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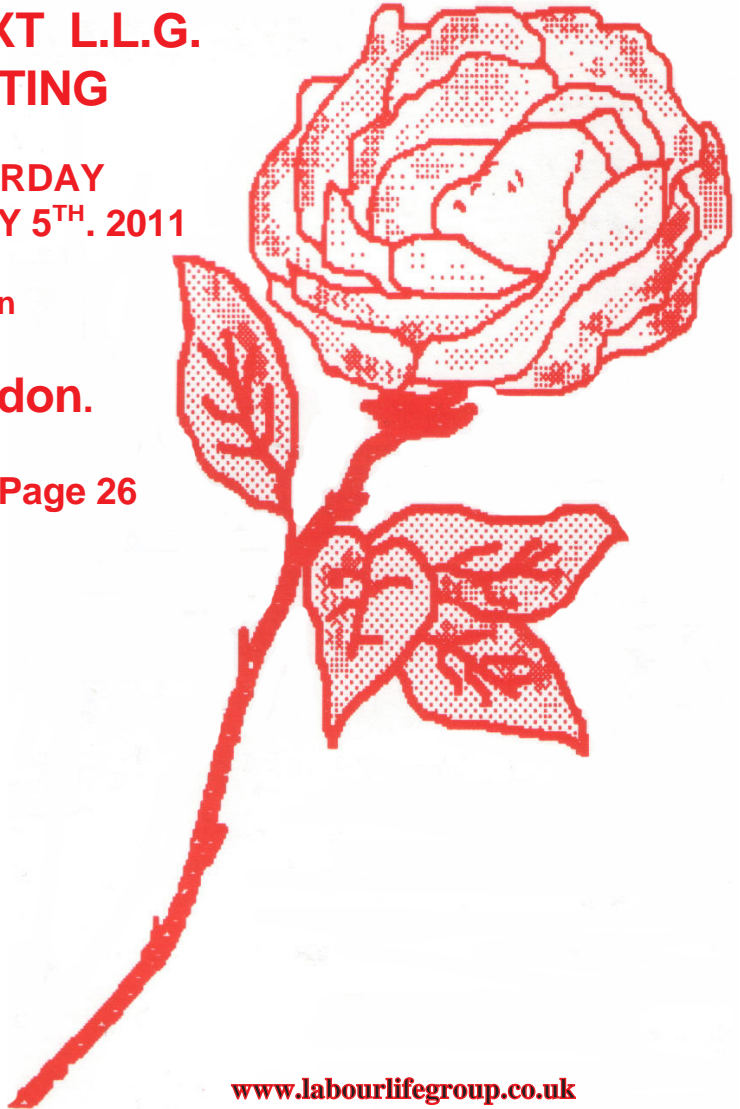
**THE NEXT L.L.G.
MEETING**

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 5TH. 2011**

in

London.

Details Page 26



Dear Friends,



The 'World Cup' is long over! Because England did not win - who can you blame? Well, thank goodness the England manager was able to survive being sacked.

The 'General Election' is over! Because Labour' did not win - Gordon Brown was driven out from office. Was he to blame? Could it have been the rumblings of jealousy from those younger, with big aspirations, being helped along by the national press?

And what about the B.P. Oil spillage? Will the rumbling of discontent from the U.S. still continue if an American is heading the company? Does it all come down to finding a scapegoat? It has been suggested that drilling rights should not have been sanctioned in the circumstances which prevailed. But with the constant urging from those in charge, to make higher and bigger profits, more risks are taken.

Yet with the case of embryonic stem cell research, no profits have been made ~ so why are successive governments willing to give huge grants for its continuation? It is extraordinary to see massive payments being made to research scientists, when it is well documented that all the successes for treating any disease and medical problems, have only come from the adult stem cell research.

Further still, why is government money being poured into the Chinese one-child policy, with pregnant women hounded down and given forced abortions? All this, while a spokesperson from the United Nations Population Fund has said, "coerced abortion is explicitly recognized as a violation of basic human rights and principles." Even the U.N. agrees that coercion includes deceptive information and concealing relevant information. Is there a change in values?

It has long been a thought of mine, that the pro-life issue is not a national problem, but an international problem. Through the L.L.G. website, the Group has been contacted by medical professionals, and researchers in this area, by e-mail. These contacts have sprung up from many different countries. The latest being from Canada in relation to the subject of elective pregnancy terminations and subsequent premature births. This is referred to as the APB (Abortion-premature-Birth) risk. No doubt we will be hearing much more of this in the near future.

Editor

IS THERE ANY PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR LIFE?

By Iwuh Chiedozie



As a young boy, my parents would warn me against going outside our house in their absence and would passionately warn us against talking to

strangers. The reason was of my security which was indeed motivated out of love. I didn't realize then, but as I grew, I knew why. You see child sacrifice was and is still common in my country, I consider it as a world's reality. With respect to my locality and race, I would consider this discourse about ritual killings from an African perspective, my cultural, social and national background.

According to John Mbiti, rituals (sacrifices) are the commonest act of worship among the African people. (Concept of God in Africa, 1977). John Mbiti proposes four popularized theories about the function and meaning of sacrifice:-

1. The gift theory
2. The propitiation theory
3. The communion theory
4. The thanksgiving theory

Sacrifices are acts of restoration “restoration of the ontological balance between God and man” (J. Mbiti) indeed restoration between the divine and the human. For the African, there is need for this balance because in his worldview, the African has, as part of his existence, the physical and spiritual. For him, the spiritual possesses more power and is in charge of the happenings in both their world and in the physical world of man. This does not mean that man lacks the initiative to take charge of his environment. In the discharge of his duties, man may at times, and indeed, most times, upset the balance, by his misdeed, upsets the balance between the spiritual and the physical. In doing this, there comes the need to restore this balance through the tampering.

We can point our two kinds of Sacrifices, namely, **The Positive & the Negative.**

The Positive Sacrifice ~ this is sacrifice that is directed towards the attainment of a positive goal in life or in the achievement of a good for oneself or for the community. This may include sacrifices for healing and restoration of an individual or the society, sacrifice for good tidings in the major areas of life, sacrifices toward off evil attacks etc.

