

POPULATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE REVIEW

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A review and analysis of worldwide population control activity

Abortion Activists Attempt to Use Zika Virus Outbreak to Legalize Abortion

By Jonathan Abbamonte

The rapid spread of the Zika virus in the Western Hemisphere has many expectant mothers in hard-hit countries deeply concerned. Abortion activists have seized upon this public health crisis to argue that all unborn children who may have been exposed to the virus should be aborted.

Very rarely hazardous to children or adults, Zika temporarily causes itchy rashes, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. In rare cases, it can cause a bout of Guillain-Barré syndrome. But recently Zika has been linked to microcephaly, a birth defect that has devastating effects on fetal brain and cranial development.

Since May of last year, reported cases have skyrocketed in Brazil



They wanted to abort her because her mother had Zika

Photo Credit: iStock

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and have spread to countries across Central and South America and the Caribbean. The World Health Organization (WHO) now estimates that up to 4 million people could become infected by the end of 2016. This past Monday, the WHO declared the Zika outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Pro-abortion advocates are exploiting the crisis to petition Brazil's highest court to legalize abortion in cases where women have contracted the virus. Among the organizations pushing for the legalization of abortion in Brazil is ANIS: Institute of Bioethics,

Human Rights and Gender, a partner organization of the International Women's Health Coalition based in New York City. In 2012, ANIS and the National Confederation of Health Workers were effective in petitioning Brazil's supreme court into legalizing abortion for infants with anencephaly (a severe birth defect where large portions of the infant's brain are missing).

The radical pro-abortion group—Women on Waves—has also advertised that it is currently offering abortion inducing drugs free of charge to women in countries affected by the Zika outbreak. Women on Waves claims that it will ship the abortion

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President's Page

Pro-Life Progress in the Land Down Under

I am just back from Australia, where we held a successful three-day conference in the centrally located city of Albury. Sponsored by PRI in conjunction with its Australian affiliate, Family Life International, the event was a huge success. It brought hundreds of new people into the pro-life movement, aired new ideas about how to win pro-life victories, and forged new alliances among various pro-life, pro-family groups.

The conference was opened by Archbishop Julian Porteous, the Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania. The Archbishop reminded us all of how the traditional Christian understanding of the sacredness of life and of the nature of marriage is under attack. "With the ascendancy of a secular liberalism now engulfing our political parties we face the danger of wholesale legislative change which will threaten life, marriage and family," he said.



Steven Mosher and Doctor John Batarelo at the Life and Family National Conference.

Archbishop Porteous knows whereof he speaks. He has been brought before the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission to answer charges that he "offended, humiliated, and insulted" the feelings of a lesbian by publishing a pamphlet defending marriage as being between a man and a woman.

I am not making this up. Tasmania's anti-discrimination law is so broad that, if someone accuses you of hurting their feelings, you can be fined and put in jail by the Anti-Discrimination Commission. Of course, since feelings are necessarily subjective, there is no way to prove your "innocence" of these charges.


Archbishop Porteous told us that all of his friends have told him that they hope he does not go to jail, a sentiment I, for one, heartily seconded. Jailing a Catholic archbishop for teaching timeless Catholic truths about marriage would bring the issue into the public eye in a way that nothing else would.

Such an overreach would rouse the Australian people from their apathy. It would force them to decide whether they want to live in a country which respects religious freedom, or in a country where you can be jailed for your beliefs.

What is happening in Australia is a lesson for all of us in the pro-life, pro-family movement. Secular leftists are the most intolerant people on the planet. In Tasmania, they have gone so far as to set up a new inquisition, complete with ruthless, even vicious, inquisitors, who are determined to punish all those who disagree with them.

At the conference everyone was urged to join the Marriage Alliance,



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an effort to defend the traditional understanding of marriage as being between a woman and a man. This broad-based coalition is gearing up for a national referendum on whether the constitution should be amended to define marriage exclusively as a relationship between one woman and one man.

