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WHY I AM PRO-LIFE

By Carolyn Cavanaugh

Why am I personally pro-life? There are several reasons. I will freely admit most of them are firmly set in my faith. With the Bible as my guide I see staunchly defending life at all stages is the only way to go. I know there are those who would disagree with me while believing in their position just as much. The debate rages at a fever pitch in some ways more than before with the battles over Health Care Reform. The debate has descended into yelling matches at some meetings.

The first and foremost reason is my own situation. I was born with a form of dwarfism, Turners Syndrome. There are other effects outside of short stature. I won't go into them, but suffice it to say they have made life challenging. With all the technologies available today many people are making the decision to terminate their pregnancies rather than have a "disabled" child. Yes, there are difficulties and patience is required. There is no doubt of that fact. Not to mention the possible costs of treatment. Very good insurance is essential in these cases. I will always be thankful my parents didn't take this route which admittedly wasn't as available when I came into this world fifty-five years ago. Being small made

for some interesting times while growing up for sure. Trying to convince people I was older than I looked was one of them. This led to many adventures. Believe it or not, I can still get some of the same reaction today even though I am middle aged.

Another reason I am pro-life is the make up of my family. It is interesting to see some of the looks when we go places. Our son, adopted in Seoul, South Korea, came into our lives at four months of age. As adoption is a BIG part of my family it is easy to see why I am pro-life. I have wondered at times what my life would be, or if I would even be in this world, if my grandparents had not brought my father into their lives at barely a week of age. There are many couples ready and willing start the long, complicated process of adoption have children to love. There are even people adopting children at the very earliest stages of life...as embryos and bringing them into this world. I met one of these "snowflake" children at a Right to Life conference several years ago. I considered it a privilege to meet this precious little boy and his parents. There are several other family members who are adoptees.

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Let me now go to the other end of the spectrum, the end of life. My views on life were set while I was in high school and college. They were thoroughly cemented when my beloved mother-in-law and my mother passed away within a period of about twenty months. My husband's mother was diagnosed with cancer and left us about four months later. The lessons she taught during that short time period will never leave me. She taught us about leaving a legacy of love and focusing on others even though she knew she was dying. For the rest of my life, I will always seek to emulate her. There are those who would have advocated her leaving as soon as possible for various reasons but I would argue we would have lost those invaluable lessons she taught.

Shortly thereafter, the effects of a brain wasting condition caught up with my mother and she collapsed while out with my father to take care of some business. She was finally diagnosed with Older Age Hydrocephalus which had the same effects as Alzheimers disease. The next year and a half she was in and out of responsiveness. She was in the non responsive state for nine months, giving only one or two word answers to questions or shaking or nodding her head. My father was going to leave on a well deserved vacation to see my brother and his family who lived in California at the time. He reminded my mom he was leaving and suddenly she "woke up", wanting to know when he was going to pick her up to go to the airport.

This was the beginning of a God given time of reconciliation between the my mother and me. She was so completely changed when she woke up we were able to make up, as much as her brain injury allowed, for a lot of things which had happened in the past. This began a time of healing from years of emotional and verbal abuse. Then finally, we had one last time of singing duets together at a family gathering. My brother's family had just moved here from California

and it was birthday time for a couple of us. After dinner I sat down and started playing the piano. Mom came up to me, which was no small effort, and wanted to sing. We sang for about half an hour to forty-five minutes until she tired. Very shortly after this, Mom went into her final coma. She left us about a month later. Some would have had my mother leave us sooner but the precious time of reconciliation and the last time of making music would have been lost.

I could go on about my reasons for being so thoroughly pro-life, but my biggest thought is that only God has the right to determine when we will go home to meet Him. How many doctors, musicians, or whatever profession have we lost when that tiny life was ended by abortion? Have we lost the person who could have found the cure for any one of the horrible diseases in the world? Have we lost the next Yo-Yo Ma to the music world? This is why I am pro-life!!!

****Beat the Blahs****

Now, you can rise above the Winter doldrums in one mighty stroke of genius. Your Membership Team is geared up to give you a night of fun and fellowship,

February 20 at 6:00 PM.

The place to be, in Lowell, that evening is right here at First Baptist Church.

Come join in the celebration at the Summer Picnic in mid-winter.

All your FBC family members will be there and they will be looking for you.

Come make their day.

Read Once Each Week

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, and then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone for everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative, dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other family members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted.

A little girl said, 'I know all about Adoption, I was adopted.'

'What does it mean to be adopted?', asked another child.

'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

On Forgiveness and Cleansing

By Earl Pomeroy

If I have been forgiven for all my sins what should I do when I fall and feel guilty?

I John 1:9 says “If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

So then, if I have been forgiven already, why do I need to ask for forgiveness? The answer is, “I don’t. I need to ask for cleansing.” When you were a child and you got all muddy in the back yard, it didn’t make you any less your mother’s child and it didn’t in any way change your standing with her or make her love you any less. What did you need? You needed her to take you into the bathroom and put you in the tub for a cleanup.

This is the meaning of I John 1:9. My sin doesn’t change anything about my relationship to God as a child of his. Nor does it modify his love for me. He is faithful to his promise that I have been forgiven and his justice demands that he must treat me as forgiven because Jesus has paid the debt. “He is faithful and just to forgive us”.

What happens when I feel guilty about my behavior and confess what I have done? Confess means to agree with God – “I agree with you, God that this wasn’t in keeping with my true character as a child of yours.” He cleanses me from all unrighteousness. Unrighteousness is the dirt I get on me from walking around in a fallen world. He cleans it all away and welcomes me to the dinner table.

