

Formerly Beginnings



CLEARLY CARING

Volume 24, Number 3 May/June 2004

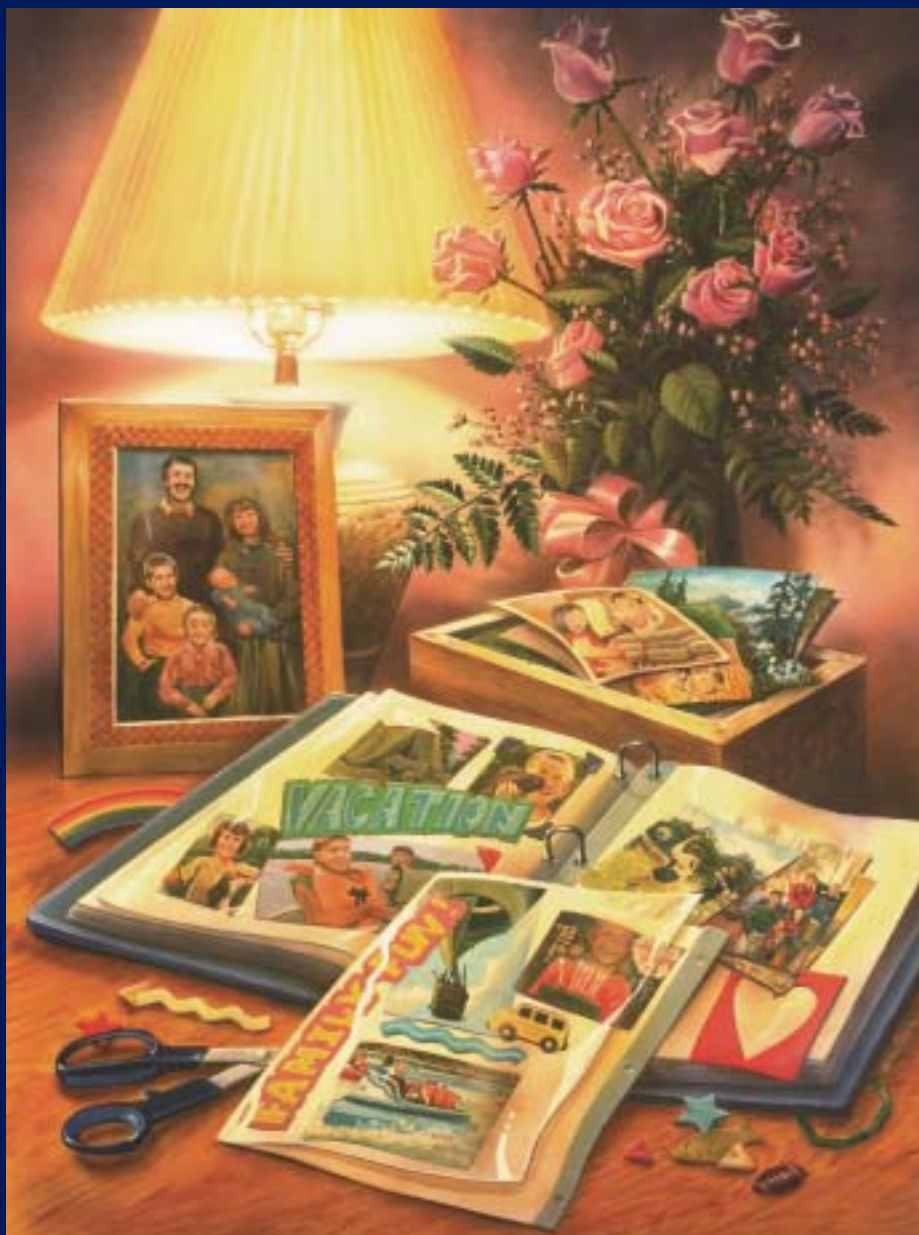
**Empty
Nesting is
for the Birds**

**Are You
Prepared
to Make a
Difference?**

**What
Statistics
Don't
Tell You**

**Keep 'Em
Talkin'**

**Too Small
to Survive**





Daddy's Dream

Consider this soft pencil artwork as a special gift for Father's Day. For a limited time you can purchase **Daddy's Dream** for a discounted price (sale ends June 30).

The print comes framed and double-matted for just \$65 (regularly priced at \$72). Framed print measures 17 1/2" x 21 1/2". Choose oak or walnut frame. Shipping \$7 additional.

You may also purchase the print unframed for just \$29 (regularly priced at \$35) The print measures 16" x 20". Shipping \$4 additional.

Please call (800) 729-9535 to place your order or visit our on-line store at www.CLRstore.com

Thrivent Matching Gifts

In 2003, Christian Life Resources received over **\$7,700** from **Thrivent** through its **GivingPlus** matching gift program. How does **GivingPlus** work? The owner of any **Thrivent** Financial product may give gifts of **\$50 to \$400** to Christian Life Resources or *New Beginnings - Home for Mothers*, and **Thrivent** will match the gift **50¢** for each **\$1** contributed. A donor may support two charities in a calendar year for each person 16 years and older who owns a **Thrivent** product.

Individuals who do not own a **Thrivent** product can purchase a **\$10** associate member status through **Thrivent** and their gift of **\$50 to \$100** will then be matched **50¢** for each **\$1**.

For more information on how this program works or to request a **Thrivent GivingPlus** form, call **800-729-9535**. Make your donations go even farther to support the ministry through this matching gift program!

