

When we gather for a pro-life rally such as this today, we often find ourselves faced with the pro-choice arguments, banners, and slogans because they are not truthful. People are intimidated by them and particularly when they are greeted by loud chanting that drowns out all other talk. I think most of us wish to be reasonable people, and that means it is time we called pro-choice on their false statements.

First, It's My Body, It's My Choice

The vast majority of and the most significant physical developments of your life occur in the first 20 days after conception, while we are invisible to the naked eye. The unborn has its own unique DNA, its own body functions, its own sexuality. To call this a "clump of cells" or a "blob of tissue" is to remain ignorant of medical science; do we deny the facts about our galaxy or others because we can't see them as astronomers can?

Abortion discriminates against people on the basis of size and location. The unborn look exactly as they should look at this stage of their development, just as a toddler looks like a toddler and not like an adult. Do we deny someone rights because they are very small?

Some say the unborn are only "potential" human beings; the unborn baby is a potential many things – potential criminal, potential Supreme Court justice, but it is only those things potentially because it is **already** a human being. To say that the unborn are potential human beings is as meaningful as saying that the living are all potentially dead. (1)

In 1969, when abortion became legal in Canada, there were only five medical articles written on the physiology and anatomy of the fetus; ten years later, there were 2800 articles and in 1994, there were close to 5000, all the result of ultrasound technology.

Knowledge should bring understanding and certainty; but it seems, the more we know about the unborn, the greater is the resistance to acknowledging them as members of the human race. So now the argument becomes semantics: the unborn are not considered persons. This is simply an attempt to dehumanize the unborn. We know when it was used before: Jews were called **parasites**, slaves were called **property**; in our own country, the native population -and **yes** - women have had the status of persons for **less** than 100 years. Refusing to give the label of persons to the unborn does not change the reality that abortion kills.

The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada website states "A fetus becomes a person when the woman carrying it decides it does." (2) The definition of life can never be left to subjective opinion because it will be changed according to whatever agenda is being advanced. If you say that you don't know when the unborn becomes a person, but that you are still pro-choice, you are, in fact, admitting that you **are willing** to kill a human being.

The latest pro-choice argument is that the fetus is a parasite, taking up residence in a woman without her permission. And pregnancy is compared to a woman donating her kidney to a born child – she has the right to refuse. However, each month the uterus gets ready for

someone *else's* body. So, while one does not have a right to another's kidney, the unborn **do** have a right to the uterus which exists for them. (3)

The mantra of those who want to keep abortion legal is the word CHOICE. No wonder they use that, who wants to be against choice? But **this choice** has a victim. And that victim has rights. The abortion debate is the greatest fight for civil rights in the history of the world, because every single child is at risk.

Martin Luther King said:

“Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness. ... to get someone out of our way, we have to come up with rationales for doing so. We create the deceptions that the other person is less important, less worthy, less human. These pretensesare still lies and our actions are still wrong.” (4)

William Wilberforce was the great parliamentarian who fought for the abolition of the slave trade in England; he spent his entire political life advocating for the rights of slaves.

If Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce were alive today, they would be swimming against the tide, leading the pro-life movement to recognize the rights of the unborn.

**So that slogan My Body, My Choice – I think the baby would cry
“My Body, Your Choice”**

Now, posters with coat hangers and the words **Never Again**. People have been deluded into believing there were thousands of deaths from botched illegal abortions.

Bernard Nathanson was an abortionist, he was one of the founding members of NARAL, the National Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Laws, and he was the director of the largest abortion clinic in the US in the early 70's.

Nathanson admits that he claimed that 5000 to 10,000 women died each year from back-street abortions. I quote:

.... the figures were totally false But ...why go out of our way to correct it with honest statistics? The overriding concern was to get laws eliminated....In reality, there were close to 500 maternal deaths. Now, the death of 500 women is a matter of the most serious concern, but this is hardly an overwhelming death rate among the millions of women of childbearing age. Depending upon the value placed upon the unborn, it might be lopsided for a society to consider only the 500 women and ignore the 1,000,000 babies that are legally extinguished each year.... this most emotional of arguments, the one which swayed me more than any other, is now wholly invalid and obsolete.” (5)

Some are afraid that, without state-sanctioned abortion, women will face jail sentences for procuring illegal abortions.

But “for all the pro-choice fear mongering about pro-lifers wanting to send women to jail, there's only one woman in jail in this country on this issue -- and it's because she's pro-life.” (6)

That woman is Linda Gibbons (and she is in jail right now as I speak); Linda dares to enter the 60 foot bubble zone outside the Scott abortuary in Toronto to offer women an alternative to abortion. Because of her peaceful protests for the past 15 years, Linda has spent more than five and a half of those years behind bars. So women need not worry about jail, that is reserved for pro life activists.

