

Updating the Stem Cell Wars

- by Dr. Gerard M. Nadal

As soon as scientists begin discussing the differences between embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells, induced pluripotent stem cells, and altered nuclear transfer, most non-scientists become overwhelmed by the technicalities and quickly lose their moorings in the ethical and funding debates. This is needless and easily cleared up with a simple analogy.

Imagine one is dining in a family restaurant and there are three different families, each with five children. Family A has children who are engaged in a food fight, screaming, and jumping about.

Family B has children who are generally very well behaved, but are given to bouts of restlessness and need to be spoken to by their parents.

Family C has children who are models of decorum, and who on their own have

cells such as cheek cells and skin cells that have undergone full adult development and then have been chemically treated to return to a state where they can be re-directed to become other types of body cells. The problem with these cells is that they have shown some degree of instability, with a propensity to return to their fully differentiated adult state. More on that in a moment.

Family C are the adult stem cells. These are cells that have undergone a great degree of development from the early embryonic stage of development and have the ability to become certain types of tissue. They are remarkably stable when used, and have repeatedly proven themselves remarkably adaptable in clinical trials and therapeutic application. There are over one hundred therapies using these cells.

Now, back to our analogy. Imagine a reporter from an international news agency such as Reuters comes to the restaurant looking to do a story on children's manners in restaurants and actually spends 90% of her time interviewing the father of Family A, who makes not one mention of his children's recklessness and destructiveness, not one mention of the exemplary behavior of the children in Family C, but holds forth on the dire future of the children in Family B whose behavior is merely in need of periodic tweaking.

If that sounds unbalanced and bizarre, that's the essential structure and trajectory of a recent Reuters article by Julie Steenhuysen, entitled, *ANALYSIS-Imperfections Mar Hopes for Reprogrammed Stem Cells*.

The core of the article is built around the

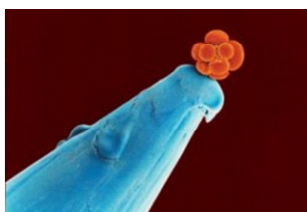
father of Family A, Dr. George Daley of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. This quote from Dr. Daley sums up the art of the dodge by proponents of embryonic stem cell research:

"It has not ever been a scientifically driven argument that iPS cells are a worthy and complete substitute for embryonic stem cells," Daley said. "Those arguments were always made based on political and religious opposition to embryonic stem cells."

Yes and no.

It's true that there are people who find it an abhorrent practice to juice women up with dangerous levels of hormones in order to harvest a clutch of eggs from her, fertilize them in a lab, create new human beings and then tear them apart in their embryonic stages of development for the purpose of benefiting other human beings. So, yes there are those who object on political, religious and ethical grounds to such barbarism.

Dr. Daley makes no mention at all of Family C, the adult stem cells which have over one hundred therapeutic applications. In so doing, he fails to grasp the essential reason why induced pluripotent stem cells were sought after. It's because biologically, embryonic stem cells are wild and untamable, while adult stem cells have gone through the process of cellular maturation naturally and are remarkably stable. They are also expensive to isolate, which is an economic limitation to their widespread use. Also, as embryonic stem cells come from another person, there is the issue of



Electron micrograph of early embryo on the head of a pin

even taken it upon themselves to quietly clean up some of the mess left by other patrons.

That's the stem cell war in a nutshell. Family A are the embryonic stem cells, wild and untamed, wreaking havoc everywhere they are introduced. They are beyond the ability of scientists to control, and have created tumors in animals during that phase of testing.

Family B are the induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. These are normal body

(continued next page)

Updating the Stem Cell Wars (cont.)

tissue rejection by the recipient.

iPS cells were developed to take advantage of the stability that comes with being a mature cell, and both the abundance of such cells (i.e. skin cells) and their ease of isolation. The thought has been that a few tweaks could get the cells to revert to an earlier developmental stage, as every cell has an identical set of genetic switches. By resetting the switches in the DNA, we have been able to get these cells to revert to an earlier, embryonic stage of malleability, yet retaining much of their adult stability. Also, as the cells come from the patient, there is no issue of tissue rejection.