Another fun and easy way to show you Clearly Care for others!

Host a baby shower and send those gifts to your local WELS Lutherans for Life Pregnancy Counseling Center (PCC) or Life Resource Center (LRC). Disposable diapers are especially welcomed.

Don't know the location of the nearest PCC or LRC?

Call 800-729-9535 we will be happy to help!
Or email info@christianliferesources.com.

WELS Lutherans for Life Pregnancy Counseling Center Locations



from the editor

Although life issues are of critical concern to *Christian Life Resources*, we also recognize the fundamental value of the family. Because this issue of *Clearly Caring* falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day, it has a distinct focus on family issues. I hope you enjoy it.

Sharon Bauer

Happenings

- ~ LifeTalk for Clergy, a monthly commentary on life issues, now has over **650** subscribers!
- ~ Lifewire, CLR's email news service, goes out twice a week to **580** people.
- ~ Become a Clearly Caring Sponsor, the easy way to consistently support this ministry! Call or visit our website for a brochure.

To find out more about any of these programs, visit our website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call 800-729-9535.

Contents

Commentary	
<i>Empty Nesting is for the Birds</i> . . .	4-5
Life Witness Connection	
<i>Are You Prepared to Make a Difference?</i>	6
Q & A	7
Around the World	
<i>What Statistics Don't Tell You</i>	8
Affiliate Awareness	
<i>Reaching Teens in a New Way</i>	9
News in Brief	10-11
Parish Nursing Today	11
Today's Media	12
Family Tips	
<i>Keep 'Em Talkin'</i>	13-14
News You Can Use	
<i>Too Small to Survive?</i>	15



The official publication of Christian Life Resources, Inc. (Distribution: 74,000)

Publisher: Christian Life Resources, Inc.
2949 N. Mayfair Road, Suite 309
Milwaukee, WI 53222-4304
(800-729-9535)

Editor: Sharon Bauer
e-mail: clr@ChristianLifeResources.com
website: www.ChristianLifeResources.com
ISSN: 1549-2508
Copyright © 2004 Christian Life Resources
All rights reserved.

Using God's Word as the guide, Christian Life Resources, Inc. (CLR) proclaims the sanctity of human life through Christ. CLR oversees the work of three distinct divisions: *WELS Lutherans for Life* develops educational materials and resources supporting our life and family ministry, and assists 82 affiliates in conducting their regional ministries and operation of 23 counseling and resource centers; *COMPASS Productions* produces media projects both within and outside the realm of life issues; and *Life Resources International* provides pro-life counseling, resources and humanitarian aid to people in other countries. *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*, a separate legal entity affiliated with CLR, supports single mothers in a residential setting who have decided to carry their babies to term while teaching them how to include Jesus in their lives. *The Christians Concerned for Life Foundation* is a separate legal entity affiliated with CLR, established to sponsor special life and family affirming projects not covered by regular operating budgets. Gifts to the foundation and subsequent earnings are granted to special projects which reflect Biblical principles in protecting human life and ministering to souls. All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Artwork on the cover is by artist, Doug Knutson. Other Knutson artwork can be purchased around the country and through the CLR store (www.CLRstore.com).

EASY! FUN! "Change for Life" Baby Bottle Project

Raise awareness and funding for pro-life ministries!

1. Arrange for your church, school or group to participate.
2. Promote the project in advance with bulletin and newsletter announcements (samples provided by CLR).
3. Set up a very simple display to distribute the bottles.
4. Collect the filled bottles on a designated date.
5. Return the bottles and proceeds to CLR.

It's easy to be a voice for
. . . . the victims of choice.

Let **YOUR** voice be heard!

For more information, call 800-729-9535 or visit www.ChristianLifeResources.com

Your AD Could Be Here!

You can now reach over 185,000 people with your advertising message through the new **Clearly Caring** magazine.

- Cost Effective Placement Rates
- Multiple Ad Size Formats Available
- Black & White or Full Color
- Total Circulation: 74,000 per issue
- Total Readership: 185,000 per issue

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE NOW!
For information on publication demographics, circulation, ad sizes, advertising rates, or to reserve ad space, contact us today at (800) 729-9535 or email editor@ChristianLifeResources.com

Empty Nesting is for the Birds



When The Swallows Come Back to Capistrano
Lyrics by: The Ink Spots

*When the swallows come back to Capistrano
That's the day you promised to come back to me
When you whispered, "Farewell," in Capistrano
Twas the day the swallow flew out to sea*

*All the mission bells will ring
The chapel choir will sing
The happiness you'll bring
Will live in my memory*

*When the swallows come back to Capistrano
That's the day I pray that you'll come back to me*

*All the mission bells will ring
The chapel choir will sing
The happiness you'll bring
Will live in my memory*

*When the swallows come back to Capistrano
That's the day I pray that you'll come back to me.*

by Rev. Robert Fleischmann
National Director of Christian Life Resources

This issue of *Clearly Caring* is arriving in the mail between Mother's Day and Father's Day – two really big family holidays. My writing assignment for this commentary came to me the morning after my "baby" announced she was moving out.

This move is not an act of rebellion or a reflection of teenage angst against domineering parents – at least I don't think so. This is another step in her life to discover independence and responsibility. It is a familiar path traveled by generations before her, not to mention her four big sisters. Now it is her turn.

All should go well, right? After all, she is moving into an apartment just a few miles away. She is moving in with her sister, just two years older than her and who has been out on her own for just about that long.