Feminists say that men who are not pro-choice cannot say anything about abortion, chanting “**pro life men have got to go, when you get pregnant, let us know**”. The last time I checked, every baby had a mother and a father.

Abortion is a social injustice and everyone, both male and female, has a **right** and has a **duty** to speak against it. We **need** you men to stand up and defend women and children, not to stand by and turn your head when you know that murder is occurring and do nothing about it, Don't believe the lie that abortion is only a woman's issue.

Some mistakenly think that it doesn't matter whether abortion is legal or not, you will have the same number of abortions. But a quick look at the facts shows how false that is. Look at this graph.

1970, the year after abortion was made legal in Canada, sees the abortion numbers at 15,000. The following year – 40,000. 1988, the year in which the Supreme Court struck down all remaining restrictions on abortion, the number was just a little over 70,000. In the nine years following that decision, the number of abortions increased by 57%. Now there are close to 100,000 abortions annually. Legalized abortion **does** cause an increase the number of aborted children, because it makes it possible for every child to be unwanted and subsequently discarded.

It is not in any country's interest to legalize abortion; a civilization that sanctions abortion as a legal right is signing its own death warrant. Russia is on the verge of implosion due to rampant abortion.

The Western world is simply not replacing itself. Every country needs a birth rate of 2.1 children per woman. Here in Canada, our replacement rate is 1.6, far below what is required just to maintain our population. We are relying on immigration to keep our numbers up.

When feminists talk about "women's reproductive rights," they mean the right of women not to reproduce. but the fewer babies you have today, the fewer babies are around to have babies in 20 years. Once you're as far down the death spiral as Italy is (which has a rate of 1.2 babies per woman), it's hard to reverse. Most European races are going to be out of business in a couple more generations. (7)

People just don't seem to connect the dots that our current low birth rate combined with legalized abortion is changing the face of our society and culture. We will have a much harder time keeping a so-called Canadian identity when our population is primarily Muslim immigrants from Arabic countries. And they will be demanding sharia law.

If we had a plague that killed off 10% of the population, this would be considered a disaster. This is precisely what legalized abortion has done in the past 40 years.

And lastly, the slogan - Every Child a Wanted Child - completely false

Wanting a child is an emotion, and emotions change. Many women who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy discover that they come to want and love this child as the pregnancy progresses.

But even if the mother does not want the child, we all know or should know that there are many couples wishing to adopt infants, and they are on waiting lists for years. (9 years is the length of time in Canada for infant adoption). So the baby only needs to be **"unwanted"** for the nine months between conception and birth; immediately after birth, there is someone somewhere who wants that baby, even if it is handicapped.

Speaking of the Handicapped Child:

With advances in diagnostic testing, we are seeing eugenics rear its ugly head. The unborn are called "fetal anomalies", and mothers are advised to abort babies who are less than perfect. 90% of babies with Down's Syndrome are aborted; this is why Sarah Palin was so vilified in the American election. She was brave enough to give birth to Trig with Down Syndrome when the majority of women in her situation would have chosen abortion. Rather than seeing herself "punished with a baby" in the words of Barack Obama, Sarah Palin chose to see her son Trig as a blessing. The question I ask you - **what kind of person do you want to be? One who feels punished or one who feels blessed?**

On one floor of a hospital, a doctor is performing surgery on a baby in the womb to correct spina bifida; two floors up, another doctor is aborting a baby of the same age **because** it has spina bifida. How long can we go on living this contradiction? How long can doctors? (8)

What does this say to those members of our society who are living with handicaps? We are telling them, that if we had the choice now, they would not exist. Every sidewalk in this city is made to accommodate wheelchairs, but in reality we would prefer to abort those who will need to use them.

The pro choice side has lost the scientific argument; they have lost the moral argument; all that is left is to cover up pro-life posters with blankets and shout down pro-life people with chants. But you cannot silence the truth; because truth speaks to the heart and the human heart will hear.

Gianna Jessen is a 30-year old woman who survived a saline abortion in 1977. Because the doctor was late for work, Gianna survived, being taken to a hospital for treatment and then fostered by a marvellous woman called Penny. At seventeen months old, and with cerebral palsy, Gianna couldn't sit up, move her head or talk. But Penny's work with Gianna changed all that. Now, at 30, Gianna walks with a limp, but has no trouble expressing herself. In fact, she testified before the Supreme Court in the US for the Infant Protection Act for those babies born alive during an abortion.

In Gianna's own words:

"I have been unwanted since conception. If abortion is merely about women's rights, then what were mine? There was not a radical feminist standing up and yelling about how my rights were being violated that day. In fact, my life was being snuffed out in the name of women's rights.