The Negative Sacrifice ~ this sacrifice involves one that acts against man. It arises from a malicious intent and is directed towards the infliction of pain upon an individual. Not satisfied with the progress of an individual or even society, sacrifices can be offered to stop such progress.

THE ESSENCE OF SACRIFICE

Blood offered to the gods comprise the essence of any sacrifice in Africa. But this has still been analyzed differently by different individuals. Van Baal maintains that sacrifice in its essence is seen as an offering accompanied by the ritual killing of the object of the offering. Kristensen sees it as consisting in the consecration of the offering. Both individuals point to the use of blood in sacrifice. What should be understood here is that for some Africans the essence of sacrifice is blood, while this does not hold for others. Blood is considered as the essence of sacrifice because in it resides life. Blood is the life-giving constituent of man. It is through blood, that the food which energizes every part of the body is transferred. Blood aids man in his fight against diseases, and without blood, the heart would be useless. Thus, in extension, we can say that without blood there would be no life. This is why for most Africans ~ blood constitutes the true nature of any sacrifice. This does not mean that all sacrifices done in Africa are done by blood, for there are sacrifices that are done without blood. We can thus assert that although sacrifice is not about blood, yet one of its most essential constituents is blood. This again does not mean that the African gods are blood sucking or blood demanding, on the contrary, the gods are loving supernatural who have the good of their faithful at heart. Blood functions more as a purifier, one that washes away the sins of the community or individual. A grievous sin committed brings doom for all, and it is only through sacrifice of blood that such a grievous crime can be pardoned, and the community freed from the curse.

HUMAN BEINGS AND SACRIFICE

The central figure in the act of sacrificing is the human being. Although quite outdated, human beings constituted the item to be sacrificed. It should be noted that blood sacrifices were graded and it was on very special religious sacrifices that the blood of man was used. This represents what no other sacrifice item can ever represent, life. It is unequalled, and that is why today animal sacrifice is still practised.

The sacrifice of human beings ranked from child to adult sacrifice. One would ask, why sacrifice a child? Children do not in any way deserve such wickedness and yet their innocence is what earned them the choicest place with regard to sacrificial offerings. The blood of the innocent child was the sweet smelling bouquet before the gods and this made child sacrifice highly practised. Human sacrifice, of which infanticide is included with regards to sacrifice, came about for varying reasons, thus it would be best if we looked at those reasons. They include:-

THE HONOUR OF THE KING: the chief custodian of every tribe is a king. Most tribes look upon their kings as divine, so they are ranked with gods. This does not hold true in all tribes, but this can be found in most tribes in Africa. In the Edo tribe of Nigeria, the king is seen as a god whose authority cannot be questioned. His authority and influence is so much that his male servants are made eunuchs to avoid them having any sexual affairs with his numerous wives. In fact, to see the king's wives is a sacrilege. Due to this sort of reverence, when the king dies, he does not die alone. It is thought that

as a king he must be accompanied to the great beyond with some of his servants who will continue to do their duty there as his servants. Thus, paying tribute to these beliefs, many souls are sacrificed, especially that of slaves. In Dahomey, Ghana, the same rite is observed for the King. The Idoma tribe of Nigeria, a vast tribe that dominates Benue state (the Tiv tribe are also a dominant tribe in Benue), perform such practices as sacrifice of human lives for their king. We must understand that this is not a practice done by the whole tribe as in the Benin tribe, but is practised by some minor sect within the Idoma people. For them if their king is not buried with human heads, it can spell doom for the whole community, affecting their lives and their sustenance which is in essence, their farm lands. The Gbagir people, a minor sect of the Gwari nomads do the same when their king dies. Let it be said that it rarely occurs that a child is sacrificed for a king.

FOR COMMUNAL WELLBEING: When the community's interest or good is at stake, the gods demand sacrifice to be made. When an evil has been committed, for instance the destruction of a shrine, there comes the need to sacrifice. Usually, very serious crimes come with what we may call heavy penance. And this penance is given to the people to do. Every sacrifice is carried out at the prompting of the chief priest, who is both the spokesman and the intermediary of the gods to the people. Thus with the gravity of the sin comes the need to sacrifice a human being. To really understand the gravity of such offence we might compare it with present day examples like the murder of the Nigerian President or the killing of the Queen of England. Such offences provoked the need for human sacrifice. Let it be noted, that there is no alternative to this, the sacrifice must be carried out in accordance with the dictates of the gods and the call of culture. If any compromising stance is applied, then worse things will happen to that community.

Most of the sacrifices done are usually done with slaves, for hardly does it occur that a son of the soil is sacrificed to the gods. For instance, in the height of the British invasion to the Benin kingdom, numerous slaves were sacrificed to ensure the security and safety of the land against foreign intruders. The sacrifice was made to ward off these intruders. The Yoruba people sacrifice individuals to the god of Iron. The Shona people of Zimbabwe sacrifice boys aged 10 to their gods. This is to ensure smooth and peaceful living in the land, and better still it is to ensure that the gods respond quickly to their prayers. Here in this reason the killing of children, for sacrifice as noted in the Shona people, is revealed. Thus we should look at it separately.

Infanticide and Communal Well-being:

A child could be sacrificed if it was divinely asserted that the child was an evil child that was going to spell doom for the whole community. Thus to forestall any doom in the future, the life of the child is taken while the child is still young. For instance, the Calabar people in the southern part of Nigeria practised such child murder in the case of twins. They believed that the birth of twins was an evil occurrence that should be nipped in the bud before it spreads to the other areas of the community. To stop this evil, both babies were taken to the evil forest and left there to die in the hands of the evil spirits. This was necessary for the good of the land.