FROM THE COUNTRIES

Kenya—Catholic Bishops in Kenya have taken a stand against a vaccination campaign launched by the Health Minister and the United Nations. The Catholic Doctors Association is warning women to avoid the anti-malarial vaccine, believed to be purposefully contaminated by estradiol. Estradiol has been linked to early puberty in girls (as early as age 7) and testicular diseases in boys. In the past, Kenyan Bishops have advised against receiving the Tetanus

vaccine, which was suspected to be "preventing women from having children." In fact, past tests by a joint-commission have found that some of the vaccinations promoted by the Health Minister in conjunction with the UN and large pharmaceutical companies, were found to contain Beta-HCG hormone. Beta-HCG is naturally produced during pregnancy and "When a non-pregnant woman is injected with a vaccine combining tetanus toxoid and Beta-HCG hormone, this combination develops antibodies to [...] HCG such that, when an egg is fertilized, the HCG hormone that it produces is destroyed, thus leaving the woman in question permanently infertile."

See the Source: <http://www.genethique.org/en/africa-bishops-take-stand-against-official-vaccination-campaign-64484.html#.Vlun6HarRD8>

Italy—The northern Italian town of Ostana recently saw the birth of a baby for the first time in 28 years. The town now has a population of 85, including its new arrival. The city's population began declining in 1975. Since then, young adults have migrated to larger cities in search of work. Some Italian cities have taken measures to prevent further demographic decline. A town on the island of Sicily, for example, sold a limited number of houses for less than \$2 in order to attract people to the area. Another Italian town made health checks mandatory. Its official goal was to keep the elderly alive longer. The mayor of Ostana is throwing a party to celebrate the birth of baby Pablo, clinging to

the hope that his birth will signal a reverse in population decline.

See the Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/02/01/for-the-first-time-in-28-years-a-baby-has-been-born-in-this-italian-town/?postshare=1201454351658116&tid=ss_fb

The United States—A pro-life victory! The Washington state Senate committee has passed a ban on sex-selective abortion. Bill 6612 was introduced by Republican Senator Ann Rivers, and co-sponsored by Republican Mike Padden. Padden has been adamant that sex-selective abortion is the "war on women." He emphasized that this type of abortion is prevalent here in the United States, and that it is occurring in more nations than just China. The president of the Washington Women's Network—Angela Connelly—agrees: "I challenge you not to be naïve, to open your eyes not just to what is happening globally, but what is happening here," she said. "We need to be strong enough to say sex discrimination is not allowed anywhere." The Bill awaits actions in the Senate Rules Committee.

See the source: <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/02/05/washington-state-senate-committee-passes-ban-on-sex-selection-abortions/>

"President's Page" Continued

Led by Family Life International and other pro-life, pro-family groups, the Alliance has an excellent chance of succeeding, enshrining a proper understanding of marriage into Australia's national charter. And our conference gave it a further boost.

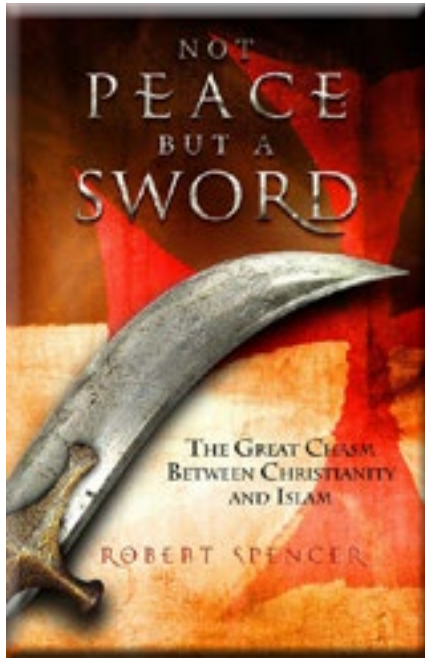
In the Internet Age, it is increasingly difficult to get people to leave the comfort of their computers and meet face-to-face. In truth, it is only worth organizing an event such as this if new ideas are brought to the fore, if important new contacts are made, and if new, broad-based alliances can be made. Our Australian conference accomplished all three.

Steven W. Mosher

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May I Send You These Gifts?

This gift will help you logically and rationally demolish the false notion that Islam is “just another religion.”



Published by Catholic Answers, your gift is *Not Peace But a Sword: The Great Chasm Between Christianity and Islam*.