As a sentimental father it warms my heart to see little girls who hated rooming together become close friends and plan to share an apartment. It is a

harbinger of hope for parents around the world who wonder if their kids are ever going to get along.

I measure this emptying nest concept, however, in a somewhat selfish manner. With each child leaving the nest I was affected by how difficult it must have been for my parents as I, and then my three younger brothers, moved out. My family was always tight-knit, and we still try to get together for birthdays and big holidays. Even during occasional rifts that occur in any family, a Capistrano effect takes place bringing families back to familiar places for family celebrations and tragedies.

Now, as I experience the departure of the last bird from the nest, I question whether I did enough during my girls' growing years. There are feelings of regret for not being around as often as I wished. Perhaps their math skills would have been better if I had spent more time with them on algebra. Or maybe if I had

not tried to help them so much in science they would have done better in that as well.

The proverb goes like this: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). I am struck by how dramatically different each child is from the other. I cannot, however, overlook the common denominators.

Over the years the girls learned my humor and sarcasm. They reflect both my cynical and optimistic sides. They also reflect the high value I put on Godly things and my weaknesses relating to the things of God.

As I look back over 26+ years of parenting I see that the most impacting lessons on the children are the ones modeled consistently in actions and in spirit. I learned that while children accept the steadfast facade we parents put on for their sake, they see past it. If we force ourselves to be nice to all people, but inwardly dislike some, they pick up on it. If we act tough and unbending but inside we are tender and soft, they learn the tenderness.

I learned these lessons as one who has built his nest next to his parents. I, too, longed for my independence. I am a self-starter; I am stubbornly determined and fiercely independent. Yet, the subtle values established and taught to me in my youth are now realized as I get older. I don't ever remember my parents telling me to be more concerned about others than myself. Yet, they modeled that principle in actions and in spirit, and I now think of it often.

I learned my father's caution to hold off buying the first "deal" that comes along. I emulated my mother's courage in tackling new and challenging tasks. None of these traits were formally taught to me but as I got older I find myself imitating them. As I look back over my childhood I see now the subtle lessons that they taught.

So now my baby is moving out. I have a laundry list of values and lessons I hope she learned. I am even tempted to write them out for her but I must trust that if they were genuine lessons and values for me, she likely learned them.

Do I hold out hope that she might come back? Well, the decision has already been made to turn her room



Rev. Robert Fleischmann and his five daughters

As I look back over 26+ years of parenting I see that the most impacting lessons on the children are the ones modeled consistently in actions and in spirit.

into a guest room. Can she come back? I cannot stop being a parent. The door is always open to any of the children.

For now, though, I know life is going to be different: one less mouth to feed; one less schedule to track; one less lecture on keeping the room clean. But I am still the parent. I will still remember her with her sisters in my daily prayers. I will still wonder how they are doing and if they are really happy. Is God first in their lives? Are they more mindful of others than of themselves? All I can do now is watch and see.

For my children the home is still going to be a sort of "Capistrano." I long to have all of them together now and then, hopefully for more happy occasions than sad ones. I hope to sit together with them in worship and praise for God, Who gave us one other and Who sacrificed His own Son for our family.

"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart" (Psalm 91:4).

Such is the Heavenly Father's comfort for all of us. This divine providence makes us all part of the best family that lasts forever. It makes this nest our home. ❁

Are You Prepared to Make a Difference?

by Helen Fleischmann
Life Witness Coordinator

Things are moving fast in the area of life and family issues. The slippery slope continues its downward course. It invites the question: "What am I doing about it?"

I have a suggestion to answer that question, but I need your help!

Some of you have called the national office and said, "I would like to do something in my congregation to help promote life." For those of you who have taken the initiative to call, I thank you. However, the calls are still few, and the task is so great!

Babies are still being aborted at an alarming rate. Physician-assisted suicide is up for vote in more and more states. Teens are committing suicide out of hopelessness. Sexually-transmitted disease rates continue to increase dramatically among our youth. Elder abuse goes on in nursing homes due to a lack of value for human life. The list goes on and on. All of us know these trends are not going to stop until we decide that we care enough to make a difference.

I am fully aware of how busy life can get, but this is too important to ignore. There will come a time in our lives when we will face one or more of these issues ourselves. Wouldn't it be nice to know where to turn in these times of crisis?

I am calling each WELS and ELS church seeking Life Witness volunteers in every congregation. My goal is to enlist a Life Witness in every congregation. After all, members of these congregations need to be educated on these important life and family issues as they relate to God's Word.

Rest assured that I am not asking you to know all the answers. The Christian Life Resources national office is here to assist you with many fine materials,

resources, and information. All you need is a willing heart to let others become better informed.

Ask God each day, "Lord, what would you have me do for you today?" The Life Witness program can be one means to make a difference and convey your love of God to others.

Together I know we can make a difference. 🌹

To find out more about becoming a Life Witness, contact Helen Fleischmann at <witness@christianliferesources.com> or call the national office at 1-800-729-9535.

Experience pregnancy from your baby's point of view!

Countdown to a Miracle:

COUNTDOWN TO A MIRACLE!

The perfect gift for expectant families, this daily pregnancy calendar guides mom, dad and siblings through every day of baby's amazing nine-month journey from conception to birth. Discover: When baby reaches the length & weight of a hot dog roll; Exactly when baby's heart begins to beat; when her eyes open; and 278 more developmental facts. PLUS: Days remaining until due date. Only \$14.99

Every purchase at www.LifeVisions.net helps benefit the pro-life cause!

