

# Metro Voice 2017 RESPECT FOR LIFE GUIDE



## Kansas Woman makes a cross-country run for life

Anna Hoduski is a young woman with a passion, a purpose and a plan. Through an initiative she started, Project If Life, the 23-year-old is running 3,000 miles across the United States to bring awareness to the pro-life movement and spark conversations about abortion. Her journey took the Kansas native across the Sunflower State and now she finds herself in the west nearing her goal.



"I want to bring attention to the movement, but there is often no open door to talk with people about it," Anna explained. "But if you are doing a run of some kind, people will ask you 'why are you doing it?' and that gives you an open door."

Her interest in the pro-life movement began as a child and continued into college.

"I became passionate about the pro-life movement in fifth grade when my teacher taught me that life begins at con-

ception," she explained. "I've always been passionate about it, but I had no idea how to get plugged in to help. As a sophomore in college, I felt led by God to do a run across the U.S. I like running and I did a half marathon as a junior. I ended up deciding to wait until I graduated college before doing it and we spent the next two years planning it out."

Anna started her run on July 23, 2016, with no money, no vehicle and a small team to go with her, including her brother Nicholas (who works as a co-runner and trainer), her sister Sarah-Marie Hoduski as their web manager and her friend Megan Maier as project manager.

They have covered 800 miles so far, starting at the Kansas/Missouri border (where Anna and her family are from) and heading to Los Angeles.

Anna runs 15 miles a day at least, then takes note of where she stops once they are done for the day.

**"...if you just save one life in your lifetime, that is a miracle."**

The next morning, she starts at the exact same spot and continues her trek. Thursdays and Sundays are used to rest and speak at churches. She also does speaking engagements at schools and other organizations throughout the week. Once they arrive in Los Angeles, they'll take a break for a couple weeks and start back in Kansas City, heading to Washington, D.C.

Anna's favorite part in doing her run so far has been seeing people helping out in their community. "When I'm done speaking, I see people realize how big a deal it [abortion] is and how it needs to change," she said. "But I don't leave them helpless, I work to put the hope back in their heart. People will get excited and want to get

involved, but they don't know how to turn their passion into action. That's where they can help at pregnancy centers, whether through donations or even as being client advocates."

One goal is to encourage people to connect with their local pregnancy centers. "They are the boots on the ground, day in and day out fighting for kids and their families," she said.

"They see the decisions that parents make about their babies every day. To help them is the most effective, practical way to get involved [with the pro-life movement]."

But what Anna really wants to leave people with as she runs on from city to city is that it is so easy to get involved, not only in the pro-life movement but in helping new families.

"...if you just save one life in your lifetime, that is a miracle," she said. "Laws need to change ... but you can do your part in your community, whether it be donating diapers or volunteering."

"People think that they have to do a big



Anna and her brother, Nick, begin each morning with prayer and the road before them.

run like this to make a difference and I say, 'no, God called me to do the run. God can use you in a different way, no matter how big or small.'

For more information and to learn how you can support Anna and her team, visit [ProjectIfLife.org](http://ProjectIfLife.org) or search @ProjectIfLife on social media.

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## Annual March for Life in D.C. draws thousands from Kansas, Missouri

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

Marching with hundreds of thousands of people down the streets of Washington, D.C. is an experience Jean Fahlstrom of Raytown will never forget.

"I thought we could really go and say we are against this and someone would really hear us," Fahlstrom said.

Fahlstrom was part of a delegation from the Kansas City St. Joseph Diocese to participate in the annual March for Life demonstration in Washington, D.C. Fahlstrom attended the rally in 2007 and again in 2012.

The march – which draws hundreds of thousands of pro-life supporters from around the country – begins at the National Mall and meanders through the streets of Washington, D.C., and is aimed to raise awareness of the pro-life message.

"When we got to the Supreme Court building, there were hundreds of women holding signs that said 'I regret my abortion,'" Fahlstrom recalled. "That just broke my heart."

Fahlstrom and other delegates from the local diocese rode on a charter bus to Washington. She enjoyed spending 24 hours on a bus with her sisters in Christ.

"It was more like a pilgrimage," Fahlstrom said. "We prayed, we said a rosary. There were educational films."

