

Who's Holding Josiah David Now?

— *By Josiah's mother*

This is a story about a little boy named Josiah David who never had a chance to become a man. A little boy who tasted death before he even breathed his first breath. Josiah David was my little boy, and though it is hard to admit, I let him be killed.

I suppose there are many different reasons and circumstances that cause a woman to destroy that tiny life growing inside of her. I gave in to pressure from Josiah's father and my parents. They were doing what they thought best for me, but it certainly wasn't best for Josiah. As a matter of fact, it turned out not the best for me either.

The father of my child was 15 years old and I was 14. It is really hard to make a decision that is best for everyone when you are that young and under so much pressure. Once an unplanned baby is conceived, there is no way out of the situation without pain for someone.

I really didn't want to have an abortion, and at the time, it was even illegal. I remember feeling aghast at what the baby's father wanted me to do. I refused to talk with him about it, so he went to my parents. They were talking of adoption. I didn't want to do that either. I realize now that I was being selfish. My family thought the abortion would erase my mistake, and I could go on without it affecting the rest of my life.

The day before I went into the hospital, I felt the baby move. I was told it couldn't possibly be the baby moving yet, it had to be something else. Actually, there wasn't much truth I was told at the time. I was strapped to a table and they injected the saline into my abdomen through a huge needle. The baby started moving, slowly at first, and then faster and harder. I realized he was struggling to live. I asked the intern to please stop the saline because the baby was alive, but he said, "No, I can't, it is too late." The baby kept kicking harder and harder, and he kept up his struggle for quite a while. When it seemed he was almost going to make it, I felt him slowing down. I could feel his strength leaving. Gradually his kicking got quieter. The needle had stopped moving, and all that was left was a little flutter inside, then nothing. I knew he had just died. My baby was dead, and I had killed him. All I could do was cry because it was too late to go back.

Soon after, I had a feeling of relief—that it was over and I was "back to normal," externally anyway. Inside, of course, all was not normal. Although things went pretty well for a couple of years, I hadn't dealt with it, only refused to think about

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what's inside.....



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IN FOCUS



Del Parson

The Unwanted Child

— *By Amy Wilson, Editor*

God has placed on the hearts of all at CCTI, and for many of you, the plight of children. So many terrible traumas affect those who are street children, who are trafficked, who are children of war and unfortunately the list goes on. However, God recently placed on my heart this question, "What about those children who are

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it. That worked until I was married and had my daughter. When I looked at her, I could see what I had done. As I watched her growing, I would think about how he never had that chance. I felt so guilty for what I had done. I fought emotional and spiritual battles, even fearing that if I loved my daughter too much, God might take her back to punish me. I didn't understand His infinite mercy. I did all I could to avoid thoughts and memories, but I was constantly haunted by them.

I went on with this battle for 11 years until I committed my life to the Lord Jesus. For the first year I walked with Him, I still couldn't let my past surface. I had asked His forgiveness for ALL my sins, including the unmentionable one, but I didn't want to pull it out and have it examined too closely. The trouble was, it was starting to bother me more when people talked about abortion. I wanted so much to speak out against it, but the wounds of my past were still too deep and painful. Over time, Jesus, the Master Physician and Healer, decided it was time I was healed of all the hurt and guilt.

One day, I got home and opened my mailbox to find a newsletter with a tract inside. It was entitled, "Children, Things We Throw Away?" I opened it and began to read. Initially, it was like re-living the whole nightmare. It completely broke me, and I cried for hours as memories kept coming up. It was like a dam breaking down.

When it was all there in front of me, I wept before Jesus and said, "Look what I've done. How could You forgive me of this?" He said, "I already forgave you." I cried, "But how can You forgive this? I killed a little innocent baby. One of Your children that You created! How can You forgive me for that when I can't even forgive myself?" He gently touched my troubled heart and said, "Who said you have to forgive yourself? Does your blood have redemptive power? Isn't it My blood that cleanses sin and makes all things new?" 1 John 3:20, "For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts ..." confirms what the Lord said to me that day.