LifeVisions Toll free 877-855-5007 www.LifeVisions.net

by Paul Snamiska
WELS Lutherans for Life Administrator

Q: I've heard some differing stories about something called HIPAA and wonder how it affects my Power of Attorney for Health Care document.

A: HIPAA stands for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HIPAA took effect in April 2003 and includes detailed privacy rules regarding your health information. Medical and legal professionals are very concerned about these rules and are also uncertain as to particular applications of HIPAA in their daily practices. Evidence of this uncertainty is seen in the mixed information that is communicated on this topic.

The specific area of concern is in regard to a person's Personal Health Information (PHI). A medical directive statement likely does not include language that specifically authorizes the release of PHI to your health care agent. We have heard legal experts state that the power of attorney documents fulfill this requirement adequately, so additional clarification is unnecessary. Other attorneys warn that without specific wording, there could be hesitancy among medical professionals to share PHI, even with a designated health care agent.

We suggest you discuss this issue with your attorney. If legal counsel advises you add a specific statement, we suggest adding a phrase near the end of the document which says: "I empower my health care agent to receive my Personal Health Information in accordance with HIPAA." It is also wise to confer with your physician or medical facility about possible policies that should be considered.

Remember that medical directive statements are written according to statutes that apply to each person's state of residency. The power of attorney for health care documents provided by Christian Life Resources are updated and reviewed annually according to those statutes.

Q: I've heard about the financial problems with the WELS and wonder how those problems have affected CLR.

A: We've heard this question many times lately and decided it is time to address the bigger picture.

Christian Life Resources is a para-synodical organization. This means CLR is in agreement with the doctrine and practice of the WELS, but is not funded nor administered by the synod. There are a number of other para-synodical organizations such as Lutheran Pioneers, Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS), Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS), and Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services which administer their own budgets and funding.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, virtually all charitable organizations have been hurt financially and have been required to make adjustments. This is also true of CLR.

So, the same kind of financial problems that affect the Synod, have also affected CLR. For these reasons, all synodical and para-synodical support is greatly appreciated as we strive to fulfill our mission of sharing the Gospel throughout the world. 🌹



What Statistics Don't Tell You

by Larry M. Dilgard
Life Resources International Administrator

Do statistics really give people the full information and the real story? I suggest there are more to statistics than are revealed by simple numbers.

Life Resources International (LRI), a division of Christian Life Resources Inc (CLR), manages the Gift of Life program in Ternopil, Ukraine, for Thoughts of Faith. The program includes a pediatric mobile medical clinic and a pediatric mobile dental clinic; in addition, a large humanitarian aid program, and five Christian pro-life pregnancy counseling centers (Life Centers), which are international affiliates of WELS Lutherans for Life, are a part of this program.

These diverse programs of Gift of Life are used as "bridge ministries" to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC). A part of our management involves the collection of statistical information regarding these different programs each year. The numbers alone don't tell the real story nor the incredible results of the actual work being accomplished.

The number of pediatric patients seen in 2003 is quite impressive: 4,511 were seen at the Medical Clinic and 3,966 at the Dental Clinic. The real benefit, though, is that the clinics were able to evangelize and tell about the love of God to these patients. You see, Deaconess Ludmyla, who partners with the clinics, uses these opportunities as a "bridge ministry" to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

Equally impressive are the statistics for the humanitarian aid program. The contents of the three 40-foot containers of donated humanitarian aid shipped in 2003 weighed about 60,000 pounds and had an estimated value of over \$700,000. Many people were assisted with their physical needs through this program in Ukraine, where many still struggle to provide for their most basic needs. But the benefit of the program that does not appear in the statistics is that in almost every case, the Gospel message was



shared along with the humanitarian aid given to the recipients through the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

In 2003, the counselors at the five Life Centers, gave 885 pro-life presentations to 21,690 people on various topics at public schools, universities, medical colleges, and other organizations. They were invited to these different educational establishments, were able to give Christian witness about various life issues, and had many chances to witness and evangelize. In addition, counseling took place on the sanctity of life to 2,311 clients between the five centers and included opportunities to tell of God's love as well as sin and grace with most of the clients. Clients attended weekly Bible study and instruction opportunities by ULC pastors on an ongoing basis during the year. Through the individual counseling at the centers, we know that 128 pre-born lives were saved from abortion. The actual number may be quite higher. Many of the children saved from abortion were brought into the family of believers through baptism along with a number of the adult clients.

No, the statistics don't tell the entire story. We thank the Lord for the opportunities to build bridges to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and for the promise of eternal salvation to all believers. ✨

To support the work of Life Resources International, please contact Larry Dilgard at (800) 729-9535 or by e-mail at: <lri@christianliferesources.com>.

Now Available!



A refreshing Christian approach to difficult life issues is now available for your Bible study, youth group, school, or pro-life group.