For Fahlstrom, the most rewarding part of the whole experience was listening to the speakers at the National Mall at the pre-march rally. The speakers ranged from legislators to women who have suffered abortions.

The pre-March rally is something Mary Kay Culp, director of Kansans for Life, enjoys. She attended the rally last year so she could see Gov. Sam

Brownback, R-Kansas, receive an award for passing pro-life legislation.

"The Kansas folks always make it a point to be at the front of the rally," Culp said.

An important part of the pro-life movement – one most people don't consider – is the pain an abortion causes the mother. And for Culp, the March is about more than saving babies.

"We all owe the women of America an apology for letting them believe abortion is liberating when, in fact, it sets a burden on their shoulders for the rest of their lives," Culp said. "A lot of people don't know how much we care about

"I really felt convicted that I would be involved in both of those later in my life," Widaman said.

Widaman is now seeking a nursing degree in hopes of using her education to help in that realm. Widaman's parents encouraged her to get involved in the movement and have her voice heard.

"It was crazy," Widaman recalled. "It was crowded with people. It was awesome because you know all the people around you are like-minded."

Widaman recalled how videos of abortions were being played during the rally – showing the graphic images of abortion and what it does to the mother – let a lone child.

"It made it so real that these are real lives they are murdering," Widaman said.

Overall, the three women believe their voices were heard.

"You're adding to the crowd," Widaman said. "Your prayers and your support matter in the spiritual world."

For Culp the rally serves as a way to remind the other side the pro-life movement is not going away.

"Every few years someone declares the movement dead," Culp said. "Even though I know they're completely wrong, it's still gratifying."

Culp has met pro-life supporters from Ireland, France, England. Even a few celebrities like Kelsey Grammer.

For Fahlstrom, she was honored to lend her voice to something she believes in so strongly.

"Just the fact that I was able to go and say 'I'm against this,'" Fahlstrom said. "And it's the fact that we have the right in this country to stand up and say 'this is wrong.'"

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."*

Jeremiah 1:5



that issue. They think that we just love babies."

Culp enjoys seeing how many youth are involved in the movement. During the 2016 march – when Washington was caught in a blizzard – some student made an alter out of snow and held mass. "Our young people are strongly pro-life. To see it is really encouraging," Culp said.

One such young person is Emma Widaman of Pleasant Hill, Mo. Widaman attended the march with her mother six years ago – when she was just a freshman in high school.

She had been attending youth group with a friend where they discussed sex trafficking and abortion.

Widaman said she felt like the Lord laid those two issues on her heart.

## The Challenge of Being a "Respect Life Christian"

In probably no other area of life are Christians as counter-cultural as we are in the area of respecting the dignity and worth of human life. The culture in which we live was described aptly by Pope John Paul II as a "culture of death." By this he meant that our cultural norms accept war, starvation, poverty, lack of freedoms, abortion on demand, capital punishment, euthanasia and countless other affronts to human life and dignity as normal. It is, also, very clear that today we cannot depend upon either law or custom to reflect the fact that our country grew out of a Christian worldview and set of Christian principles. These are enshrined in our Constitution, Bill of Rights and other foundational documents.

Even though it might not be true for long, our currency still proclaims the original spirit that "In God We Trust." We stand out, however, as Christians in a secular, anti-spiritual, materialistic and hostile culture that would like to marginalize us and our faith as a quaint story that once made life easier to bear. While we do not have to undergo martyrdom in a Roman coliseum today, we do have to suffer the cynicism, hostility and ill-informed rantings of newspaper and television editorials.

In the face of all of this, it is critical that we make clear our stand for life and freedom. We believe that all human life is a sacred expression of the love and creativity of God. We believe that as such all-human life deserves protection, nurturance and the right to thrive. For us, no human life is without value or unworthy of societal status and reverence. Beginning with the foundational right to life, we also fight for basic rights of healthcare, education, employment, freedom

from racism and prejudice and for freedoms of religious practice. Our systems of education, healthcare and charity embody and express our core respect-life commitments. To treat these core ministries of our church as mere "social services" that can be defined and managed by government rules and regulations is a particularly odious attack upon our rights and respect life principles.

Misinterpretations of the "separation of religion from the state" or the "sacred from the secular" that would seek to justify intrusion upon religious liberty need to be exposed for the fictions that they are.