God continued to show me that even though He had forgiven sin, there was still pain from a wound, like a sliver that had gone down deep into my flesh with the skin closed over it, so it was undetectable from the outside. As long as that sliver was in there it could never be truly healed. The only way was for the sliver to be removed, which was exactly what Jesus was doing that afternoon. He cleansed and healed the wound. "Now, just as in any deep wound, there will be a scar," He told me. That scar is the regret and sorrow I will always have for that little boy who never climbed trees or chased frogs or any of the things little boys do. But the guilt is gone and the shame is replaced with love and gratitude for my Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave me a second chance. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "For if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away: behold all things are become new."

If you are pregnant and troubled about what to do, please don't choose abortion. I won't lie to you and tell you there is an easy way out. The road ahead of you is a difficult one, but believe me when I say abortion is not the answer. Destroying the baby to get rid of the evidence doesn't work. It may seem that way at the

IN FOCUS

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unwanted? What emotional trauma are these children experiencing?" My first response to this prompting from God was, "But God, You clearly want ALL children as you clearly say in Luke 18:16 and they are ALL gifts from You (Psalms 127:3)."

However, I was quickly reminded that despite God's heart for ALL children, this feeling of being wanted and loved is simply not the reality for many. This is evidenced by the many still in orphanages, in foster care, discarded as evil due to a disability and, as this edition focuses on, those aborted daily. I have seen many beautiful church communities rise up and say, "No more! We will stand for God and be His hands and feet to share His love with these kids." Entire counties in such states as Colorado and Texas have no children waiting in the foster care system because the church body has said, "We want these kids to know they are wanted and loved by us and by God!" Or for the many individuals who daily stand out front of the abortion clinics to lovingly remind those planning to abort their baby, "God loves you and this child and we are here to help you find a better way for you both." These are the churches and individuals that I am choosing to focus upon. We at CCTI want to walk along side all who are working to reach the children through their efforts. I pray as you read this edition of the *Barnabas Letter* that you will seek God and ask how you can be His hands and feet to reach these unwanted children. May this edition encourage you and prompt you to that end! ■

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time, but not in the long run. Adoption may seem impossible at the time, but it would have been so much better to live with the thought that I had given Josiah to someone who would have loved him.

If you have already had an abortion, I know of no other healing than through Jesus Christ. He will completely cleanse and restore your life. He can work miracles that can't be done any other way, and He loves you and wants to give you a second chance too. He really does love you just as much as that tiny little baby, and He wants to make everything right for you.

Oh, by the way, guess who's holding Josiah David now? ■



Defining Human Life

— By **Nithin Sam**



About the Author

Nitin serves as the director of JANPRAGATI, an organization based in Lucknow, India. He works for the benefit of children, which includes education for slum children, ProLife, women empowerment and professional development for teachers. He is married to Blessy Sam and they have two children, Tess and another child due soon!

On May 30, 1996 a Canadian woman gave birth to a baby boy at her home. An emergency scan revealed a pellet in the baby's brain! Two days prior to his birth, Brenda inserted a gun in her vagina and shot the fetus. The baby however survived. Though charged with attempted murder initially, the charge was later dropped; it was argued that Canadian law only protects persons. Since a fetus was not defined as a person, there was no attempt to murder!

This was logically explained away by a simple idea: Fetuses have no rights! An idea, whose pathway of logic runs: a fetus is "no person" and hence has "no rights." If a fetus is a person, he deserves some rights. There is just one reason, we contend for attributed personhood; namely abortion.

Do fetuses qualify for human rights? The most voracious of abortionists accept this fact that they are human. Fetuses don't just contain human nature, but by nature they are human. Cancerous cells may contain human nature and human genes, but they can never be described as human in wholeness.

Peter Singer, an abortionist, says in his book called *Practical Ethics*, "... there is no doubt that from the first moments of its existence, an embryo conceived from human sperm and egg is a human being"

This opens up the eligibility of a fetus for human rights. So let us bring out the next valid question: *An embryo is human, but we cannot confer human rights, because it is not a person.*

Seemingly veritable, an embryo is unequivocally shorn of personhood. The denial is based on personhood theories, largely framed by utilitarian philosophers. We will briefly consider Peter Singer's definitions of "persons" based on four characteristics:

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OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES



Dedicated to children who hear their Father's voice

Never Give Up!