The Akamba people of Kenya, sacrificed children by burying them alive in the shrine at times of severe drought. The Shona people also killed children when they were in dire need of rain. (J.S.Mbiti). Innocence and purity, it was thought, were special qualities of rain and that is why the child was required. All the above point to one thing that it was only when the community was in great life demanding lack, that the innocence of the child was required. These children were also prisoners of wars. But when the gods demanded an indigene to be sacrificed, it took place. Among the Chamba people in Adamawa state in northern Nigeria, indigenous children were sacrificed in the community for three reasons namely:

1. If it happened that the children were twins; here the midwives will immediately kill the children and tell the mother that she had a still birth.
2. If it happened that during birth, the child brought out its leg or hand first; here again the midwives will do the killing and offered the same reasons.
3. If it happened that the child born is noticed to have developed his first tooth from the upper and not the lower gum; same procedure would take place.

If such children are not killed, the community would be running at a disadvantage with their relationships with the gods. For such children brought doom to the community, and were termed as ill luck, and would bring ill health to the community.

These two reasons stand out from the rest as to why human beings, especially children, were sacrificed. Although now, this practice has stopped in **MOST** places and in most tribes, with the advent of Christianity. The word “most” is emphasized to show the extent to which this crude practise has been stopped. It implies that it is not yet stopped but is practised in some tribes, although it is not popular.

THE MONEY MAKING RITUAL ~ WEALTH DESIRE

This is a trend that is very much in vogue today. In ancient Africa, wealth was a communal affair, as such one could not be said to be so rich and another so poor. The great divide between rich and poor in ancient Africa was virtually absent. This is because all believed in, and professed and lived out, a life of community. Wealth was not defined on individual terms, neither was it measured monetarily. Whatever the community lacked, they sought out help from the gods and this did not involve human sacrifice.

In recent times there has been a shift in the understanding of the concept of wealth.. It is now more referring to an individual than communal and this has led to a great distinction between the rich and the poor. This individualism has brought about a desperate search by people to get rich. When one considers the sort of poverty there is in Africa, one would see the reason why there is the drive to get rich, especially after seeing those Africans who have travelled away from their continent, and returned with new ideas and hopes. There is great underdevelopment and corruption in Africa now. Every day is a struggle, and this daily struggle gives birth to frustrations. These frustrations pave the way for religious interference, for Africans are highly religious. Religion for the African is like the stars in the sky, for they cannot do without each other. The religion spoken of here involves the major African

beliefs: Christianity, Islam and African traditional religion. When frustrations set in, the African, like his forefathers, considers the situation and as such, looks for a catalyst. He finds this in religion and calls on God for help. When there is further delay, then the one sure means is diabolism ~ it should be noted that this cuts across the three aforementioned religions. In his diabolic quest, the individual ends up hurting others to make his dreams come true. And the classes of people who suffer most is the children.

INFANTICIDE AND WEALTH DESIRE

This was not a frequent happening in ancient Africa, but it has become a burning issue in contemporary Africa. Poverty is a major issue in Africa; it is almost a problem that defies all solutions. The gap between the rich and the poor is so wide and it keeps growing daily. The poor unfortunately undergo all sorts of marginalization and this drives them to the edge. I had earlier opined that Africa is a highly religious continent, and we consider the spiritual side as part of our existence. We strongly believe that they can and do influence the working of nature and human life. We have our own ritualistic practices and these colour our existence as Africans. Even with the advent of the Missions, Africans still retained their ritualistic tendency. Thus if the poor individual sees that all his efforts have proven to be futile, he seeks out a native doctor, mostly a witch doctor. It should have been clear by now that what really defines the African traditional worship is sacrifice, and each problem has its own sacrifice. In this situation, the sacrificial item demanded for wealth is life and it is the life of a child, mostly an infant.

At the time of my childhood we were warned not to speak to strangers because there were countless cases of missing children (now one would understand why I was not allowed to go outside and play). Why the witch doctor always preferred children to be sacrificed is not known, but one would assume it is because of their innocence. It is believed that innocence flows through the veins of a child. A frequent demand by the native doctor to the wealth desire of a person was to offer up their own child or a child of a close relative. Most people would do it out of frustration but some others out of love would find and use other people's children. Thus, kidnapping becomes a necessity for such a person. But it is not so common today, as the communities condemned the practice.

EVALUATION: NO COMPROMISE

Before the dawn of Christianity and its enlightenment with the gospel, I would probably have seen nothing wrong with ritual sacrifices especially with children, but I guess this is what knowledge does. There can be no compromise with regard to murder, whether it is done to the gods or for human beings. It is totally wrong and should be condemned. If the gods are so illiterate to understand this, then we the mortals, their so-called servants, should enlighten them on this issue. To this concept of murder, our Christian teaching is clear and I guess this is applicable to all the world's religions.

Ritual killing in contemporary Africa has come as a major blow to the development of Christianity in the lives of the people. It is so sad that with regard to this diabolic means of

getting rich, it is the Christian faithful that lead others in this trend, for they are the people who patronize these evil means most. What should be our reaction to such things? As an African, I would not like to let people to derive the wrong meaning from this piece of mine and think that Africans are entirely barbaric, for we are not like that and are the total opposite. I guess every society has its bad side. While we give the benefit of doubt to the ancient customs that gave a nod to such sacrifices, the same cannot be said for modern man. We value children much in Africa; we value life, and the sort of value we place on life, particularly those of children. When I speak of no compromise, I speak the minds of countless Africans who refuse the unholy practise of the minority. Evidence of this warm love towards children, is seen in the numerous prayers requests offered to our gods by a barren woman or women, for barrenness is considered evil in Africa. Africans believe strongly in posterity and lineage survival, our insistence on family and the value of family life is unrivalled. Children are indeed revered in Africa.

Let it be noted that those who indulge in this unholy practise of human sacrifice especially infanticide for wealth, do not always lead a happy life after all. The height of such pain undergone by the individual is his death.