It seems that some of these cells have a propensity to revert to their adult form. This instability differs from the instability of the embryonic stem cells in one key respect. When an iPS cell reverts to adult form, therapy fails and the cell dies. The difficulty with embryonic cells is that they tend to form tumors, which adds a whole new disease state to the patient.

As the state of the research exists, it is far easier to tweak the behavior of the iPS cell than it is to bring any semblance of order out of the primordial chaos of embryonic stem cells. The difference?

As the human body develops, cells mature under the influence of immediately neighboring and distant cells in the body. We know a small degree of how this happens, and embryonic stem cell research allows us to attempt this in the Petri dish. It is a daunting task to take a few early cells from a young embryo and replicate blindly the phenomenally complex processes of maturation that occur in the context of an integrated organism.

Tweaking the iPS cell is the easier and morally superior approach.

Dr. Nadal holds a Ph.D. in molecular microbiology. In addition to teaching for 16 years, he's spent seven years working with homeless teens at Covenant House in Times Square, New York. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in theology through Franciscan University of Steubenville and blogs at <http://gerardnadal.com>. This article was written for Headline Bistro (headlinebistro.com), the online news and opinion source of the Knights of Columbus.

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW . . .

POLL: 61% OPPOSE MOST ABORTIONS

More than 60% of Americans in a new Gallup poll believe abortion should be illegal in most circumstances, a six-year high that puts them at odds with Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion for virtually any reason.

Sixty-one percent of U.S. adults say abortion should be illegal in all circumstances or legal in only a few circumstances, compared to 37% who say abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances. The 61% is an increase from 2010's 56% and is the highest since 2005, when 62% answered similarly.

Additionally, 51% of U.S. adults say abortion is morally wrong compared to 39% who say it is morally acceptable.

"No matter how you slice it, that signals that Americans are much, much closer to where you and I are than to [Planned Parenthood]," Dave Andrusko, who writes for National Right to Life News, wrote May 24.

But, perhaps puzzling, 49% of Americans call themselves pro-choice compared to 45% who call themselves pro-life. Last year it was reversed: 47% claiming the pro-life label, 45% the pro-choice label.

The 1973 Roe decision, coupled with the companion Doe v. Bolton ruling, legalized abortion nationwide for effectively any reason during all nine months of pregnancy.

Pro-lifers, though, have made significant headway in public opinion, partly through the debate over and passage of popular pro-life laws (such as the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban.)

Baptist Press (bpnews.net) 5/25/11

PRO-LIFE MED STUDENTS FACE DISCRIMINATION

by J. Bruchalski, M.D. & D.J. Monlezun Jr.

We recently completed a national bioethics tour through 23 medical schools and universities with Medical Students for Life of America. We hoped to let some of America's top medical students know that they are not alone in facing discrimination based on their pro-life beliefs. Nearly 1,000 medical students from both sides of this debate joined us to engage this question, from Harvard Medical School to Mayo, from the Univ. of Pittsburgh to the Univ. of Virginia. Some of their stories may startle you.

Take "Christine," who said that none of

her professors talk about relationships in medicine, only the ideology of just performing the procedure. We also learned of "Ryan," who was punished by his own mentor. He was the only one among his peers to suggest adoption for a woman in a troubled pregnancy; everyone else recommended abortion as the first and only option. A memo by his professor later surfaced in which he declared that "Ryan" would be a future abortion-clinic bomber. This memo was never sent to Ryan but went straight into his student file, the hub of school performance evaluation that becomes critical when students apply to residency programs. He was blacklisted for believing women deserve options.

Then there's "Mary," who said she felt intellectually assaulted during her OB/GYN rotation in her school's training hospital. She recalls being inundated with professor instructions to promote abortions continually for pregnant patients, never mind her personal beliefs about it. The same was recommended for sterilization and abortifacients, drugs intended to prevent pregnancy that kill a new human embryo before a woman knows she's pregnant.

This nationwide discrimination makes countless students hide their beliefs — and their identities — for fear of risking their grades and careers. This means fewer pro-life doctors are available to the increasing number of patients who consider themselves pro-life and seek like-minded doctors. As the wife of one GWU medical student asked after our event there, "What about my conscience rights as a patient?"

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Missouri Right to Life News

Pam Manning, Editor

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You Are the Light of the World!

