CBR Communiqué

Directors Gregg & Lois Cunningham and daughters

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform **September 2019**

CBR Helps Start Crisis Pregnancy Medical Clinic

Choices Medical Clinic is Still Growing after 20 Years

Choices Medical Clinic in Wichita, Kansas

It is a joy to share with our supporters that a pro-life pregnancy help clinic that CBR helped establish in Wichita, Kansas, is now celebrating their 20th year of serving women and families facing crisis pregnancies.

Choices Medical Clinic (CMC) is in a strategic location next door to an abortion clinic formerly owned by the notorious late-term abortionist, George Tiller, and where abortion was considered the epicenter of the battle for life for many years. After a widow purchased the property with a small home on it, she donated it to Heartland Church Network for the purpose of opening a pregnancy help center. A zoning application was filed and immediately denied by the Wichita City Council, almost certainly due to Tiller's political influence. A four-year legal battle ensued. When we became aware of this dilemma, CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham recognized we needed to get just one city council member to change to a "yes" vote. We located someone who knew the mayor, got the "yes" vote and the rezoning approval. Lois Cunningham and Marilyn Manweiler led the steering committee to establish policies and procedures, recruit board members, hire staff and train the first team of volunteers. CMC opened its doors in December 1999.

One distinction of CMC is that Dr. Scott Stringfield has served as the in-house medical director for all 20 years and board chairman for the past 12 years, and his leadership has been a key factor in the development of this high-quality facility. A unique aspect to his leadership has been to bring medical residents in training from the Via Christi Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Stringfield's intentions for trainees are: "To rotate here in order to be exposed to what we do, obtain training in performing ultrasounds, see Gospel presentations and share in compassionate care given to our clients, and learn themselves how to also do this when they have their own practices someday through interacting with women facing crisis pregnancies."

Despite their diverse points of view about abortion, only one resident has ever refused this training opportunity. Many medical residents and local medical students have changed their minds about abortion, and many who are pro-life have learned how to practice this ethical perspective of caring, with several graduating family medicine residents who were trained at CMC now doing life-saving work across the country. In addition, many nursing and sonography students have also received training at CMC. Dr. Stringfield offered, "Exposure and influence is our goal and what we believe is the long-view in stemming the tide of moral and ethical decline in healthcare and society."

We concur with Dr. Stringfield that some crisis pregnancy ministries operate with a high level of fear, often related to lawsuits, bad publicity and pro-abortion legislation. Dr. Stringfield notes fear can also be associated with the reality that "Physicians have not discovered how they can really help by coming in-house and interacting with these patients and the staff and help them elevate their clinical care and Gospel opportunities. Many times it is mainly due to being unaware of the power of the physician in spiritual and ethical outreach." Dr. Stringfield believes that a physician helps protect the pregnancy clinic staff from various attacks. "It's like 'a left tackle' in football allowing quarterbacks to do what they do best without crushing attacks." Wise and sound medical care can provide a solid and secure covering for the ministry. We agree that more physicians should use their skills for good in a pregnancy help clinic. Dr. Stringfield believes, "Most do not realize the joy of this sort of work beyond the medical care is seeing the Lord use them to reach others for the Gospel and for life. I would like more pregnancy help clinics to work to the limits of medical technology (high level ultrasound and even MRI scanning) and practice at the top of their training."

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When Doing Good is Controversial – Lessons from Missionaries

(An edited version of this article by Lois Cunningham first appeared in Mission Frontiers Issue 41:5 Sept/Oct 2019, http://www.missionfrontiers.org .)