What has been named as infanticide was not looked upon like that, if the sacrifice was for the welfare of the community, but it was seen as infanticide only if it was pursued with evil in mind. I am not in any way supporting infanticide, whether it is for communal welfare or not. What I am trying to bring out is the fact that this was a wrong practice that characterized the African society, which has become more knowledgeable with the dawn of civilization. Again I am trying to show here that regardless of the fact that children were once sacrificed, the African love for children will never be watered down by such practice now. I am trying to bring about a distinction between those who kill children to bring about evil, or in these modern times, killed before birth, for purely selfish reasons ~ and the fact that true sacrifice is done willingly by the person concerned!

CONCLUSION

Our practice, culture, heritage, who we are, what we have done, with regard to human sacrifice, especially children, cannot be undone. We are neither sorry nor proud of it. What we are proud of is the fact that such belief has been enlightened with dawn of Christianity. We in Africa believe that all have a right to life and this belief also existed in ancient Africa. The killings of children done today in our society is quite a sorry news to hear, but I guess what should occupy our mind is this question ~ *Is There Any Perfect Substitute For Life?*



CHANGING PUBLIC OPINION

By Thomas Glessner, JD.

(LifeNews.com Note: Tom Glessner is a pro-life attorney who is the president of NIFLA, the National Institute of Family Life Advocates. NIFLA is an organization with more than 1,200 affiliated pregnancy centres that provide legal, medical and practical help for pregnancy centres across the U.S.A.)

The American patriot Thomas Paine helped to fuel the American Revolution with his classic essay 'Common Sense'. In this essay Paine proclaims:

" A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first, a formidable outcry in defence of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason."

Paine, of course, was talking about the abuses that the American colonists suffered under the crown of England, and he was bemoaning the fact that many colonists had become so used to these abuses that over time they accepted their plight instead of rising up and overthrowing tyranny.

Perhaps Thomas Paine was prophetically observing twenty-first century America and the acquiescence of the public-at-large to the judicial tyranny that has imposed upon America abortion on demand. When the United States Supreme Court issued *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 it invalidated the laws of all fifty states that prohibited abortion.

At that time an outcry was heard from some segments of society, most notably the Catholic Church. But for the most part the public-at-large was silent. The decision was accepted by many as an advancement of an increasingly secular and humanistic culture that views moral values as relative and changing over time.

In 1992 the United States Supreme Court had an opportunity to correct its *Roe* decision but upheld it by ONE vote. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992) the Court's decision argued that *Roe* could not be reversed. Under

the judicial doctrine of state decisis legal precedent, according to the Court, should be given great respect and requires that precedents not be overturned except for compelling reasons.

According to the Court in *Casey*, a generation of Americans has come to rely upon the right to abortion given by *Roe* and thus, a reversal of this decision would create intolerable havoc in the social structure of our nation. Thus, the Court continued to give the horrendous wrong of abortion the superficial appearance of being a right, and over eighteen years have passed since this decision of the abortion edict of *Roe* still intact.

Since 1973 Americans have lived with abortion on demand as part of the culture. To be sure, many have risen in protest to *Roe* and public opinion polls indicate that now a majority of Americans call themselves “pro-life”. However, this rising opposition to abortion has not yet reached a level where true societal change and the abolition of abortion has been achieved. It appears that still many members of the public, as described by Paine, have for too long not thought of abortion as a wrong and thus, have given it a superficial appearance of being a right.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg recently commented on the status of *Roe* and made it clear that, in her opinion, the decision would never be corrected because the American public has come to rely upon it. Participating in a discussion during the Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado, Ginsberg said the infamous decision wouldn’t be overturned because women and society have become accustomed to abortion as a convenient solution to unwanted pregnancies.

“Over a generation of young women have grown up, understanding they can control their own reproductive capacity, and in fact their life’s destiny.” Ginsberg added, “We will never go back to the way it once was. If people realize that, maybe they will have a different attitude.”

It appears that Justice Ginsberg is saying that over time the wrong of killing innocent unborn children has taken on the “superficial appearance of being a right” and thus, will continue. Can she possibly be correct in this assessment? After all, since 1973 more than 52 million legal abortions

have occurred. Is this staggering number of deaths not enough to cause the public to rise up and demand an end to the killing? Apparently not! If the public had truly grasped the moral, ethical, spiritual and demographic implications of this number then *Roe v. Wade* and the annual multi-million-dollar abortion industry that it birthed would have disintegrated by now.

The great challenge to the leaders of the pro-life movement today is to successfully convict the conscience of the nation so that the necessary critical mass of public opinion is developed to bring about an end to abortion. This will take committed efforts on all fronts of our society. The church, the schools, the business community, and the political arena all must be impacted by the passionate cries of those who stand for an end to the killing of the innocent and for the establishment of a nation that truly embraces life, liberty and justice for all. Until then, abortion will continue to be wrong with the superficial appearance of being a right.

Dissatisfaction with the status quo is in the political winds and public dissension on a host of critical government policies is evident in the growth of the Tea Party movement. This movement is demonstrating that when sufficient numbers of the public demand a change in government policies such change can take place. Those who oppose abortion must galvanise the level for support and intensity for the life issues in order to achieve an abortion free America.

Thomas Paine successfully challenged his fellow countrymen to throw off the chains of tyranny and achieve a more just society through common sense and a commitment to truth. Eventually the American colonists banded together in a revolution not seen before in the history of the world. The American Revolution was based upon the foundational belief that all human beings are made in the image of God and thus, are afforded the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The value of each life comes not from what one achieves but rather from the Creator who breathes his image into each human life. A passionate and unshakeable conviction of this truth propelled the birth of this nation. And this foundational truth laid the groundwork for the eventual abolition of the institution of slavery which, like abortion, denied the image of God in certain human beings. Perfection is something that never will be completely achieved because society is made of fallen and imperfect

individuals. Today the greatest wrong is the denial of life to millions of unborn human beings who yearn to breathe free and live out the blessings of liberty promised to our posterity by our constitution.

History was forever changed when common sense took hold and the American colonies threw off the chains of oppression. Likewise, may those who are fighting the good fight for the sanctity of human life continue in this noble struggle and through common sense and a commitment to truth also forever change history.