The author is a true expert on the issue: Robert Spencer, Director of the authoritative *Jihad Watch* and author of twelve books, including *The Truth About Muhammad and The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam (and the Crusades)*. Spencer has led seminars on Islam and jihad for the FBI and other intelligence and military agencies.

This book is NOT a rant against Islam. Instead, it calmly picks Islam apart piece by piece, exposing it as 180 degrees opposite Christianity. When you read *Not Peace But a Sword: The Great Chasm Between Christianity and Islam*, you'll learn . . .

- How the Qur'an and other Islamic texts legitimize violence against Christians . . . the hypocrisy of Islamic teaching on charity, including examples of Muhammad himself committing vicious crimes against non-believers . . . a frightening look at Islamic teaching on “sexual morality” . . .
- Why Allah is not a father but rather a cruel slave master . . . how Islam falsely “corrects” Biblical stories . . . why Muslims deny the Trinity and Christ as the Son of God . . . how Islam views “dialogs” between Muslims and Christians . . .
- How Muslims are expected to treat parents who are non-believers . . . what Islamic law mandates about the treatment of conquered “infidels” . . . the contradictory Islamic version of “Thou shalt not kill” . . . what Islam teaches about abortion . . . plus much more.

If you want a rational picking apart of Islam—one that gives you all the facts you need to shatter the commonly-held notion that “Islam gets a bad rap just because of a few bad apples”—then this book is for you!

With sincere thanks for your much-needed support of \$50 or more, a copy of *Not Peace But a Sword: The Great Chasm Between Christianity and Islam* will be in your mailbox in no time! May I send you a copy today?

BONUS GIFT—JUST RELEASED!

This CD—*Sing of Mary*—will fill your home with the unforgettable vocals of Donna Cori Gibson, the acclaimed Catholic vocalist hailed for her appearances on EWTN Global Catholic Network. *Sing of Mary* includes...Ave Maria...Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue...Salva Regina...Sing of Mary...Flower of Carmel...Memorare...Hail Mary/Gentle Woman...Great Things...Mother (Litany of Loreto)...On This Day/Oh Beautiful Mother...

Here's what Scott Hahn—America's best-selling Catholic author and Professor of Theology at Franciscan University—says about Donna Cori Gibson's recordings: “I find Donna's music to be prayerfully deep and inspiring. Simply and uncomplicatedly Catholic. God has really gifted Donna with a powerful voice and a pure heart!”

May I send you this CD right now, as a BONUS GIFT to accompany *Not Peace But a Sword*?



Please use use PRI's secure donation link with your gift of \$50 or more:

<https://pop.org/donate/prior> to receive *Not Peace But a Sword: The Great Chasm Between Christianity and Islam*, plus your CD BONUS GIFT, *Sing of Mary*

“Zika Virus” Continued

inducing drugs by mail, including to countries that make no exceptions for the protection of unborn life such as El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Chile. As of yet, there have not been any confirmed cases of Zika transmission in Chile.

Microcephaly is not usually detectable by ultrasound until the third trimester or late into the second trimester. Many cases of microcephaly cannot be diagnosed until after birth. Most states in the U.S. limit abortions at viability (generally interpreted to begin in the middle of the second trimester) except in cases where the mother's life or health is at risk. Legalizing abortion for microcephaly cases would likely require authorization of brutal and controversial late term abortion procedures that involve dismemberment, saline, or lethal injections.

Providing concessions for early-term abortion for any pregnant woman that contracts Zika could have even worse, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences. Legalizing abortion for women who have confirmed contraction of the virus would not solve the problem as it is not clear what percentage of Zika infections result in microcephaly. Moreover, only 20% of people who contract the Zika virus show signs or symptoms of infection leaving the vast majority of cases where infants are at risk of microcephaly unknown.

Allowing abortion for any suspected cases of Zika infection would essentially make abortion available on-demand as there would be no means of verification. However, unless abortion is legalized on-demand, it is unlikely that abortions would reduce the incidence of microcephaly to any significant extent—not to mention the fact that

attempting to reduce the incidence of microcephaly by terminating the lives of those who suffer from the condition is an egregious violation of human rights and fundamentally discriminatory.

Microcephaly is a serious condition where an infant's head and brain are significantly smaller than normal. Children with microcephaly can suffer from a range of symptoms (depending on the severity of the condition) including impaired cognitive development, difficulty with speech, balance, learning, and motor functions, physical distortion of the skull or club feet, and seizures.

