

Lutherans for Life – Canada

Newsletter Edition: Summer/Fall 2005

The President's Reflections:

Since the last newsletter, Terri Schiavo was starved to death; the Canadian federal government has passed Bill C-38 which has redefined marriage; the Supreme Court of the United States rejected without comment the appeal of Norma McCorvey, the Jane Roe of *Roe v. Wade*, to overturn the 1973 landmark ruling that enshrined abortion on demand in the USA; new advances have been reached in human cloning through the manipulation and experimentation on human embryos; and some politicians within Canada are trying to reignite the euthanasia debate.

These decisions and events are very discouraging, to say the least. At times I have found myself echoing the lament of Isaiah, the prophet, "But I said, 'I have laboured to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing.'" But then, I remember the second part of Isaiah's words, "*Yet, what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God.*"

These words remind me that our Lord is in control, not only of our lives, but of all the events of this world. We may not always understand why events unfold as they do and we may be bewildered by why our labour seems to have been spent in vain, but we trust "Our reward is with our God." Someday, we will hear our Lord say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Until then, we continue on in the struggle to promote a culture of life! There is much to be done in our congregations, in our communities, and in our country! Your labour will not be in vain! The Lord will richly reward you!

His servant for life,

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer

***Articles/News Items for the Newsletter are
Requested and Needed! -- send them to
lutheransforlifecanada@yahoo.ca***

Charitable Status Application Rejected by Revenue Canada

Lutherans for Life – Canada has experienced a set back in its application for charitable status. Revenue Canada has again rejected the application. According to Revenue Canada our application for charitable status was rejected because:

- LFL-C is promoting a particular viewpoint (i.e. the sanctity of all human life, the “pro-life position”). The ruling states, “... *in order to qualify under the advancement of education, an applicant must present the public with a full and unbiased presentation of the facts. ... it is our view that the Corporation does not present the facts in an unbiased way.*”
- They have determined that the manner through which LFL-C conveys its information to fellow Lutherans is not done in the charitable sense.
- In their opinion some of LFL-Cs objects allow for LFL-C to engage in non-charitable activities.
- They claim that LFL-Cs Vision statement which says, “*the vision of LFL-C is to be a biblical, pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans, and through them, transform Society*” is a “political activity” because LFL-Cs “*use of bias and/or propaganda to sway people’s opinions and/or decisions regarding abortion is a political activity in the broad sense of the term.*”

LFL-C has decided to appeal this ruling. We have asked our lawyer, Mr. Jeffrey Kriwetz to serve a written “Notice of Objection on the Minister.”

We ask that you do the following:

1. Please keep this matter in your prayers.
2. Write/telephone your MP and let him/her know of this ruling and your dissatisfaction with it. If your MP is sympathetic to our cause, you might ask him/her to look into this matter and see what he/she can do to overturn this ruling. The file number for LFL-Cs case is: 3025567.
3. Become involved in LFL-C as an active member in your congregation. We need people who are willing to share information at a congregational level and to organize circuit workshops that address life issues.

Lutheran For Life Materials Available on On-Line

www.lutheransforlife.org

1-888-364-LIFE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Since Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada, has accepted the Lord’s call to serve as Executive Assistant – Outreach for the Alberta—British Columbia District of Lutheran Church – Canada, the new mailing address for Lutherans for Life – Canada is:

**Lutherans for Life – Canada
7100 Ada Boulevard
Edmonton, AB
T5B 4E4**

Please send all donations to: Rev. Ron Mohr, 14 Glendale Drive, Tillsonburg, Ontario, N4G 1J2. Cheques should be made out to: Lutherans for Life – Canada.

Grace That is Greater Than All My Sin

By Cynthia Chapa, President, Texas Lutherans for Life

I was shocked. A Lutheran woman who had undergone an abortion confided to me that awareness of the ministry of Lutherans for Life convinced her to keep her past a secret! How, I wondered, could the Christ-centered message of LFL become a deterrent to this guilt-ridden soul, a reason for **not** seeking spiritual help?

She explained her thinking: The existence of LFL was a signal to her that the Lutheran Church is pro-life and that fellow Lutherans would therefore certainly condemn her for the dark sin of her past. She feared she might even be excommunicated. Consequently, as she experienced the pain and the anguish of post-abortion trauma, she was afraid to approach even her pastor for help. She agonized alone over the grief of taking her own child’s life, suffering deep depression and seriously considering suicide. Yet, she kept her secret, feeling God could never love her, believing that she had committed an unforgivable sin.

