



Breath of Life

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Watch and Pray

A message from Pastor Ron Uhlhorn • Chairman, Tri-County Chapter Board of Directors

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." – Matt. 26:40, 41

For someone who does not believe that Jesus Christ is their Savior from sin, the Lenten Season is meaningless. A person might say "Why do you give up a relaxing evening at home or other plans just to go to an extra church service? Why listen to a story 2,000 years old?"

I've attended Lenten services my entire life but I still look forward to attending them. There is always something new to learn about our Savior and His work, and always our faith grows stronger. Consider with me what we learn from Jesus' familiar words: "Watch and Pray."

There is no human who can comprehend the agony that Jesus suffered in Gethsemane. There the full burden, the entire load of the world's guilt, lay upon him. He knew this meant not just the physical pain of death but the bitter pains of hell itself. And there he laid aside divine glory to be our Substitute—a true human being—and bear our sin.

Listen to Him pray: *My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.* Yes, he knew the will of God to save sinful human beings. He knew, but as a human being he had a genuine desire to be relieved of the agony if it were possible. Jesus prayed 3 times in the Garden. The second and third prayers were slightly different, for he said, *My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.* To Jesus the man, the agony seemed too great. But as the Father strengthened him, he asked that His own will be in harmony with the perfect will of the Father.

Did God answer those prayers? Jesus knew He would be arrested that night and put to death. He prayed and nothing changed; they did arrest him and He did die on the cross. But the Scriptures tell us that God strengthened Him—and He went forward calmly to meet His betrayer.

Peter, James and John slept through all those prayers. Though Jesus urged them to pray so they would be not

tempted, still they slept. When temptation came they were not prepared—they fled—and Peter even denied Him.

What can we learn from Jesus' prayers? Does God answer prayers—our prayers to stop the killing of the unborn and to protect the lives of these helpless? Already this year some of our nation's laws have changed. Our government now funds groups that provide abortions overseas. Drastic changes will come if the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) is passed. Recently Meriter and UW Hospital boards voted to perform 2nd trimester abortions. Do we feel like saying, "Is God listening? Doesn't He care? What's the use?"

Look at Jesus. He prayed, and God didn't take the cup of suffering away; yet the Father heard His prayer and gave him strength. God's answer to our prayers may be different than we hope. Maybe the answer isn't through laws—maybe we need to do a better job of making the Gospel known, trusting God and His promises to make all things work for our good. No doubt about it—God's ways are always right.

Let's watch and pray that we do not give into temptation. Pray that we are not tempted to say, "What's the use?" Pray that we do not feel it's all hopeless. Pray that we don't forget to keep praying and working. Look to Jesus. He is the Savior who made us a new forgiven people who live with the assurance that each day we are God's children—people who have a certain eternity in heaven.

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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks



Thank you to new Board Chairman Pastor Ron Uhlhorn for his Lenten meditation. May we always use the picture in Gethsemane to remind us of the pain endured on our behalf, as well as the reassurance that God always answers prayer. He promises never to give us more than He will help us bear. We continue to have much to give thanks for at the Alpha Center. A new year brings new faces to our Board of Directors. We gratefully welcome John Thurow (St. John Watertown) and Chad Ellwein (Trinity, Watertown), even as we bid a fond farewell to outgoing director Steve Georgson. We also bid a hearty welcome to new counselor Gina Healy (St. Luke, Watertown).

We wish to acknowledge the Christian day school students from St. John in Watertown and St. Paul in Fort Atkinson, who collected donations for use at our Center. What a useful and generous array of items and cash were offered out of love for their Savior and others! The Jesus Cares program in Watertown and the student body at Lakeside Lutheran High School each gave generous donations to assist the ministry of the Center as well. We are truly blessed to have so many believers joining with us in hearts, hands and offerings!