Missionary Amy Carmichael "heard firsthand of the secret traffic in the souls and bodies of little children, things unthinkable, impossible at that time to write about." When she had tried to broach the subject to missionaries who might know the truth, she was squelched with remarks about her vivid imagination. God sent an angel to help seven-year-old Preena escape a temple-house and find her way to safety with Amy. In Amy's passion to rescue more children from temple prostitution, she approached officials for help, and she asked people at home in Ireland to pray. Eventually, India outlawed the practice of dedicating little girls to Hindu temples. (Elliot, Elisabeth, A Chance to Die - The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael, Fleming H. Revell, 1987)

Christian higher education is producing Christian leaders whose ministry priorities bear little resemblance to those of the Good Samaritan -- but closely reflect those of the priest and the Levite who passed by "on the other side" of the beating victim in Christ's salvation parable. We can change this pathetic state of affairs with the judicious use of the same sort of horrific pictures used to save children in the Congo.

Photographs provide clear evidence of truth. Mark Twain satirized Belgium's King Leopold II lamenting the loss of his rubber trade (which caused the deaths of nearly 10 million Congolese): "the incorruptible Kodak [camera] …. The only witness … I couldn't bribe. Every Yankee missionary … sent home and got one ..." Professor Derrick M. Nault wrote: "The most prominent individuals taking such photographs were Alice Seeley Harris and John Harris, English missionaries who arrived at the Congo Balolo Mission in 1898. One broadly circulated photograph …" showed Nsala Wala staring at the severed hand and foot of his 5-year-old daughter, murdered by the Anglo-Belgian India Rubber Company. (Nault, Derrick M., At the Bar of Public Sentiment, academia.edu)

The Harrises were in the Congo to spread the Gospel, yet they recognized the Gospel includes a Biblically-mandated duty to intervene in defense of victims of injustice. Other missionaries remained silent as they feared ejection from the Congo if they spoke out against the killing of children. Who was correct? Today's Christian leaders are silenced by similar fear that their expressions of opposition to the child sacrifice of abortion will compromise their ability to proclaim the Gospel.

Another missionary who lived out the Gospel through opposition to evil practices was Mary Slessor of Scotland. She accepted God's call to Calabar (now Nigeria). She was horrified to learn of the practice of twin killing (executed due to the people's belief that one twin was a child of a devil.) She boldly stood against twin killing, human sacrifice and poisoning. Her courageous influence led to massive social reform and a lasting legacy. (McFarlan, Donald, White Queen: The Story of Mary Slessor, Christian Literature Crusade, 1955)

The Founder of Modern Missions, William Carey, was also given "the title 'Friend of India' for his help in abolishing the custom of Sati–where a widow was burned alive on her husband's funeral pyre." http://bit.ly/2nE59Dr "According to William Carey, the New Testament had a better program for the care of widows. In 1803, he submitted a detailed report to the Governor-General, Lord Wellesley, urging him to outlaw suttee." Carey continued his crusade another 25 years until Lord William Bentinck abolished suttee in Bengal. William Carey was assigned to translate the orders into Bengali, and with the knowledge that every day would cost more precious lives, Carey missed a Sunday service to expedite the translation; it was finished on December 4, 1829. "In 1861, Queen Victoria issued a general ban for the whole of India." http://bit.ly/2nE59 Dr. Carey also helped stop the practice of infant sacrifice.

British missionary to China, Gladys Aylward, initially resisted the Mandarin's request for assistance in stopping the Chinese custom of binding the feet of little girls. This barbaric practice had been done for a thousand years and it resulted in tiny, deformed feet. Thankfully, Miss Aylward realized she was so focused on sharing the Gospel with the men who stayed at her inn that she was blinded to the wide door God was opening for her to visit every woman and girl in the district. "Praise you, God, for giving me this opportunity. And forgive me for once thinking this task was below my station." (Wellman, Sam, For the Children of China, Barbour, 1998) The Mandarin was deeply influenced by Gladys' love for China. He gave a final feast before departing Yangcheng during Japan's invasion. There he publically declared, "I wish to follow this Jesus who loves China. I wish to become a Christian." (Grant, Myrna, No Mountain Too High, Christian Focus Publications, 2003)

It is imperative that we are good Samaritans to the victims in our midst. Modern day child sacrifice is largely carried out through abortion. Worldwide, 50 million preborn children are killed every year, each one created in God's image. If Christians, including missionaries, stand against this evil, surely people will see that Christ is real and worthy of worship.