It is our responsibility as Christians to express our respect for human life in our own behaviors, in our public activism and through the ballot box. Life in a democracy respects diversity and freedom and works for the common good. At times we must express our beliefs assertively as in the "March For Life," letter writing, phone calls and personal visits to legislators. It is also important that we pray and show active spiritual and material concern for all the citizens of our country, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk among us.

To be counter-cultural and to stand out is not such a bad place to be. We can be a fulcrum for change, a haven for growing the most human of all emotions and attachments: to life and to its enhancement. We believe in a beautiful and "seamless garment" of respect-life commitments.

As "respect-life" Christians, we are making and can make even more of a difference in our country. We just need to be courageous and persistent so that our voices are never silent.

—Msgr. Michael D. McGraw



# The Judas Connection

by Kay Lyn Carlson

Story after story, you can hear post-abortive women say, "They told me it was a blob of tissue, a cluster of cells, a product of conception. I didn't know it was a baby!"

That's how it was for me.

It was the denial I needed to hear to rationalize my decision to go through with the abortion. Removing a "blob" didn't seem as bad as aborting a child. Deep inside, however, I knew that whatever its form, it was an innocent baby.

Seven years after my abortion, when I became pregnant with my daughter, Emily, I had an ultrasound.

I saw the truth.

I saw a baby – arms, legs, fingers, toes, a face and a heartbeat.

"Oh look, she's waving at you!" the sonographer exclaimed.

Shocked, I wanted to bolt. Run away. Escape to anywhere! But where? I couldn't get away from myself.

Sadly, of all the characters in the Bible, the person I can relate to the most is Judas Iscariot. As one of the twelve disciples, Judas betrayed Jesus by offering His innocent blood to the chief priest and elders in exchange for thirty silver coins.

*Matthew 27: 1-4* – "When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

So, Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself."

Similarities between Judas and me include:

1) We were both traumatized ("seized with remorse") by the realization of betraying innocent blood.

2) We ran from the truth. I wore a mask that said "everything is fine, no problem here."

3) We both wanted to die. Although I never seriously contemplated suicide, I did want to die. I even prayed to God to take my life because I could not live with the pain any longer.

Unfortunately, my story is not unique: Getting pregnant, in crises, and having the typical feelings associated with an unplanned pregnancy – fear of:

• **The future** – how would I make ends meet? Go to college? Have a career? Would anyone want to marry me?

• **My reputation** – I was popular, prideful, still in high school, and feared the judgment.

• **Rejection** – I was told that if I got myself pregnant that I would be "kicked out of the house so fast..." (later to learn, this was just a threat and not true).

• **Judgment** – "What would the neighbors think?" was the mantra growing up. I wanted to save myself and my family the embarrassment.

My reaction after the abortion is typical as well. It's incredible how many women share their abortion story after hearing mine. They nod their heads in agreement when I speak about the depression, trauma, horror, nightmares, wanting to die and feeling like a murderer, etc.

According to Alliance for Post-



*Abortion Research & Training*, the specific mental health disorders that have been found to be associated with elective abortion include substance abuse, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts.

"Using a nationally representative data set, women who had an abortion, compared to women who did not report one or more, had an increased risk for experiencing: PTSD (95%), Agoraphobia with or without Panic Disorder (124%), Agoraphobia without Panic Disorder (132%), Alcohol Abuse with or without dependence (105%), Alcohol Dependence (134%), Drug Abuse with or without dependence (70%), and Major Depression with hierarchy (42%)." For additional research information, go to [www.standapart.org](http://www.standapart.org).

Abortion no doubt can cause your overall well-being (biological, psychological, social and spiritual) to be disrupted and recovery is essential for restoration and wholeness to occur.

As for the spiritual recovery, the vast difference between Judas and me is how we chose to deal (or not) with the sin in our lives. Judas chose to run away from God and I, eventually, chose to run toward Him. I accepted His grace that He offers through his son, Jesus Christ. I had always believed in Jesus Christ, I just didn't believe he would forgive me for my abortion. The shedding of innocent blood felt like an unforgivable sin.

Today, I understand that any sin mankind wants pardon for is forgivable. To believe otherwise may eventually even be considered blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Judas could have been forgiven if he would have humbled himself and asked. God doesn't make it hard to forgive sin; we do because of our pride.