Some infants, however, do not suffer from any intellectual disabilities and are able live completely self-sufficient and happy lives as adults.

Ana Carolina Cáceres, a 24 year old journalist in Brazil, was born with microcephaly. When Ana was born, as the BBC reports, the doctors told her mother, “she will not walk, she will not talk and, over time, she will enter a vegetative state until she dies.” Not only did Ana prove the doctors wrong, but she finished school, graduated college, plays the violin and now has a fulfilling career as a journalist.

Currently, there is no cure, vaccine or effective treatment for Zika. Medical researchers are racing to develop effective therapeutics for the infection. Big pharma company Sanofi Pasteur has announced a project to develop a vaccine from its newly approved dengue vaccine. Gene One Life Science, a Korean based company, also announced that it is teaming with Inovio Pharmaceuticals to develop a DNA based vaccine. The National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease hopes to begin trials by the end of 2016 on yet another vaccine

prospect based off previous work done on the development of a West Nile Virus vaccine.

Rather than spending money on promoting abortion, the international community should come together to help pregnant women in at-risk areas. Pregnant women should be provided with insecticide treated mosquito nets, which are highly effective in preventing infection and in killing mosquito vectors during sleeping hours. Pregnant women should be equipped with information and counselling on how to best prevent infection.

Expectant mothers can greatly reduce their risk of infection by wearing long sleeved garments, avoiding stagnant water, using effective insect repellent such as WHO recommended Icaridin and CDC recommended DEET and oil of lemon eucalyptus, and by disposing of cartons, glass, tires, potted plants, and other foci where mosquitos breed. Special precautions should be taken especially in the early morning and late afternoon hours when the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the primary vector for Zika, is most likely to feed. Homes, aircraft, ships, and public facilities should be fumigated according to locally approved protocols where protective measures are insufficient and in areas that are naturally damp.

Worried mothers, not to mention the public at large, need to understand that abortion activists are not concerned about their health, or the health of their children. They have simply seized upon the Zika situation as a pretext to promote their agenda of abortion on demand.

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Good News from the Third World

By Dr. Christopher Manion



These days, when we hear good news about the Catholic Church, it comes increasingly from the Third World. The faithful voice of the Church there has become strong and eloquent as the international attack on the family has intensified.

This is a welcome development, especially in view of the spreading sense of decadence and despair that, with precious few exceptions, is sweeping the northern hemisphere, in a swath that reaches through eighteen time zones, from Russia, across the European Union, and into the United States.

Indeed, the secular media's favorite "experts" on Church affairs, as ignorant as they are grimly determined, seek to manipulate the teaching of Pope Francis to make it harmonize comfortably with what African bishops call "gender ideology."

In reaching out with mercy to that secular world, Church leaders are confronted by ideologues who have only contempt for Christ and his Church. These bitter activists seek simply to destroy the Church, beginning with the family, which the West has recognized since Aristotle to

be the fundamental building block of a virtuous society.

One prelate who harbors no illusions about Satan's hatred for the family is Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, who presided over the closing Mass at the 51st International Eucharistic Congress in the Philippines this past January.

With profound and welcome clarity, Cardinal Bo outlined the dangers faced by the faithful in the face of the massive secular assault: "More than any nuclear bomb, more than any terrorism, a mortal danger awaits humanity because some countries have chosen a path of destroying families through laws," he told the hundreds of thousands of faithful who had gathered for the Mass.

"The Eucharist is sown and grown in the family. The family is the first communion; the family is the nuclear Church," he said. "It needs to be protected and promoted and nurtured."

In this blunt warning, Cardinal Bo speaks in terms carefully chosen to identify the issue accurately: we are at war — one more dangerous to humanity than any other — and the weapons of our enemies are more dangerous than powerful bombs: they destroy not the body but the family, and with it the future. And they do it "through laws" — so it's all legal.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson identifies "The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" as the foundation not only of our liberties, but of the laws that protect those liberties. In the past century and more, however, God's laws have been banished from the public square, and the natural law has been abandoned in our public life. No

longer are we permitted to appeal to those fundamental bedrocks of a free and virtuous society when called on to defend the family.

