

May/June 2007

Care Net Report

www.care-net.org

LIBERAL MEDIA SHOWCASE CARE NET...

PRO-ABORTION WORLDVIEW STILL CONSISTENT THEME

CARE  NET



EVIL

You may notice an emphasis on the topic of evil this month. We believe our fight for the unborn and many deceived mothers and fathers is one against the very principalities of darkness of which Scriptures speak. To date, abortion is responsible for nearly 50 million deaths in the U.S.¹ Worldwide, abortions account for nearly 50 million deaths each and every year,

going back several decades. This makes abortion public enemy number one, far outpacing Communism (100 million deaths); Nazism (12 million deaths); radical Islam (5 million since 1971). Abortion is not, unfortunately, relegated to the history books like some of the other forces of evil have been. In the U.S., 3,000 abortions take place every day—with the courts protecting the practice and your tax dollars underwriting organizations like Planned Parenthood (\$254.4 million annually)² that perform it.

And abortion doesn't end in the womb. It has had devastating ramifications on the children who survive the nine months in the womb. Today child abuse and child murder are both at all-time highs³. The cheapening of vulnerable, innocent life by abortion is largely responsible for the fact that statistically speaking, the first day of one's life is also his most dangerous.

Don't believe the lie that "abortion is the safest medical procedure in the world" either. Abortion has spiritual, emotional and physical consequences. Abortion increases the risk of breast cancer⁴, and gives rise to depression⁵, substance abuse⁶, and suicide⁷. The clinical term is Post Abortion Stress Syndrome⁸. And the fact that abortion remains a legal and socially acceptable option gives reluctant would-be fathers carte blanche to insist that their wives and girlfriends abort their children – or else. Abortion is responsible for making murder the leading cause of death among pregnant women⁹.

Given these facts, I don't think it's a stretch to point to abortion as one of the culprits largely responsible for the breakdown of relationships, marriages and families. Abortion promised to liberate women. It has broken millions of them, and men suffer as well. Abortion has given rise to a culture violent towards its children. Recent headlines capture the horror and reality of evil: "Police: Baby Might Have been Microwaved¹⁰" ; "Daughter Testifies at Caged Kids Trial¹¹" ; "Atmore Father Sentenced to Death in Baby's Killing¹²." I find it hard to believe that this kind of stuff really happened every day in the U.S. before 1973.

Evil is not a topic many of us are accustomed to discussing. In this business, we deal with it every day. Many of us feel uneasy when the idea or personification of evil presents itself (especially when we are standing in front of a mirror). For many, the problem of evil threatens to shake our belief in the Almighty.

With this in view, this month's featured books are *The Death of Satan*, by Andrew Delbanco, C.S. Lewis' classic *Screwtape Letters* and *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin* by Cornelius Plantinga. Our Guest Commentary, "The Evil Within," is written by the Reverend Roger Salter of Birmingham, Alabama. Each piece geared to "Your Walk" will, I hope, help you wrestle with the topic of evil in your own life. It is my desire that these resources, as well as

(continued on page 3)



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CARE NET REPORT, a bi-monthly publication, has a three-fold mission. It aims to notify and update supporters involved in the work and mission of Care Net. Secondly, it raises public awareness and provides factual information on the complex and often tragic issues surrounding crisis pregnancies. Finally, it seeks to encourage Christians in their daily faith walk by reviewing music, literature, and other resources they may find valuable for the short journey here as "foreigners and exiles" (I Peter 2:11).

CARE NET NATIONAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 1644
Merrifield, VA 22116

CARE NET MISSION STATEMENT

Care Net is a Christian ministry assisting and promoting the evangelistic, pro-life work of pregnancy centers in North America.

CARE NET REPORT STAFF

Kurt Entsminger, President
Matthew Waters, Editor
Annie Martin, Associate Editor
Writers: Joy Crosby, Molly Ford, Annie Martin, and Joy Moore
Todd Dickinson, Production & Advertising
Good Works Creative Group, Design

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LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

Your letters must include your name and address if intended for publication and may be edited for space or clarity.

CARE NET REPORT EDITOR

200 Century Park S. Suite 116
Birmingham, Al 35226
cneditor@care-net.org



1 Higher standard
2 Higher purpose

our ministry news, cause you to pray more earnestly for one another, for women and children in crisis, and for Care Net.

ON THE COVER...

In addition to the current state of affairs, we do have some really interesting news. The major media has zeroed in on Care Net and has prominently featured our ministry on several occasions since last I wrote (See Care Net News). The Urban Initiative Report features excerpts from one of those stories found on page one of the *Los Angeles Times*. Speaking of news, I want to refer readers to our website where we have posted The Religion & Society Report (Oct./Nov.06) wherein Care Net founder Dr. Harold O. J. Brown offers a “clarion call” to those of us that remain in the pro-life movement. See www.profam.org/pub/rs/rs.2303.htm to read this gripping narrative.

Read prayerfully.

Matthew J. Waters
Editor, Care Net Report

- 1 Alan Guttmacher Institute, latest figures available.
- 2 See American Life League website: www.all.org/stopp/tr0404.htm.
- 3 “Infants Now Murdered as Often as Teens,” *Washington Post*, 12/10/02.
- 4 See www.abortionbreastcancer.com.
- 5 “Study of Post-abortion Depression Proposed,” *Washington Times*, 6/22/04.
- 6 “Abortion, Substance Abuse Linked,” *Washington Times*, 6/24/04.
- 7 “Abortion, Death Rate Linked in Study,” *Washington Times*, 9/8/02.
- 8 “Are you ready to really understand abortion?” *Glamour Magazine*, Sept. 2003.
- 9 “CDC explores pregnancy-homicide link,” *Washington Post*, 2/23/05.
- 10 “Police: Baby might have been microwaved,” *AP News*, 11/28/06.
- 11 “Daughter testifies at caged kids trial,” *AP News*, 12/7/06.
- 12 “Atmore father sentenced to death in baby’s killing,” *Birmingham News*, 2/27/07.

I ENJOY READING THE LETTERS and the responses in your Care Net Report. I was just wondering if I can get this letter printed in the next issue. I just love you all – and what you are doing – and I think you’re married to one of the best women in the world. And your kids rank in the top 4 grandkids in the whole world too! And

your Editor’s a pretty good guy too!

– *Bill Martin, Prosper, TX*
(Editor’s Note: Mr. Martin is the Editor’s father-in-law.)

I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT CARE NET. . . I’ve always thought if someone would get a building and receive donations for what young expectant mothers need, plus emotional support and medical care, maybe there would be less abortion. I’m really interested in how to go about doing what you are doing in my area. I also support “Pro-Life Across America” who put up billboards with the pro-life message. I would love to get involved. Kudos for all you are doing in his name.

– *Susan Rosenkoetter Sullivan, MO*

CARE NET MAKES ME SICK. Girls are not taught by their mothers that sex before marriage is sinful, immoral, and ungodly. They know what causes pregnancy. Take me off your mailing list. If these girls don’t know right from wrong they should read their bible and go to church.

