

## Shelby County Shows Pro-Life Colors at Vigil, March for Life

On Wednesday evening, January 21, over 200 pro-lifers turned out for RTL's annual Candlelight Vigil commemorating the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Nino Vitale, the newly elected representative from the 85th Ohio House District reminded those present that "Each person is unique and has been given life with a purpose by the Author of Life Himself. Twenty years ago, my sister was told that her unborn child had a spot on her brain and that the family should consider 'alternatives'. Because of that family's courage, my niece was given life and graduated with honors from high school."



Vitale said, "Doing what is good, true, and beautiful does not depend upon the actions of others. What is true is true even if only one person believes it. And what is wrong is wrong even if millions believe it. While we must push forward with legislation, we can save babies right here and right now by changing hearts and minds. By changing one mother's heart, we can save that baby."

RTL's thrift shop manager, Ann Cordonnier, shared stories about how those who are caring for children find the shop to be a place they can go to for help and resources.

Those who have lost their lives by abortion or been wounded by their participation in abortion were commemorated during the candlelight procession around the courthouse. Following the vigil, a busload of area pro-lifers left for Washington for the March for Life (pictured above). They joined a bus of Lehman Catholic students and hundreds of thousands of others who traveled from all over the country to pray and march past the Supreme Court building.



### Congrats to Oratory Winners

Dylan Sherman, a senior at Lehman Catholic High School, topped the competition at the RTL Oratory Contest on February 16. The contest was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney.

Second place went to Nathan Platfoot, a junior at Botkins High School. Placing third was a Russia High School junior, Erin Gaerke.

Congratulations to our winners, and to all of the competitors, who all delivered impressive pro-life speeches. (Pictured from left are Jacob Dodds; Teddy Jackson; Dylan Sherman; Nathan Platfoot; Erin Gaerke; Mark Siefing; and Nawal Hijazi.) Thank you to our judges, who donate their time for this event.

Good luck to Dylan, who continues on to represent Shelby County at the Ohio Right to Life Oratory Contest on May 2.

### Membership Matters

A big thank you to all of you who have returned your membership forms and dues in a timely fashion. We've had great response to our annual mailing, as well as to our membership committee's membership drive. We have more than forty new members—Welcome!

### Clothing center report

In January, 156 clients purchased items, 13 used certificates from classes, 18 received free items, and 2 were referred to the women's center. Several excess boxes of clothing were donated to other area pregnancy centers and pro-life groups.

## RTL Garage Sale Coming Soon

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It's RTL's biggest fundraiser: the Russia Garage Sale: Thursday-Saturday, March 26-28, at St. Remy Hall in Russia. Hours will be 9 am-7 pm on Thursday and Friday, and 9 am-12 pm on Saturday.

There are many ways to help: donate items, attend and buy items, volunteer to work. If you marked the garage sale box on your volunteer form, someone will contact you soon. If you'd like to volunteer and you're not contacted, please call Karen Rosenbeck, 937-526-5814.

Thank you for your generous donations year after year. As a friendly reminder we ask that you continue to donate only clean and salable items. It's also extremely helpful when clothes are sorted by size and bagged/boxed accordingly. To donate items: 1) Drop them off at the RTL office; 2) Your church may have a drop-off site; or 3) Deliver items to St. Remy Hall on Tuesday, March 24 from 7-8 pm and Wednesday, March 25 from 9 am-6 pm. Any questions, please contact Maria Hoehne at 937-526-5008.

There is a bake sale and 50/50 raffle held in conjunction with the garage sale. (See raffle tickets enclosed in this newsletter—donation is \$10 per sheet; please return tickets and money to RTL office.) Baked items may be brought to the garage sale on Wednesday, March 25, from 9 am-6 pm. Additional baked goods will be accepted throughout the sale.

### 'The Drop Box' Movie Director: Embracing Mothers in Need is the Way to End Abortion

Brian Ivie has wanted to make movies since age 9. Accepted into the University of Southern California-School of Cinematic Arts, he saw an L.A. Times headline one day and dreamed that directing an unconventional documentary could be his ticket to Sundance Film Festival. Then God intervened. Instead of Sundance, Ivie now partners with Focus on the Family and his film 'The Drop Box' has already achieved a noteworthy feat in the digital age: over 8 million trailer views online, showing significant audience interest in a documentary.

Following a screening of 'The Drop Box' in Washington, DC, he shares his story of abandonment, rescue, disability, unconditional love.

You've shared often about the L.A. Times article on Pastor Lee, and how that led you to head to South Korea. What about that story inspired you to action?

Ivie: I read that article over breakfast, about this man in South Korea who had built a depository for disabled babies. I couldn't believe it. I was haunted by the image of this man holding a baby inside a box. At the same time, I was compelled. The images got into my bones — the way the best stories did when I watched one movie per day in high school. It was like I was seeing real courage for the first time in my life. Courage displayed on a battlefield that I actually understood: a normal neighborhood. Not Gettysburg, not Iraq. Just someone's neighborhood. But the stakes were life-and-death, like this man had built a bunker for babies and was defending it with his life, saying, "No one dies here. Not in my town."

A month later, I got an email from the pastor himself, which basically invited us to stay with him (though he didn't know what a documentary was). On December 15, 2011, ten friends and I flew to South Korea to make a documentary about saving Korean babies. I had no idea that God was planning to save me. Before making this film, I loved weak-at-the-knees Hollywood stuff. But what I learned from Pastor Lee is that affection can never set somebody free from porn addictions or rage or abusive patterns. It has to be a higher love, a sacrificial love.

An idea we're seeing take root in the pro-life movement: "To end abortion, the adoption movement must grow."