- VIDEO 1:** Science and Ethics of Stem Cell Research and Cloning - Dr. David Prentice
- Birth Control:** The Clinician's Challenge and Opportunity - Dr. Janet Lindemann
- VIDEO 2:** Death: When Has It Come? - Tom Marzen, JD
- Human Life:** When Does it Become? - Rev. Robert Fleischmann
- VIDEO 3:** Cost, Compassion and Pain Relief - Dr. Kenneth Stevens
- Hospice Care as a Congregational Option** - Nancy Cruden, RN
- VIDEO 4:** Perfecting Mankind: The Ethical and Legal Implications of Genetic Engineering - Dr. Curtis Harris
- Ethics Committees:** Treatment by Consensus or Objective Guidance - Wesley Smith, JD
- VIDEO 5:** New World Ethic: What Can We Expect? - Dr. Nigel Cameron

These videos are on sale until June 30 for just \$19.95 each (regularly priced at \$24.95). You may also purchase the entire set for \$85.

Join us for the CLR Ministry Retreat

Topics for counselors on understanding your client, adoption counseling, and post abortion syndrome.

Topics covering pro-life projects for churches, working as a team, and tips for assisting families.

Topics for teens including communicating with your parents when a crisis hits and dealing with dangerous relationships.

Come to be educated and refreshed at this special event!



November 6, 2004
Star of Bethlehem Church
New Berlin, Wisconsin

For more information, check out our website at: www.clrfocus.org

Reaching Teens in a New Way

An effective bridge ministry reaches out to people in order to share the Gospel. Life issues are excellent tools to accomplish this goal. In many of our chapters, the "bridge" is a pregnancy counseling center. One of our chapters is working on a new bridge.



Tomorrow's Choice for Teens is a new approach for our Waukesha Chapter. The bridge is found through a local Teen Center that serves the young adults in the city of Waukesha, WI. The Center gives teens the opportunity to listen to live music, play arcade games, log on to the Internet, or just hang out with friends. Now, through Tomorrow's Choice, the option is provided to talk to a peer or counselor about their life decisions. The leaders of our chapter don't know for sure where this opportunity will lead, but they know it is an opportunity worth pursuing. Initial efforts are focused on building relationships and gaining confidence with the teens. Through organized and dedicated volunteers, they hope to make a difference in the lives of these young people who are searching for answers.

Tomorrow's Choice for Teens is just one of the new methods for using life and family issues as bridges to convey the love of God and to share the message of salvation through Christ. To learn more about this unique bridge ministry feel free to contact Christian Life Resources at 800-729-9535 or the Waukesha Chapter directly at 262-513-9590. ✨

Top Risk Factors in Teen Substance Abuse

According to an annual survey conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, the risk that teens will smoke, drink, get drunk, and use illegal drugs increases dramatically if they are highly stressed, frequently bored, or have substantial amounts of spending money.

Among CASA's findings:

- High stress teens are twice as likely as low stress teens to smoke, drink, get drunk, and use illegal drugs.
- Often-bored-teens are 50% likelier than not-often-bored-teens to smoke, drink, get drunk, and use illegal drugs.
- Teens with \$25 or more a week in spending money are nearly twice as likely as teens with less to smoke, drink, and use illegal drugs, and more than twice as likely to get drunk.
- Teens exhibiting two or three of these characteristics are at more than three times the risk of substance abuse as those exhibiting none of these characteristics.
- More than half the nation's 12-to-17 year olds (52%) are at greater risk of substance abuse because of high stress, frequent boredom, too much spending money, or some combination of these characteristics.

Other findings of this year's survey:

- More than 5 million 12-to-17 year olds (20%) can buy marijuana in an hour or less; another 5 million (19%) can buy marijuana within a day.
- The proportion of teens that consider beer easier to buy than cigarettes or marijuana is up 80% from in 2000 (18% vs. 10%).
- Teens at schools with more than 1,200 students are twice as likely as teens at schools with less than 800 students to be at high risk of substance abuse (25% vs. 12%).
- Fewer teens are associating with peers who use substances: 56% have no friends who regularly drink; 68% have no friends who use marijuana; 70% have no friends who smoke cigarettes.
- Teens who attend religious services at least once a week are at significantly lower risk of substance abuse.
- The average age of first use is 12 years 2 months for alcohol, 12.5 for cigarettes, and 13 years 11 months for marijuana.

[3/3/04 - CASA News Release]

Drug Abuse During Pregnancy "On the Rise"

More and more American babies are being exposed to drugs before birth because of their mothers' ever-increasing use of illegal substances during pregnancy. According to the California state health department, 11.35 percent of pregnant women in California use drugs and alcohol. According to researchers at UC Berkeley, of 607,000 births in California in 2001, 69,000 were to mothers who had used drugs. Babies carried by women who abuse drugs – if these babies survive the pregnancy – are born with severe physical, emotional, and psychological problems, including low birth weight, chronic respiratory problems, mental retardation, and behavioral problems.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that every year 27 percent of obstetricians who had not suspected substance abuse deliver babies who have been exposed to drugs, such as methamphetamine and marijuana (the two most widely used illicit drugs in the world).

[2/29/04 - Modbee.com]

Teen STDs at Shocking Levels

A new report on the dangers of sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) to young people shows that half of all sexually-active young people can expect to be infected by the age of 25. Sexually-active teens have the highest rates of STDs of any age group, according to the study, which was produced by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina. More than nine million of new infections in 2000 affected those 15-24 years of age. The rise of STDs contrasts the steady decline in teen birth and pregnancy rates in the 1990s, signaling that while birth-control products are being used, they do not offer the promised protection against STDs.

