenatal screening for Down syndrome and other conditions.

The Down syndrome community in New Zealand has been excluded from participation in the workshops and are taking this opportunity to provide their positive perspective on the screening programme.

Facts for Midwives, GPs and Parents to Know

1 Like all people, those with Down syndrome are defined by their basic human dignity and not by their genetic makeup.

They are loved and valued members of our families and communities. They make positive contributions to our society.

- 2 **Down syndrome** is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition.
- 3 In a recent **Children's Hospital Boston survey** 99% of parents of children with Down syndrome reported that they loved their child, 97% were proud of their child, and 79% attributed a more positive outlook on life to their child.
- 4 For every 100 women who screen at high risk for Down syndrome, **RANZCOG state** that only between four and six of them will be carrying a baby with Down syndrome.
- 5 **The screening pathway is non-therapeutic.** Diagnostic testing causes miscarriage and morbidity. Thus it is more harmful than beneficial to a mother's unborn child.
- 6 The screening pathway leads to **maternal anxiety and foetal hazard.** Interrupting the pregnancy has **adverse mental health outcomes** for the mother.
- 7 There is no evidence that babies with Down syndrome can have a better medical outcome due to screening and testing. Medical problems associated with Down syndrome can be detected by routine antenatal clinical care without a diagnosis.
- 8 It costs around \$70,000 to detect an unborn child with Down syndrome.
- 9 Before the 2010 quality improvements around 55% of all babies with Down syndrome were not born due to antenatal screening and intervention. When Denmark introduced the same "quality improvements" the impact was a further **halving in births of children with Down syndrome.** A similar trend here would result in around 80% of all births of children with Down syndrome being prevented. Many people recognise that **this is eugenics.**
- 10 The New Zealand Down syndrome Association does not consider Down syndrome in itself a reason for termination of a pregnancy.
- 11 People with Down syndrome and their families are best placed to provide parents with a diagnosis with accurate information and knowledge based in direct experience.



Loving Every Child: Defying Eugenics

It is one of life's great paradoxes that the most gentle, loving and enduring amongst us have always been the target of the eugenicists – those with Down syndrome: the very people who embrace those defin-

ing human qualities of unconditional love and compassion

Australian officials investigate woman's 2007 death after abortion

From www.lifesitenews.com

A Newcastle woman, Helen Grainger, 29, suffered severe anaphylaxis when she was given an antibiotic at Lambton Rd Day Surgery at Broadmeadow on 26 April 2007. She was administered Keflin after her abortion. She had previously taken it without incident, but this time she felt short of breath before a rash broke out across her body. She was then administered adrenaline and CPR was performed. An endotracheal tube was used to resuscitate her. She returned a pulse on the way to the John Hunter Hospital, where she died two days later from brain hypoxia. The inquest was held from May 8th 2012. An expert witness told the inquest that the adrenaline was more likely to have caused her respiratory arrest than anaphylaxis.

DIY abortion advice

The Australian, on 14/5/2012 reported from AAP the findings of a Tribunal that a doctor who posted online do-it-yourself abortion instructions failed to put forward moral and social arguments to support why she did so. Brisbane doctor Adrienne Freeman is facing disciplinary action. The hearing was adjourned because she attempted to lead evidence while cross-examining an expert witness from the Medical Board. The Medical Board of Australia is pursuing professional misconduct action against Dr Freeman. They are considering whether Dr Freeman maintained professional standards by publishing the material.

Right to Life Australia was sent a copy of an email sent out by Women's Health at Bendigo Health. We hope it does not find staff to kill the babies. Do you have an update?

Update From Bendigo Health

Please be advised that due to medical staffing issues, Women's Health at Bendigo Health will not be able to accept or process referrals for termination of pregnancy until further notice. At present the final operation date is the 5th of January 2012. We have no further clinic dates before then and have already formulated a list for that day. It is advised that women who present for referral for termination of pregnancy be directed to alternative services in Melbourne (GP liaison officer, Liz Tune emailed list of these services to General Practices on 19th December). We apologise for any inconvenience and we will notify you when we are able to return to a normal service arrangement.