Moreover, not only is our nation's understanding of "the family" under attack, but the law is being used to bludgeon anyone who disagrees — one family at a time. A New York family who refuses to host a reception on their farm for a perverted couple risks losing their home. A California entrepreneur who supports a pro-family constitutional amendment is fired from the company he founded. An Indiana lawyer who defends legislation advocating the rights of the family is fired from his law firm. A Wisconsin professor who defends a pro-family student from a lesbian sociologist is fired from his tenured faculty position — at a "Catholic" university!

And it's all legal.

In Europe and the United States, Church leaders seem powerless in the face of this secular legal onslaught; many still struggle to find their voice. But in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, stalwart prelates recognize the clear and present danger represented by the anti-child, anti-family ideological powers, and, like Cardinal Bo, they are calling their people to the spiritual ramparts in prayer and sacrifice, encouraging them to marry, stay married, and give children lovingly to the world.

Pray for them.

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If the UN Does Not Respect Latin Americans, We Want a World Without the UN

Written by PRI Staff

In a gesture that has received widespread rejection from Latin Americans, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights—Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein—called on Latin American governments to provide abortions and contraceptives before the Zika Virus spreads any further.

Zeid indicated that "laws and policies that restrict access to [abortion and contraceptive] services must be urgently reviewed in line with human rights obligations."

Since then, the director general of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)—Tewodros Melesse—has publically announced that the "Zika virus must be fought with better access to contraception and safe abortions, as well as anti-mosquito measures."

Abortion advocates everywhere have proposed that same solution: abortion and contraceptives. Those are the supposed remedies that they would prescribe to combat rising rates of microcephaly among newborns. Instead of finding solutions that would help prevent microcephaly or would improve the lives of people living with microcephaly, they would rather devote their efforts to simply riding the world of children with congenital disabilities.

The push to legalize abortion has infuriated Latin Americans who largely respect the right to life.

In a statement released through its website, the Brazilian bishops said that the virus "is no justification to defend abortion in cases of microcephaly, as, unfortunately, some groups are proposing to the Supreme Federal

court, in a total lack of respect to the gift of life."

On his weekly radio program, Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani of Peru remarked that U.N. official who recommended legal abortion in the case of Zika infection is a modern-day Herod "who thinks it's a good idea to decree an execution: let all pregnant women abort their babies because of a risk that hasn't even been conclusively shown. But in case of doubt, kill them all." He also condemned the inhumanity of the United Nations which "has not enacted a prevention campaign or financial assistance. This is truly a sickness of the soul." The Cardinal went on, "if I abolish the right to exist at the whim of some, I am committing the most impressive abuse in human history."

It is most outrageous to Latin Americans that the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights would make a declaration encouraging pro-abortion policies when a link between Zika and microcephaly has not yet been proven. Even the WHO and the CDC have publicly discredited any cause-effect relationship between the Zika virus and microcephaly. The CDC, in a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) released on January 22nd, made clear that a direct link between Zika and microcephaly is uncertain:

"The incidence of Zika virus infection in pregnant women is not currently known, and data on pregnant women infected with Zika virus are limited. No evidence exists to suggest that pregnant women are more susceptible to Zika virus

infection or experience more severe disease during pregnancy [...] in the current outbreak in Brazil, a marked increase in the number of infants born with microcephaly has been reported. However, it is not known how many of the cases of microcephaly are associated with the Zika virus infection."

Latin Americans have acted swiftly since the U.N., the WHO, IPPF, and virtually all abortion promoting organizations have prescribed the legalization of abortion on account of the Zika outbreak. Over 70,000 concerned citizens have signed a petition asking Margaret Chan not to allow the Zika outbreak to be used by abortion advocates to advance their ideology:

"As you know, the abortion lobby and some governments are promoting legislative reform to destroy the protection of life in the womb. Even if the link were true, taking the lives of these babies would only turn us into eugenicists."

Several citizen groups in El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Chile, and Brazil have also strongly opposed abortion proposals. "If the link between the Zika virus and microcephaly has not yet been confirmed, then what authority does a U.N. official have to recommend an end to the life of unborn children," asks Carlos Polo, the director of the Latin American office of the Population Research Institute. "What has become clear is that the U.N. and its officials do not respect Latin Americans. If, for the U.N., our children born with malformations should not exist, then we would rather live in a world where the U.N. does not exist."