P.S. If these kinds of women get themselves in situations, let them take the consequences. – *Name Withheld Hamersville, OH*

I HAVEN’T ANY MONEY to send you with this letter; my husband and I support several ministries and have Care Net in our rotating file. In other words, we support each ministry by number; when Care Net rotates to the top we send a gift! But when I saw the addressed envelope, I felt compelled to write and encourage you all with a heartfelt “keep up the good (God’s) work.” We home school our daughter who is currently in her senior year. I had her 17 ½ years ago as a single mom. We assign her Care Net Report as reading material for current events and social issues. Your Report is put together in a timely manner, well written and always current. God bless you all. – *Ed, Sheryl, and Olivia Evans Gainesville, FL*

I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT the number of pregnancy centers that are accepting federal grants that prohibit discussing Christ and

praying with the clients. I am concerned that my donations in the future go only to organizations that have their priorities in line. – *Jacob Minor, Houston, TX*

REPLY: *Care Net and our network of pregnancy centers are committed first and foremost to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have encouraged our pregnancy centers to only accept government grants when those monies can be received and used without sacrificing our commitment to evangelism. The state grants that some of our centers currently receive do prohibit our centers from combining their religious activities with those specific activities and programs that are directly supported by the grant. For example, these government grants may support counseling sessions or even portions of counseling sessions that address topics other than the Gospel. However, these grants do not prohibit our centers from continuing to discuss Christ and to pray with clients. If any such prohibitions were involved, we would expressly direct that our affiliated centers not accept those monies.*

CARE NET WELCOMES NEW AFFILIATE PREGNANCY CENTERS

MARCH

1. Kalamazoo, MI
2. Paw Paw, MI (satellite)
3. Kalamazoo, MI (satellite)
4. Marshall, TX
5. Phillipsburg, NJ
6. Phillipsburg, NJ (satellite)
7. Guthrie, OK
8. Bowling Green, OH
9. Somerset, KY
10. Andrews, NC (satellite)
11. Cleveland, TN
12. Angola, IN
13. Howe, IN (satellite)

FEBRUARY

1. Salida, CO
2. Glendale, CA
3. Broken Arrow, OK
4. Monterey, CA
5. Tucker, GA
6. Ripley, MS
7. Louisville, KY
8. North Miami, FL

ACTIVISTS OPEN CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS IN MINORITY AREAS TO DRAW MORE AFRICAN AMERICANS TO THEIR CAUSE.

(Editor's Note: this story was excerpted from Los Angeles Times, By STEPHANIE SIMON, 3/21/07. Care Net does not subscribe to the use of the term "anti-abortion." We prefer the term "pro-life.")

DALLAS — Antiabortion activists are reaching aggressively to draw more African Americans into their movement, targeting urban communities that they have long considered hostile turf.

They are opening crisis pregnancy centers in minority neighborhoods, establishing partnerships with black pastors and distributing provocative leaflets to raise suspicion about Planned Parenthood, a longtime provider of reproductive healthcare and abortions in poor urban areas.

Framing their cause as the new frontier in civil rights — an effort to stop “black genocide” — these activists have turned to revered names in black history. A niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. tours the nation, speaking out against “the war on the womb.” The great-great-granddaughter of Dred Scott recently compared Roe vs. Wade to the 1857 Supreme Court decision declaring blacks so far inferior that they had no rights.

The intensifying outreach to African Americans is not a coordinated strategy but a series of projects by independent ministries.

A single statistic underlies all these efforts: African Americans make up 13% of the population but account for 37% of all abortions in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Though blacks tend to express deep moral qualms about abortion, liberal groups that support abortion rights — most prominently Planned Parenthood — have spent years building ties with black churches and providing subsidized healthcare, such as pap smears and AIDS tests, to poor urban communities.

By contrast, the national antiabortion movement has largely ignored minority communities. Its energy, funds and



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volunteers come mostly from “white, suburban, small-town, red-state America,” said the Rev. John Ensor, who runs Heartbeat’s Urban Initiative.

That legacy has sown indifference and mistrust.

“When you go to African American communities — even myself, an African American woman — you’ll find they don’t trust pro-life people,” said Lillie Epps, a vice president of Care Net, which runs more than 1,000 suburban crisis pregnancy centers. “They look at us as a group who cares very little about what’s going on in the inner city, the poverty and all the other issues.”

In the last three years, Care Net has opened 19 urban antiabortion outposts — in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Indianapolis — and Epps hopes to set up centers soon in Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia and Orlando, Fla. “But it’s been very tough,” Epps said.

“I’m just being honest with you. When they hear ‘pro-life,’ the first thing they think is ‘white Republican.’”

Certainly, that was LaToya Yarbrough’s perception when she became pregnant six months after her first child was born out of wedlock.

Yarbrough, 28, had seen the ads promising help for crisis pregnancies, but those clinics were a long bus ride away, out in the suburbs. Plus, that was a white woman’s world, she thought; how could they understand?

“I had this view ... that I’d be saying, ‘I can’t afford this, I can’t afford that’ and I’d be looking at [the counselor] and thinking, ‘You can, because you probably have a husband at home who’s a doctor or a lawyer,’ she said.

So Yarbrough started dialing abortion clinics. At one, a secretary sensed her despair and referred her to the Family Care Pregnancy Center, run by a black megachurch in south Dallas.

There, amid stacks of baby formula and booties, Yarbrough met other black women as afraid as she was — and black counselors determined to help them find a way to carry their pregnancies to term. She took free classes in prenatal care, child discipline, car-seat safety, spiritual growth. She picked out baby clothes from a closet of donated rompers. The center’s director, Jettie Johnson, recognized that Yarbrough was still suffering postpartum depression from the birth of her first son, Byron, and provided counseling.

Yarbrough’s second son, Joshua, will turn one in May.

“Now that I look at him, I wouldn’t care if the counselors were white, Asian, black — they saved his life,” Yarbrough said. “But when I first started out ... I wouldn’t have been as comfortable with a white person as I was with Jettie. She looks like me. She knows what I’m going through.”

OPTION LINE WEBSITE EXCEEDS 1 MILLION VISITORS

Every year Care Net receives over one million visitors to its client website, www.optionline.org. As a result over 200,000 women call, email or use AOL's Instant Messaging service to call for help.

The 2005 Pew Internet and American Life Project reports that 87% of United States' teens use the internet on a daily basis and 31% use the internet to gather health information. These statistics confirm what Care Net is seeing.

"It only makes sense that Instant Messaging is the fastest growing contact channel for the demographic segment facing a potential crisis pregnancy," says Joe Young, Executive Director of the Option Line.

The electronic communication allows individuals seeking help or advice – or options – to speak to counselors in complete anonymity, but still have their concerns addressed – and addressed right now.

IM allows young women – or men – to "communicate freely and confidentially with a consultant, and learn that they might have some positive pregnancy options, instead of abortion," said Young.

The Option Line website provides information to more than 20,000 visitors every month – including women vulnerable to the societal campaign promoting abortion – about local pregnancy centers and services in their area each week.

The call center is open 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and is staffed by dozens of trained phone consultants to connect women in need directly to those who can help.

It also offers help to those struggling with post-abortion complications.

The Option Line said 78 percent of the women who call or IM these days who believe they are pregnant are considering an abortion. "But statistics also show that nine out of ten women, upon visiting their local pregnancy center, WILL choose life – instead of abortion," Young said.

A RECENT IM...

ANONYMOUS CLIENT (11:06:12 AM): hello ive talked to you before.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (11:06:35 AM): May not have been me, but possibly.

ANONYMOUS (11:07:48 AM): yeah i just wanted to tell you guys that i decided to keep my baby boy James and now hes 1 month and 3 weeks old.

ANONYMOUS (11:08:03 AM): im very happy that i kept him..hes my life.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (11:08:25 AM): Oh hon, thats amazing.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (11:08:30 AM): thanks for telling us.

ANONYMOUS (11:09:16 AM): no problem, its the most i can do because i'll never be able to meet you guys in person..and you helped me make the biggest decision in my life.

ANONYMOUS (11:09:23 AM): so thank you very very veeerriyy much!