John 3:17 – "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Grief can still tug at my heart, but I know there will be a day when "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes" (Rev. 7:17) and we will be reunited with our loved ones soon.

Kay Lyn Carlson, LMSW, specializes in post-abortion recovery. She can be reached at (785) 640-0567 or emailed at [kcarlson20@cox.net](mailto:kcarlson20@cox.net).

# ABORTIONS IN AMERICA

A look at the issue by facts and figures

## INCIDENCE OF ABORTION

• A total of 699,202 abortions were reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2012, the most recent year numbers are available. (Reporting is voluntary and not 100%.)

• In 2012, the total number of abortions decreased by 4.3% over 2011 numbers. In 2011, the total number of abortions decreased by 5% over 2010 numbers.

• The Associated Press reported in June 2015 that nationwide the number of abortions decreased by an average 12% since 2010.

• CDC showed that 3,988,076 babies were born in the U.S. in 2014, the most recent year numbers are available.

• In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended.

• Of all unintended pregnancies, 4 in 10 are aborted.

• Twenty-one percent of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion (not including natural miscarriages).(2011 numbers)

• There has been a steady decline in abortions since 1980.

• Each year, about 1.7% of all women aged 15-44 have an abortion.

• Of the women obtaining abortions in any given year, about half of them have had at least one previous abortion.

• By age 45, one third of American women will have had at least one abortion, although this figure is now in dispute and may be much lower.

• Some 1.06 million abortions were performed in 2011, down from 1.21 million abortions in 2008, a decline of 13%.

• The U.S. abortion rate in 2011 was 13.9 abortions per 1,000, down from 19.4 per 1,000 in 2008.

• 88.7% of all abortions take place by the twelfth week of pregnancy.

• 12% of abortions in the U.S. occurred in teenagers.

## WHY WOMEN GET ABORTIONS

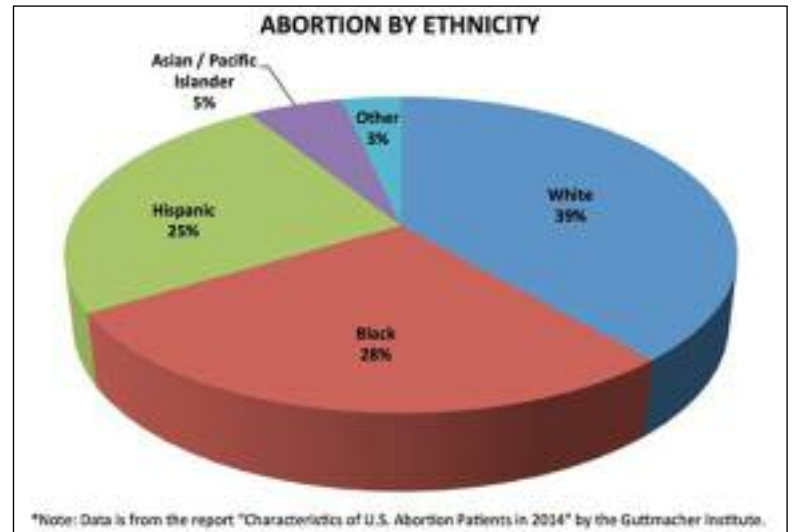
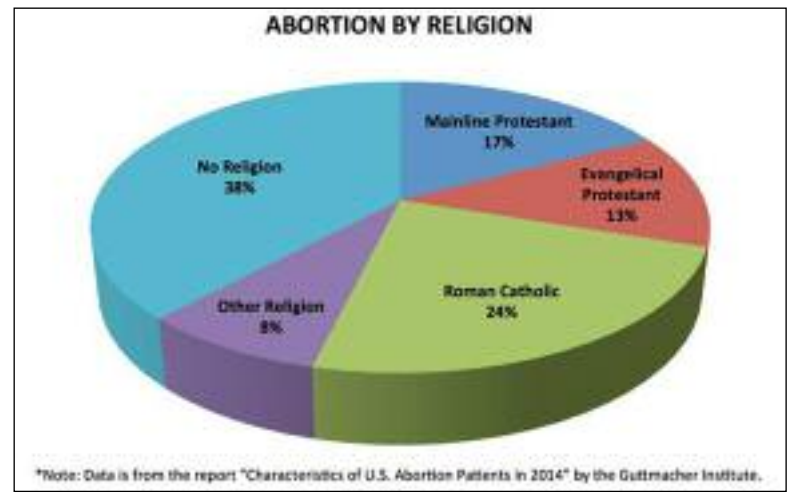
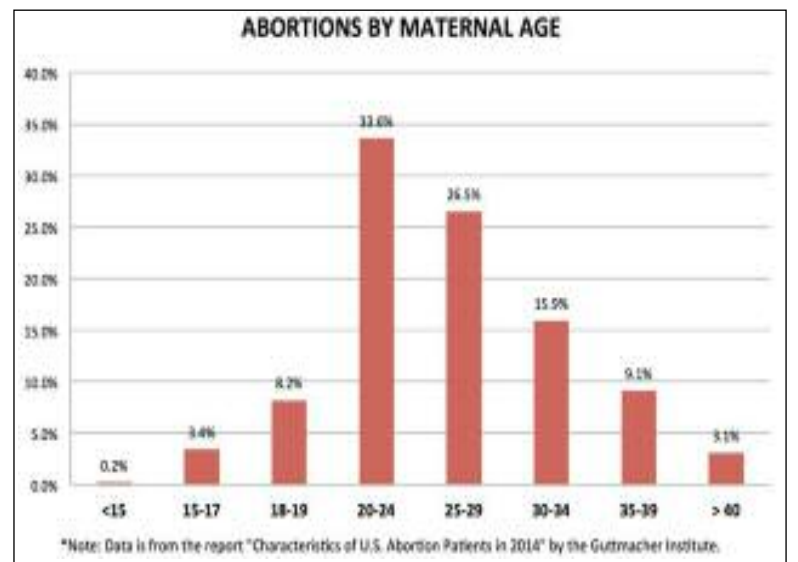
• Some 1.06 million abortions were performed in 2011, down from 1.21 million abortions in 2008, a decline of 13%.