HIP HOPE HELPS HARES HOP!

By David Prentice (LifeNews.com)

In a proof-of-concept study using a rabbit model, researchers have successfully regenerated a functioning limb joint grown naturally using the host's own adult stem cells. Prof. Jeremy J. Mao and his team at Columbia's University Medical Centre, along with colleagues from the University of Missouri and Clemson University, published their report online in the *Lancet*.

They fabricated an anatomically correct 3-dimensional bio-scaffold infused with the protein growth factor TGF beta 3 and implanted the scaffolds into rabbits that had their forelimb thigh joint removed. Other rabbits had scaffolds implanted without the added protein, or no scaffolds at all. Four weeks later, rabbits that received the protein-laden scaffolds were able to resume normal movements, like rabbits

with normal functional joints.

The treated rabbits had grown their own joint using their own adult stem cells. The authors said their findings showed regeneration “without cell transplantation”. The rabbits’ own adult stem cells were attracted to the scaffold joint site by the protein growth factor, “homed” to the location of the missing joint, and regenerated cartilage and bone in two separate layers.

The published results actually show two new findings: regenerating a limb joint for the first time, with the animals resuming normal function with the new joint, and also the regenerated limb joint being created from the animal’s own endogenous stem cells, not stem cells that are harvested and manipulated outside the host’s body. According to Professor Mao:

“This is the first time an entire joint surface was regenerated with return of functions including weight bearing and locomotion. Regeneration of cartilage and bone both from the host’s own stem cells, rather than taking stem cells out of the body, may ultimately lead to clinical application.”

In an accompanying published commentary, Dr. Patrick Wamke of Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia, described the work as “a renaissance of use of the host as a bio-reactor and recruitment of the host’s endogenous cells, including stem or progenitor cells, for tissue regeneration.”

Professor Molly Stevens of Imperial College, London said: “This is the latest study to have shown that there are stem cells in the body that can be harvested to grow bone and tissue if they are given the right sort of signals.”

DO PRO-ABORTIONISTS SUPPORT MURDER?

By Haven Bradford Gow

In his work "The Limits of Liberal Democracy", Baylor University scholar-educator Scott Moore says that pro-abortionists must know that abortion is morally reprehensible. Otherwise they would not distort, abuse and misuse language to cover up the immorality of abortion by saying abortion simply is "terminating a pregnancy" by "emptying a uterus".

In this regard, I recently interviewed some prominent religious leaders in Eudora, Ark. and Greenville, Mass. regarding abortion. At Eudora Baptist Church I spoke with the deacon and ex-mayor of the city, who said: "Who are you to judge the woman who had an abortion? Abortion is a matter between her and her conscience and God. It's sinful to judge others. The word abortion does not even appear in the Bible."

The administrator of a popular and influential Baptist Church in Greenville observed: "Where does it say in the Bible that abortion is wrong? The word abortion never appears in the Bible, so why should we divide the church over what really is a political issue?"

A lady Methodist pastor in Greenville said: "I told my daughters to use protection if they were planning to have pre-marital sex so they would not have an unwanted pregnancy or get a sexually transmitted disease. But if they did become pregnant, I would encourage them to have an abortion. Why should I let them interrupt their education and ruin their future by having to care for an unwanted child?"

The lady pastor added: "You can see from the pictures of the foetus that it's not really human. The foetus cannot reason and cannot sustain itself. You may find this ironic or contradictory, but I support abortion but oppose capital punishment. In capital punishment, you are executing a real, live, fully developed human being; but with abortion, the foetus is a pre-human thing."

I then asked some pro-life people around the country for their reactions to the above comments. Dr. Monte Liebman, a pro-life psychiatrist in Milwaukee said that we merely have to read these words from a Biology text book by Campbell

and Reece, which declares: "It is difficult to imagine that each of us begin life as a single cell about the size of a full stop. Less than a month after conception, our brains were taking form and our developing hearts had already begun to pulsate."

Robert Stuart, chairman emeritus of the National Can Corporation, and past president of the Chicago Crime Commission, observes, that "no foetus develops into a reptile or other non-human creature, so killing a foetus is really killing a human, and killing humans is what we all know and detest and outlaw, as 'murder'. An unborn baby legally and morally deserves not to be murdered."

James Likoudis, president emeritus of Catholics United for the Faith, declares: "If the foetus growing inside the mother's womb is not a human being, then what is it? A turtle?" Fr. Stan Plutz states: "If an unborn child is not human because he/she cannot reason, then what about a three year old child or disabled elderly person? Since they cannot reason or sustain themselves, does that mean they are not truly human?"

Richard O'Connor, former executive director of Illinois Right to Life, said: "There are plenty of references in the Bible to the content's of a mother's womb that prove that God knows what's there. For example, in Genesis we see the passage 'The children struggled in her (Rebecca's) womb.' Also, those who question the humanity of the foetus should read the conclusion of the First International Conference on Abortion, convened in 1967, which declared: "The majority of our group could find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg ... and the birth of an infant at which point we could say that this was not a human life. The changes occurring between implantation, a six week embryo, a six month foetus, a week old child, or mature adult are merely stages of development and maturation."

A retired Nurse, Mrs. Julia Slocum from Edgement, replied: "No, the Bible doesn't have the word 'abortion' in it. But it does say, 'Do not murder' (Exodus 20), and abortion is the taking of life of an unborn baby. Moreover, abortion is an issue of the sanctity of life, not a political issue." She added: "Some of the world's most prominent scientists and physicians testified to the U.S. Senate in 1981 that life begins at conception. At the very moment of fertilization (conception) a genetically distinct human has come into existence. Everything it will ever need, every body part it will ever have, is present then, as well as colour, stature etc."

LIFE SUPPORT FOR THE DISABLED?