How Hep C Doctor infected mothers at abortion mill

Nathyan Partenza reported in 'The Age' on 16 May 2012, that a class action against a doctor who allegedly infected more than 50 women with hepatitis C at the Croydon abortion clinic has been lodged in the Supreme Court. Lawyers filed a lawsuit against anaesthetist James Lathan Peters, the director of the former Croydon Day Surgery, Dr Mark Schulberg and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Slater and Gordon launched the legal action. It is believed to be the first time a personal injury class action has been lodged against a medical practitioner regulator in Australia.

21 May 2012 -Belinda Merhab (9msn) reported that the Melbourne Magistrates' Court heard that Dr James Peters was using pre-filled syringes of anaesthetic drugs on himself, while his back was turned to other staff or when he was alone.

He then returned the contaminated syringe to the patient tray and used it to administer the remaining drug to the patient, thereby infecting the patient with Hepatitis C. He faces charges of conduct endangering life, negligently causing serious injury and recklessly causing serious injury. The hearing continues...

Abortion does not make you un-pregnant It makes you the parent of a dead child

Standtruedotcom

My mother tried to abort me Val Dyson

"I had not told my mother I was pregnant again when I decided to visit her. I travelled by tram and bus from Hawthorn to Armadale, carrying my baby son Barry in my arms. He was about 5 months old then. My grandmother was also visiting Mum that day. I put Barry down in a lounge chair and was greeted with, "Are you pregnant again?" I said, "Yes, I was." My mother said, "Don't worry, I know something you can do to get rid of it," adding, "I tried to get rid of you." I couldn't believe what had been said and went into shock. I couldn't speak. I picked up my son and walked up the long passage as I heard my mother sobbing loudly. But I couldn't go back, I left the house and went back to Hawthorn without saying a word to anyone. I don't know how I managed to get back home, but somehow I managed and I didn't tell anyone what had happened for many years. My mother never mentioned the incident ever again to me and I never spoke about it to her. Mum did however say to me after the birth of my fourth child, and just losing my premature baby, Gerard, she thought I had a "lovely family and four living children – that is enough." I didn't answer her, as I knew I would have as many children as God wanted me to have. And there were another seven."

Val has 30 grandchildren now, who would not exist if her mother had succeeded.

Victorian born alive Victims of abortion

The 2007 report of the Victorian Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity states that increasing uptakes of diagnostic procedures result in congenital abnormalities being diagnosed in the second trimester, leading to terminations of pregnancy. *"beyond 20 weeks gestation, regardless of the method of termination... there were 129 stillbirths and 52 neonatal deaths."*

Neonatal death is the child's death within 28 days of birth.

However the 2008 report states that, with a diagnosis of congenital abnormality, *"Parents are offered choices to either proceed with the pregnancy, to terminate the pregnancy resulting in a stillbirth or to have the child induced and possibly born alive, knowing that they will not survive."*

"In 2008 there were 118 stillbirths related to termination of pregnancy for congenital abnormality and 32 neonatal deaths where the parents decided to have labour induced early resulting in the early birth of the infant."

We ask: Does this mean that in 2007 these babies suffered terminations of pregnancy where 52 died after birth, but in 2008, 32 babies were induced to be born early? What happened to the 52 babies in 2007 and the 32 babies in 2008 that were born alive and died within 28 days of birth? Were they placed in the freezer to die as Ann Bressington, South Australian Member for the Legislative Council was told? Were they left to die from exposure, lack of nutrition and hydration? Did they become hospital waste? Were these babies discriminated against on the grounds of their disability?

WEST AUSTRALIA

14 babies born alive and left to die

From lifenet.org.au

3/5/2012 Perth Now has reported that the Western Australian Health Department is investigating the deaths of 14 babies who were born alive after abortion attempts and were left to die. Hospital records show that no resuscitation or medical treatment of any kind was provided to these babies, one of whom was over 26 weeks old. Labor MPs Kate Douest and Ed Dermer have called for a Parliamentary Enquiry into their deaths.

Volunteer telephonists needed

We are campaigning for a change to Victoria's abortion law and need as many people as possible to telephone our members to ask them to see their political representative. Training will be provided. Come and use your beautiful telephone manner to contact our members in selected electorates and help change the law.