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Matthew 5:14-16

During the recent "40 Days for Life" event in St. Louis, I saved a baby.

I was distributing literature at the entrance to the parking lot of Planned Parenthood St. Louis. The parking lot is encircled by an intimidating iron fence about eight feet high. There is one entrance to the lot, so standing at that entrance is the best chance to meet people entering.

I have been to this abortion clinic many times over the years, always joining others in carrying signs and praying. I've never had the courage to approach people going into the clinic. Other people were usually there doing that, and I was happy to let them continue without my help. I only wanted to do what I was comfortable doing. I didn't want to risk a hostile reaction from anyone or maybe even a violent reaction.

But I was different this time. I had been to a presentation by Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood clinic director, whose heart was changed in part by a group of pro-life folks who maintained a witness for life outside of the clinic where she worked. Often on the outside of that Texas clinic was Elizabeth, a sidewalk counselor who consistently greeted the workers and clients with a smile, a kind word, and offers of help. It was to Elizabeth and her friends that Abby turned after viewing an ultrasound-guided abortion that changed her heart.

I've also been greatly moved by the devotion and perseverance of two groups of people: those who stand in prayer outside of the Planned Parenthood clinics in Columbia and St. Louis. Kathy, Joanne, and the other faithful in Columbia have seen the clinic there cease to perform abortions for months at a time. Their prayerful witness for life has discouraged abortionists and encouraged countless mothers in crisis pregnancies to choose life for their unborn babies. Mary, Marty, Susan, and other members of the Defenders of the Unborn have saved countless children from abortion at the St. Louis clinic. For many years, they've helped mothers with doctor bills, rent, furniture, education, jobs - and helped arrange adoptions, even adopting saved children themselves. All to prevent the death of an unborn child. Both groups have been courageous in the face of hatred and hostility.

When "40 Days for Life" came to St. Louis, witnesses were needed at all times of the day and not necessarily when others would be there who were more experienced approaching those entering the Planned Parenthood parking lot. I found myself there at such a time. Armed with brochures on the development of the unborn child and information on agencies to help with a crisis pregnancy, I stood fearfully alone at the entrance. I held out the literature as cars drove by, usually as fast as possible without looking my way. As I got braver and actually walked to the driver's window, I was able to hand the literature to several people, encouraging them to look it over before making any decision. I said a silent prayer for the people in each car that the Holy Spirit would be with them as they entered the abortion clinic.

One couple in a white SUV stopped on their way in. They were a young Hispanic couple. The young man rolled down the window when I walked towards them. He seemed in a hurry, and I didn't think I'd have much time to talk to him. I handed him the literature and asked them to please look it over carefully before making any decisions. I added that there was help for them if they needed it. That's all I had time to say before another car behind them honked and they rushed by me.

About an hour later, I saw that young couple leave the clinic and get into their car. They stopped on their way out and rolled down the window. The young woman held up the literature I had given her and said they weren't going to abort their baby. I told them to please call the folks in the brochure if they needed any help and assured them that I would pray for them.

Since I wasn't certain they were seeking an abortion, I hesitated to think then that the literature had made a difference. I didn't tell anyone about it; and yet in my heart, I believe that I saved a baby that day, and I have been greatly humbled by that ever since. A little courage, a little information, and a lot of Holy Spirit made a difference for a young couple and their child.

I think about those who have been doing this for years and am ashamed that it's taken me so long to take that next step beyond prayerful witness to the first steps in sidewalk counseling. I'll probably never have the skills of Elizabeth or the courage of the veterans, but I know that God is calling me to be "a light to the world." I've promised to stand outside the abortion clinic with my literature at least a couple of days each month and trust that the Holy Spirit will use my light to save a child.

*Blessings,
Dana Fichter*



MISSOURI LEGISLATURE WRAPS SESSION WITH PRO-LIFE GAINS, SOME MISSES



Women and unborn children won a victory in the 2011 General Assembly when passage of legislation to curtail late-term abortions passed with veto-proof majorities in both chambers! God blessed our efforts and innocent babies will be saved from the horrendous death of a late-term abortion. God is good! All the time!