By Ann Farmer

In a miraculous development, Richard Rudd, paralysed in a motorcycle accident, blinked in order to communicate his wish not to have his life-support machine switched off. This was in contrast to his wishes when in good health, and he had then said that he would not wish to live in such circumstances; this illustrates the dangers of living wills. They might sound eminently sensible to those who cannot imagine life as a disabled person. It is only when these circumstances arise, whether from illness or due to an accident, that people experience how strong the will to live really is.

The greatest danger is not physical impairment but depression, which can strike even the physically healthy and rob them of the will to live. If Richard Rudd had been suffering from depression he may well have signalled that he was tired of life – and the medical staff would have to respect his wishes because, since the Tony Bland case in 1993, the artificial delivery of nutrition has been defined as ‘treatment’. Since the Mental Capacity Act of 2005, living wills have been treated as legal documents – indeed, doctors have been warned that they will find themselves in serious trouble for ignoring patients’ living wills. Yet, the paradox is, that the vast majority of disabled and sick people, while often depressed at the lack of support to help them live, would not opt for death. Advocates of living wills have insisted that they are nothing to do with targeting the disabled – and yet they want people to declare that they do not wish to be treated if at some stage in the future they become disabled. Living wills are all about avoiding disability – not by improved treatments and support, but by handing someone else power to kill us if and when we become disabled. Anyone unfortunate enough to suffer from a stroke, finding themselves unable to communicate, may find themselves in a terrifying position of listening to people discussing whether they should be allowed to live or consigned to death. Cases like Richard Rudd’s are covered in the media in such away as to suggest that it is merely a question of switching off a life support machine for an unconscious individual, rather than discussing the slow starvation and dehydration of a sentient human being whose care is proving expensive and difficult. What we need instead, is support for the disabled to live, not a campaign to remove their life support. Let’s hope, that the case of Richard Rudd, which was televised, has brought home to everyone, the fact that we must think carefully. Those who previously thought of living wills as a good idea, is in fact, the idea of handing over power to be killed, to some unnamed person at some unspecified time in the future, in circumstances impossible to foresee, is sheer folly, and evil folly at that.

THE CASE OF CHEN GUANGCHENG

By Fiona Power

Chen Guangcheng is a thirty-eight year old married father and blind human rights activist. He is currently in prison in China for allegedly damaging property and assembling a crowd to disrupt traffic. In fact, his real 'crime' was drawing attention to an illegal campaign in Linyi, within the Shandong province, of forced abortion and sterilization. China's 'Population and Family Planning Law' of 2002 had introduced some measures to standardise policies and practice in the implementation of family planning policies and to 'safeguard human rights'. However, the one child policy per family system was open to abuse by local officials because of the emphasis on birth quotas across provinces, and the use of severe penalties and rewards for missing or meeting targets.

Known locally as the barefoot lawyer, Guangcheng does not have any legal qualifications: because as a blind person he was not allowed to pursue a college education when he was younger. However, he managed to audit law classes and thereby educated himself in enough law to help villagers when they approached him in 2005 for help. Among the many injustices, he heard cases of at least two women who had been forced to abort their babies just a couple of days before their due dates.

Guangcheng travelled to Beijing to consult with legal officials and filed a suit on the women's behalf against the Linyi officials. He also met with the press. The suit was rejected but Guangcheng's findings were revealed on the internet and in the foreign press. Later that year, he and his family were imprisoned in their home. Guangcheng managed to escape to make his way again to Beijing but was apprehended by Shandong officials and there followed another long period of house arrest. During this time Guangcheng was beaten and sympathisers were prevented from meeting with him. In March 2006 Guangcheng 'disappeared' from his home. It was months before his family discovered where he was being held in custody. He received an unfair trial, when some of his attorneys were physically assaulted by the local authorities, before eventually sentenced to serve four years and three months in prison in 2006.

His wife was allowed to visit him in December 2008 and was shocked by how his health had deteriorated. The conditions are very difficult in a Chinese prison, particularly for a blind man.

In April 2006 Time Magazine named Chen Guangcheng as 'one of the hundred most influential people shaping our world'.

[Most recent reports have said that ChenGuangchen has finally been released from prison. He was escorted to his home in Dongshigu with a dozen plainclothes policemen who now stand guard outside his village and his house. Ed.]

Sources:

www.amnesty.org.uk & Wikipedia www.hrw.org (Human Rights Watch)
& www.time.com (Sunday April 30th 2006.)



JUSTICE FOR KIDS NOW

May 2010 Bulletin.

By Brent Rooney MSc

<http://www.justiceforkids.webs.com>

'Dance' that Propels the Autism Epidemic (Part 1.)

Why has the incidence of Autism dramatically escalated from 1 per ten thousand newborn babies in the 1950s to 1 in 110 in 2009 (according to the CDC)? Those who believe that ONE (1) & only one risk factor (e.g. vaccines) explains the Autism disaster, should quickly exit this article. Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein advocated 'thought experiments' to discover new truths, so let's follow

his lead. Enter a 'time machine', return to U.S.A. 1955, and at random select 1,000 young women between ages 20 and 25, all of whom intend to get pregnant within twelve months. Consider a 'QUAD' of risk factors that raise adverse pregnancy outcome odds.

Cigarette Smoking
Prior Induced Abortions
Sexual Promiscuity
Birth Control Use

It is reasonable to think that less than ~ 12% of these 1,000 women from 1955 would have one or more of these 'QUAD' maternal health threats; (in the U.S. birth control pills were NOT commercially available before 1963). Step into that 'time machine', zoom to 2005 and randomly select 1,000 young U.S. women between ages 20 and 25. Since roughly 50% of these young women will have taken 'the pill' and 15 – 20% will be cigarette smokers, it is reasonable to believe that over 70% of these 1,000 women will have one or more risks from the 'QUAD' menu.

It has been known for hundreds of years that the healthier a young woman, the better her odds for a healthy newborn baby. This is NOT a 100% guarantee for a specific woman. Those disputing that this health principle applies to Autism must shoulder the BURDEN of PROOF.

