

# Carpe Diem

## F O R L I F E



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## It's Not Too Late: Reversing RU-486

by Robin Sencenbach

All the women and men of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign have different abortion testimonies, but many of them include the same four words: "It was too late." Some women changed their minds at the clinic but were told their procedures could not be stopped. Some felt hurt and regret days afterward but knew they could not bring their babies back. "Too late." They are chilling words that offer very little hope or comfort. However, for women who have taken the RU-486 abortion pill, it may no longer be too late for their babies.

RU-486, also known as mifepristone, was approved by the FDA in 2000. RU-486 blocks progesterone, which is necessary for sustaining a pregnancy. Once the pill is taken, the mifepristone blocks the nurturing effects of progesterone which leads to the death of the developing baby. After taking the RU-486 pill, women are given a second pill two days later called misoprostol, which causes the contractions that expel the baby.

This pill is often taken at home, and Silent No More features a number of stories that document the horror of this experience.

Recent medical developments have shown that the abortion pill can be reversed. In 2012, Dr. George Delgado, medical director of the Culture of Life Family Services in San Diego, discovered that high doses of progesterone can override RU-486 if given soon enough after the first pill was taken and before the second. The progesterone "out-competes" the progesterone-blocking RU-486.

And lives have been saved by this treatment! Human Life International reported that as of December 2014,

58 healthy babies had been born to mothers who started a chemical abortion process and changed their minds, and a reported 106 women were waiting to deliver babies they had first tried to abort. Additionally, none of these babies appeared to have any birth defects from the RU-486.

Time does play a critical factor in this, however. Dr. Delgado has seen successful reversals in 60 percent of cases if the progesterone is given within 72 hours after the first abortion pill. The sooner the reversal is started, the higher the chance the baby will survive.

Medical professionals have created a way to save children in danger from RU-486 abortions. But it is up to us to make sure women who have taken the pill know that a reversal is possible. If you know anyone who took RU-486, direct them to [www.AbortionPillReversal.com](http://www.AbortionPillReversal.com) or to 877-558-0333 as soon as possible. Please remember to save this information!

The Emergency Abortion Pill Reversal Kit was recently unveiled at the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetrician-Gynecologists Conference in Washington DC. The hope is that every Emergency Room and Urgent Care Clinic would have the kits available. But doctors need to know the kit is available and have access to them. Please consider requesting a kit and donating it to your local hospital.

Don't let another woman know the pain and regret of "too late." Spread the word that RU-486 abortions can be stopped.



# A Vocation for Life: The Rev. Dr. David Stroud

*By Robin Sencenbach*

“What can I do for life?” It is a pretty common question in our office. People want to be involved in life issues, but they don’t often know where to start. The issues can seem deceptively far removed from their daily lives with family, friends, work, and church. So we often encourage those who are uncertain to pray and discern their calling by seeking to identify their areas of interest and strength.

However, for someone like The Rev. Dr. David Stroud, his life calling as a physician and his desire to stand for life came together quite obviously. Dr. David is the new Medical Director of the equally new Pregnancy Resource Center of Sikeston, MO, which opened in January 2015.

Dr. David has been involved with life issues since his early medical career. During his residency in Roanoke, VA, where he specialized in Obstetrics & Gynecology, he was aware of an abortion clinic in the area. During the 1980s that one clinic performed more abortions than the number of live births in all the hospitals in the Roanoke area. In response to this, a pregnancy center was formed to offer an abortion alternative, and Dr. David worked with the new center, while also remaining in private practice. He was also part of an Anglicans for Life chapter (although we were still named NOEL at that time) in Virginia.

Life and work took him to Texas from 1995 until 2004, when he moved to Sikeston, MO. In 2008, the Sikeston Anglican Fellowship began, and Dr. David led the group. He was ordained a deacon in 2010 and a presbyter in 2011. Eventually the home-based church moved into a building in a strip mall in 2014—just a few doors away from where a pregnancy center was to be built.

Providence’s hand guided the rest. The church, now named St. Luke Orthodox Anglican Church, added the would-be pregnancy center to their prayer list. We know how dangerous prayer can be, and how God can use prayer as a doorway to more active participation! Board Members of the PRCS, including some Knights of Columbus who were the main force in starting the center, told the friendly church of their need for a Medical Director--and so Dr. David was called to serve as his new capacity as the medical director.

The PRCS is open Mondays-Thursdays from 9 AM to 4 PM, staffed by trained volunteers and a clinic director. It provides pregnancy testing, ultrasound confirmation, parenting classes, and practical assistance in obtaining necessities like diapers and formula. The center is also a wonderful example of a community of faith—the Board includes Baptists, Catholics, and people of other denominations, all of whom desire to protect the lives of the unborn. The center is the only such pregnancy center in the Missouri Bootheel, where there is currently no abortion clinic, either. So this new center will grow to serve as the sole referral for the whole region, which could also include some nearby counties in Kentucky and Tennessee.

And if Dr. David was not already busy enough, as well as being a rector of a small but thriving congregation and the new Medical Director, he is also still in private practice. Working in the field actively has actually given him encouragement. In his own experience he has seen a movement in the culture away from abortion. “There’s just a more favorable climate for adoption,” he said, “More young people think that abortion is wrong, more people are keeping children diagnosed with Down syndrome or other disorders. There are just more people choosing life.”

He also has a personal reason for standing for life. Dr. David is the parent of an adoptive child. “By opening this clinic we are providing people who are not able to raise a child and are contemplating abortion an alternative through adoption. We are offering them support during their pregnancy and a chance for that child to become the person that God wants him or her to be.”