...when I hear the arguments that we should have abortion because the child just might be disabled, the horror that fills my heart. There are things that you will only be able to learn by the weakest among us. And when you snuff them out, you are the one that loses.... What absolute arrogance, that the stronger should dominate the weaker, should determine who lives or dies. Do you not realise that you cannot make your own heart beat? Do you not realise that all the power that you think you possess, you really possess none of it, it is the mercy of God that sustains you, even when you hate Him." (9)

In late February of this year, a man called Christopher Nolan died in Dublin, Ireland. He was also born with cerebral palsy, but Christopher could neither speak nor control his extremities, and was confined to a wheelchair.

Nolan could move one muscle in his neck and, at the age of 11, he was equipped with a "unicorn stick" that was fastened to his head. With it, he could peck at a typewriter. His mother would apply pressure to his chin to stabilize the his head, allowing him to type. It took more than 15 minutes to type one word. But what words they were.

He published his first book at 15, a collection of poems and his second book, Under the Eye of the Clock, won a national award in 1988. His mother Bernadette said: "He has shown (people with disabilities) that life is worth living, and it doesn't matter whether you're in a wheelchair or a bed; it's what's going on in your mind and your soul that is important." (10)

Christopher died at the age of 43. But look at his life: “With a stick affixed to his head, in a body he could not control, his mother holding his chin, Nolan managed to produce a book of poetry, a play, a novel, a biography, and an incredible witness for us all.” (11)

We recognize greatness in Gianna and Christopher because they did not give up on life; Why should we?

Abortion is the solution offered first in an unplanned pregnancy because it is quick and easy. Abortion says “you do not have the ability to love your baby in these circumstances”. (10) The woman who has an abortion not only lives with the life-long memory that she has killed her child, she **becomes** the killing field.

No one should be able to say who gets to sit at the table of life, or more importantly, who doesn’t get to sit at the table of life. (12) The right to life is the fundamental right – and everyone... here... today... got it.

What we **need** is a change of heart. What is **required** is a conversion from a culture that chooses death to a culture that chooses life. And that change will come through prayer.

Last fall, 150 people participated in a campaign called 40 Days for Life. This was 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful witness outside the VG Hospital, the place where **seventeen hundred** abortions are performed annually. The Victoria General Hospital is the **most hopeless** place in this city, because it is the place where a mother goes to kill her own child.

When a woman finds herself with an unplanned pregnancy, we need to let her know what her heart is already telling her; you may have made a mistake, but the life growing within you is no mistake. That life is **your** baby waiting to love and be loved.

As pro-life people, we need to get outside of our churches, go to the places where the killing is carried out, and stand in the gap between a woman’s choice and the baby’s life, telling them that they both deserve better than abortion. We stand as a peaceful rebuke to our society that offers violence as the solution to the problem of a crisis pregnancy.

If we say that we are pro-life and do nothing about it, then we ensure that pro-choice succeeds. As Elie Wiesel, a holocaust survivor, said

“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” (13)

Today, there are 115,000 abortions worldwide each day; this means one abortion every 1 and 1/3 seconds. Mother Teresa, the great helper of the poor, said that the poorest of the world are those children being aborted, because they are the most unwanted.

In the last 20 months, since 40 Days became an international campaign, there have been 466 campaigns in 240 cities in all 50 states, plus Canada, Brazil, England, Northern Ireland, Australia. Over 200,000 people were involved in the vigils, over 4000 churches of all denominations got involved, 18 abortion workers left their jobs, 3 abortion clinics closed completely, many other clinics cut back hours because business was down, and in total **1561** lives were spared from abortion.

If you have wondered what you can do to stem the tide of abortion, look at where God is active today. I believe that the sleeping Body of Christ is waking up to the tragedy of abortion and people are being motivated, people are becoming active who were never active before. Those lives saved were not brought about by any changed laws; they were brought about by the **peaceful powerful** prayers of those who heard the call to pray and witness publicly. Prayer is crucial but it is absolutely essential to go public with it. How can we say we are Christians if we ignore the river of blood that is the undercurrent of our society? The fact is that abortion is convenient for women, and we as a society have to admit it is convenient for us too. But no reason for abortion can stand before the face of Jesus Christ who gave His life for us.

Pray and discern how God can use you in these efforts to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Pray for the babies at risk, pray for their mothers and fathers, pray for those wounded by abortion, pray for conversion of those who work in the abortion field, pray for doctors that they would see the sanctity of life and return to the Hippocratic oath; pray for our elected leaders to put God's laws ahead of their own personal political ambitions, pray for our nation, pray for our world. (14)

Next fall, we will be holding the second Halifax 40 Days for Life Campaign – it begins on Sept 23 and will conclude on Nov 1. Come and stand for the unborn, and encourage others to come. Remember if the pro life side doesn't win, NO ONE wins.

"If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

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