ANSWERS AT OL1 (11:10:09 AM): you are welcome, and you did it, we just nudged, i am very happy for you, its good to know you are ok with your decision.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (11:10:12 AM): we're always here.

ANONYMOUS 2 (11:58:59 AM): I think this is so awesome we can IM.

A RECENT IM...

ANONYMOUS CLIENT4 (8:08:15 AM): Hi...i talked with you yesterday.

ANONYMOUS CLIENT4 (8:08:37 AM): I took a pregnancy test...and i'm not. I just wanted to thank you for your advice and support. I think I learned a HUGE lesson.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (8:08:57 AM): You're welcome and I am glad!

ANONYMOUS 3 (8:09:12 AM): Thanks me too!

ANONYMOUS CLIENT3 (8:09:49 AM): You guys are doing something amazing for young woman. That's great. Hopefully I won't need y'all again....but if i ever do It's nice to know somebody is there.

ANSWERS AT OL1 (8:10:41 AM): Definitely, I am so glad you have found us to be of use to you! You take care of yourself and if you ever do need anything again, do not hesitate to contact us!

ANONYMOUS CLIENT3 (8:10:59 AM): Thank you! I will talk to you later. God bless.

A RECENT EMAIL...

I mailed you last year and asked you more information about abortion. because I was already 9 weeks pregnant back then. I was lost and confused. I'm living here in Japan for almost 6 years now. I decided not to throw my baby just because my boyfriend doesn't want to marry me. I let go of him instead and went on with my first child who is now 3years old. I delivered a healthy 2886grams baby boy last January 12! I have never felt so good finally having him! He looked at me like he was saying... "I'm happy you let me came out ALIVE mommy!" ...I just want to thank you for helping me decide not to have an abortion last year... If I did, I really should've regret it! Thank you so much again! and I know you guys inspired a lot of more mothers out there! more power and God bless! Thank you!

The Option Line Call Center & Website is a joint venture between Care Net and Heartbeat International. For more stories please visit our website: www.care-net.org.

LIBERAL MEDIA SHOWCASE CARE NET

PRO-ABORTION WORLDVIEW STILL CONSISTENT THEME

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Over the last couple of months, the ministry of Care Net has caught the attention of a number of news outlets such as *Time*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*. Most of these outlets are traditionally hostile to the pro-life cause, and remain so.

Care Net's Vice President of Communications Kristin Hansen said of the *Time* article that it, "was long overdue recognition of the growth and impact of pregnancy centers. We're encouraged to see the society at large take notice and ask tough questions."

That's right – in case you missed it – *Time's* story featuring Asheville Pregnancy Support Services (APSS), one of Care-Net's 1070 pregnancy centers, speaks of the good work of our centers and actually came close to being a fair and balanced report. *Time* is a liberal magazine, so we were not surprised that the article about Care Net and pregnancy centers included criticisms from our strongest pro-abortion opponents.

Yet, *Time* observed that APSS, like other Care-Net centers, is "the new face of an old movement, kind, calm, nonjudgmental, a special-forces soldier in the abortion wars...fighting... battles one conscience at a time. [Pregnancy centers] help women navigate the social-service bureaucracy, sign up for Medicaid and begin prenatal care...[pregnancy centers] help pregnant girls find emergency housing if their parents threaten to throw them out...[pregnancy centers] offer free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds."⁽¹⁾

What can possibly be behind the recent coverage of Care Net? What is going on?

First of all, God is at work, and for that we render thanks. Is anything too hard for him? By God's providence, there are several logical explanations as to why we may be garnering press, some of it positive, from the other side.

REASON #1

Care Net's answer to the abortion problem is apolitical, and this shocks the media. Care Net is largely unconcerned with appointing Supreme Court Justices or electing Republican presidents. We don't have time to wait on a political process, nor do 3,000 babies being carried by their mothers to abortion clinics each day.



REASON #2

Care Net's answer to the abortion problem is one of optimism and Good News. The *Chicago Tribune* article ⁽²⁾ began with a story of Janeen Daniels, who, when she saw an ultrasound, said, "I decided to keep him." The *Time* story begins with a pregnancy center nurse remembering the reaction of one client upon seeing her ultrasound: "That's my baby." Care Net lets women know they are created in the image of God. We tell them that we have seen and helped countless numbers of women who have walked in their shoes (many of whom work for pregnancy centers today). We tell women that being pregnant isn't the end of the world! We encourage them that they have alternatives to abortion, good alternatives. When women who have chosen life for their unborn babies tell reporters, "That pregnancy center saved my baby," it is a good news story. When that same client comes to Christ, it is a Good News story. Reporters cannot ignore the baby, nor can they ignore the smile on mom's face.

REASON #3

The results of Care Net's programs are good and getting better, and we keep growing. *Time* recognized that we are investing substantial resources in advertising our Option Line Call Center and Website. "The Internet has become a tool for outreach as well. Care Net has gotten into bidding wars with abortion providers over who would receive top placement in the sponsored-links sections on Yahoo! and Google when someone searches for abortion." If you are interested in reading the entire *Time* article, visit our website, www.care-net.org.

Beyond the media spotlight on our work, Hansen reminds us that we still have a huge job in front of us. "Pregnancy centers are committed to serving women with compassion and integrity," Hansen said. "With more than one million women every year believing abortion is their only answer, there is much work to do. A woman facing such a critical decision deserves to know about all of her options from a variety of sources, not just those that may profit from her decision." - The Editor

Notes

1. "The Grassroots Abortion War," *Time*, 2/26/07.
2. "Tailoring an Antiabortion Message to Blacks," *Los Angeles Times*, 3/21/07.
3. "To Foes, Pregnancy Sites Blur the Abortion Picture: Crisis pregnancy centers offer alternatives to abortion, but critics say they are misleading," *Chicago Tribune*, 3/25/07.

**"WE'RE
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MORE CARE NET MEDIA COVERAGE

Chicago Tribune, 3/25/07, "To Foes, Pregnancy Sites Blur the Abortion Picture." Kristin Hansen of Care Net, an umbrella group that provides resources to pregnancy centers, contends the centers do not pressure clients; instead, they want to help women make fully informed choices. www.care-net.org/news/index.html

National Public Radio News & Notes, 3/23/07, Segment "Anti-Abortion Forces Recruit Black Supporters." Interview with Lillie Epps, National Spokeswoman for Care Net's National Urban Initiative.

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9097607

Waco Times-Tribune, 3/18/07, "Care Net Role in Abortion Battles Low-Key but Ambitious." "That total-woman approach is what persuaded McGregor to take a job at Care Net in December. For the past 14 years, she worked as an attorney, then a paralegal professor at McLennan Community College. But her passion, McGregor says, has always been helping people in crisis. In particular, she has been drawn to helping women in crisis pregnancies since seeing several of her peers get abortions in college."

www.care-net.org/news/index.html

World Magazine, 2/1/07, "Urban Battleground." According to Care Net, 94 percent of abortion clinics are located in metropolitan areas,

with seven of 10 located in minority neighborhoods. Meanwhile, only 2 percent of pregnancy resource centers are located in the same areas. www.care-net.org/news/index.html

Waynesboro Record Herald, 1/27/07, "Mothers-to-be Finding Support Through PMI." "Pregnancy Ministries, now known as PMI Pregnancy Resource Center, was started by Ken and Laurie Shannon of Chambersburg in the mid-1980's. It began with discussions in the couple's home and has developed into four centers, which are partnered with a national organization called Care Net. Care Net is involved with more than 1,000 pregnancy centers nationwide." www.care-net.org/news/index.html

The Religion & Society Report (Oct./Nov. 2006) "No Diga Mentiras" ("Don't tell lies.") The state of the pro-life movement. By Care Net Founder, Dr. Harold O. J. Brown.

www.profam.org/pub/rs/rs.2310.htm

The Religion & Society Report (April/May 2006) "Pregnancy Centers: A Practical Response to the Abortion Dilemma." By Care Net Board Chair Emeritus Melinda Delahoyde and Care Net Vice President of Communications Kristin Hansen.

www.profam.org/pub/rs/rs.2303.htm

More on the Web: Read more stories about how God is using Care Net at www.care-net.org

MULTIPLE BILLS INTRODUCED AIMED AT CLOSING PREGNANCY CENTERS

OREGON BILL INITIATED “AT THE REQUEST OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND NARAL”

SALEM, Ore. – Pro-abortion powerhouses Planned Parenthood and NARAL have enlisted lawmakers in several states to introduce legislation aimed at discrediting and shutting down Care Net pregnancy centers.