Ivie: That's spot on. The Drop Box is the story of one man who did more than tell women not to abort or abandon: he actually offered to embrace their suffering. He actually adopted their disabled kids. Embracing mothers, especially by making ourselves available to them — even to the point of taking the difficulties upon ourselves — is the only way forward. Otherwise, our screams and Facebook posts and marches feel like big empty promises. My hope is that this film would unify the pro-life movement underneath that same banner of promise. The one that reads, "We love you and we'll suffer with you both."

Excerpted from an article at LifeNews.com by Josh M. Shepherd, February 27, 2015.

In Christian tradition, March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation, the day we celebrate the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. We give thanks for the gifts of life and salvation, and we pray for all to recognize the value and promise inherent in every human being from the moment of conception. We pray for the success of our Russia garage sale—for clement weather and for good health for our volunteers.



### Twisted: Canada Supreme Court Legalizes Assisted Suicide—Cites “Right to Life”

The Canadian Supreme Court has struck down Canada's ban on assisted suicide, saying it violates the right to life of terminally ill people.

The Supreme Court of Canada released its decision today in the Carter case concerning Canada's laws that protect people from euthanasia and assisted suicide. The court ruled that people have a right to kill themselves with assistance from a physician. The bringers of the court case say that Kathleen (Kay) Carter achieved the kind of death at a Switzerland euthanasia clinic operated by Dignitas that Canadians should have the right to access. The lawsuit is challenging Criminal Code sanctions that make physician-assisted suicide illegal.

“Insofar as they prohibit physician-assisted dying for competent adults who seek such assistance as a result of a grievous and irremediable medical condition that causes enduring and intolerable suffering, ss. 241 (b) and 14 of the Criminal Code deprive these adults of their right to life, liberty and security of the person under s. 7 of the Charter,” the ruling said.

“The right to life is engaged where the law or state action imposes death or an increased risk of death on a person, either directly or indirectly. Here, the prohibition deprives some individuals of life, as it has the effect of forcing some individuals to take their own lives prematurely, for fear that they would be incapable of doing so when they reached the point where suffering was intolerable,” it said.

Mark Penninga, Executive Director of ARPA Canada, told LifeNews: “A sacred line has been crossed. This decision turns the right to life from something that is objectively fixed and inviolable to something that is subjectively fluid and based on what someone feels it is worth.”

In its ruling, the Canadian high court “suspended its ruling for 12 months to give the Canadian government, medical regulatory bodies and the provinces a chance to draft new laws and policies around assisted dying. It said doctors have the ability to address whether an individual is capable of consent,” according to news reports.

“It will be logically impossible for Parliament or any legislature or court to enact safeguards that will be able to withstand future legal challenges. As we see in Belgium and the Netherlands, it is only a matter of time before these so-called safeguards are considered an unjust limitation on someone else's rights, even allowing children or those who are depressed to be killed at the hands of the state,” Penninga said.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is very concerned about the ruling and the negative effect it will have on disabled people. “EPC is concerned about the safety, security and equality of people with disabilities and seniors, which is central to the protections set out under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and our Criminal Code,” the group said. “In other jurisdictions, euthanasia has expanded to include people with depression, people with psychiatric problems, people with dementia, teenagers and incompetent people. The laws in other jurisdictions have been abused.”

Wesley J. Smith, an attorney and author who closely monitors end of life issues, also weighed in on the case. He said: “Let's examine the Swiss ‘model,’ shall we? Here's the thing, Switzerland—which outlaws the flushing of a live goldfish down the toilet—has become a pro-suicide culture. In fact, it is pure Kevorkianism because people travel to suicide clinics established there (‘suicide tourism’), not to be treated by a doctor or palliated in their suffering, but solely to get access to a poisonous overdose.”

He concludes, “If Canada opens suicide clinics, it won't be—nor do advocates want it to be—limited to the terminally ill. The very force of human logic will lead directly to assisted suicide on demand and euthanasia if someone can't do the deed themselves.”

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, February 6 , 2015. Edited for space.

## In Memoriam: Jack Willke, Father of the Pro-Life Movement

Editor's Note: Willke was a native of Maria Stein, Ohio.

Dr. Jack Willke, who was often considered the father of the modern-day pro-life movement, has passed away.

A medical doctor by trade, Willke, along with his late wife Barbara, crisscrossed the nation in the 1960s and 1970s teaching people about the fight for life and helping set up some of the first state and local Right to Life groups combating abortion before and after the infamous Roe v. Wade decision.

Willke is the past president of National Right to Life, and was president of the Life Issues Institute and president emeritus, International Right to Life Federation. With Barbara, Dr. Willke co-authored twelve books on human sexuality and abortion. Together they created audio and visual materials that were proven to be basic teaching tools throughout the world. Their materials have been translated into 30 languages on all five continents. They frequently appeared on radio and TV shows and have spoken in 64 different countries.

Brad Mattes, of Life Issues Institute and a longtime close friend of Dr. Willke, said, "We are deeply saddened to report that Dr. Jack Willke, president of Life Issues Institute, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Friday, February 20. Dr. Willke and his wife Barbara, who preceded him in death, were considered the parents of the pro-life movement. Their educational materials have been responsible for educating millions on abortion," he said.

Dr. Willke often expressed that he didn't expect to see the reversal of abortion in his lifetime. His dream of ending the brutality of abortion will ultimately be realized by those he and Barbara brought into the movement and trained.

Mattes said, "I can only imagine the greeting Jack received in heaven. Millions of babies who he tirelessly worked to saved, joyfully welcoming him home.

By Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, February 21, 2015. Edited for space.