How the 'QUAD' imparts higher Autism risk.
The 'QUAD' yields elevated Autism risk via:

1. The 'older rookie mom' effect
2. 'QUAD' --> premie risk --> Autism risk

The older a women is when she delivers a baby 'Joe' or baby 'Jill', the higher this infant's Autism risk. A massive 2009 study (American Journal of Epidemiology) by Dr. Judith Grether & colleagues, using California data reported that [1]:

Increase in Maternal Age

- +5 years raises a new-born's Autism relative odds by 17.6%
- +10 years raises a new-born's Autism relative odds by 38%
- +15 years raises a new-born's Autism relative odds by 62%
- +20 years bumps new-born's Autism relative odds by 91%

Long term birth control pill use and IAs (Induced Abortions) empower women to be 5, 10, or 20 years older at delivery than without these 'treasures' of modern feminism. As a

quick aside, each one (1) year a woman delays her first full-term pregnancy, raises her relative breast cancer risk by 3.5% (compounded) [2], a 5 year delay imparts a 19% higher BC risk & a 15 year delay yields 68% higher BC risk. Clearly, IAs and 'The Pill' helped propel the 'old rookie moms' trend. Women (on average) giving birth at age 38 have 91% higher (almost double) relative odds of delivering a newborn later diagnosed with Autism as women delivering at age 18 years.

'Preemie Peril'

A 2008 study (New England Journal of Medicine) reported that babies born between 28 & 30 weeks' gestation multiplied their Autism risk by 7.3 & for those new-borns under 28 weeks gestation, their Autism risk is multiplied by 9.7 times that of full-term (at least 37 weeks) babies.

As of October 2009 it has been SETTLED SCIENCE that women wit prior induced abortions elevate their risk of a premature delivery (under 37 weeks' gestation). 'Preemies' have higher risk of 'MACE' (Mental Retardation, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy) disorders in addition to higher odds of blindness, respiratory distress, serious infections, gastrointestinal injury etc. than do full-term newborn babies.

Mothers: teach your young daughter(s) the right 'DANCE'.

U.S. women have suffered over a 40% boost in premature delivery risk over a 30 year period (1980 – 2010) and also about a 40% raised breast cancer risk, because of a 'dance'.

The Guinea Pig 'Polka' (GPP)

BCP (birth control pills) have never been proven to be safe (from BREAST CANCER, very low birth weight in newly born babies, yeast infections, vitamin & mineral depletion etc.), so women who take BCPs are GUINEA PIGS. Surgical abortions have never been proven safe (from reproductive tract infections, newborn risk of: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Epilepsy, maternal risk of breast Cancer, etc.) , so women who get abortions are GUINEA PIGS. Women or men who smoke or 'sleep around' are consummate devotees of the Guinea Pig 'Polka'.

Smart moms want to give their daughters the best odds for good reproductive

health. Mothers must promote a smarter 'dance' for daughters than the GPP, namely:

The 'Common Sense Conga'

To state the obvious, the best way for moms to 'teach' the 'Common Sense Conga' to daughters is via mom's personal example. Moms must not: smoke, booze, take hard drugs; and only take a pharmaceutical drug when it is the best option with no natural remedy being a cost-effective alternative. On the positive side, moms should consume 6-8 serving daily of (mostly organic) TASTY fruits and vegetables; daughters will NOT eat 'yucky' food that is 'good for them'. Mom does daily exercise that is either enjoyable or at least tolerable, but never routines that she hates. The house is supplied with pure drinking water (filtered if necessary). And if mom gets 'miles of smiles' from all this healthy living, that should motivate the daughter to do a 'copycat'.

The so-called 'public schools' or 'state schools' will not warn young women that 'The Pill' and abortion are health disasters, so it must be mom and dad who educate their children about the quack nature of birth control pills and abortion.

Other websites of interest:-

<http://deveber.org/text/whaa-chapters.html>

[Women's Health after Abortion: online copy of the book]

<http://www.bcpinstitute.org> [Abortion-Breast-Cancer Information]

<http://www.conservapedia.com/Abortion> [Major Risks (Andrew Schlafly)]

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CAN EUROPE SURVIVE ITS POPULATION PLUNGE?

By Mary Jo Anderson

Source ~ LifeNews.com. Paris, France

Europe is dying! 'The Washington Post', among others, reports that, within a hundred years, there will be the rare German in Germany, and the rare Italian in Italy. Some demographers believe it is too late to correct Europe's plunge into extinction. "The fall in the population can no longer be stopped," reported Walter Rademacher of the German Federal Statistics Office.

Replacement fertility rates are 2.1 children per woman in developed nations. No nation in Europe can claim that rate, and most fall under 1.6. At those levels, each generation is barely half the number of the preceding one. The United Nations experts are sufficiently alarmed to call councils to address the population crisis. The irony is that this is a crisis of their making.

In the 1960s, futurists painted a dire picture of population explosion and its concomitant depletion of resources. As recently as ten years ago, the United Nation's own Millennium Summit made a Declaration. It said, ~ "We must spare no effort to free all humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs."

Global policy planners set about crafting a means to curb world fertility. Contraception and abortion as social policy necessarily pitted planners against Christian teaching and traditional families. Predictably, these policies led to a tacit devaluation of marriage and the acceptance of divorce, cohabitation, and single parenthood in the developed nations.

Worse, a militant secularization of Western culture deprived two generations of the foundational reasons for family formation. Sociological tinkering as part of the Human Potential Movement sought to detach people from, "religious superstitions" and apply scientific methods to the management of human beings.

Their mistake was a crucial misunderstanding of the nature of family: Is there an inherent, ontological basis for families, or can the nature of a "family" be recast at the whim of international governing bodies?



WOMEN WHO REFUSE ABORTIONS

By Steven Ertelt (LifeNews.com Editor)

Women who refuse requests from their husbands or boyfriends to have abortions are often finding themselves subject to violent attacks that sometimes result in their deaths. That's the finding of a new report from the Elliot Institute, which calls the problem a "widespread epidemic".