His church remains supportive and enthusiastic about Dr. David’s new work. In fact, one of the lines in their litany prayer is, “For all children, born and unborn, that they be protected from all evil and come to know the joy of Thy creation.” It is our prayer that there will be many more children born who will know God’s glory in this world, thanks to the work of this new pregnancy center.

Please also keep Dr. David and the new Pregnancy Resource Center of Sikeston in your prayers, that the center would be a blessing to the community and to the mothers, fathers, and babies that benefit from it.

# Deacon G

Dear Friends of Anglicans For Life,

I have exciting news that I want to share! On Sunday, June 29th after the Provincial Assembly of the Anglican Church in North America, I was ordained as a Permanent Vocational Deacon in the Diocese of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy, headed by The Right Reverend Derek Jones. Since last October I started sensing the call to ordination. After much prayer, discernment, and counsel, I am truly humbled to move into this next season of ministry with AFL.

I am in awe of the timing as I see the Holy Spirit moving within the ministry of Anglicans For Life. Being a Vocational Deacon will compliment AFL's outreach and allow for additional hands-on ministry when I am traveling throughout the Anglican Communion. On a personal level, I am also in awe of how God has guided me down this path. When I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior in 1983, I could never have imagined God would call me to serve Him for LIFE. Saying yes to God 30+ years ago was the best decision I ever made.

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For those of you have heard about my ordination, thank you for the kind and thoughtful responses. I have been overwhelmed by your encouraging words.

Thank you for your continued support—please keep myself and AFL in your prayers.

*Georgette*  
President, AFL





# Marching... Walking...

San Francisco, Dallas, & Washington DC





# Fellowshipping... for Life!

From coast to coast, Anglicans marched and walked for life. The Bishops, the Ordained and the Laity, bundled up and lathered on sunscreen on so they could join thousands and thousands of people from across the United States who believe in the sacredness of life.

Anglicans for Life is inspired and encouraged by the growing number of Anglicans attending these unique events.



# Reflections on the March for Life



*by The Rev. W. Ross Blackburn, AFL Board Member*

I have always found reasons not to go to the March for Life. It is a long drive, the trip is expensive, the weather is cold, the time away is time I could get work done. Besides, what does one person really matter? This year I finally went because my oldest son is 15 years old, and I didn't want him to leave our home without having done the March. I want defending the fatherless and pleading for the widow to be important to him. So I took my two sons, 15 and 10, and one of their friends to the March. From the perspective of a dad taking his sons, I'll offer the high point and the low point of our time there.

The high part of the March was seeing the life and friendliness of those there. I have been in large crowds before (although never that large), and never have I seen a crowd so cheerful. One man accidentally ran into me, apologized, and then began a conversation. The cheerful witness of the pro-life community will not be lost on my sons, especially when seen in contrast with the angry rhetoric of the pro-choice community (which was present, but tiny by comparison). The atmosphere of hymns, prayers, and general gladness, from people of all ages, was a striking testimony to the goodness of this cause. And hearing the Rev. Sammy Rodriguez pray in Jesus' name at the center of our national life was thrilling.

The hardest part of the March had to do with coming face to face with what we were protesting. It is one thing to

speak of abortion, the word being a euphemism that hides reality. It is another to recognize what abortion is. There was one place along the March where a large screen showing video footage of abortions was being shown. As we were walking by, I shielded my younger son from the display, and had him read the sign we were carrying to divert his vision. I understand why the video was being shown, but I am not ready to allow my younger son to see it. Not yet. The matter resurfaced later, when my older son asked me how a baby died in an abortion. So I took a hard swallow and told him—usually the baby dies because she is dismembered, severed and pulled apart. Many of us get hardened to that. We'd rather not think about it, so we don't. But my son asked, and I had to answer. I was ashamed to answer. I have often thought of how the pro-abortion community uses euphemism so they won't have to acknowledge what they support, what abortion is. It now occurs to me that perhaps we don't really want to know either.

Both high and low points were important. It is good to see the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, and the like at work in those gathered, for this is God's work, and will be done chiefly through God's people. It is also good to be reminded, even graphically, of why we do what we do, or challenged to consider why we don't do what we should do.



# Life Leader Update



AFL Welcomes our newest Life Liaison, Shawn Pinette from All Saint's, Amesbury, MA.



## All Saint's Anglican, Attleboro, MA

All Saint's held a baby shower for the local pregnancy resource center Abundant Hope in Attleboro as a way to remember and honor Sanctity of Life Sunday. Many in our parish support life but aren't in the picture. I am in the red jacket on the left and Fr. Ben Giuffrida is holding the child on the right.

*by Carol Leonard, Chapter Leader*

## Light of Christ Anglican, Portland, Maine

Light of Christ Anglican Church in Portland, Maine is supporting a brand new pregnancy center in Biddeford. We held a month long diaper drive and delivered many boxes of diapers to the center to stock their shelves!

*by Elizabeth Callahan, Life Liaison*





# Walk for LIFE in San Francisco



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## ACNA Bishops

see more pictures on pages 4 & 5

## March for LIFE in Washington, D.C.



Back row: Bp. Hicks, Bp. Lebar, Bp. Murdoch, Bp. Guernsey, Bp. Dobbs, Bp. Ilgenfritz  
Front row: Bp. Sutton, Bp. Miller, Bp. Wilson, Archbishop Beach, Georgette, Bp. Jones, Bp. Ruch