

Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter

Winter 2004-2005



One Baby Step at a Time! By Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer, President, Lutherans for Life – Canada

I would like to report that we have taken one “*giant leap for mankind*” in developing Lutherans for Life – Canada since the last newsletter, but I can’t. We still await word from Revenue Canada regarding our application for charitable status. We would like to apply for listed service status in Lutheran Church – Canada, but we have to first have our charitable status before we can make application. We have requested permission from the Lutheran Council in Canada to promote LFL-C in all Canadian Lutheran congregations, but have not received permission to do so. We are ever searching for Life Ministry Coordinators (LMC) who will promote Life issues and concerns in their congregations and help grow LFL-C across Canada, but thus far, we have had only a small number of people sign up to be LMCs. We shared the vision and purpose of LFL-C with 115 church workers at the LCC Church Worker conference, but 2/3rds of the church workers chose not to attend the breakfast, so now we must approach them through some other venue.

Please be assured, I am not frustrated by this slow progress. Like any “infant” organization, we must first take “*one baby step*” at time before we can walk and then run! (Remember, how excited you were when your son or daughter took his/her first step?!)

I have witnessed a number of exciting baby steps in the last few months:

- Over 1,000 LFL-C brochures and donation envelopes were taken by church workers to their respective congregations.
- Donations to LFL-C are beginning to come in! Thank you!
- Many pastors and laypeople have expressed excitement about the development of LFL-C.
- Life Sunday materials are being prepared by Rev. Ron Mohr for use in May (or some other appropriate Sunday).
- We plan to have an article addressing some life concern in an upcoming issue of *The Canadian Lutheran*.
- Four people have signed up to be Life Ministry Coordinators.
- Rev. Larry Flohr has constructed an LFL-C website (www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca) with links to other sites.

I have witnessed other exciting “baby steps” as well, but these will suffice for now!

I invite you to get in step with us! There is much work to be done as we continue to witness to the Lord of all life!

Lutherans for Life – Canada Hosted Breakfast at the LCC All Church Workers Conference in Winnipeg!



On Wednesday, October 27th LFL-C hosted a breakfast for about 115 participants at the LCC All Church Workers Conference. Dr. Schaeffer, President of LFL-C, shared the vision, goals, and objectives of LFL-C with the church workers through a PowerPoint Presentation. This presentation has been posted on our website (www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca). Many pastors expressed interest in LFL-C and took brochures back to their congregations for distribution!

Please pray that this breakfast will be an important step in growing the organization across Canada.

Watch for LFL-C at the National LCC Convention

If you plan to be at the convention and would like to staff the booth please contact us!

Opportunities to Celebrate/Focus January on Life Issues



23 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in the United States. Since the legalization of abortion in the US (1973-present), it is estimated that 44,010,378 abortions have been performed.

February 2 – The Presentation of our Lord – Forty days after Jesus was born, his parents presented him to the Lord. Like all Jewish parents, Mary and Joseph recognized that children are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5). This Child was, of course, God’s gift to the world for he would be a *“light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”* (Luke 2:32)

February 6 – The Transfiguration of our Lord – Our Lord was transfigured before the eyes of his disciples as he discussed his “exodus” with Moses and Elijah. Because Jesus’ glory was found in the way of the cross, our glory awaits us in heaven. The promise of glory to come enables us to be patient in suffering and hopeful in the midst of suffering and death.

March 25 – The Annunciation of our Lord/Good Friday – A virgin will conceive a Son whose name is “Immanuel – God with us!” Our Lord was conceived in our flesh and had human blood flow through his veins so that he might save us from our sins as he himself experienced death.

March 27 – Easter Sunday – Christ’s resurrection from the dead assures us that after our life on earth has come to an end, we will appear with him in glory! *Where O death is Thy victory! “Where O death is Thy sting? Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory over death through our Lord Jesus Christ!”* Alleluia!



**Check out the resources and
news items found on:
www.lutheransforlife.org.**

AN EXERPT From LifeDate (Fall 2004):



Womb Walking
by
Rev. Dr. James Lamb

“Walking” in the womb? Professor Stuart Campbell of London’s Create Health Clinic has perfected an ultrasound technique that not only produces 3D images, but also shows fetal movement in real time (4D). For example, he has produced pictures of a 12 week-old fetus “walking,” the same kind of movement of the legs seen when you hold a newborn under the arms with his or her feet dangling. Professor Campbell says his work shows for the first time that unborn babies engage in complex behavior very early in their lives. ... According to the BBC Internet news article (www.bbc.co.uk), the images have shown:

- From 12 week, unborn babies can stretch, kick, and leap around the womb – well before the mother can feel movement.
- From 18 weeks, they can open their eyes, although most doctors thought eyelids were fused until 26 weeks.
- From 26 weeks, they appear to exhibit a whole range of typical baby behavior and moods, including scratching, smiling, crying, hiccuping, and sucking.