The Oregon statute was brazenly introduced “at the request of Planned Parenthood and NARAL,” and its purpose is to use tax dollars to fund investigations of pregnancy centers and it creates a complaint toll-free hotline available to the public. According to Care Net officials, the irony of the proposed Oregon law is that the abortion industry in the Beaver State remains wholly unregulated. In addition to the Oregon bill, similar legislation hostile to pregnancy centers has been introduced in Texas, West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. Care Net anticipates that NARAL and Planned Parenthood will continue to advance such legislation against centers in other states as well as in the nation’s capitol.

In response to the increasing attacks, Care Net has headed up several efforts to counter what it deems as fraudulent legislation. Kristin Hansen, Care Net’s Vice President of Communications

and Jeanneane Maxon, Care Net’s General Counsel, recently traveled to Oregon to assist local pregnancy centers there in an effort to counter the proposed law, dubbed the “Crisis Pregnancy Center Review Act.” During the day long event, center directors, volunteers, and board members met with their state representatives to resolve misconceptions about pregnancy centers and to convey their love for women and babies.

“I was so impressed to see how many pregnancy center staff, volunteers, and friends showed up for our Lobbying Day, with only two days notice.” stated Hansen. “As I watched them speak to their elected officials, it made me so proud to be affiliated with our movement. They presented themselves as women and men of integrity, courage, and compassion.”

On April 25, 2007, Care Net held a rally in Salem dressed in red and wore buttons saying “We Love Pregnancy Care Centers.”

Planned Parenthood officials also lobbied Oregon legislators to implement regulation of pregnancy centers. According to Care Net, if Oregon and similar state legislation becomes law, pregnancy centers in Oregon and elsewhere will be subject to regulation, including spurious investigations directed at the request of the pro-abortion lobby. “Passage of Senate Bill 776 would create a dangerous precedent wherein Planned Parenthood and NARAL would be encouraged to introduce similar legislation in other states,” said Maxon.

For more information on Oregon Senate Bill 776 and other anti-pregnancy center legislation, please visit Care Net’s Action and Support Center found on the Care Net website at www.care-net.org/actsupportcenter.html.



JEANNEANE MAXON HIRED AS GENERAL COUNSEL

LANSLOWNE, Va. – Care Net is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeanneane Maxon as General Counsel. Ms. Maxon has a long history in the pro-life movement. In 2005, Maxon received a law degree from Boston University School of Law, graduating cum laude, while her undergraduate work was completed at Westminster College where she double majored in Political Science and History.

As the daughter of a former center director, Jeanneane spent her childhood involved in the pregnancy center movement and has a long-held understanding and appreciation for Care Net’s mission.

Maxon recalls one of her earliest childhood memories of when she was sitting in a pregnancy center with a coloring book while her mother counseled women facing unplanned pregnancies. “I literally grew up inside of a pregnancy center, it is a part of who I am. I can remember another time when I walked into a room and saw a video playing of a live birth. I was about six years old and from that moment on the story of the stork went right out the window!”

In her role as General Counsel, Ms. Maxon will be closely monitoring state legislation affecting pregnancy centers and has already put her skills into action as she headed up a pro-pregnancy center rally in Oregon to thwart a bill aimed at putting pregnancy centers out of business. Part of this Care Net lobbying effort includes developing a website that will contain state legislation, allowing pregnancy centers maximum access to current events and expert legal analysis on each bill. Maxon will also assist pregnancy centers with legal audits, write the bi-monthly Legal Review, as well as conduct trainings and workshops at the Care Net national conference and on the local level.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED STATES

Landmark Court Decision Acknowledges Abortion Hurts Women

LANSLOWNE, Va. — Care Net applauded the landmark Supreme Court decision upholding the federal partial-birth abortion ban. Specifically, Care Net noted the Court's statements regarding the potential for an abortion to negatively impact a woman's emotional health.

Care Net President Kurt Entsminger said, "Abortion does hurt women. Our pregnancy centers see the effects every day in the faces of clients who have had an abortion. We agree with the Court: when a woman experiences a partial-birth abortion, when she learns of the details of how her partially born child was barbarically killed, she could be faced with grief 'more anguished and sorrow more profound' than ever dreamed of in her worst nightmares. For the sake of



Members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

the dignity of human life, for the sake of the emotional sanity of women facing unplanned pregnancies, this procedure has no home in a civilized society."

Sadly, whether abortion harms women is currently being challenged in the media. The New York Times Magazine and CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" have both questioned whether the

emotional devastation that some women experience after an abortion is real or may require professional counseling attention.

However, in its decision, the Supreme Court stated that it can be concluded that "some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained...Severe depression and loss of esteem can follow."

RWANDA

Three-Child Limit Planned

Lawmakers are drafting a law that would limit couples to no more than three children to stop a fast-rising population from increasing poverty levels, said an official in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The population is growing at 3 percent a year, with women on average giving birth to six children, one of the highest rates in Africa. Although no punitive measures have been suggested for couples exceeding three children, incentives would be given to those who comply.

(Source: Excerpted from the New York Times, 2/15/07)

ITALY

Updating an Old Way to Leave the Baby on the Doorstep

ROME — In the Middle Ages, new mothers in Rome could abandon their unwanted babies in a "foundling wheel" — a revolving wooden barrel lodged in a wall, often in a convent, that allowed women to deposit their offspring without being seen.

Now a Rome hospital, the Casilino Polyclinic, has introduced a technologically advanced version of the foundling wheel — not at all a wheel but very much like

an A.T.M. booth. For the first time a new mother left her baby there on Saturday night, and on Monday the child, a boy about 3 months old, was doing well, said Dr. Piermichele Paolillo, who directs the neonatal unit at the hospital.

"We weren't expecting a child this old," Dr. Paolillo said. "On one hand, we're satisfied that the procedure worked perfectly. On the other, we can only guess about his life story."

The boy, who was named Stefano by the hospital team after the medic on call that night, was dressed in clean clothes and seemed to have been breast-fed, Dr. Paolillo said, because he at first refused a bottle.

"It seems he was loved until that moment," he added.

The baby was deposited in a small structure equipped with a heated cradle and lifesaving instruments, including a respirator.



At Casilino Polyclinic, orderlies pass by the door to a new chamber that lets a mother turn an unwanted child over to neonatal specialists.

"This is the foundling wheel of the third millennium," Dr. Paolillo said. "It's still a simple idea, but now it's part of a neonatal intensive care unit, not a convent."

Rome is not alone in the initiative. Modern foundling wheels have made a comeback in various places in Europe in recent decades, particularly in Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and other European countries also have drop-off points for unwanted newborns.