Ban on Late-Term Abortion Passes Both House and Senate

SB 65, sponsored by Senate Pro-Tem Robert Mayer and HB 213, sponsored by House Majority Floor Leader Tim Jones prohibits abortions on viable unborn children after 20-weeks gestation except if a mother's life is in danger or if a continuation of the pregnancy will create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function. Missouri Right to Life (MRL) has called on Governor Nixon to sign this important pro-life legislation.

Alternatives to Abortion Funding

The legislature is to be commended for continuing to fund the Alternatives to Abortion Program (A2A) through the appropriation process. Considering the economy, it is commendable for legislators to maintain \$1,583,561 for our Pregnancy Resource Centers for services to help women in crisis pregnancies choose life for their unborn children. The oversight of disbursements for the A2A program has been moved from the Dept. of Health and Senior Services to the Office of Administration with hopes that the disbursements will be easier to receive.

Recognition of Pregnancy Resource Centers

Legislators put forth a resolution sponsored by Rep. Thomas Long to recognize the honorable work of Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC's). It is an honor for PRC's and their volunteers to be acknowledged for the high calling of their work, and this resolution is a statement recognizing this important mission. Congratulations to these volunteers for this recognition.

Restrictions on Funding for Human Cloning and Embryonic Stem Cell Research

MRL worked with legislators to place pro-life protective language in the Dept. of Economic Development budget bill on one line of funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC). The MTC is the quasi-governmental organization that the legislators are authorizing to administer and distribute public monies. The MTC is a leading proponent of unethical research and Amendment 2 changes to the Missouri Constitution.

Umbilical Cord Blood Banking

HB 197, sponsored by Rep. Tishaura Jones and by Sen. Jim Lemke who sponsored the Senate equivalent, requires the Dept. of Health and Senior Services to post on its website education about

the benefits of umbilical cord blood banking and resources for doing this. Umbilical Cord Blood can be used for adult stem cell research that does not require the destruction of human lives.

Battle Over Pro-Life Language on Economic Development Legislation

The Missouri Science Innovation & Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) is legislation that has been brought up in the legislature for the last two years but has never passed both houses. MOSIRA sets up a fund and a process by which companies that deal in research (plant, agriculture, or life science) can invest money into a state fund that would be used for start-up money for research business incubators. Many will spring from within universities in Missouri such as Washington Univ. and Univ. of Missouri in Columbia and K.C. This fund would be administered by The Missouri Technology Corporation. MRL worked to add protective language to the MOSIRA legislation that would prevent any public funds from being used for unethical research. MRL proposed language that was included in previous legislation establishing the Life Science Research Trust Fund in 2003. Other groups proposed language that allowed the funding of unethical research but required enhanced reporting requirements.

MOSIRA passed the House with the reporting requirement but without restrictions against unethical research. It was not taken up in the Senate because of time constraints.

Included in MOSIRA was a provision extending the tax credits for pregnancy resource centers, set to expire in 2012. MRL strongly supports these tax credits but not at the cost of public funding of unethical research.

Other Legislation

MRL worked for passage of the following legislation. These pro-life issues failed to pass, but will be brought back next year.

HB 28: Pharmacy Conscience Clause, sponsored by Rep. David Sater

HB 328: Regulation of RU486, sponsored by Rep. Andrew Koenig

HB 483: Reporting requirement of federal tax dollars used for abortion, sponsored by Rep. Stanley Cox

HB 515: Promotion of Embryo Adoption for fertility clinic embryos as opposed to using those embryos for Embryonic Stem Cell Research, sponsored by Rep. Wayne Wallingford

HB 755: Specifies that moneys generated by the Spinal Cord Injury Fund or granted by Univ. of MO Board of Curators for research programs not be used for abortion or human cloning research, sponsored by Rep. Melissa Leach

SB 204: Extension of Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits, sponsored by Sen. Tom Dempsey (In the end, these were added to the economic development legislation which would have placed MOSIRA in statute for open-ended funding to those who seek to do human cloning and embryonic stem cell research).

Yes, Missouri Right to Life does amazing work ... but we cannot do that without lots and lots of generous donors. We sure could use your help!



