CBR Communiqué

Directors Gregg & Lois Cunningham and daughters

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform **March 2024**

Protect Your Organs and Your Life – Do Not Sign up as an Organ Donor

Pastor Ryan Marlow's doctor wrongfully declared him brain-dead (<< video link) and he almost had his organs harvested. But his wife realized he was alive and halted the process. He was back worshipping in Grace Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for Easter 2023. https://bit.ly/3TkYfy1

Thirteen-year-old Trenton McKinley of Alabama suffered severe brain trauma after a car utility trailer flipped over on his head. Doctors told his parents he would not recover, but his organs were a match for five children awaiting transplants. After signing the papers to donate his organs, Trenton regained consciousness and spoke about the accident. https://bit.ly/3IGFSyH

Were these miracles? Certainly God has healed people since Bible times, but many physicians question the "brain dead" declarations. Nurse Nancy Valko, spokeswoman for the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses, believes that doctors were "frighteningly wrong" in declaring Zack "brain dead" https://bit.ly/3VnLZzE . It seems likely that this occurs in all too many cases for the purpose of obtaining people's organs.

Doctors used to declare a person dead when they stopped breathing and their hearts stopped circulating blood. This can be called "true death," or *mors vera* in Latin. Things began to change with the first human heart transplant in South Africa in 1967. Recipient Louis Washkansky lived for only 18 days, so transplant surgeons decided they should use living donors.

Living voluntary donations of organs are ethically moral. Examples of organs a living person can give to another are: a kidney, portion of intestines or pancreas; blood, bone marrow, skin; portion of lobed organs - lungs or liver.

In contrast, the "donation" of organs based on "brain death" are not moral. The patient is alive when the organs are removed. Once true death sets in, the tissue is not viable and valued for transplant. One exception is a cornea.

After the South African heart transplant, a Harvard committee invented "brain death" in 1967. U.S. states have differently defined "brain death," resulting in the reality that a person can be declared "brain dead" in one state, and not in another. The Harvard committee justified its "brain death" definition by saying the burden was "great" on the comatose patient and his family, plus beds were needed for other patients. Subsequently, comatose people could be declared dead and their organs removed.

Dr. Heidi Klessig stated in her May 25, 2023 Organ Harvesting webinar that "'Brain death' is a legal fiction that permits the removal of rights from vulnerable people."

The Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA) was passed in 1981. Continued controversies about the definition of death led to the 2008 President's Council on Bio-Ethics: Controversies in the Determination of Death. The Council declared that an organism is no longer alive when it ceases to perform the "fundamental vital work of an organism – the work of self-preservation achieved through the organism's need-driven commerce with the surrounding world." The Council arbitrarily singled out two significant forms of commerce – breathing and consciousness.

Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D., the Chairman of the above Council, wrote a minority opinion: "Ideally, a full definition would link the concept of life (or death) with its clinical manifestations as closely as possible… The only indisputable signs of death are those we have known since antiquity, i.e. loss of sentience, heartbeat, and breathing; mottling and coldness of skin; muscular rigidity; eventually putrefaction as the result of generalized autolysis of body cells."

The Council coined the term "total brain failure," but failed to accurately represent the science including the fact that 50% of "brain dead" people have a functioning

Continued on page 2...

Protect Your Organs *(continued from page 1)*

hypothalamus (a small but essential part of the brain which helps control the pituitary gland and regulates many body functions), and 20% have EEG activity.

Dr. Alan Shewmon (Los Angeles) found hundreds of "brain dead" people who lived up to 20 years, gave birth, etc. He noted that "brain dead" Jadi McMath went through puberty.

If readers still doubt that they would really be alive when the Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) and transplant doctors remove their organs, two transplant proponents wrote: "… *'Brain dead' donors remain alive* [emphasis added] and donors declared dead according to circulatory-respiratory criteria are not known to be dead at the time that their organs are procured." (*Death, Dying and Organ Transplantation*, Miller, Franklin and Truong, Robert, Oxford University Press, 2011)

Thank God for numerous physcians and ethicists who speak against "brain dead" guidelines that continue to shift to suit the purposes of the Organ Procurement Organizations:

- Dr. Doyen Nguyen rejects the American Academy of Neurology guidelines, stating, "With its assertion that the presence of neuroendocrine function, reflexed and spontaneous movements is compatible with death, the AAN standard contradicts both scientific realism and the tenets of sound anthropology."
- "Death has become a judgment of what makes life not worth living." (*The Brain Death Fallacy*, Dr. Heidi Klessig, 2023)
- "The history of death determination in the context of organ donation can be described as an indoctrinating attempt to settle a moral controversy." David Rodriguez-Arias, researcher in moral philosophy and bio-ethics at the University of Grenada, Spain.