[2/26/04 - Citizen Link]

President Bush Wants Abstinence Program Funding Tripled by 2005

In his State of the Union speech, President Bush asked that funding for federal abstinence programs be doubled now and tripled by 2005. Bush has

been praised in the past for increasing funding for abstinence efforts to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies and abortions. "We will double federal funding for abstinence programs, so schools can teach this fact of life: Abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases," Bush said. Bush's proposal would increase abstinence program funding from \$80 million a year to more than \$270 million in 2005. The President said Americans need to be more willing to present the abstinence message to young men and women.

[01/22/04 - Lifenews.com]

Death Rate of Abortion Three Times Higher than Childbirth

A study of pregnancy-associated deaths published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AJOG) has found that the mortality rate associated with abortion is 2.95 times higher than that associated with pregnancies carried to term. The study included the entire population of women 15-49 years of age in Finland between 1987 and 2000. The researchers linked birth and abortion records to death certificates. Non-pregnant women had 57.0 deaths per 100,000, compared to 28.2 for women who carried to term, 51.9 for women who miscarried, and 83.1 for women who had abortions. The authors, led by Mika Gissler of Finland's National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, concluded that pregnancy contributes to a healthy effect on women.

This is the second record-based study to be published in the last 18 months to show that the death rates following abortion are significantly higher than those associated with birth. The other study, published in the Southern Medical Journal, linked death records to Medi-Cal payments for births and abortions for approximately 173,000 low income Californian women. In that study, the researchers discovered that women who had abortions were almost twice as likely to die in the following two years and that the elevated mortality rate of aborting women persisted over at least eight years.

[Am J Ob Gyn 2004; 190:422-427; South Med J 2002 Aug;95(8):834-41]

Parish nursing, as a formal practice, is relatively new. Although churches throughout the centuries have provided health care through various avenues, there is a resurgence in providing our members with necessary information and support in the area of health and wellness. For those pastors and congregations who are considering a parish nursing program, here are some points to consider:

- **Parish nursing can be a positive ministry in your congregation.**
- **As with all ministries in the church, a parish nursing program would fall under the realm and authority of the pastor and the established congregational structure.**
- **Parish nursing provides information, education, organization, visitation, and other non-invasive measures. Parish nurses do not provide vaccinations, prescribe medications, or replace the patient's doctor.**
- **Most parish nurses are part-time workers in the congregation and often volunteer their time.**
- **Due to licensing requirements and limitations, a parish nurse must be a Registered Nurse (RN).** ♡

If you have an interest in learning more about parish nursing, contact our office or visit our website at: www.ChristianLifeResources.com/?Parishnursing
You can email nursing@ChristianLifeResources.com or call 800-729-9535.





by Tim Snyder
Media Production Coordinator

Righteous indignation. You know the feeling. You find something so offensive you start to seethe inside. It's a jumbled mix of emotions. After all, souls are at stake! You hate the sin and at the same time feel compelled to speak the truth in love. When was the last time you felt like that? Sometimes the things you see and hear on television make you feel that way. At least they used to, but you see and hear them so often that indignation becomes indifference. Casual sex, open homosexuality, graphic violence, and foul language are the norm. These are typical of the content of many television programs (and commercials), and the constant bombardment can desensitize you.

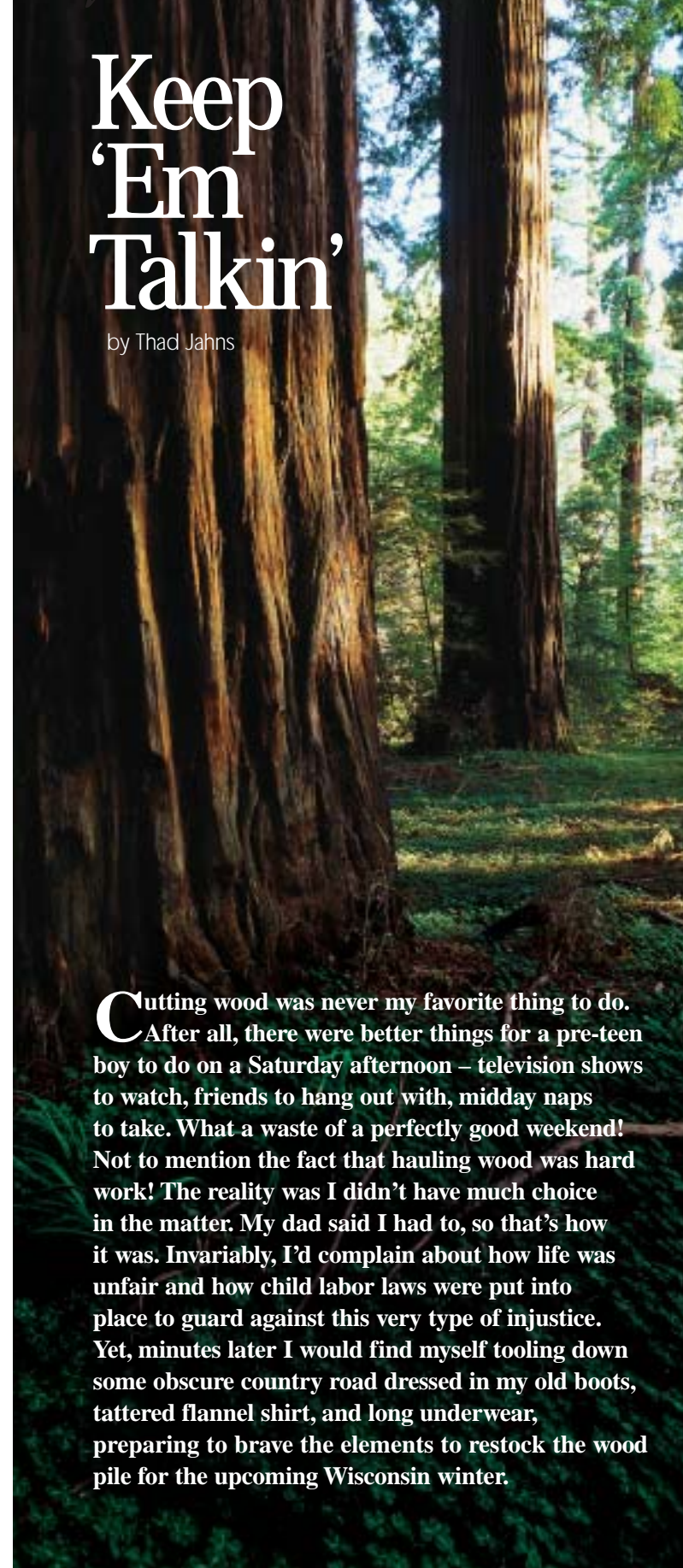
A recent episode of "ER" featured a care-giver casually reminding a pregnant patient that she had to make a decision in regard to keeping the pregnancy (note that it was referred to as a "pregnancy" and not a child). Then there's "Will & Grace," in which homosexuality is an acceptable everyday occurrence. You need a scorecard to keep track of all the sins television depicts as good clean fun. Are you feeling indignant yet?