*The greatest gift that mothers give
to their children is the gift of life.*

*For Mother's Day, these mothers were honored with a
Tribute Gift to Missouri Right to Life Education Fund.*

Cheryl Anderson by Jordan & Bethany Anderson

Josephine Berra by Don Berra

Josephine Berra by John & Carla Berra

Josephine Berra by Robert Berra

Josephine Berra by Don & Sue Berra

Eliveria Maria Blake by Marisol Pfaff

Mary Beth Books by Lydia & Waylon Books

Chrissy Carpenter by Lisa Sengenberger

Debi Derendinger by Rachel Lock

Pam Fichter by Dan, Doug, & Nick Fichter

Lucy Fink by Grace, Abby Zach & Zoe

Joan Geerling by Jeanne Stoll

Susan Giljum by Susan Dunn

Marge Himmelsbach by Andrew Himmelsbach

Paddy Kasprzyk by Betsy VanScoyk

Frances Kortkamp by Joe Kortkamp

Genevieve Landgraf by Bob Landgraf

Mrs. Marion Lankford by Jean Fahlstrom

Patty O'Connell by Susan Dunn

Judy Owens by Jonathan Owens

Harriet Partney by Joan Berra

Geraldine Elizabeth Schaefer Taylor by Sharon Taylor Cowley

Mary Jane Schrader by Joanne M. Schrader

Marilyn Seaton by Jeffrey & Ann

Catherine Sengenberger by John Sengenberger

Rose Mary Stoll by Jeanne Stoll

In Memory or In Honor

*In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts
were made to Missouri Right to Life.*

In Honor of:

Betsy Carlsen

Given by:

Susan Bono

M. Susi

In Memory of:

Harold Volkmer

Mary Kay Snyders Mr. & Mrs. Michael Convy

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jokerst

Pat & Dan Leary

Surgicenter of Baltimore LLP

Dennis Fark

Ellen & Keith Lynch

*Physicians Surgery Center of
Chattanooga LLC*

In Memory of:

Mary Kay Snyders Karen & Pat Heath

Ann & Ed Barnidge

Strong Epilepsy Center

Lia & William Southwick

Jean & Mary Douglass

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at the Online Mall, MRL Ed Fund will
earn contributions automatically.

Remembering Congressman Harold Volkmer

Harold Volkmer, former Missouri state leg-
islator and U.S. Congressman, died on Satur-
day, April 16, 2011. Representative Volkmer
was a gifted pro-life leader both in the state
legislature and the U.S. Congress.

"Missouri Right to Life mourns the death of
former Rep. Harold Volkmer of Hannibal,"
said Pam Fichter, President of Missouri
Right to Life. "Rep. Volkmer was a staunch
promoter of the right to life in the halls of
Congress. By his hard work and advocacy
among his colleagues, he always
brought in additional votes for the
pro-life cause to augment his own.
The Democrat Party was strength-
ened in Missouri because of his pro-
life stand," continued Fichter.

Missouri Right to Life and National
Right to Life Committee worked
closely with Harold Volkmer, espe-
cially in the last years of his service.
A number of serious legislative at-
tempts were made to promote abor-
tion in the early to mid-90s.

"Harold Volkmer was a leading con-
gressional champion of the right to
life of unborn children for many
years. He was determined and fear-
less -- defying leaders of his politi-
cal party, including a president, when
necessary to protect the unborn,"
said Douglas Johnson of National
Right to Life.

Thank you for joining us in our mission!

Ex-Girl Scouts challenge organization's ties to Planned Parenthood

by Kathleen Gilbert, LifeSiteNews.com

Two teen girls who dedicated years to the Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA) have gone public with their decision to leave the popular girls' organization out of alarm over its ties to Planned Parenthood.

Tess Volanski, 14, and Sydney Volanski, 15, say they decided to leave their Girl Scout Troop after eight years, and they describe their process of disillusionment in their blog *Speak Now: girl scouts*.

"Leaving Girl Scouts was not a casual, easy, or convenient decision," say the girls. "Girl Scouts was a huge part of our lives that included a bond with our best friends."

The girls write on the blog that "the first eye-opening, and quite honestly, jaw-dropping, example" of GSUSA's acceptance of Planned Parenthood's (PP) ideology was the organization's involvement in a United Nations workshop that distributed the PP sex education pamphlet "Happy, Healthy, and Hot."