• Women who have never been married account for one-third of abortions in America.

• Less than 1% of all abortions take place because of rape and/or incest.

• Women give an average of 3.7 reasons why they are seeking an abortion including the following:

- 21% Inadequate finances
- 21% Not ready for responsibility
- 16% Woman's life would be changed too much
- 12% Relationships, unmarried
- 11% Too young and/or immature
- 8% Children are grown; she has all she wants



- % Baby has possible health probs.
- <1% Pregnancy caused by rape/incest
- 4% Other

are unintended, while that number is 54% among Hispanics and 40% of pregnancies among whites.

## ABORTIONS BY RACE

• Blacks comprise only 13% of the population of America but account for 28% of all abortions.

- Black women are five times more likely to abort than white women.
- 69% of pregnancies among blacks

Planned Parenthood, the largest seller of abortions in the United States, has located 80% of its abortion clinics in minority neighborhoods, disproportionately targeting minorities for abortion.

For more info, read the report: "Racial Profiling and Population Control," by Mark Crutcher, Life Dynamics

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# Nation elects pro-life prez: Kansas budget woes affect pro-life bills

By Kathy Ostrowski  
Kansans for Life Legislative Director

After a November presidential election which developed into a national referendum on abortion, pro-lifers can share a collective “whew!”

For the first time ever, political parties and their presidential candidates publicly staked out totally opposite positions—unlike previous elections, in which most candidates tried to minimize their positions on controversial issues. Hillary Clinton made abortion-on-demand a cornerstone issue of her 2016 campaign: abortion available to everyone at any time up until delivery, and at taxpayer’s expense!

In addition, in spite of the national furor over the sale of aborted baby parts to the highest bidder, Clinton wanted to expand taxpayer funding to America’s largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood.

Trump spoke with passionate opposition to late-term abortion and promised to put pro-life candidates on the U.S.

Supreme Court and defund Planned Parenthood. He eked out a victory in state after state, effectively turning all but the states in the Northeast and West Coast bright red.

Back in Kansas, which has been leading the nation in pro-life laws, elections turned a bit backwards, with 23 lawmakers retiring in May and 27 pro-lifers losing their primary or general election. While the pro-life majorities in both chambers are holding, there has been an influx of state reps and senators elected primarily to “fix” school funding and tax receipt deficits.