20th Anniversary, continued from page 1...

Perinatal hospice is another rare service offered by CMC. Since 1999, CMC has served 170 patients and families faced with an unexpected poor life expectancy or lethal prognosis for their preborn baby. The perinatal hospice care team includes a physician, a nurse and a follow-up staff member who provide care during the pregnancy, at the delivery, and beyond the pregnancy. They assist each family as they experience the pain of losing a child in the womb or soon after birth. Sometimes the children survive longer than expected, and Dr. Stringfield is now able to refer women to the Medical Center at University of Nebraska Omaha where a team will perform life-saving procedures on babies with conditions like trisomy 13 and trisomy 18.

Dr. Stringfield told us, "Perinatal hospice is the queen on the chess board as it creates a checkmate position. How can anyone argue against compassionate care for these children and families? These children are like 'little atomic bombs' and explode onto the scene and affect everyone around them with the value of human life no matter how challenging. This program offers a cogent, compassionate, and caring alternative to late-term abortions, and stands with these patients and their families even when the medical community and society as a whole might not agree with their desire to deliver and hold their child even for a few moments. Perinatal hospice gives families the opportunity to see their pre-born babies on 3-dimensional ultrasound, bond with these children, plan a compassionate celebration of their short lives, hold their little ones, allow closure and grieving, and see how they can go on with limited but profound memories that are so valuable for these families."

Executive Director Tawnya Kitt, MSW, began as a volunteer and now provides expert leadership to the ministry. This past year CMC expanded its facility so they can serve more women. Bible studies are now being held in the clinic. From October 2018 to July 2019, 50 women gave their lives to Christ and/or rededicated their lives to the Lord. In CMC's fiscal year ending September 2018, the ministry had nearly 1000 patient visits and 502 ultrasounds were performed. If you want to support a worthy pregnancy help clinic, consider Choices Medical Clinic https://www.choicesmedicalclinic.org/ .

We conducted our Revival Project at Catholic University of America April 8-9, 2019. Catholics are having abortions and we want to reach students before they make the tragic decision to abort.

Thank you for being a part of this life-saving work.

"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."
I John 2:17

Prayer Requests

- Courageous students to sponsor GAP at college campuses this Fall
- Blessings on Choices Medical Clinic in its 20th year
- Staff and volunteers to do CBR projects in New York

Events

Urban Outreach

Oct. 13-14	If you Love the Children, Say So March, Montclair, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, D.C.

ALL Black Lives Matter Project

Sept. 24-27	NMAAHC, Washington, D.C.
Oct. 12	Rally & Protest, Cherry Hill Woman's Center, NJ

Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)

Sept. 16-17	Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Oct. 9-10	Cal State University, Long Beach, CA
Oct. 14-15	East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
Oct. 21-22	Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC

"Choice" Sign Outreaches

Sept. 18	University of Idaho, Moscow, ID
Sept. 20	Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA
Sept. 22	Phoenix, AZ
Sept. 28	Phoenix, AZ
Oct. 10	Wake Tech Comm. College, Raleigh, NC

Revival Project

Sept. 19	Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA
Oct. 16-18	Campbell University, Bules Creek, NC
Oct. 23-25	Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC

Reproductive "Choice" Campaign Trucks

Twice weekly in Tennessee

Training Seminars and Speaking Engagements

Sept. 18	Beech Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN

Pro-Life Training Academy

Sept. 15	Pullman, WA
Oct. 6	Mission Viejo, CA

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"CBR photo brochure saved her sister from aborting another baby"

CBR displayed abortion photo signs outside SoCal Harvest at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, CA, on August 23-25, 2019. We have returned to this venue for a number of years with the goal to call Christians to take action against abortion, as well as to save preborn babies. A woman told a member of our team that last year she had taken our brochure home with her. It is entitled "Why This? Why Here?" and it includes abortion photos. She shared how her sister had three prior abortions, but decided not to have a fourth abortion after seeing our brochure.

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