The hospital in Rome is in a neighborhood that is one of the poorest in the city and home to a growing immigrant population. The neighborhood also has the city's highest incidence of child abandonment. In the past two years, 30 deserted children — several found in garbage bins — were entrusted to the

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

hospital's care. Not all of them survived.

"Young immigrant women are the contemporary counterparts of 19th century servant girls impregnated by their masters," said Grazia Passeri, who directs a project based in Rome that assists women and unwanted children. "They come here alone, they're very fragile, and at very high risk of being seduced and cast off."

The discovery of an infant girl on the bed of a truck in July 2005 inspired Dr. Paolillo to create the Casilino cradle, which cost about \$52,000. "It was obvious that the mother of that child wanted a better life for her," he said, noting that the baby had been bathed and wrapped in a cloth to keep her warm. "Often, there is an act of love behind abandonment."

The problem of unwanted newborns has been documented in Italy since Roman times, when babies abandoned next to a column in a forum were either taken home by a third party to serve as slaves or left to die.

Foundling wheels were institutionalized by a papal bull issued in the 12th century by Pope Innocent III, who was shocked by the number of dead babies found in the Tiber. By 1204, there was a wheel in operation at the Santo Spirito Hospital in Rome, next to the Vatican. A 14th-century home for abandoned children in Naples, annexed to a church, is now a museum about foundlings. Many common family names in Italy can be traced to a foundling past: Esposito (because children were sometimes "exposed" on the steps of a convent), Proietti (from the Latin proicio, to throw away) or Innocenti (as in innocent of their father's sin).

Foundling wheels spread to various parts of Europe and were used until the late 19th century. They were abolished in Italy under Mussolini in favor of measures that allowed mothers of unwanted children to give birth anonymously.

Since the cradle was introduced,

multilingual posters have blossomed in Rome, reading: "Don't abandon your baby! Leave it with us." The posters also make it clear that all women residing in the country, even foreigners and illegal immigrants, have a right to health care and can give birth in the hospital anonymously.

"No one will report you to the police or send you away from Italy," the posters read.

Abandoning a minor by putting the child's life at risk, on the other hand, is a punishable offense.

"We hope to reach as many women as possible," said Raffaella Milano, the Rome councilwoman for social affairs, which supported the hospital's project. With children being abandoned, she said, the city had a duty to "try all roads" to find a solution.

(Source: Excerpted from the New York Times, By ELISABETTA POVOLEDO, 2/28/07)

RUSSIA

Babies Gagged in Hospital

YEKATERINBURG — Russian prosecutors are investigating allegations that hospital staff in Yekaterinburg gagged babies because they did not want to hear them crying.

The patient at the hospital in the southern Urals who reported the case heard the children's muffled cries.

She used her mobile phone to film a baby lying in a cot with his mouth taped, while others had dummies taped to their mouths. They are all orphans.

The case, covered widely by Russian media, has caused deep shock and touched a raw nerve.

The patient who reported the incident, Elena Kuritsyna, had been in the hospital with her own children. She said she heard the suppressed crying of young children in the next ward.

"I heard that a baby was mumbling in a neighbouring room; when I looked

in, I saw the baby with plaster over his mouth; he could not cry or do anything, was just mumbling," she told Reuters television.

She approached the nurse in the ward and was initially told to mind her own business. Children were crying too loudly, and distracting nurses from their work, she was told. She eventually persuaded the nurse to remove the plaster, but she says that afterwards the nurse did it again.

The nurse has been suspended and



Cell phone photo of Russian baby with tape over his mouth.

on Wednesday the head doctor at the hospital was reprimanded. Prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation, and say they have discovered that sticking plaster was used more than once.

"Children in the first year of life were systematically gagged with sticking plaster to make children behave quietly," the prosecutors' press service said.

(Source: Excerpted from BBC News, By RICHARD GALPIN, 2/1/07)

UNITED STATES TENNESSEE

Death Certificates in Abortions

A state representative introduced legislation that would require death certificates for aborted fetuses, which would be likely to create public records identifying women who have abortions. The representative, Stacey Campfield, a Republican, predicted the bill would pass in the Republican-controlled Senate but would face difficulties in the Democratic-controlled House.

(Source: Excerpted from the New York Times, 2/15/07)

NEW JERSEY

Abortion Clinic Closed, a Month after a Woman there fell Ill

NEWARK — A New Jersey abortion clinic was shut down nearly a month after a woman who had an abortion there became ill and fell unconscious, the woman and the authorities said yesterday.

The woman, Rasheedah Dinkins, 20, who her lawyer said was forced to undergo a hysterectomy as a result of the abortion, filed a lawsuit yesterday in State Superior Court in Newark against the clinic, Metropolitan Medical Associates in Englewood, and several doctors who work there.

In an interview from her hospital bed yesterday, Ms. Dinkins said she



Rasheedah Dinkins' mother Michelle Lewis, at a news conference.

had remained unconscious and on a ventilator until a week ago. The hospital that treated her after the abortion, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, alerted the State Department of Health and Senior Services about her condition soon after she arrived, her lawyer said.

As a result of that complaint, the health department went to inspect the clinic on Feb. 2, and that investigation was still open. The department also moved up a previously scheduled licensing inspection to last week, and then ordered the clinic to stop seeing new patients, citing violations related

to infection control, instruments, and equipment used for sterilization.

The clinic where Ms. Dinkins had her procedure performs more than 10,000 abortions a year, Nathan Rudy, a health department spokesman, said. It is one of six abortion clinics in New Jersey that belong to the National Abortion Federation.

Ms. Dinkins, the mother of two young children, went to the clinic on Jan. 27, according to her lawyer, Adam M. Slater. She was more than 15 weeks pregnant, and she chose the clinic because it was the only one she could find that would perform an abortion that far into the pregnancy, she said in a telephone interview from her hospital bed while Mr. Slater listened on the line.

Her troubles, she said, began shortly after the procedure. "I remember my stomach hurting" as she was being driven home, she said. Her mother, Michelle Lewis, a home health aide, said a doctor at the clinic advised them to take Ms. Dinkins to the nearest hospital immediately. "I couldn't move," Ms. Dinkins said. "My left side was going numb. I passed out."

More than three weeks later she regained consciousness at the hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, having suffered two strokes and neurological damage and having lost 20 units of blood, Mr. Slater said.

The lawsuit charges two doctors, Keith Gresham and Nicholas Kotopoulos, with "negligent, careless and reckless care." The State Board of Medical Examiners did not immediately return a call seeking comment, and efforts to reach the doctors at the clinic were unsuccessful.

Marie Tasy, executive director of New Jersey Right to Life, called on other women who have had poor experiences at the clinic to come forward. "Abortion has never been a safe procedure for mother or baby," she said. "It is our hope that more women who have been injured at Metropolitan Medical Associates will have the courage to come forward and reveal their experiences once they realize that they are not alone."

WABC Eyewitness News interviewed another woman, Gloria Moses, who came forward to say she was misled, confused and provided with inaccurate medical information at the same abortion mill. Moses said, "What happened to me lasted 10 days, and every day I could have died because of them. I didn't know this was an abortion facility. I didn't come for an abortion. I came here to find where the baby was - if I was having an ectopic pregnancy. No one should be exposed to what goes on in there."

(Source: Excerpted from the New York Times, By KAREEM FAHIM, 3/2/07 & WABC 7 Eyewitness News, By NATE SCHWEBER, 3/1/07)

MASSACHUSETTS

Alleged bid to Abort leads to Baby's Death

LAWRENCE — An 18-year-old Dominican immigrant was charged with illegally taking prescription anti-ulcer pills to induce an abortion, a risky technique common in her native land that resulted in the death of her premature baby.