—By Caleb Wilson

Randy was riding bikes with his friends, Carl, when Randy said that he wanted to be an engineer when he grows up. Carl sneered and said, “You’re too dumb, you will never be smart enough!” Randy was feeling sad, but then Mom came out and said, “Time to go to church, Randy.”

When Randy went to church, they were learning about Job and how his friends were discouraging him. After service, Mom said, “Wow, Job had good perseverance even when his friends were discouraging him.” Randy said, “Yeah, I wish I had that perseverance.” Then he told his Mom what happened with Carl. Mom replied, “What Carl said was not nice, but it doesn’t matter what other people think. What matters is what you think.” “Okay,” replied Randy, “I’ll have perseverance and be an engineer!”

Key to remember: Never give up! Romans 15:4 “So that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope.” ■



About the Author

Caleb Wilson, age 10, recently completed Homeschool Elementary School and is looking forward to his summer vacation! Caleb enjoys playing catcher with his baseball team and is an avid reader.

Caleb has a compassionate heart for others and helping them know God and His love.



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- *“A rational and self-conscious being is aware of itself as an extended body existing over an extended period of time.”*

This is a juggling of moral calculations. We can only presume that an entity has self-consciousness. This presumption has to be attested by the activities of the entity, and then the entity earns the distinction of rational quality and self-consciousness. Therefore, infants and unborn do not possess this quality. Singer points out that some animals can learn signs and show a level of intelligence. He therefore claims that animals like apes, dogs, cats and dolphins are rational beings. He suggests that we should give them the advantage of doubt and so protect them. I wonder why this advantage is not extended to infants? This quality is not conferred to people in a state of coma, either. He indicates that such are not persons!

- *“It is a desiring and plan-making being”*

The applicability of this utilitarianism ensues only in relation with other organism. However, it is self-defeating when applied to defending abortion. On the first show, it may seem that for desires, there has to be minimum criteria of consciousness. A stretched rubber band, which has no consciousness, would “desire” to come back to its normal state. However a living being’s “desire” cannot be compared to a million rubber bands’ “desires”!

- *“It contains as a necessary condition for the right to life that it desires to continue living”*

To claim any right, it should be supported with a corresponding “desire.” A child has the right to claim his toy, only if he desires so. If he does not possess this “desire,” he does not have the “right” to that toy either. We may assume that the embryo is not conscious of its survival, but this does not rule out the “desire to live.” That the embryo directs its own survival from conception onwards informs us that it contains that necessary condition to survival.

- *Finally, it is an autonomous being*

A person is not defined by the ability to be autonomous. His activities don’t define his person. A blind or lame man or a quadriplegic is a person. They are not autonomous in the complete sense; nevertheless they are complete persons. There are no quasi-persons! An embryo is not autonomous in this sense; neither an infant nor even small children. Therefore this is not a valid definition for persons.

I am not sure whether we can ever frame personhood theories. Perhaps we do not have enough understanding of who a person is. At this juncture, it is erroneously criminal to deny rights to a fetus at any stage. We would never know when the so called “personhood” is assumed by the fetus. The only logical deduction we can honestly bring is that an embryo at its conception is a person. As a person, and as one of the weakest and the most dependent of human persons, she deserves our protection. We are morally obliged to confer rights to her; for her survival. ■





Peace.
Picture it in your mind.

—By Gloria Hoover

We all picture different things when we think of the word peace, but they all have something in common—a lack of violence. When you picture peace, there are no guns and no hitting. Everyone gets along with each other; this is known as negative peace. But peace goes so much farther than a simple lack of physical violence.

When children have to grow up without a loving, supporting family, there is violence. When children have to work on the street just so the family can eat that night, there is violence. When a mother is malnourished and cannot be healthy for the baby inside her, there is violence. This more systematic violence is much harder to fight against, but

when we beat it we have positive peace. Positive peace takes the concept of peace a step further. It looks at the relationships between people and the social systems that meet the basic needs of everyone.