Our children can become desensitized too. Do the images your child sees on television conflict with the values you're trying to teach? We're in a battle for the hearts and minds (with the emphasis on hearts) of our children and keeping the kids away from "adult" shows isn't enough. Even children's programs can be dangerous. Many children's shows portray adults as incompetent buffoons and encourage a culture of disrespect. An episode of "Sister, Sister" on cable's Disney Channel clearly conveyed a pro-gay message. The average American child sees 16,000 murders on television by age 18 (American Medical Association). Another disturbing stat is that the average child between ages 2 and 17 spends 3.5 hours per day watching television (Gentile and Walsh, 2002). Monitoring what your kids watch is literally a part-time job. Are you feeling indignant yet?

Indifference won't cut it when our children's spiritual lives are concerned. Take control of your children's television habits (and your own). Make sure you know and approve what your kids are watching. Talk openly with them when they see or hear something that runs contrary to God's Word. A little righteous indignation won't hurt either. ♡

Keep 'Em Talkin'

by Thad Jahns



Cutting wood was never my favorite thing to do. After all, there were better things for a pre-teen boy to do on a Saturday afternoon – television shows to watch, friends to hang out with, midday naps to take. What a waste of a perfectly good weekend! Not to mention the fact that hauling wood was hard work! The reality was I didn't have much choice in the matter. My dad said I had to, so that's how it was. Invariably, I'd complain about how life was unfair and how child labor laws were put into place to guard against this very type of injustice. Yet, minutes later I would find myself tooling down some obscure country road dressed in my old boots, tattered flannel shirt, and long underwear, preparing to brave the elements to restock the wood pile for the upcoming Wisconsin winter.

I think it's safe now to confess that I really didn't hate those cold afternoons in the woods as much as I let on. Sure, there were other "pressing" issues that needed my attention back home, but even in the midst of the prepubescent storm that was brewing around me, I was able to appreciate the opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with my dad. Once the hum of the chainsaw stopped, we often had the opportunity to catch up on what was going on in each other's lives. I don't remember the exact words that were exchanged, what specific pearls of wisdom were imparted from father to son, what questions were asked by a young boy beginning his journey toward manhood. What I do remember is that those times were ours and that they kept the two of us talking, even through the teen years.

Isn't that what all parents long for – to keep their children talking? Isn't that the kind of open relationship you hope to have with your kids? I know I want my boys talking to me as they pass through the tempestuous teen years. I want them to be assured that they have an ally living right down the hall from them. I want them to know that while I don't have all the answers, I certainly can listen with a ready ear and a loving heart.

Open 'em up

Have you noticed that the really good discussions don't always fit neatly into your dayplanner? The best talks just seem to happen, sometimes when we least expect them. That doesn't mean that you, as a parent, can't create an environment that helps to foster openness. Where is your child's favorite place to talk? As you look at past interactions, where does your child seem most comfortable opening up? Each child may be different. For one it may be while chowing down a burger at McDonald's. For another, while riding in the car. For yet another, while making cookies in the kitchen. Study your child and find that special place that lends itself well to an open dialogue.

As you look at your regular schedule, do you even have a chunk of time when a meaningful discussion could take place? Or have you bought into the lie

(continued on page 14)

that quality time can make up for quantity time? As children get older there will be more and more things bidding for their time and yours. Don't let your relationships with your children suffer at the expense of "busyness." Remember that the entries on your calendar are indications of the things you most value. Schedule some quality time with each child on a regular basis. That simple investment is guaranteed to pay high dividends in the years to come!

Listen to 'em

Good listeners are hard to find. Most of us, when given a choice, are much more interested in gracing the world with details of our own thoughts and feelings than we are in listening – truly listening – to what others might have to say. If you see yourself primarily as a dispensary of knowledge, the expert imparting wisdom on the next generation, then you are missing some prime opportunities to grow your

Schedule some quality time with each child on a regular basis. That simple investment is guaranteed to pay high dividends in the years to come!

relationship with your child. I'm not saying that there aren't times when you'll need to hand out little morsels of guidance, encouragement, and admonition – that's all part of being a parent, too. But those important words of instruction will fall on deaf ears if you haven't taken the time to demonstrate your child's value by listening.