... Ultrasound changes the minds of those considering abortion. It helps educate about the wonders of the womb. Its use should be encouraged for such things. ... But – a word of caution. Such technology may also run the risk of reinforcing the idea that our value is based upon what we can *do* as human beings rather than upon the fact that we *are* human beings.

A blastocyst – that five-day old human being that is destroyed to obtain his or her stem cells – cannot smile or walk or hiccup. He or she, however, has as much value as a 16 year-old not wanting to walk and asking for the keys to the car! We need to be careful not to fall into the trap of giving value to the unborn only when they start looking like babies or behaving like babies. Otherwise we not only devalue those in the earlier stages of development, but what happens if the ultrasound shows an abnormality and limited function? What happens if we are born and lose a particular function because of injury or disease or aging? It is not how we function but who we are that gives us value.

-- To read this article in its entirety order a copy of *LifeDate*. *LifeDate* is a quarterly journal produced by Lutherans for Life in the USA. It is available free of charge. You can order a copy on line or by calling 1-888-364-LIFE or you can order it online at www.lutheransforlife.org.

CANADA and Around the World News



The Australian treasurer has announced financial incentives to encourage couples to have larger families. Peter Costello encouraged couples to have three children, “*one for your husband and one for your wife and one for the country,*” in response to the country’s growing demographic crisis. At the end of the press conference, Mr. Costello told the journalists: “*Go home and do your patriotic duty tonight.*” (LifeSiteNews.com, 5/12; SPUC 5/13)

China’s One Child Policy Spells Disaster – In order to solve the problem of its swelling population, China enacted a “one-child policy”. Local “family planners” were only to willing to force abortion on women in order to keep the number of births down. Ultrasound technology was developed. In the Chinese tradition, however, for a variety of reasons, males are favoured over females. All this adds up to disastrous consequences. According to International Planned Parenthood, in a 1999 report, at least 750,000 abortions of female unborn babies are performed annually in China due to this screening process. This has caused a lopsided rate of 116.9 boys born for every 100 girls, the highest gender gap in the world. It also means that up to 40 million young men (known as “*bare branches*”) have no hope of marriage because there are not enough women. This situation is creating social instability, including increased crime and violence, such as wife kidnapping, baby snatching, mercenary marriages, and prostitution. (REALity, [REAL Women of Canada] Volume XXIII Issue 5 Sept./Oct. 2004, p. 22)

Canada’s Sexual Diseases Rampant: Statistics Canada has revealed that rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are continuing to climb. Rates for three major sexually-transmitted infectious diseases – Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis – have all risen from 2002-2003, with the most dramatic increase the doubling of the syphilis rate. Health Canada had earlier set a goal of complete eradication of gonorrhea by 2010, and a reduction in cases of syphilis and Chlamydia by 2010. (Source: The CAPSS Newsletter/Summer 2004)

Uganda’s Shining Example: Ugandan First Lady Janet Museveni was a star presenter at the recent Washington DC conference of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health (MISH). Uganda is the only country to have significantly lowered its HIV/AIDS infection rate – and it brought it down by an amazing 66 percent. Ugandans overwhelmingly endorse abstinence and monogamy through an ABC approach: Abstain, Be faithful, Use a Condom. (Source: The CAPSS Newsletter/Summer 2004)

Heartbreaking Pain: According to Dr. Jean Wright of Backus General Hospital in Savannah, Ga. a preborn child not only experiences pain, but the pain is probably more intense than previously thought. That’s why she supports the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act that would require US doctors to inform women considering an abortion about the pain their child would feel. If the woman went ahead with an abortion, she would have the option of providing anesthesia for her preborn baby. Telling woman about the pain their child feels is “*the honest thing to do*” said a spokesperson for Concerned Women for America. (Source: The CAPSS Newsletter/Summer 2004)

Swedish Pastor Sentenced to Month in Prison for Preaching Against Homosexuality:

LifeSiteNews.com reported that Ake Green, the pastor of a Swedish Pentecostal church in Kalmar, Sweden, has been sentenced to one month in prison by a Swedish court, for inciting hatred against homosexuals when he cited Biblical references to homosexuality in a sermon. In the course of his message, Green described homosexuality as “*abnormal, a horrible cancerous tumour in the body of society.*”

Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco gave a spirited defense of the right to life before the United Nations General Assembly on September 23. He said, *“As we have a duty to protect the oppressed and persecuted, we also have a duty to protect those who do not yet have a voice. In particular, there is a pressing need to agree on a normative framework, internationally binding, to uphold human dignity from the moment of conception.”* (LifeSiteNews.com, 9/24)

Check Out this Site!

www.standupgirl.com – There are wonderful 3D and 4D Ultra Sound images. Also, follow the links to GE’s medical images.

Donations to Lutherans for Life – Canada can be sent to our Treasurer:



Rev. Ron Mohr, Treasurer
c/o St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
14 Glendale Drive
Tillsonburg, Ontario
N4G 1J2

You may request LFL-C brochures and donation envelopes by calling: 705-728-3387 or emailing your request to: lutheransforlifecanada@yahoo.ca.