Vic Parliament House campaign

Dave Forster and his group of banner makers and holders are having a great impact as politicians are talking about the huge number of crosses that keep increasing. Help is needed to continue this successful campaign. They gather between 8a.m. and 9.30 a.m. on the sitting days.

The Parliamentary sitting dates for the rest of this year are:

June 7-9, 19-21 Aug 14-16 and 28-30

Sept 6 Ballarat, Legislative Assembly and Bendigo Legislative Council

Sept 11-13 Melb Oct 9 -11, 23-25

Nov 13 -15, 27 - 29 Dec 11-13

If you can help with holding up the banner of crosses, or with organising the roster, please contact Dave Forster on M_dforster@yahoo.com.au or 9360 4921 or 0409 954 623

Petition for Victorians

Enclosed is a petition which has been created by Owen Charles of Moe with the guidance of his sympathetic M.P. Owen says, *When evil is ignored, life is lost.*

He said that the rest of the nation is looking to Victoria to do something about its abhorrent abortion law.

Please copy it and get as many signatures as possible. Send the completed forms to The Right to Life Australia, P.O. Box 2029, Brunswick East, Vic. 3057.

We plan to present them to the Spring session of Parliament, so please return them by 1st September 2012. Please put this on your TO DO list now.

What's happening with our IT system?

We are approximately half way through the development of the new IT system. The website design is completed and the membership data base is nearly ready to be uploaded into the system. The design of the website now needs to be set up with all of the functions which make it operate.

We urgently need you to contact us on rtl@rtlust.com or ring Doris on (03) 9385-0100 to notify us if you have changed address or any other alterations to your details. We do not want the new system to have inaccurate data- please remember to do this.

Remember that you will be able to book for events on line, join on line, and update your details on line when the new system is introduced.

The new system has improved capacity to identify specific groups of members for example when we are sending action alerts. In addition when we wish to contact member in a particular electorate we can locate them easily on our system and contact them quickly.

Mary Collier Secretary



United States

Video of Mom who refused abortion for disabled son approaches staggering 10 million views.

[LifeSitenews.com]

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/video-of-mom-who-refused-abortion-for-disabled-son-approaches-staggering-10>

Peter Baklinski has reported that a video of a young mom who says she did the right thing by choosing life for her severely disfigured son has been viewed by almost 10 million people around the world.

In her video, Lacey Buchanan from Tennessee chronicles the story of her baby Christian, who was born with an extremely rare condition known as Tessier cleft that caused severe deformity of his mouth, soft palate and bony elements of his face. He was born blind with soft fleshy spots covering his eye sockets.

"This video is about my son Christian, and the decision I made to give him life, when others were telling me to abort him.

CHEN GUANGCHENG arrives in U.S.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/may/21/chen-guangcheng-back-china>

Cheng Guangcheng, the blind "barefoot lawyer," who exposed China's brutal forced abortion policy, spent years in prison, then a punishing house arrest, recently escaped from his home and fled to the U.S. embassy in Beijing. Professor Jerome Cohen, an expert on Chinese law, arranged for he and his wife to study law at New York University. Chen warned that "acts of retribution may not have abated" and his supporters have warned that his friends and relatives in China are still at risk of retaliation.

To see interviews about forced abortions in China, go to www.youtube.com and search "forced abortions in China."

New Zealand

New Zealand Medical Association states: Euthanasia is unethical

From alexschadenberg.blogspot.ca

The chair of the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) Paul Ockelford stated in an article written by Jan de Montalk that was published in the nzdoctor.co.nz that, "Even if the law changed, euthanasia is unethical and cannot be condoned by the NZMA as a professional body." ... "Both the national and World Medical Associations are clear, euthanasia is unethical." ... "If the NZMA condoned doctors taking a life, would we teach it at Medical school? Would we have a course that teaches students to kill? And the ethical considerations do not stop there. Where should you put the line in the sand?"

The NZMA Code of Ethics states, "Doctors should bear in mind always the obligation of preserving life whenever possible and justifiable, while allowing death to occur with dignity and comfort. In such inevitable terminal situations, treatment with the primary aim of relieving patient distress is ethically acceptable, even when it may have the secondary effect of shortening life." A Bill to legalise euthanasia was recently introduced in the NZ legislature by Labor MP Maryan Street.