According to an old Turkish proverb, "If speaking is silver, then listening is gold." Most of our relationships would be so much richer if we could just learn to close our yappers long enough to consider what others have to say. In our selfish shortsightedness, we often settle for silver when we could have gold. And over the course of a lifetime, those poor decisions can lead to relational bankruptcy.

Treat 'em with respect

Don't you just hate it when you sense that someone is "talking down" to you, as if you're not capable of comprehending the deep nature of the conversation? Few things are more demeaning. As children grow toward adulthood, they also will long to be treated more like adults – to make adult decisions, take part in adult conversations, accept some adult responsibilities. Nothing will clam them up more quickly than treating them like little kids. Does your child feel that she has permission to respectfully share her opinions and feelings? Or do your own insecurities as a parent stifle the open and honest dialogue you both long for? Treat your child like the adult you hope for him to become, rather than the little kid you still see him as. You might just be amazed at what your child has to offer. Who knows? You might even learn something!

The old chainsaw now has a home in my garage. And to this day the smell of freshly cut maple and two-stroke engine exhaust invokes those images of days long past. Fortunately, I still have a chance every now and then to cut wood with my dad. Even though we are both men of few words, those times still serve as a chance for the two of us to reconnect and share the latest news. The irony is that now he's the one complaining about how he's getting too old to be tossing logs around. You know, maybe he's right. Perhaps it is time for some new blood. Come to think of it, I can think of a few young boys who might just fit the job description. ♡

Thad Jahns, M.S., has served as a career counselor and marriage and family therapist. He currently serves as Family Minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Thad and his wife, Ann, are parents of three energetic young boys.



by Cathy Morgan
Information Services Coordinator

Too Small to Survive?



How early can a baby be born and survive? This question can be difficult to answer.

Meet Ty Brinkman – a child born at just 25 weeks of development in the womb.

Doni and Jim Brinkman entered into an open adoption with a young Christian girl in December 2003 and eagerly awaited the birth of their son, due to be born May 1, 2004. However, this tiny little boy was born prematurely and arrived on January 17, 2004 – 15 weeks early! Ty weighed just two pounds and was 13.5 inches long. He was placed on full life support and remained in the hospital for 12 weeks.

Doni said, "I am not sure where the Lord is leading us, but He has shown us the beauty of His creation LONG before most parents."

Since his birth, Ty faced many challenges. His under-developed lungs caused severe breathing problems. He also experienced brain bleeds which were a major cause for concern. Despite these obstacles, he continues to survive and grow. By March 11 he weighed 4 lbs. 14 oz. and was nearly 18 inches long. Doctors were concerned that young Ty might experience congestive heart failure and brain bleeds because of his spiked weight gain, but a head ultrasound proved otherwise. He is just a growing boy!

Doni and Jim brought Ty home on Wednesday, April 7, weighing 6 lbs., 4 oz. and measuring 18 inches long. This was a day when this family rejoiced in the miraculous survival of their baby.

The Brinkman's position on the sanctity of life has given them the opportunity to stand up for what they believe in and witness to everyone around them.

As for the birth mother, the unselfish act of placing her baby into the arms of the Brinkmans is one that should be admired. This young girl made a difficult decision and then was loving enough to place this baby in a caring adoptive home. She now speaks in her school about abstinence and uses pictures of Ty to aid in her presentations. She is a girl with great courage and faith. Please keep her in your prayers.

Through all of the trials put before the Brinkmans as well as the birth mother, they have remained faithful and trusted that God is the Creator of all life whose love guides all of them every step of the way. ♡

If you would like more information about Ty, the Brinkmans, and the birth mother, you can go to the family website through this link <<http://www.christianliferesources.com/?TyJordanBrinkman>>.

MIGHTY FORTRESS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

"The LORD . . . is my refuge and my fortress" (Psalm 91:2)

Amenities for Phase 1:

- Chapel Services/Bible Classes
- Wellness/Fitness Room
- Maintenance and Grounds Keeping
- Gated Community
- Fellowship Activities/ Craft Room
- Walking/Golf Cart Trails
- Community Center/Swimming Pool

This is your opportunity to experience a work-free, comfortable, affordable and Christ-centered retirement community for WELS/ELS seniors 62 and over. Sixty acres of quiet, secluded and pristine land awaits you. Whether you are looking for total privacy or the opportunity for conversation and social activities, the choice is yours. Our homes and apartments (with provisions for an assisted care living facility, phase III) are being designed with you in mind.



WELS - Church On Site



- 111 Quality Homes
- 102 Apartment Units
- Assisted Living Facility

Please write or call:

**MIGHTY FORTRESS
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

P.O. Box 640313, Beverly Hills, Florida 34464-0313
 Rev. R.G. Johnston - (352) 489-3213
www.MightyFortressRetirementCommunity.com

Located on Florida's
Nature Coast in Citrus
County

Tampa 75 miles
 Orlando 80 miles
 Gainesville 45 miles
 Ocala 35 miles

a not-for-profit community centered around your faith

Christian Life Resources, Inc.



2949 N. MAYFAIR RD., SUITE 309
 MILWAUKEE, WI 53222-4304

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 3539
 Milwaukee, WI

Return Service Requested