The pamphlet instructs young girls not to think of sex as "just about vaginal or anal intercourse." "There is no right or wrong

way to have sex. Just have fun, explore and be yourself!" it states. Although a representative of the Girl Scouts denied that the pamphlet was distributed at the meeting, the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, which broke the story, stood by their report and pointed out that a stack of the pamphlets was found in the conference room where the meeting was held moments after it ended.

Sydney said in an interview with Concerned Women for America that later the girls discovered that The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts "had a post on their website demanding safe, affordable, and accessible abortions for women as young as I am, 15."

Although GSUSA states that it has no position on abortion, the girls point to a video in which Girl Scouts CEO Kathy Cloninger says the group partners with Planned Parenthood to bring girls "information-based sex education."

The girls also quote Abby Johnson, a former local director of a Texas Planned Parenthood, who confirmed, "Girl Scouts of America supports Planned Parenthood." "Most of PP's adolescent health material

is sponsored by [GSUSA]... it has their logo on it," Johnson said. Johnson also noted that girls can work toward earning a badge by volunteering for the abortion giant.

On the girls' blog they also list several other incidents where GSUSA has promoted Planned Parenthood or a pro-abortion, pro-contraception feminism either directly or indirectly.

Robin Marty, a pro-abortion writer for RH Reality Check, accused the girls of simply repeating what their mother, Christy Volanski, has said in Facebook postings and other venues about Girl Scouts and abortion.

But Sydney tells LifeSiteNews.com, "we have passion for the pro-life cause on our own."

"We are old enough so that we can form our own opinions. Teenagers are not all as apathetic as society seems to think; we can care enough about something to take action," said the teen in an email. "This is something that we cared about, so we took action and made this website because we wanted to."

Abortions resume at Planned Parenthood in Columbia, MO

Pro-lifers needed to stand in witness

After what appears to have been 16 weeks without doing abortions, the Planned Parenthood in Columbia, MO, has found an abortionist who started work there in late May. The Columbia Planned Parenthood represents one of only two abortion clinics in Missouri, so the need for prayers and action as they resume this deadly practice is critical.

babies, and for the conversion of hearts of the Planned Parenthood staff. May our Good and Loving God deepen within all of us a respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life.

Until the next 40 Days for Life campaign begins in September, witnesses will continue to pray weekly outside the Planned Parenthood at 711 Providence Blvd. in Columbia, MO. For more information, please contact Kathy by phone at 573-491-3522 or by e-mail at columbia40daysforlife2@gmail.com. If you plan to participate in the vigil, please sign up on the vigil calendar at 40daysforlife.com/columbia-mo/, let Kathy know, or just show up. Praying in groups of two or more is recommended.

 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Columbia, MO

40 Days for Life of Columbia asks for us to continue to pray for an end to abortion, for the conversion of hearts of mothers and fathers who are tempted to abort their



More on A Billboard ... A Story!

Do you remember “A Billboard ... A Story” from the last edition of *Missouri Right to Life News*? The continuation of that story is that the billboard was erected and, soon afterwards, it was vandal-

ized. Connie Eller, Missouri Blacks for Life, has provided MRL with the following statement concerning this sad event to share with you:

Knowing that abortion has hurt many women and men, and killed more than 50 million babies in the U.S., Missouri Right to Life posted a beautiful “That’s Abortion” billboard to alert the public that abortion is a threat to the survival of Black communities. However, someone who is hurting decided to damage the billboard. Prolifers are praying for those who vandalized the billboard. Perhaps the vandals did not understand that the billboard was there to warn and protect them. Abortion is already an act of hate. Missouri Right to Life exists to bring freedom, love, hope, redemption, information, awareness, protection to all communities. Uniting together to protect life, not damage property, was the intent of the billboard. If anyone doubts the abortion statistics on the billboard, they can do their own research on government and abortionists’ websites. For those who are ready to heal, help, and restore their lives and the lives of others, call Missouri Right to Life 573-635-5110 and ask for resources for post-abortion counseling. For those who have never had anything to do with anyone’s abortion, we thank you and we hope you will join this fight to SAVE lives and to make life better for all! Jesus forgives and heals -- let Him.