Despite a very successful educational campaign to ‘Not Retain’ Judges on the State Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, they all kept their jobs.

However, the liberal, pro-abortion judges we targeted (who received 76-84 % approval in past elections) barely survived at 55% support (they needed 50%). The three judges supported by Kansans for Life each received 115,000 more votes than any of the others.

The 2016 state legislature was a victim



“Simon’s Law” to protect parental rights, is promoted by the Crosier family, shown here with baby Simon before his untimely death

of the focus on budget issues, and the session was abruptly shortened by a few weeks to save on expenses. This damaged Kansans for Life’s push to enact Simon’s Law, and after passage in the Senate 37-3, we ran out of time to move it through the House.

Under Simon’s Law, “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) orders on children will be barred unless the parents give permission. Shocking testimony revealed that infants and even older children suffering chromosomal abnormalities have been denied life-sustaining treatment due to physician bias against their “quality of life.”

Parents found out too late —after their child died—that “DNR” orders were ordered without their knowledge or consent. This session, we will bring back the bill for consideration.

Kansas did enact two pro-life laws:

1) The very popular budget prioritization of Title X “reproductive service” federal money. This is funding that Planned Parenthood used to get, but now goes to full-service public clinics and hospitals.

2) A ban on midwives in independent practice from performing abortions. People were shocked to learn that midwives were on staff at abortion clinics.



**Marvin Heinbach, DDS**      **Jeff Larkin, DDS**  
**Liam Smyth, DDS**      **Grant Larkin, DDS**

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**44th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade:**  
**61 million U.S. Abortions!**

**Topeka, Kansas Monday, Jan. 23rd**

**Rally, Learn, Pray & March for Life!**

**STOP**  
**DISMEMBERING**  
**UNBORN**  
**BABIES**

When we became the first state to ban dismemberment abortions, one Kansas judge stopped the ban. That ruling is now under appeal to the KS Supreme Court. We hoped to get enough Kansans to vote not to retain the liberal members of that court. We came close: only 55% of Kansans voted to retain them, but to succeed we needed to push their votes under 50%. We’re not finished! JOIN US at the Kansas Capitol in Topeka on January 23rd to discover how you can help!

**8:30 AM**      **REGISTRATION** - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol’s Visitor Center inside the North Entrance, NOT, as before, on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.

**9:00 - NOON**      **LOBBY** - Take a tour, watch KS House in action, and other activities to be announced. Info at registration.

**9:00 - 10:00**      **WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor’s Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance.  
Room 3 North: Denial of care at the beginning and end of life, by Kathy Ostrowski, KFL Legislative Director  
Room 4 North: How activist Courts Harm Kansas Pro-life Laws by Jeanne Gawdun and Mary Kay Culp

**10:00 - 11:00**      **WORKSHOPS REPEATED**

**11:00 - 12:30**      **CATHOLIC MASS** - Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) --see map below.

**11:30 - 12:30**      **EVANGELICAL PRAYER SERVICE** - Room 4 North, Capitol Visitor’s Ctr., basement level. With Topeka Pastor David Epps, director of Billy Graham ministry in Kansas

**12:30 - 12:45**      **MARCH FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**11:30 - 2:30**      **LUNCH** - Mater Dei-Assumption Church basement. Lunch available for free will donation, or bring your own.

**12:45 - 1:15**      **RALLY FOR LIFE** on the south Capitol steps featuring:  
**Governor Sam Brownback**, introduction of pro-life legislators by David Gittrich, and more.

**1:30 - 2:30 PM**      **WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor’s Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance.  
Room 3 and 4 North: Subjects to be announced

6th Avenue					<b>I N T E R S T A T E 7 0</b>
Lunch: Mater Dei Assumption Church Basement				TPAC	
8th Avenue					
<b>H A R R I S O N</b>	North Capitol Entrance	W	E	CAPITOL	
	South Capitol Steps	←	12:45 RALLY		
	10th Avenue				

**Capitol Entrance:**

Enter on North side only. There is a drive for drop offs.

**Parking:**

On street: 10 hr. North & West of Capitol; 2 hr. spots more available. Feed the meter. They ticket.