Indiana Lawmakers Introduce Heartbeat Law

By Jonathan Abbamonte

Place your hand on your heart for a moment...a beating heart is a sign of life. Nothing could be more obvious. Yet the beating hearts of thousands of unborn children are stilled through abortion every day.

Since the beginning of time, whether someone is alive or dead has been determined based on the presence or absence of a heartbeat. A new bill introduced in the Indiana State Senate seeks to acknowledge these facts: It states that human life should be protected from the moment that a heartbeat can be detected.

As the Indiana General Assembly for the 2016 Session opened, State Senators Jim Banks and Scott Schneider introduced the Indiana Heartbeat Bill (S.B. 144). The bill would make abortion illegal when a heartbeat can be detected. The only exceptions allowed are cases where continuing the pregnancy would threaten the life of the mother or cause serious, long-lasting consequences for the physical health of the mother.

Says Senator Banks, author of S.B.144: “[This Heartbeat Bill] is an important step in reducing the number of abortions and will continue to make Indiana one of the most pro-life states in the country.”

To prevent abortionists from resorting to their usual tricks and exploiting loopholes, the Indiana Heartbeat Bill would require...

all abortionists to test for a fetal heartbeat before attempting to pro-

cure an abortion. Abortionists would be required to record test results as well as the method they used to detect a fetal heartbeat and the time and date of the test. They would also be required to determine the estimated gestational age of the “unborn human individual” and would have to communicate to the mother the statistical probability of carrying her child to term. Abortionists who fail to perform a fetal heartbeat test (except in cases where the mother’s life is in danger) would be liable to

quently cited study[2] published in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the official journal of the American College of Obstetricians, found only one-half of one percent of pregnancies with a fetal heartbeat at 9 weeks gestation resulted in miscarriage and fewer than 2% at 8 weeks gestation.

Another study found that less than 4% of clinically diagnosed threatened miscarriage pregnancies resulted in a miscarriage prior to 20 weeks after a heartbeat was detected between 6 and 14 weeks gestation.[3] The presence of a fetal heartbeat is a very strong indicator that a child will survive to birth.

These studies, among many others, call into question the Supreme Court’s flawed definition of viability at 24 weeks in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, and the flawed trimester analysis used in Roe v. Wade.

“A country whose founding documents guarantee its citizens the right to life should not be condemning hundreds of thousands of them to an untimely death,” says PRI President Steven Mosher.

The Indiana Heartbeat Bill could save thousands of lives every year, assuming that the best methods for early detection of fetal heartbeat are used. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on abortion incidence in the United States, 6,842 unborn lives (over six weeks gestation) were terminated in induced abortions in the state of Indiana in 2012.

Heartbeat Legislation by State, 2016



committing a Level 5 felony under the Indiana State Code.

Depending on the method used to detect a fetal heartbeat, the Indiana Heartbeat Bill could protect the unborn as early as six weeks gestation. Some methods, however, may not detect a heartbeat until several weeks later.

Researchers have found that approximately 97%[1] of pregnancies with a confirmed fetal heartbeat at 9 weeks gestation result in live birth. Among women with no symptoms of threatened miscarriage, one fre-

“It is time we stop looking at abortion like something we can manipulate and start reversing the mindset that murdering human life is somehow ok,” says Amy Schlichter who inspired the creation of the Indiana Heartbeat Bill, “The voice for children has momentum and is growing rapidly. Indiana will know that Hoosiers care about Hoosier babies.”

With the introduction of the Heartbeat Bill in the General Assembly, Indiana has become the 11th state to propose heartbeat legislation, and the 12th to propose that the unborn should be recognized as living persons or that such persons possess human rights when a heartbeat is present. If passed, S.B. 144 would make Indiana the third state to adopt heartbeat legislation.

“It is our role and duty as state legislators to introduce legislation in defense of life,” Senator Banks said.

According to Sen. Banks, even if the Heartbeat Bill does not pass the General Assembly in its current form, S.B. 144 and like legislation could serve as the impetus for advancing smaller steps in the protection of unborn life. “[Even] that would be a huge victory,” Banks remarked, “I look forward to the debate on how to reduce the number of abortions.”