Despite taking the pills, Amber Abreu gave birth on Jan. 6 to a 1 1/4-pound girl named Ashley, who clung to life for four days at Tufts-New England Medical Center before dying.

Prosecutors said that Abreu may be charged with homicide.

Yesterday, the teenager stood silently in a gray hoodie in Lawrence District Court as she was arraigned on one count of procuring a miscarriage, a felony that carries a punishment of up to seven years in prison. However, Abreu's unusual case - a collision of medicine, law, and culture - could soon become far more serious.

"The medical examiner is inclined to rule it a homicide, and she could be facing more substantial charges," Assistant Essex District Attorney Jessica Strasnick said in court yesterday.

Abreu's fate hinges on how far along her pregnancy was when she took the

pills, a point the state medical examiner's office is trying to determine in an autopsy. Prosecutors said they believe it was between 23 and 25 weeks. Abortion is illegal in Massachusetts after 24 weeks, and any action intended to cause a miscarriage after that threshold could prompt homicide charges, prosecutors said.

In court papers, Lawrence District Judge Michael Brooks wrote: "Death believed by [medical examiner] to be homicide -- further charges anticipated."

Abreu was held yesterday on \$15,000 bail. Her public defender, Amanda Barker, could not be reached for comment after the arraignment.

Pfizer Inc., the maker of Cytotec, includes a warning with the drug: "Cytotec may cause abortion (sometimes incomplete), premature labor, or birth defects if given to pregnant women."

Prosecutors said Abreu showed up in the Lawrence General Hospital emergency room on Jan. 6 complaining of stomach pains. She gave birth, but abruptly left about three hours later. Hospital officials contacted authorities, who sought her arrest. The baby was rushed to Tufts-New England for specialized care, and tests of the baby's urine found traces of Cytotec.

Strasnick said that when confronted by investigators, Abreu told police, "I killed my baby."

Abortions using Cytotec occur among Latina immigrants, according to advocates for reproductive health, because most Latin American nations, including the Dominican Republic, prohibit abortion. As a result, women seeking to end pregnancies turn to Cytotec as a cheap alternative, they said. And many women who emigrate bring knowledge of the technique with them.

"We find that Latina immigrants, particularly those new to the country, don't understand the abortion system in the US; they assume it's illegal here," said Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, director of policy and advocacy for the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

In 2004, 22-year-old Mexican

immigrant Gabriela Flores was sentenced to four months in a South Carolina prison for taking Cytotec during the 16th week of pregnancy and miscarrying.

Gonzalez-Rojas said Latino immigrants take the drug if they cannot afford medical abortions. In the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries, it is readily available over the counter for as little as \$1 a pill, she said.

"A lot of time it's sent here by family members in their home country," Gonzalez-Rojas said.

(Source: Excerpted from the Boston Globe, By BRIAN R. BALLOU and RAJA MISHRA, 1/25/07)

NEVADA

Family of Murdered Pregnant Woman Asks for Help

LAS VEGAS – In November a person going through the trash at an apartment complex near Lake Mead discovered the body of a pregnant woman.

The case is being investigated as a double homicide and has baffled investigators while devastating members of her family. The woman's family joined police to plead for the community's help in finding the killer as there are no concrete leads the woman's death.

Carolyn Crowder, 28, was the mother of seven children, and police say her pregnancy was clearly evident when she was beaten to death, and her body left in an apartment dumpster.

(Source: LasVegasNow.com, News Channel 8 EyeWitness News, by CAROL WILKINSON, 1/11/07)

MISSISSIPPI

Memorial to the Missing

JACKSON — Baptists in Mississippi are sending pennies to the state capitol as a reminder to all that abortion has claimed nearly 50 million lives in the U.S.

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Baptist's Christian Action Commission says, "It's not the 50 million

pennies that are important, it's the 50 million children. There is an abortion every 22 seconds in this country."

The 12-by-16-foot covered, bullet proof glass enclosure that makes up the memorial is their way of showing that no life is insignificant.

Jim Futral, the state convention's director-treasurer who came up with the idea for the memorial, said he never imagined the impact the memorial would come to have. "I received a letter from a couple from out of state that was particularly moving. They were visiting Jackson and heard about it. The letter said they came by and just stood there in awe for a while at the number of pennies inside. This couple had two daughters who between them had had three abortions. The wife asked the husband if he had any pennies. He had three pennies in his pocket and he went to put them in, but he couldn't. He couldn't let them go because they represented the three grandchildren they'll never get to hold. Eventually they had to put them



Helen Johnson holds a baby bottle full of pennies in front of the Memorial to the Missing in Jackson, Mississippi.

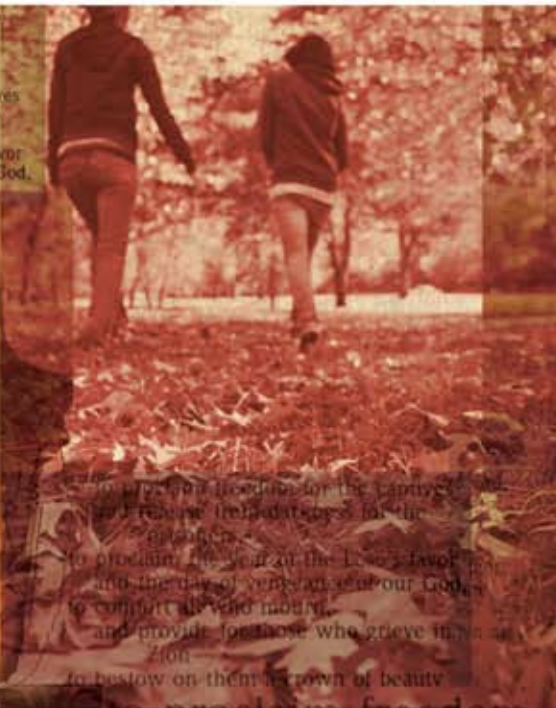
in together."

When Mississippi Baptists finish putting 50 million pennies into the glass monument, it will contain \$500,000 and weigh over 156 tons or as much as 100 automobiles.

(Source: BPNNews.net, 1/24/07)

MINISTERING THE HEALING *Compassion* OF CHRIST

because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the
prisoners,⁴
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn.



has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is
on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the
prisoners,⁴
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in
Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty

to proclaim freedom



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SEPTEMBER 20 - 22, 2007

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(Editor's Note: Council for Life membership is offered to all of our \$1,000 partners each year. Please call 1-800-518-7909, ext. 103 for more information.)

CNR

Welcome Denny, Allyson and Tiffany Weinberg to the Care Net Report. Please tell the readers who you all are and how you got involved in Care Net.

MR. DENNY WEINBERG I've been in southern California for 20 years. Allyson and I have been married for a little over 15 years.

MRS. ALLYSON WEINBERG

I've lived in Southern California my whole life and we have four children, three grandchildren, two sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law. I'm a homemaker.

MS. TIFFANY WEINBERG

I am 24 years old and I am a hairstylist. I got involved with Care Net and crisis pregnancy centers through both my parents getting involved and having a personal experience with Care Net about three years ago.

CNR

So, here you are. You are involved in crisis pregnancy center work, you have a heart for it, and Tiffany, you have a crisis pregnancy. You go to your Mom and Dad...

MS. TIFFANY WEINBERG

Well, it was extremely difficult, that is obvious. Abortion was being talked about so much, and it was a very hard thing to gather my thoughts and ask, well, do I come and be honest with my family and know that they will understand and love me? After a battle with myself, I decided to come to my parents and they were so understanding. I think that being a part of Care Net and crisis pregnancy centers for so long kind of helped us understand and deal with this.