Under capitol: (2 hrs maximum, or ticket)

Crosby Pkg. Garage: 8th Ave btw Kansas & Jackson;  
Centre City Parking Garage: 9th & Kansas Avenue;  
Park-N-Shop: Quincy btw 6th & 7th;  
Coronado Parking Garage: Quincy btw 9th & 10th.

**Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel:**  
(785) 383-8636 and (913) 406-4446;

For late-breaking info and updates go to the KFL Facebook page: [Kansans for Life](#); KFL web site: [www.kfl.org](#); or TW: [@kansansforlife](#)



# Family values, Fifth Commandment show why we are pro-life

## Not to mention respect for the Lord's gift of life

Family values become such only as they are owned and shared by husband and wife, passed along intentionally to children, reinforced by siblings and grandparents, applied to concrete issues and decisions, practiced in the lifestyle of the family.

It is not enough to pay lip service to a traditional, Judeo-Christian ethic - whatever that means. It is not enough to call oneself conservative, mouth all the politically correct positions of a so-called "moral majority," and express appropriate horror at what has happened to values in America. Values are convictions made practical. They are personal principles applied to real issues. They are the consistent expression of what you are and believe, in actions as well as words. Values are woven into the fabric of your being. They frame your window on life. They trigger your response to situations.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the issues of life which God addresses in his Fifth Commandment, "Thou shall not kill." We are a society confused over the issues of life, from genetic engineering to living wills. We are a society driven by issues of health, traumatized by news-cameras' images of death, challenged by the problems of aging. But more than anything, we are a society in search of reasons for living. That calls for something beyond public opinion and pious platitudes. That calls for a clear and consistent life ethic from God to guide us into "Lasting Values For Every Family."

Let us state, before elaborating, three simple "Life Principles:" Life is FROM God. Life is UNDER God. Life is FOR God.

It makes a huge difference how one views the origin and source of life. If life is no more than the serendipitous conse-

quence of evolution, it has no meaning or value apart from the biological system and physical universe of which it is an inconsequential part. If life has no Creator, then it has no Ruler. In short, life has no objective values if secular humanism and biological evolution explain life. The loss of values in contemporary western civilization is no mystery.

By stark contrast Christianity asserts that life is from God. He is its creator, not simply in some general sense, but the creator of all life and each life. Listen to Psalm 139: "You, Lord, created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Because God is the creator of life, each life has intrinsic value. Your life is precious because God made you. Not what you're like or what you can do to establish your worth. God has already done that. And when you have grasped that truth of God for yourself, you will begin to understand the value God has placed on every other human being created specifically by Him.

The principle that life is from God has another important implication. If God alone creates life, then God alone has the right to terminate life. Because He is the Ruler of life, He makes the rules that govern life.

Life is also under God. He is no mere transcendent deity, uninvolved and disinterested in the lives of those he has made. He didn't pass laws of nature and retire from his legislative office. God has an active role in life in general, and in your life in particular. In Psalm 75, the Author of Life writes, "I choose the appointed time; it is I who judge uprightly." Some



times in your life are hard and some times are happy, but all the time your life is in God's hands.

Some people's lives are described by illness and incapacity, by poverty and oppression; but nobody's life is defined by its condition. The so-called quality of life is simply a flawed human effort at quantifying and categorizing the blessings of God upon life. Life is not less because God allows physical, psychological or socio-economic suffering.

That life is under God assures also that life is in God's care. "The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food at the proper time," the psalmist David

affirms. "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

Because we exist for God, it is also true that God establishes the values for our life. He determines what is right and wrong, good and bad, important or insignificant. He establishes priorities and principles for living life. In fact, he IS the priority that fixes the value of all the rest of life. The prophet Isaiah used a potter and pottery to illustrate the point.

We pots exist to serve the potter according to how he designed us to serve. If one is a cup, one acts like a cup not a vase. If one is storage jar, one holds what the potter stores in us rather than wishing to be a plate. He who made us not only establishes our value, but our values thereby.

Three biblical principles: Life is FROM God, UNDER God, and FOR God.

Jesus shapes our values in the issue of life, because as Colossians 3 says it, "JESUS IS OUR LIFE."

—by Pastor Paul Kelm

## Christian Family Adoption

**Austin K. Vincent**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
2222 SE Pennsylvania  
Topeka, KS 66605  
785-234-0022  
akvlaw@cox.net  
Christianfamilyadoptionks.com



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Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

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