The new report, 'Forced Abortion in America', is drawing attention to attacks on pregnant women and girls in order to prevent them from continuing their pregnancies. It points out a "widespread epidemic of unwanted, coerced and forced abortions taking place in the United States.

The report notes how research suggests most abortions are likely unwanted or coerced, with one survey of women who had abortions finding that 64% said they felt pressured by others to abort. The same survey found 80% of women said they did not receive the counselling they needed to make a decision – even though more than half said they felt rushed or uncertain about an abortion.

The consequences for those who refuse abortion can be dangerous and even deadly, according to the report, which details cases of women and girls facing violent attacks or murder for resisting abortion. Studies of death rates among pregnant women in the U.S. have found that homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women, the authors say.

The cases detailed in the report represent only a fraction of the more than 200 cases the Elliot Institute has on file of women and girls being attacked or killed with the intent of getting rid of the pregnancy. The updated report contains new cases as well as a new special section on teens and forced abortion.

Among the new cases added to the report:

** A Kansas man and his wife were convicted of sexual abuse after the man raped his stepdaughters over a period of several years, resulting in four pregnancies and at least one abortion, performed on an 11 year old. The case was reported to authorities by a pro-life organization after one of the girls visited their office seeking an abortion. The group says that the abortion business did the abortion without informing authorities of any suspected abuse.*

** Two Ohio teenagers were convicted for kidnapping and assaulting a pregnant teen, killing her unborn child. Police said one of the boys thought he had fathered the child, and the two hit the teen and kicked her abdomen to cause death of her 8-month old unborn child. One of them allegedly told her that she should have gotten an abortion and that "now your baby is going to die". DNA tests showed that the teen was not the father.*

** A man was sentenced to 9 years in prison for secretly giving his wife an abortion-inducing drug after she refused to abort. The woman secretly taped him admitting to giving her the drug but trying to convince her that she really wanted to have an abortion.*

** A high school junior was beaten to death by her 12 year-old boyfriend after she refused to have an abortion. According to police, the man hit the teen at least four times on the head with a bat and admitted he did not want her to have the baby. He pleaded guilty after leading police to the girl's body, which he had buried under leaves in the woods. The man was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison.*

"Our files contain hundreds of stories from women and girls who were attacked or killed with the intent of getting rid of the pregnancy," said Elliot Institute spokesperson, Amy Sobie.

She told LifeNews.com, "We've been collecting these stories for more than six years through mainstream media sources and pro-life organizations who have been diligently reporting on these kinds of cases. The information is out there, but many people aren't aware of what might be going on in their own communities."

Sobie said that people might not immediately connect this with an abortion, because in many cases the woman or girl never makes it to the abortion centre – she's attacked or killed before she gets there.

"In our opinion, the availability of abortion makes it easier for those around her to think that she shouldn't be having this baby, and gives those with an interest in getting rid of the unborn child a justification for doing so," she said.

Some of the new cases included in the report involve assailants using abortifacients or other drugs to secretly induce an abortion. For example, in several cases the attackers secretly put the RU-486 drug in their wives' or girlfriends' food or drink with the intent of killing the unborn child.

In addition to destroying the unborn child and subjecting the mother to the emotional trauma of the loss of her child, these attacks may also put the mother at risk of physical problems without her being aware of it. Side effects of RU-486 include haemorrhaging, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, painful cramping, heart problems, infections and possible death of the mother.

And the availability of the drug may make it easier for those who want to cause an abortion to do so without the need to use pressure, intimidation or force to get the mother to an abortion business – putting more women and girls at risk.

Other new cases focus on pregnancy discrimination by employers, schools and others that can make women feel they have no choice but to abort.

For example, a study published in the Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics found that student athletes conceal pregnancy, feel forced into abortion or fear losing financial aid because of pregnancy, which could jeopardize their ability to stay in school.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recently settled cases with two large U.S. companies for refusing to hire a pregnant applicant and firing an employee who became pregnant.

“Pressure may also come from the bosses, school counsellors and others who see a pregnancy as a threat to the woman’s ability to do her job or continue her education,” Sobie said. “The EEOC has reported an increase in the number of pregnancy discrimination complaints filed against employees, and a number of large companies have settled or are facing lawsuits over claims they fired or demoted female workers who became pregnant.”

Elliot Institute director Dr. David Reardon said that cases of women being pressured, threatened, or subjected to violence if they refuse to abort, are not unusual. He pointed out that students have shown that homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women in the U.S. and that women in abusive relationships are at risk for increased violence during pregnancy.

Dr. Reardon said that while abortion is often described as a ‘choice’, women who’ve faced abandonment and intense pressure or emotional blackmail, and have been physically threatened, tell a very different story. Reardon said the report underscores the need for legislation, like that recently passes in Nebraska, holding abortion businesses liable for failing to screen women for evidence of coercion or pressure to abort and to direct them to people and resources who can help them.

“Too often, abortion clinics and others simply assume that if a woman is coming for an abortion, it is her free choice,” he said. “This ‘no questions asked’ policy is especially harmful to those in abusive situations, including young girls who are victims of sexual predators. Women should not be forced into unwanted abortions and subjected to violence or pressure from others”



NEXT L.L.G. MEETING

**To be held
on
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5th. 2011**

**At 35, Canonbury Road
London,
N1 2DG.**

Meeting will start at 1:00p.m. – 4:30pm

Directions by tube:

To Highbury & Islington Station on Victoria Line. It is a five-minute walk (less than ½ a mile) to Canonbury Road. It has a green door and two white pillars, next to a Wine Shop with an off-licence sign!

Please ring Patrick Carroll Tel. 0207-354-5667 if you get lost.

By car:

Follow A1 to Highbury Corner, (Highbury & Islington tube station).

Then across the roundabout and go down the A1200 ~ that is Canonbury Road.

Carry on over Canonbury Square and then find No. 35.

It has a green door and 2 white pillars, and is next to a Wine Shop.

(Please contact Patrick early enough, if you need a voucher to park in the residents bay.)

Please bring your own packed lunch. Coffee & Tea will be provided.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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