We are always thankful for individual gifts given to the ministry. It is our goal to use these offerings in ways that benefits both earthly & spiritual needs:

IN MEMORY OF:

- Dr. U. R. Bauman from Erv & Gloria Huebner
- Jeff Bergman from Jim & Shirley Degner
- Carol Fuller from Beth & Terry Lundsten
- Leonard Kurtz from Louie Kurtz
- Oliver Leitzke from Ronald & Hildegard Kuehl, Lathan & Karen Leitzke, Wilmer & Arlene Christian, Orville & Lorraine Nehls, Daniel & Lori Simon, Neil Schwefel, Harvey & Ellie Schoeffel, Dorothy Dobbratz, M/M Gus Kalfahs, Albin Jaeger and M/M Lorence Schuster
- Enno A. Knief from Elaine Knief
- Carl Gnewuch from Erv & Glo Huebner and Jim & Shirley Degner
- Mary Roberts from Jim & Sharon Greenwald
- husband Walter from Luanna Fenz
- grandson Jacob Day from Jerry & Barb Pilsner
- Carl Clemans from Jim & Shirley Degner
- Mary Wilson from Gary & Ruth Witt
- Lula Degner from Erv & Glo Huebner

IN HONOR OF:

- Cameron Vogel's first birthday from Allan & Shirley Kohls



Alpha Center Wish List

- gently used cribs and bassinets!
- disposable wipes
- “dressy” baby outfits (0-24 mo, girl or boy)
- gently used car seats and boosters
- new/very gently used toddler socks
- “onesies” for 9 mo up to 3T
- replacement nipples for washable baby bottles (we receive many usable bottles, but the nipples are often missing or unusable). Baby depts sell them in multi-packs
- new sippy cups
- used playpens (ideal: pack & carry)
- People's Bible: Psalms, Genesis, Isaiah
- AA & AAA batteries (for used baby eqpt.)
- animal crackers (bulk bags), plastic spoons

Donations of any new or clean, gently used baby clothing or maternity clothing or other baby items and equipment are always welcome and can be dropped off at the center during our office hours. Any questions, contact Nancy Schmitz at 920-253-8984.



“God Gave Us Life” 2009 contest winners honored at the annual meeting of the Tri-County Chapter of Christian Life Resources on Jan. 18 include (back l-r) Michaela Pagel, Hope Loersch, Melissa Melcher and Olivia Prost; (front l-r) Ella Butzine, Carter Buchta, Teagan Waller and Emma Mertz. Winner not pictured is Ryan Broedlow.

Breath of Life

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News on life issues...know it, use it, share it!

Latest news on Meriter/UW decision to provide late-term abortions at Park St. clinic

Heedless of the public outcry against the plan and internal turmoil over where they will take place, the ethic boards of UW Hospitals & Clinics and Meriter Hospital approved a plan to provide late term, D & E dismemberment abortions at the Madison Surgery Center at 1 S. Park St.



Several Alpha Center volunteers joined with almost 2,000 other pro-lifers in a prayerful rally against the planned abortion mill at the Surgery Center in Madison on January 31

The boards claim this “vital health service” needed to remain available to women (increased revenue always helps too?). Due to low confidence levels in her work, abortionist Dr. Caryn Dutton couldn’t secure approval from Planned Parenthood to perform >19 week abortions, but Meriter/UW came to her rescue. Now in one room, cancer patients will receive treatment to battle disease, while in the next, 22 week old preborn babies will be dismembered.

To obtain a letter to give to your own doctor that states your refusal to be treated at the Madison Surgery Center, go to www.prolifewisconsin.org/pdf/patientletterMeriter.pdf

Listen carefully: here comes FOCA

(source: thomas.loc.gov; wrtl.org)

On March 3, U.S. Rep Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL) introduced a resolution to begin the process of amending the U.S. constitution to protect abortion rights. The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. **Please see the enclosure for why this matters so much.**

While there are many other distractions for lawmakers to focus on right now, don’t be fooled. There are legislators who are anxious to get a FOCA-like bill passed through to a president who has promised that he would sign it into law. Don’t be surprised when the bill isn’t called the “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) in order to confuse voters. Know that versions of the bill have been drafted a number of times, only to fall short when the Congressional and Executive branches were more sympathetic to the pro-life stance.

A spokesperson for the expected House author, Rep.

Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), says it will be “sooner rather than later...It is among the congressman’s priorities.” Even more onerous, Rep. Nadler is Chair of the House Judiciary sub-committee that could hear the bill (WRTL, 3/23/09 e-mail).

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is expected to introduce the companion bill in the U.S. Senate. Wisconsin members of the U.S. House of Representatives Gwen Moore and Tammy Baldwin were co-sponsors of FOCA in the last Congress.