The U.S. Uniform Law Commission is working on a new model statute to change the definition of legal death. Three key components they are considering are: 1) Replace the word "irreversible" with "permanent"; 2) Narrow the definition of "brain death" from the entire brain to selected functions that can readily be tested at the bedside; and 3) Eliminate consent for testing "brain death" and permit it over the objection of the surrogate.

The Christian Medical and Dental Association and The Catholic Medical Association are opposing these appalling purposed changes. Dr. Shewmon and over 100 other ethicists are also in opposition.

Forced organ "donation" has been happening for years in China. The primary victims are the Uyghurs, Falun Gong practitioners, prisoners and house church Christians. When the Chinese Communist Party arrests people, they tissue-type them for possible organ removal. People are traveling to China from numerous countries to get organ transplants, but few know the organs come from victimized people.

Scripture documents and also prophesied the selling of human bodies. Rev. 18:11-13 speaks of this evil trade: "Bodies and souls of men" (NKJV) or "Cargo of horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives." (NASB)

CBR stands against all bio-ethical abuses. Abortion is our primary focus, but there are many bio-ethical battlegrounds and we are commanded to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." (Proverbs 31:8)

The political left constantly changes the meaning of medical terms to expand their opportunities to take life. In the foregoing cases, they are changing the meaning of words related to death. At the beginning of life, they change words to obscure the humanity of the preborn child. Remember that Satan is the father of lies.

Action steps:

1) Join CBR in writing letters of opposition to proposed changes to the Uniform Determination of Death Act (Revised UDDA) https://www.respectforhumanlife.com/post/model-letter-to-prolife-legislators .

2) Place your wishes regarding removal of your organs in your electronic medical record.

3) Don't sign up to be a tissue donor; instead notify your family of your wishes and they can donate your cadaver if you so choose.

4) If you already signed up at the DMV to donate your organs, go to the DMV, revoke that permission and get a new license.

For further research:

https://www.respectforhumanlife.com/post/revisions-to-the-udda-considered-by-the-uniform-law-commission-ulc

Dr. Paul Byrne's presentation regarding "brain death." https://bit.ly/3IHTBW8

https://lifeguardianfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Medical-Card-to-protect-and-preserve-life-4-1-16.pdf

Above: Over 50,000 students were educated about abortion in Florida. Photo taken at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Above: A child participating in the Arizona March for Life looks at two of our signs. She will never forget these photos and that will protect her from abortion.

Become a LIFE GIVER - Matching Donation

Our $50,000 matching gift is still available. If you make a new monthly donation pledge to CBR (or quarterly or annually), or if you increase your current giving pledge, the donor will match it. Our monthly donors are **LIFE GIVERS**. Note your pledge on your check or reply envelope. You can still participate in the matching grant even if unable to make a pledge. Note "matching grant" with your gift. Funds raised thus far for our Matching Gift total $32,126.80.

Four Major Florida Universities are Educated by CCBR/CBR Partnership

The very first CBR tour of Florida campuses occurred in January/February 1999. This year, we had the opportunity to partner with the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR) in a tour of four major universities in Florida.

This tour was planned by CBR-Florida Director Bill Calvin and CCBR. For some years, CCBR has brought a traveling team to Florida universities each winter. The tour affords the Canadians an opportunity that is not available in Canada as their country does not have the First Amendment which gives free speech rights on public college campuses. CCBR brought eleven staff members and sixty volunteers, and three CBR U.S. staff members joined them.

Over 50,000 students viewed the CCBR Abortion Awareness Project at University of South Florida February 19-20, University of Central Florida February 21-22, Florida International University February 26-27, and Florida Atlantic University February 28-29.

May God bless you for your prayers and support of CBR.

"Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."
Deuteronomy 30:19b

Prayer Requests

- Protection for medically vulnerable people
- CBR Summer interns
- Pastors to courageously lead their flocks to stand for the sanctity of human life

Events

Urban Outreach
March 1 Arizona March for Life

Photo Trucks
Weekly in Manatee & Sarasota Counties, FL, and Knoxville, TN

Sign Displays at Abortion Mills
March 9 Planned Parenthood Mission Viejo, CA

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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"The [honorary] grand marshals of every March for Life parade should be [photos of] aborted victims ..."

L .B., CBR supporter

During the Arizona March for Life held on March 1, a marcher confronted one of our volunteers who was holding an abortion photo sign. The man was angry that children at the March were seeing photos of aborted human embryos and fetuses. CBR-SW Regional Director Abra Singleton approached the interaction just as a couple from the March walked up to defend the CBR volunteer. The marchers told the upset man that children need to see these photos. Before the man walked away, he said, "These are innocent children!" Mrs. Singleton responded while pointing at the abortion image, "THESE are innocent children!"

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INSIDE THIS EDITION...

☑ **"THESE are innocent children!"**

☑ **"A judgment of what makes life not worth living"**

☑ **600 students became fully pro-life**