CNR

Your story is available on DVD at the Care Net store. It is called "Adoption: Tiffany's Story." Can you tell us about this generation? Who are the kids out there we are trying to minister to?

MS. TIFFANY WEINBERG

The fact is there are kids out there who are not raised in Christian homes, who are not raised with any kind of morals. They are raised by television which is pushing immorality to this generation. A family where sex is not talked about or where the standard to wait until you are married for sex doesn't exist. There are girls out there who have sex because they want love. So, it is so neat that there is the crisis pregnancy center where we

are able to reach out to this generation with the love of Christ and purity for marriage.

MR. DENNY WEINBERG

Allyson and I just got the Option Line charts last week and I'm sure you have seen the numbers. [Ed note: Council for Life members receive Option Line Call Center and Website quarterly updates.] It is amazing to see how the number of callers has skyrocketed. And they are skyrocketing when the number of unmarried pregnancies is actually declining. What that says is that women who are

in that situation are more willing to reach out to a Christian ministry than ever. If the family is not a safe place for them, and maybe some of them do not have a safe place, then Care Net evidently is.

CNR

I think you are right about that.



MR. DENNY WEINBERG

I want my kids to know that it is real easy to fall into the desires of the world. We are real open with our kids. We talk about everything. When Tiffany came to talk to us about her unplanned pregnancy, we were able to discuss it straight up. As Christians, we want our kids to save themselves for their wives or husbands. That didn't happen for Tiffany. So, what are you going to do? Create an environment where they can't come to you? After all, Christ sees us as we are. Tiffany sees me faults and all, and this created an environment where she came to us. I wish I was brought up and encouraged in a community of people who would have cheered me on.

MRS. ALLYSON WEINBERG

Exactly. And you start that environment and laying those seeds when they are little.

MR. DENNY WEINBERG

Because Allyson and I came from a lot of brokenness in our lives, I don't think we ever put expectations on our kids [of perfection.] We would have loved for all of our kids to go to college, but not all of them did. We would have loved for them all to get great grades in school, some did and some didn't. If you think life has got to be perfect, you are just set up for failure.

MRS. ALLYSON WEINBERG

1 John 4 says to know that my children walk in truth is my greatest joy. For me and Denny, I think that whatever we thought would-have-should-have-could-have been, we have four wonderful children, we feel blessed every day. All that other stuff...looking good, being perfect, playing the right sport, is inconsequential in the long run.

CNR

Amen. That is encouraging for those of us who are following right behind you with little ones. Thank you for joining us. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.



TIFFANY WEINBERG'S VIDEO

“Adoption: Tiffany’s Story”
is available for \$7.95 (5 minutes) & \$9.95 (11 minutes) by calling Care Net at 1-800-237-5030.

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THE **EVIL** WITHIN

A debt of one dollar is not a cause of great concern. Should someone else kindly settle it for us we would, of course, be grateful but consider the payment a trivial matter. If we were in debt to the tune of billions of dollars, strictly required to clear the amount, and consciously aware of the impossibility of raising the sum required, then we would be relieved beyond measure, indebted beyond calculation, and grateful beyond words, deeds, or response if some generous benefactor should undertake to erase our enormous obligation. Our understanding of the salvation wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ can only be as deep as our comprehension of the predicament from which he delivered us. If a problem is not serious to us, its solution is not greatly appreciated.

The greatness of our guilt and the gravity of our circumstances should never be evaded or belittled. The consciousness of the enormity of our sinfulness serves to give us just a hint of the infinite dimensions of the divine mercy

that rescued us and the costliness of the exercise. The more we appreciate the proportions of God's compassion and the measure of its operations on our behalf, the more assured we are of our security in grace, and the more motivated we become to live holily and gratefully.

Original sin has been helpfully, though perhaps not fully, redefined as self-centeredness. It is there at the core of our nature craving, and conniving to get, our own way in terms of pre-eminence and gratification. It is our first and strongest impulse permanently in operation and it is imitative of the source of all evil, Satan himself, who aspired to the position and sovereignty of God in his seat above the universe. Possession, position, and praise are the objects of the ego's ambition, and human life in its fallenness revolves around these ignoble aims.

Every evil perpetrated, and every ill inflicted, arise from self-centeredness in one of its many guises. Human life is awfully awry because it is resolutely and rebelliously not God-centered. And it is from the cot and within the cradle

that the passion of sin simmers and seethes until it can find expression in some outburst of discontent, impatient demand for attention, or urgent insistence for satisfaction. Our self-centeredness begins in babyhood, often encouraged by doting parents, buds in the untaught willfulness and disobedience of childhood, blossoms in the recklessness of adolescence and youth, and comes to full bloom in adulthood when means, mental and material, are available for the execution for our plans. Devices and desires coalesce to promote the dictates of the ego that directs the course of our lives until conversion.

Augustine, in his *Confessions*, has clear recollections of the governance and operations of evil within him from earliest consciousness, something the Spirit awakens within us all. How such promptings were prevalent in the earliest phases of our lives when we learned to practice the arts of greed, dominance, and deceit! Half an hour in the sandpit, the school ground, or the playroom, without close adult scrutiny, is sufficient to reveal the innate tendency to self-centeredness and self-assertiveness within human nature. Augustine remembers the love of self that induced him to behave dishonestly as a child: "I often cheated in order to come off better, simply because a vain desire to win had got the better of me."

Is this not an early hint of the inherent sense of entitlement that we have, that somehow we have a birthright to pride of place, certainty of success, and the fulfillment of all our wants, whatever the circumstances, consequences, or cost to others – that reality is organized around us for the satiation of our yearnings? In reflecting upon his early tendencies and behavior Augustine poses the question, "Can this be the innocence of childhood?", and he concludes, "Far from it, O Lord! But I beg you to forgive it."

Henry Venn wrote thus to his young daughter on her birthday: "For you know, I trust, what enemies are ever working to destroy you: - your corrupt nature is your most powerful enemy. Alas! My beloved child! From your father and mother you derived, as we did from ours, and all from

Adam, a self-seeking, self-pleasing spirit – a desire always to have your own way and will; not to walk in Jehovah's way, nor to do his will; a violent love of praise and esteem, when we only deserve shame and contempt – a love for ourselves, making us utterly indifferent to how the Lord Jesus Christ is treated by mankind; and little attentive to the sufferings, distress, and dangers of our fellow-creatures."

Malcolm Muggeridge observed that the devil is most successful with us when we are most preoccupied (and pleased) with ourselves, and to this end he consciously shadows us, turning attention to the idol of self. The opposite to the sense of entitlement and cause of self-promotion occurs in the warnings and rebukes of Scripture: Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not. (Jer 45:5), For they loved praise from men more than praise from God (Jn 12:43 cf 5:44), But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say (2 Cor 12:6). In the final summations the servants of the Servant know that they are unworthy servants (Lk 17:10).

**"...THE DEVIL IS MOST
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(AND PLEASED) WITH
OURSELVES..."**



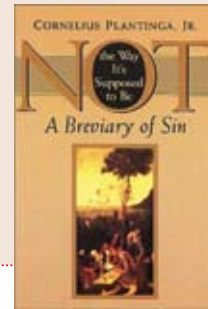
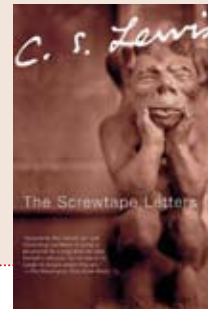
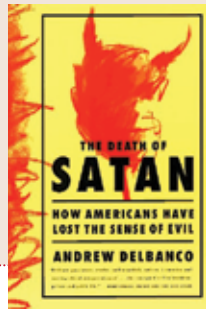
Roger Salter was born and raised in Australia. He trained for the Anglican ministry at Trinity Theological College in Bristol, England from 1974 to 1979. He is currently pastor of St. Matthews Anglican Church affiliated with the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA) in Birmingham, AL. His life is enriched, and ministry supported by his Irish wife, Maureen, his son, Alexander, and two daughters, Helen and Melanie. His sermons are available on www.oneplace.com and he can be reached at roger@stmatthewschurch.net.