Now is time to learn of End-of-Life Issues

March 31 marks the 4th anniversary of the death of Terri Schindler Schiavo who was at the center of a contentious end-of-life battle that played out worldwide.

During this month, everyone is encouraged to increase their awareness of medical care decision-making by gaining a better understanding of treatment options and the completion of an advance directive to express a person’s wishes at the end of life. To assist in such advance care planning (including education about treatment options and the completion of an advance directive to express your healthcare wishes.)

Christian Life Resources offers a FREE downloadable Christian version of your state’s healthcare power-of-attorney document. Simply go to www.ChristianLifeResources.com to obtain your copy. To purchase a copy to be mailed to you, call 1-800-478-2719.

WRL Presents: Dr. Anthony Levatino

This former abortionist, interviewed February 5 on WIBA’s “Upfront” with Vicki McKenna, says in part: “I have never been involved in a large-scale abortion mill... My partner and I, however, were relatively important in the Albany area for one infamous fact, which to this day I regret. Our group was just about the only group that was performing late abortions, D & E procedures, Dilatation and Evacuation...I’m glad I can’t say that I’m responsible for 50,000 plus abortions, but I know I’ve done hundreds of the procedures. That’s direct, hands-on involvement, with the forceps in your hand, reaching into somebody’s uterus and tearing out a baby.”

Why do doctors do abortions? Why did he stop? Join us to hear Dr. Levatino’s heartfelt and moving story. Learn what you can still do about late-term abortions at the Madison Surgery Center!

**Where: Best Western Inn on the Park
22 S. Carroll Street, Madison (on the Capitol Square)
When: Wednesday, May 6, 2009 7 to 9 p.m.
Coffee, Tea and Dessert
Admission \$10.00 per person or tables of 8 @ \$64.00
To ensure a seat, place your reservations
by calling toll free by May 1 at 877-855-5007**

Board of Director Profiles

This month as we continue introducing the men who serve on our Board of Directors, we would like you to meet David Melcher, our present Building Manager. Dave has served on the Board since 2004 and has served the last two years as Building Manager responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Alpha Life Resource Center building including the two rental apartments upstairs.

Dave and his wife, Janice, have been strong and faithful supporters of our Alpha Life Resource Center for many years. Jan has served over 19 years as a receptionist for the Center. For the past 5 years she was in charge of the annual Ice Cream Social held in July. Once again, we can only say "Thank You, Dave and Jan, for your faithful and tireless work!"

Dave is a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran in Ixonia; Jan began attending there while in grade school and has been a member ever since. For the past 43 years they have lived in the same house right in Ixonia. After farming for 7 years, Dave worked for Hevi-Duty in Watertown, then was a union iron worker for 25 years and worked 5 years for Nicholson Mfg. in Ixonia. They have three grown sons: the oldest is married and lives in Rockford, IL; the second is married and lives in Rome, WI and the youngest is single and lives and works in Chicago. They also enjoy three grandchildren.

Dave faithfully attends our Board meetings the second Monday of each month, but we don't even try to count the additional hours he puts in taking care of our building.



answering calls, fund-raisers raising funds. Men volunteer to keep the building humming, plans forming and resources developing. It is truly a personal joy to give of my time for this fundamentally Gospel-driven organization.

As the years pass and the Center's volunteers are privileged to meet with continually increasing numbers of visitors, it has become more difficult to effectively manage the Center on a solely volunteer basis. While often I am viewed as Center Director, my counseling work was and remains my favorite activity at the Center; unfortunately, the "director hat" and its administrative obligations refuse to cede many hours. Counseling and outreach projects and programs I envision the ministry developing have been delayed or stalled due to time constraints. Seemingly simple clerical tasks have gone unorganized or incomplete because of consistency issues.

Spring of 2009, then, marks another first for the Alpha Center. With the Lord's blessing and your continued support, the Board has approved a 10-hour/week paid "office assistant" position. Mrs. Gina Healy, a member of St. Luke in Watertown and volunteer counselor at the Center, begins her role as a paid staff member this month. She will begin to tackle office organization, correspondence and will serve as frontline for many administrative calls and requests. Her paid time will extend the time during the week when the door is unlocked for visitors and donors to stop in; while this will be helpful for those wishing to drop off clothes or equipment, those in need of a counselor will need to make an appointment to return during our regular office hours.