Arkansas approved the nation’s first heartbeat bill in 2013 when both houses of the state’s legislature voted overwhelmingly to pass a law prohibiting abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected after 12 weeks gestation. Later that year, North Dakota passed a similar measure protecting the lives of the unborn as early as a heartbeat can be detected. The measure was signed into law by North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple.

Both the Arkansas and North Dakota heartbeat laws have been blocked by injunctions from the

Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals preventing them from taking effect. Late last year, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge and North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem petitioned the Supreme Court to lift the injunctions placed on the duly passed heartbeat laws of their respective States.

Last year, videos released by the Center for Medical Progress revealed to the world that organ and tissue harvesting are routinely conducted at many Planned Parenthood clinics across the country. In one video, Holly O’Donnell, an ex-Procurement Technician for Stem Express, LLC revealed that she had been instructed to harvest a brain from a fetus with a beating heart. Heartbeat legislation like S.B. 144 would have prevented later gestational age organ harvesting such as those seen in many of last year’s CMP videos.

“The passage of heartbeat bills at the state level is an important and necessary step towards the abolition of abortion in the United States,” says Steven Mosher. “It will force the Supreme Court to revisit its faulty Roe v. Wade decision as well as provide the scientific grounds for overturning it.”

You can take action here by signing PRI’s petition asking Congress to support heartbeat legislation and by signing Amy’s petition here to support S.B. 144.

[1] G. Makrydimas, N.J. Sebire, D. Lolis, N. Vlassis and K.H. Nicolaides, “Fetal loss following ultrasound diagnosis of a live fetus at 6–10 weeks of gestation,” *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* 22 (2003):368-372, doi: 10.1002/uog.204.

[2] Stephen Tong, Anupinder Kaur, Susan P. Walker, Valerie Bryant, Joseph L. Onwude, Michael Permezel, “Miscarriage risk for asymptomatic women after a normal first-trimester prenatal visit,” *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 111,

no. 3 (2008):710-714. See also G. Makrydimas, et al. (2003). Another study found that less than 2% of normal pregnancies resulted in spontaneous abortion; see T. Tongsong, J. Srisomboon, C. Wanapirak, S. Sirichotiyakul, S. Pongsatha, T. Polsrisuthikul, “Pregnancy outcome of threatened abortion with demonstrable fetal cardiac activity: a cohort study,” *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 21, no.4 (1995):331-335. Other studies have confirmed greater risk of miscarriage even with the presence of fetal heart beat for women 40 years of age or older (20% versus 3.8% in women aged 31-39); see K.E. Smith and R.P. Buyalos, “The profound impact of patient age on pregnancy outcome after early detection of fetal cardiac activity,” *Fertility and Sterility* 65, no. 1 (1996):35-40.

[3] Y. Tannirandorn, S. Sangsawang, S. Manotaya, B. Uerpaiojkit, P. Samritpradit, D. Charoenvidhya, “Fetal loss in threatened abortion after embryonic/fetal heart activity,” *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 81, no. 3 (2003):263-266, doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292\(03\)00076-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292(03)00076-6). See also Goldstein et al. which found that only 4% of clinically threatened abortions where a fetal heartbeat was detected resulted in miscarriage: Steven R. Goldstein, Bala R. Subramanyam, B. Nagesh Raghavendra, Steven C. Horii, Susan Hilton, “Subchoionic bleeding in threatened abortion: sonographic findings and significance,” *AJR* 141, no. 5 (1983):975-978. Over 90% (95.4% for women under the age 35) of pregnancies initiated by artificial insemination or embryo transfer among women seeking fertility treatment continued beyond 20 weeks after a fetal heartbeat was detected; see Schmidt-Sarosi C, Schwartz LB, Lublin J, Kaplan-Grazi D, Sarosi P, Perle MA, “Chromosomal analysis of early fetal losses in relation to transvaginal ultrasonographic detection of fetal heart motion after infertility,” *Fertility and Sterility* 69, no. 2 (1998):274-277.