Canada

Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians Oppose Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

[From alexschadenberg.blogspot.ca]

The Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) have recently published a position paper opposing the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide, promoting improvements to palliative care in Canada and making clear distinctions between euthanasia, assisted suicide and Palliative Care.

The CSPCP also published the result of a survey of their members that confirms that an overwhelming majority of their members do not support euthanasia or assisted suicide. The survey used the definitions and glossary of the Quebec National Assembly for clarification and standardization. Definitions are as follows:

Euthanasia – "An act that consists of deliberately causing the death of another person to put an end to that person's suffering."

Assisted Suicide – "The act of helping someone commit suicide by providing the means or the information on how to proceed, or both."

Ninety percent of its members were not willing to participate in the act of euthanasia and 83% were not willing to aid in assisted suicide.

United Kingdom

Short Film – "The Letter"

[ref. Spuc-director.blogspot.com.au]

Caitlin McInnis, budding film-maker, makes powerful short movie on abortion.

Caitlin is a budding film-maker and has begun to use her creative talents to spread the pro-life message. Her short film 'The Letter' is the story of an anonymous mother writing to her aborted child. I think it is very powerful. Do pass it on to others. Caitlin says:

"The Letter is a short film about a woman who writes an amazing letter to the child she aborted 10 years ago.

I'm a student taking a film class at a local university. I've always been pro-life, but it was just a couple of years ago that I decided to use my love of filmmaking to raise awareness of the tragedy of abortion. Media is so influential in today's society so my goal is to one day produce Hollywood films with a pro-life message.

This film was created for a "dramatic piece" assignment for my editing class. During the research for a different pro-life idea, I found this letter on the internet and thought it would make a very powerful film. I couldn't have written a script like this! A 28 year old woman, somewhere in the world, regretting her abortion 10 years prior, wrote this heartfelt letter. Although she is anonymous, I am keeping the author in my prayers and I hope she has found peace.

Over the course of 4 days, I shot and edited. Much to my surprise during the premiere of our videos in class, mine was met with great feedback from not only the pro-life students, but an instructor said it would appeal to the prochoice audience as well. If it softens one heart, or better yet, as the woman writing the letter says, if it saves one baby, then it would have served a purpose."

Europe

Council of Europe: "Euthanasia must always be prohibited" Comment by Alex Schadenberg cross posted from alexschadenberg.blogspot.com

[On] 25th January 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a non-binding resolution concerning Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Power of Attorneys and Consent to Treatment under the title: *Protecting human rights and dignity by taking into account previously expressed wishes of patients. This resolution did not specifically concern the issue of euthanasia, nonetheless Article 5 of the resolution states:*

"Euthanasia, in the sense of the intentional killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit, must always be prohibited."

The resolution is comprised of a list of principles already elaborated in three documents previously adopted in the Council of Europe, including the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Oviedo Convention), which legally binds the majority of member States.

This statement follows a similar decision on January 20, 2011 by the European court of Human Rights which found that the state has no obligation to provide citizens with the means to commit suicide.

Even though this is a non-binding resolution, it does make it clear that euthanasia is an act that must always be prohibited.

Advance Directives in Europe

Sunday, January 29, 2012 Wesley Smith

The Council of Europe has passed a resolution promoting advanced directives in the EU. Fine and dandy – depending on details, of course. But the media has been abuzz about one paragraph. **From "Protecting Human Rights and Dignity by Taking Into Account Previously Express Wishes of Patients:"**

This resolution is not intended to deal with the issues of euthanasia or assisted suicide. Euthanasia, in the sense of the intentional killing by act or omission of a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit, must always be prohibited. This resolution thus limits itself to the question of advance directives, living wills and continuing powers of attorney.

Some are claiming this as a victory against voluntary euthanasia. Perhaps. But, I like this part the most because it explicitly instructs that a dependent patient's care is not to be determined by general community values – often anti-elderly and disabled – and how, in cases of doubt, advance directives are to be interpreted:

7.8 surrogate decisions that rely on general value judgements present in society should not be admissible and, in case of doubt, the decision must always be pro-life and the prolongation of life.

Right on! If in doubt, life should be the choice. Good push back against a culture that increasingly views withdrawal of treatment leading to death as the default decision when patients are very ill, disabled, or debilitated.