Romans 14:19 says, “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.” In order to achieve positive peace, we must build each other up. The unborn child needs to be protected and cared for, which includes protection and care for the mother. The mother’s body is designed to be a safe and secure place for the baby, but simply being in the womb is not enough. The unborn child is such a fragile miracle, appearing to be protected inside the mother but in reality the unborn child can experience many types of trauma. For example, if the mother is at a constant state of high stress, that impacts the baby because of the physical connection between the two. The mother must be built up so that the unborn child can be at peace as well. And this building up of each other must continue after the child is born in order for positive peace to come about. It is through our relationships with each other that we can achieve peace.

I challenge you, as you are out and about, to look around you. What kind of peace do you see? Positive or negative? Are people building each other up, or simply not physically hurting each other for the moment? How can you work towards positive peace and build others up? ■



About the Author

Gloria Hoover graduated from Guilford College in May 2015 with a B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Since graduating, she completed an internship with CCTI and continues to work with CCTI as their Media Coordinator.

She plans on continuing her education this fall at UNC Greensboro to get a Masters of Public Affairs with a concentration in Nonprofit Management.

Statistics

While we know that abortions occur by the millions each year, finding a truly accurate count is impossible due to no federal or worldwide regulations requiring reporting (Anna Poprocki, Americans United for Life).

According to the latest statistics from the Worldwide Health Organization (WHO), a woman's likelihood of having an abortion is slightly elevated if she lives in a developing region (29 per 1,000 women versus 24 per 1,000 women based on 2008 data).

Based on the data collected by Guttmacher Institute, nearly half of pregnancies among American women in 2011 were unintended, and about four in 10 of these were terminated by abortion.

Verses

"...but godliness have value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

1 Titus 4:8

"The fruit of your womb will be blessed..."

Deuteronomy 28:4

*"For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's
womb."*

Psalms 139:13



Making it easier to
bring healing and
hope to children
in crisis

Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis

NEWS
EVENTS
RESOURCES



CCIH

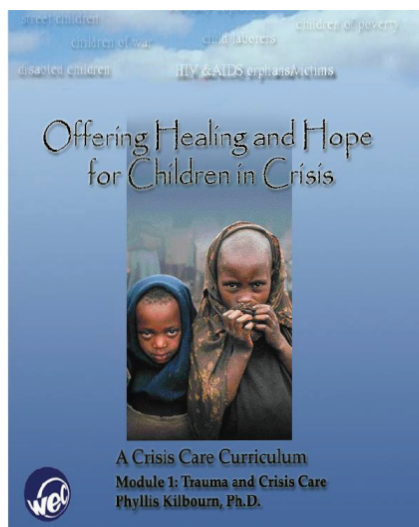
Christian Connections
for International Health

Join CCTI at the upcoming Christian Connections for International Health Conference at John Hopkins University June 17-19. Our own Natalie Flickner will be presenting on the plight of Children with Disabilities and their education worldwide.

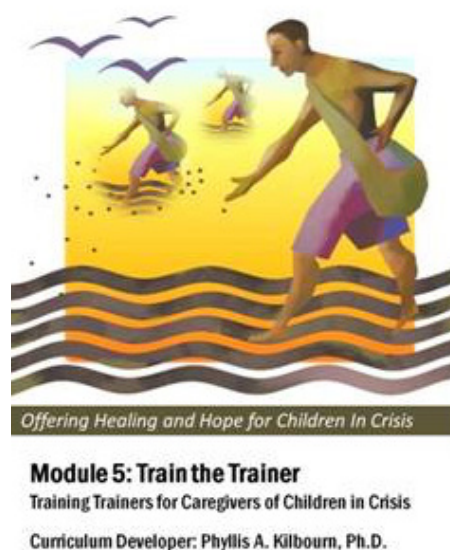
New On-Line Courses!

Email Amy Wilson at: awilson@ccti-wec.org if interested in either course.

Module 1: Trauma and Crisis Care
August 1-September 20, 2016



Module 5: Train the Trainer
October 3-November 22, 2016



For Information On:

• **CCTI Curriculum—**

**Offering Healing and Hope
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