The work Gina will perform will not replace any need for volunteers; in fact, if we get the chance to return to planning some new or stalled projects, perhaps the need for volunteers will increase! I am looking forward, for instance, to restarting the progress we made last winter with the mentoring program. There have been mentoring opportunities—the young mother who needed to work on a high school degree and parenting skills to be reunited with her daughter, the teen who felt that a pregnancy was her best chance at having meaning in her life, the couple who could have used a focused Bible study and Christian wisdom to develop a gentler, less volatile, God-pleasing relationship—that never took off because of a lack of time, preparation and organization. Your continued support of our ministry through prayers and offerings—perhaps your time?—will be a blessing as we continue to sing His story at the Center.

Five years later, a new thing

Kimara Winters, Center Director

With a prayer of thanks for God's providence—and a sigh of resignation at the speed with which life passes—we pause to celebrate five years of ministry back on Main Street in Watertown. Spring of 2004 marked several firsts—our first open day at 313 E. Main, our first foray into building ownership, our first editions of a "remodeled" newsletter, the *Breath of Life*. The Lord certainly continues to bless our ministry, as we get the chance to share His Good News with hundreds of women and families each year. Dozens of women volunteer to keep the Center staffed, the hotline

MOTHERS DAY



May 10, 2009. For non-moms, it's the day you've got to do it all. Are you ready to happily volunteer to serve breakfast in bed, find the right card and make sure that the only time Mom lifts a finger is to pick up a fork to eat? Pampering mom should be a regular event—not just reserved

for one day—but let's face it, Mothers Day is "the day" to say "thank you" to the one who used to or does re-volunteer to keep the family moving every day.

Indeed, sometimes in our efforts toward keeping the ministry of the Alpha Center vital and fresh by asking for new volunteers, we tend to gloss over our appreciation for the volunteering that is done every day, in countless ways, by Christian Moms in their own homes. It's twice the blessing to have Moms appreciated daily by their families, but what a great opportunity to be able to set aside a special time to thank Moms for their years of selfless love. We at Alpha also give special thanks for the women who serve motherly roles at the Center, as they love and counsel other families in times of need. Thank you to all volunteer mothers!

Adding to the celebration

One way to make Mothers Day extra special this year— besides chocolate!—can be giving beyond ourselves. This year we encourage you to join many of us in giving a gift to the Alpha Center in honor or memory of a memorable mother in your life. If you provide an address, the Alpha Center will send a lovely custom card before Mothers Day that wishes her a wonderful day and lets her know that you're doing something special this year in her honor or in memory of a wonderful mother. In addition, your tribute and/or memorial will be listed in our next edition of *Breath of Life*. Any donation amount is appreciated, and gifts will be listed like this:

 **In Honor of Mom Jane Smith
John Smith and children**

Interested? Would you like to give a gift that shows love for a mom in your life and supports moms in need at the same time? Send your gift in the enclosed envelope and—on the form below—let us know who you are honoring or remembering and your name. Write whatever names or nicknames you'd like. We'll take care of the rest. The mothers in need at Alpha will remember it too.

 Yes, I'd like to help the Alpha Center with a Mothers Day gift.

In memory of (name/s) _____

or

In honor of (name/s) _____

Tribute given by: (name/s) _____

Yes, please send a card before Mothers Day to:

_____ **Name**

_____ **Address**

_____ **City/St/Zip**

Do not send a card.

Do not publish the honoree in the next Breath of Life newsletter.

(If left unchecked, we will assume you would like to be included in the May newsletter tribute page.)

Mothers Day Rose Sale • churches on May 10

Look for your church to participate in our annual sale of roses in memory or honor of special women in your life. Roses can be pre ordered and will be displayed in church for Mothers Day weekend. You pick up flowers after church for presentation or ask that they be donated to nursing homes.

Ice Cream Social • Sunday, July 12 • 10-1 PM

Mark your calendars for the annual Ice Cream Social luncheon that provides a super opportunity to fellowship and support our ministry. Join us at St. Mark in Watertown from 10-1 PM for lunch, and more importantly, dessert!

Mark your calendars for an October 17 banquet!