HEART CHECK

Blaise Pascal: "Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction."

H. L. Mencken: "It is a sin to believe evil of others, but it is seldom a mistake."

Joseph Conrad: "The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness."



THE AXIS OF EVIL

Reviewed by Matthew Waters

THE DEATH OF SATAN: HOW AMERICANS HAVE LOST THE SENSE OF EVIL

By Andrew Delbanco

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995 (Hardback, 274 pages)

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

By C.S. Lewis

Williams Collins, 1942 (Various editions are available)

NOT THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE: A BRIVIARY OF SIN

By Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

Eerdmans Publishing, 1995 (Hardback, 202 pages)

Columbia University professor Andrew Delbanco has a problem. The term evil has been removed from polite society, and with its removal, the idea and explanation for evil also collapsed. Delbanco says, "My driving motive in writing [the book] has been the conviction that if evil, with all the insidious complexity which Augustine attributed to it, escapes the reach of our imagination, it will have established dominion over us all." While this may not be news to Christians, coming from a self-identified secular liberal like Delbanco, this makes his book *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost Their Sense of Evil* a worthy read.

What makes the work doubly interesting to Christians is that not only does Delbanco recognize the weak explanations for evil made by moderns and post-moderns in general, he is inclined to accept the arguments for evil made by the old theological giants St. Augustine, John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards. He acknowledges that although biblical notions on the topic have long since been discarded from our culture, he deeply respects them. As Walter Sundberg said in *First Things*, "There is a Puritan divine hiding somewhere inside the secular Delbanco, struggling to get out."

Delbanco decries what he sees in novels, motion pictures and in the news today. "What are the horror books that fill these shops all about? And why are millions drawn to them?"

The novels typically tell the story of a protagonist (a detective, or a psychiatrist, or some unwitting witness), a classic liberal—rational, irreligious, tolerant, inclined to understand and sympathize—who finds himself face to face with a particularly brutal or serial killer...in these books, which are not so much whodunits as psychological case studies, the hunt is less for the criminal than for his history...more often than not, he turns out to have been an abused child..."

Delbanco effectively uses various events in American history as well as literature to show how Americans have lost their beliefs in Satan, God, sin and man's responsibility. Satan was extinguished as a serious figure, says Delbanco, after several of the Puritan preachers such as Samuel Sewall, Increase Mather and others who were involved in the Salem Witch Trials recanted of their earlier opinions pronouncing guilt on the 18 victims. The Devil at that point started to become "something educated men could not believe in."

Ultimately, however, Delbanco concludes, "Although there would be a certain satisfaction in living imaginatively in such a world [antiquity wherein evil, the devil and God existed], on balance it is probably a good thing that we have lost it forever. Whether we welcome or mourn this loss, it is the central and irreversible fact of modern history that we no longer inhabit a world of transcendence."

Perhaps someone could introduce the Columbia professor to the old Oxford don, C.S. Lewis. Lewis, a self-described dinosaur and author of *The Screwtape Letters*, lived in the transcendent world to which Delbanco denies existence.

Screwtape is the name of a senior devil and the book is a collection of letters he has written to a junior devil named Wormwood. Each letter instructs Wormwood how to tempt man away from the faith. Regarding

the devil's existence, Screwtape says, "If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that he therefore cannot believe in you."

Writing during World War II, Lewis tackles the age-old problem of evil, and like Delbanco, Lewis incorporates history into his work. Using the war as backdrop, Screwtape says, "Let us therefore think rather how to use than how to enjoy

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this European war. For it has certain tendencies inherent in it which are, in themselves, by no means in our favour. We may hope for a good deal of cruelty and unchastity. But, if we are not careful, we shall see thousands turning in this tribulation to the Enemy...”

Lewis touches on the Christian response to the problem of evil: God is all powerful; God is all good; evil exists; therefore God must have a good reason for allowing it. In the case of the war, the demons feared that good would come from it.

Calvin Seminary President Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. picks up this idea and many others in his book, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. The book won *Christianity Today's* Book of the Year Award in 1996, and readers will not be surprised why.

Plantinga begins his book describing the “Vandalism of Shalom,” wherein “universal flourishing, wholeness and delight... in other words, the way things ought to be” have vanished. For non-

believers, this concept of Shalom will be foreign, but it is critical to making the case that sin, corruption, death, and evil are not the way it's supposed to be and that there may be divine intent, though not responsibility, behind the fact of evil. Plantinga unapologetically embraces Christian ideas that Delbanco is only sympathetic too, saying, “Reformation documents offer a number of images for corruption: it is a despoiled nature, a diseased root, a contaminated spring, a foul heart. According to these documents, we are wrong at the core.”

Building upon Scripture, the Grand Rapids professor cites everyone from Woody Allen to rap lyrics to make his case. Ultimately, the success and satisfaction of this book to a believer is the ground upon which it rests: the Word of God. Rather than flinch at concepts like sin, good and evil, immorality, etc., Plantinga points to the Bible as the only rational answer to the problem of evil. That answer in the final analysis is as satisfying as it is terrifying: “human beings are not *sound*.”

But that is not the end of the story. “To speak of sin by itself, to speak of it apart from the reality of creation and grace, is to forget the resolve of God. God wants Shalom and will pay any price to get it back. Human sin is stubborn, but not as stubborn as the grace of God and not half so persistent.”

Ultimately, the three works support G.K. Chesterton's assertion that evil is empirically verifiable. But for believers in Jesus Christ, that is not the end of the story.

SCREWTAPE ON PRAYER: “*The simplest is to turn their gaze away from Him towards themselves. Keep them watching their own minds and trying to produce feelings there by the action of their own wills...When they say they are praying for forgiveness, let them be trying to feel forgiven. Teach them to estimate the value of each prayer by their success in producing the desired feeling.*”

SCREWTAPE ON TEMPTATION: “*But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the many from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.*”

“*The greatest trick the devil ever played was convincing the world he didn't exist*”

– Verbal Kent (Kevin Spacey) in the film **THE USUAL SUSPECTS**, 1995.

“Nothing happened to me, Officer Starling. I happened. You can't reduce me to a set of influences. You've given up good and evil for behaviorism, Officer Starling. You've got everybody in moral dignity pants—nothing is ever anybody's fault. Look at me, Officer Starling. Can you stand to say I'm evil?”

– Dr. Hannibal Lector (Anthony Hopkins) in the film **THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS**, 1991.

“Evil is in, with, and under human experience; it is an anti-sacrament that, in its twisted way, witnesses to the Holy.”

– Walter Sundberg, **FIRST THINGS**, May 1996.

“*Third, intact D&E [partial-birth abortion] diminishes the chances of exposing the patient's tissues to sharp bony fragments sometimes resulting from dismemberment of the fetus.*” – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Ginsburg, in **GONZALES V. CARHART**, 2007.

“*Most notable was the emphasis in the majority opinion, by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, on the implication of abortion's, 'ethical and moral concerns.'*”

– Linda Greenhouse, **NEW YORK TIMES**, 4/19/07.



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