Here is the parallel with Hebrews 10:14-23

I John 1:9	Hebrews 10:14-23	Explanation
If we confess our sins	(16) I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds	The Spirit of God lights up our conscience through the Word of God and we agree with God about what God’s will is.
He is faithful to forgive us our sins	(14) For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (17) And their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. (18) And were these have been forgiven, there is no need for another sacrifice.	The character of God, his faithfulness and justice, gives us assurance that our forgiveness has been accomplished once and for all.
And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness	(19,20) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body; (21,22) And since we have a great high priest over the house of God; let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience, and having our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.	With this confidence, we come fearlessly into his presence, (agreeing with him about what we have done that violates his character) resting on the completed sacrifice of Jesus. As our perfect High Priest, Jesus pleads our case before God, showing his scars, and God cleanses our conscience and cleans up our appearance too. We put our faith in him for forgiveness on the day we were saved. He is faithful to his promise. Hang on to that!!

*Look back and thank God.
 Look forward and trust God.
 Look around and serve God.
 Look within and find God!
 God closes doors no man can open,
 and
 God opens doors no man can close.*

Contributed by Kathleen Casler

Barnabas Board as of January 21, 2010

HAVE:

HP 20 ink cartridge

Woman willing to clean Fridays and Saturdays.
 Contact Lorri Gabrion 897-8973

Rectangular table with wooden top, cream base and legs:
 Contact John or Lori Gerard 897-6117

Round table with four chairs.
 Contact John or Lori Gerard 897-6117

NEED/WANT

Cloth calendars of any year.
 Contact: Peggy McLain 897-9663

2 small dressers or one medium dresser for 1 and 3 year-old boys.

Contact Monica Pasquale 942-0825

An Interview with Hannah Bechill

There is a bright young face in our church family that is hardly ever without a huge smile. The Community FBC editor recently received a news tip that this delightful person, Hannah Bechill, is newly saved. We had a conversation with her to find out what makes her tick. We hope you enjoy getting to know her as much as we did.

C-FBC – How old are you, Hannah?

Hannah – Four

C-FBC – When is your birthday?

Hannah – March 12 (with a little prompting from her dad)

C-FBC – What is your favorite thing to do?

Hannah – (clutching her doll) Play Baby Dolls. This is Bitty Baby.

C-FBC – What are your favorite foods?

Hannah – Birthday cake, macaroni and cheese (home made), daddy's crepes and Mickey Mouse pancakes.

C-FBC – Where do you like to go?

Hannah – Mooville for ice cream and to play in the Playland and the big sandbox and swings. And I like to play outside. My dad and I made an igloo out of snow blocks with a saucer sled roof.

C-FBC – Who is your Sunday School teacher?

Hannah – Mrs. Copland. I love her. Mrs. Berrington tells the story.

C-FBC – What do you like best about going to church?

Hannah – I get candy. We play games. We eat snacks, make crafts. Stories from the Bible. David and Goliath.

C-FBC – Your mother told us that you asked Jesus into your heart. Tell me about that.

Hannah – I prayed and told Jesus I am a sinner and need him to die on the cross for my sins. I was in my bedroom before bed and Christian was there with me.

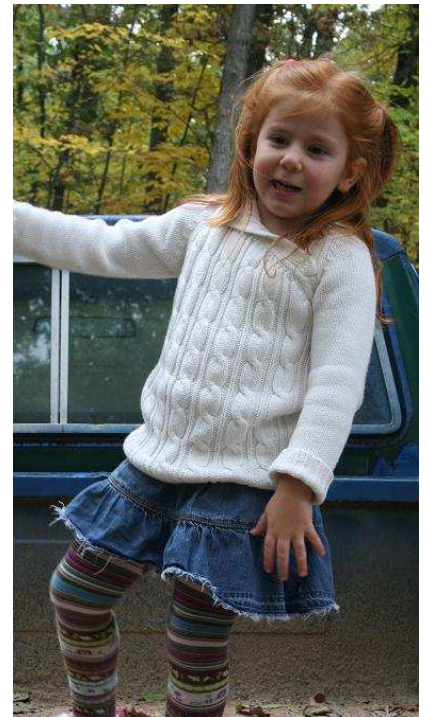
C-FBC – After that happened, how did you feel?

Hannah – GREAT!!!

C-FBC – Are you sure that you will go to heaven someday?

Hannah – Yes.

We stopped there with cupcakes and no more questions.



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FBC Mission Statement

We endeavor to...

Magnify

The Lord, by bringing people to Jesus Christ and

Membership

In His Family, seeking to develop them to Christ-like

Maturity,

Equipping them for their

Ministry

In the Church.... And their life

Mission

In the world.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Name	Happy Birthday to..	Happy Anniversary to..
Scott McGlamery	2/04	
Fisher Pham	2/05	
Earl VanLaan	2/06	
Melissa McIntire (M.K.)	2/07	
Rich Visser (Missionary)	2/07	
Mark Rosenberger	2/08	
Glynn Harding	2/09	
Pastor Sims	2/09	
Dave Pasquale	2/10	
Ben Gerard	2/11	
Ciji Eickhoff	2/13	
Sandy Onan	2/14	
Cheryl Runstrom	2/14	
Bette Pycraft (Missionary)	2/15	
Richard & Sandy Onan		2/17
Megan Ritchie	2/17	
Sharon Vosovic	2/18	
Andrew Milley	2/18	
Wolfgang & Kelly Grotendiek (Missionaries)		2/19
Hannah Green	2/20	
Tasha Nauta	2/20	
Chris West	2/22	
Alisha McGlamery	2/26	
Don McLain	2/26	
Doreen Foreback	2/27	
James & Ann VanderMeulen		2/27

Live joyfully

Give generously

Serve gladly

Love liberally

***I have set the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Psalm 16:8***