It was not until she heard the words of another post-abortive woman – “*No matter who you are or what you’ve done, God loves you*” that she dared to seek healing. Even then, her pastor, who lovingly extended forgiveness in Christ, felt ill-equipped to help with her on-going self-recrimination. Fortunately, a pregnancy help center offered a post-abortion Bible study that led her gradually through the stages of grief and reconciliation to a place of healing.

“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5:20).

It cannot be repeated often enough – LFL is For Life. We do not seek in this ministry to condemn but to call to repentance, hope, and healing. It is a ministry of love and compassion, saying “no” to the sin but “yes” to the sinner. The springboard of our efforts is the Gospel of Jesus and His love for all people, born and unborn – the babe in the

womb, the mother in crisis, the post-abortive woman, the terminally ill, the disabled and chronically afflicted. We have heard God's message of love and forgiveness in our own lives, and we yearn to express the same message to those around us, to those suffering from destructive choices and to those vulnerable to ruinous future choices.

Source: *LifeDate*, Spring 2005 p. 17. *LifeDate* is a quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from National Lutherans for Life (USA). It can be ordered by calling 1-888-364-LIFE or on-line, www.lutheransforlife.org.

World News:

Toronto, Canada: Researchers at the University of Toronto declared themselves “*beyond shock*” at how easily stem cells taken from eyes reproduced in the lab. “*Within seven days, they go from one cell to 7,000 to 10,000 cells,*” said Brenda Coles of the University of Toronto, lead author of a report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (Source: *CLC National News*, December 2004, p. 4)

Canada: 105,154 unborn babies were reported killed in Canada in 2002 by Statistics Canada. Abortion is the leading cause of death in Canada. That's 288 unborn babies killed every day; 12 unborn babies every hour; *1 unborn baby every 5 minutes!* **And that's just in Canada!!!**

Asia: Economists from the University of Asia and the Pacific have argued in a paper that there is no evidence that “*supports the claim that a large, fast growing population causes more poverty,*” citing “*bad governance and bad economic policies*” as the major reason for poor economic growth in the Philippines. The economists warned against the implementation of a two-child policy, which they said had caused rapid population decline and aging populations in countries where it has been implemented. (Source: *LifeDate* Spring 2005, p. 15)

To stay Updated on Life News in Canada, the United States and around the world, check out: www.LifeSiteNews.com. It has a wealth of research material for schools, projects and reports. It also provides related press releases, UNICEF expose, election and political coverage. It covers all kinds of cultural, life and family issues.

***LFL-C has produced Life Sunday Resources:
They are available at our Lutherans For Life –
Canada website:***

www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca

WE NEED A DEBATE ON ABORTION IN CANADA

– Cliff Pyle

It is becoming more evident with letters written to the editors, and various articles that appear in National and local newspapers that we do need to clear the air on the issue of abortion. With the advent of 4-D technologies and emerging research data, new information is being brought forth which can no longer be purposely left in the dark. People, and women in particular who are considering abortion, need to know this information.

Currently, many laypersons to academics seem to be reciting myths and half-truths about the limited, to no side effects, as a result of an abortion. One prevalent myth is that women have no significant psychological consequences from their abortion. As one writer, a medical Doctor nonetheless, noted in a recent *National Post* article, perhaps some women “*may feel a little sad*”. Increasingly, studies in peer-reviewed journals are describing more serious complications.

A recent study published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (May, 2003, 168), discovered woman who have an abortion are more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric care, compared to woman who carry their baby to term. They based their study on the review of the medical records of 56,741 California women. It revealed that those who had abortions were 2.6 times more likely than woman carrying a child to term to be hospitalized for psychiatric treatment. Conflicting information, I wonder, do we need to bring the research facts to the table? An open debate could certainly do that.

As well, there are at least 28 studies throughout the world showing that induced abortion increases the risk of breast cancer. As noted and described by a research epidemiologist in 1994 in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, women who underwent an induced abortion had a 50% greater chance of developing breast cancer than matched control women who had not previously aborted.

We must challenge the myths regarding abortion, and bring full awareness to Canadians. The smoke screen thrown up by the pro-choice side must be rebutted, with their continual litany of “rights” as the only logical argument that they can present.

Although it seems in Canada that we have an aversion to debate any serious issue, we must make a sincere and legitimate effort to be open to discussion. We cannot afford to dismiss the contributions being made by technology and research in relation to the medical and psychological dimensions of abortion. Therefore, let us restore our land to a true democracy where we can debate this social issue, which has historically been seen as not worthy of such dialogue.