Below are a few of the many organizations that provide cross-cultural pro-life information and resources:

- Life Dynamics, Mark Crutcher

and the documentary movie film, “Maafa 21: Black Genocide in 21st Century America,” which exposes the ties between slavery, racism, eugenics, population control, forced sterilization, some foreign humanitarian aid, abortion, your tax dollars, etc. www.Maafa21.com

- Life Education & Resource Network (LEARN), Rev. Dr. Johnny & Mrs. Pat Hunter. The nation’s largest African-American pro-life network. Based in Fayetteville, North Carolina: www.LEARN-inc.org

- Thrive St. Louis Pregnancy Resource Centers, Bridget Van Means, Pat Upchurch. www.ThriveStLouis.org

- This Race Will Self-Destruct, Zina Hackworth, St. Louis, MO www.ThisRaceWillSelfDestruct.org

- The Radiance Foundation, Ryan Bomberger, Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.TheRadianceFoundation.org/> and www.TooManyAborted.com

- Star Parker, C.U.R.E., Center for Urban Renewal & Education, Washington, DC <http://www.urbancure.org/starparker.asp>

- Rev. Stephen Broden, Fair Park Bible Fellowship, Dallas, Texas <http://www.fpbffellowshipchurch.org/>

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN?

Tiny little fingers
and tiny little toes
What she could have been
only heaven knows

Growing in the safety
of her hiding place
A beautiful little head
and a precious little face

Yawning and stretching
and kicking around
Moving and responding
to her mother’s sound

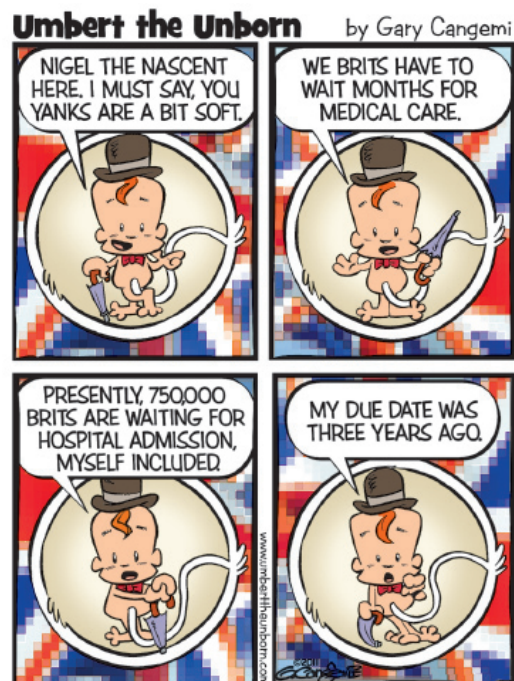
A future chemist
or an astronaut in space
Someone to cure cancer
for the human race

A wonderful mind
that could have found
answers to the questions
that have kept us bound

A precious life
so quickly is gone
And now we’re reaping
the death we’ve sown

To take her life
is a horrible sin
And it’s sad to think
What could have been?

Timothy Jarmon
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Inside ~

- **Updating the Stem Cell Wars**
- **You can be a Witness for Life in Columbia, MO**
- **The Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood**

Happy Father's Day!



The greatest gift I ever had came from God, and I call him Dad...

Your Help Needed by Joplin's Pregnancy Resource Center

Our prayers are with everyone affected by the tragedy in Joplin, Missouri. As recovery efforts from the tornado are underway,



volunteers
and
orga-

nizations in the devastated area need your help reaching out to those in need, including the local pregnancy resource center.

LifeChoices Medical Clinic and Resource Center has been visiting mothers affected by the tornado in shelters, damaged homes, and apartments through-

out the city assessing their needs and offering assistance. Their office, located several blocks from the tornado damage, remains open. Many have asked about their needs.

At this time, a real concern for the LifeChoices staff is how they will sustain the ministry during this long process of recovery and rebuilding. Much of their donor base, including many churches that support their ministry, has been affected. As dollars are shifted to disaster relief and their support base itself is in great need, their normal fund raising efforts will not be an option. Therefore, as part of the pro-life commu-

nity, please prayerfully consider how you can provide financial support for this member of our family.

Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated or you might consider gift cards to Target, Kohls, or Walmart.

Donations can be sent online at lifevoices.org, the e-voice of LifeChoices.

The mailing address for checks or gift cards is: LifeChoices, 531 E. 7th St., Joplin, MO 64801.