PRI IN THE NEWS

Family Life International—

The Population Research Institute is co-sponsoring The Family Life International Conference taking place this May, in London. At the FLI Conference 2016, Steve Mosher will be addressing the eagerness of the radical environmentalists to co-opt the moral authority of the papacy in support of their pagan naturalism, but that's a misreading of the Pope's Encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

While saying that we should all be good stewards of creation (and who doesn't believe that?) he absolutely rejects the notion that people in their numbers are the problem. One of the ends of the extremists is to eliminate most of the people on the planet. Pope Francis takes the opposite position, namely, that human beings are part of the environment and, as such, are deserving of protection.

World Magazine

The Epoch Times—

When it was announced that China's one child policy would be changed to a two-child policy, Sarah Huang, a pro-life activist in China rejoiced at the news. She had been wanting to have a second child for many years. But a few weeks later, when her husband's employer found out that Sarah was pregnant with her second child, they told him that "abortion would be necessary and mandatory."

"I have had to risk fleeing to America in order to protect the baby in my womb," Sarah said in her testimony before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) this past December. Huang

testified from a remote location and was not present in the room at the hearing for fear that she would be seen or identified.

Huang called upon President Obama to denounce China's planned birth policy. In spite of the promises to roll back the one-child policy, women like Sarah across China are still feeling the brunt of the worst population control program the world has ever known.

According to Steven Mosher,, President of the Population Research Institute and world renown expert on China who witnessed the one-child policy first-hand, the Communist regime has not changed its policy on moral grounds.

"It's not the over 400 million abortions, or the hundreds of millions of young mothers forcibly aborted and sterilized over the past 35 years, or China's tens of millions of missing girls that they regret," Mosher said in his testimony before the CECC, "what keeps them up at night is the dawning realization that their misguided policy is crippling China's future economic growth."

Indeed, forced abortions will continue to be carried out on women who become pregnant without a permit, outside of wedlock, or with a third child.

In 2000, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act was passed, which requires that the Secretary of State deny travel visas to foreign nationals involved in forced abortions and forced sterilizations. Since then, both the Bush and the Obama administrations have failed to uphold the law. Mosher recommended to the CECC that Congress pass

legislation to hold family planning officials accountable and that anyone involved in forced abortions and sterilizations should be recognized as a criminal by the United States. "That will put the whole enterprise, the whole institution of population control in China, on notice that there will be consequences for hauling off 23-year-old mothers who are six months pregnant and forcing them to have an abortion," Mosher said. We at PRI hope that the next President of the United States will join us in condemning China's population control policy.

See the Sources: http://www.worldmag.com/2015/12/sarah_huang_asks_obama_for_help

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1913381-chinas-two-child-policy-coercive-population-control-continues/>

LifeSiteNews—A study recently published in Studies in Family Planning recommends that women in low and middle-income countries should receive postpartum contraceptive counseling before being discharged from the hospital. The goal of the study is to encourage women to use contraceptives as a way to space their children. The study found that "roughly 25% of inter-birth intervals (the elapsed length of time between births) in these countries are less than 24 months, resulting in risks of prematurity, low birth weight, and death." The Population Council conducted the study with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Agency for

Development Desk

Pass it On!

During this season of Lent, when we are looking for ways to help, almsgiving is one of the three pillars associated with growing in our holiness.

If you receive this newsletter then you have already given, and your gift helped us petition legislators in Washington DC; helped "illegal" mothers in China; and educated untold millions through PRI's web site, and our presence on You Tube, Facebook, and Twitter. As you can well imagine, this work requires a great deal of ongoing support.

But we know even if you already support PRI regularly, there's something more you can easily do: **Pass it On!**

Give your newsletter to a friend. Or, when you are out with friends, please tell them about the good work we do, and let them know about our web site: **www.pop.org**. If you receive our Weekly Briefing e-mail message, forward it to people you know who will value the information.

This will help more people learn about PRI, and God willing, they will offer generous financial support, as you have. So please, **Pass it On!**



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<https://www.facebook.com/PopResInst/?fref=ts>

"PRI in the News" Continued

International Development (USAID) The Population Council, originally founded by John D. Rockefeller III, is an organization that is known for promoting contraceptives in developing countries. Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute finds promoting contraceptives postpartum unacceptable. "These women, who have already gone through the pangs of childbirth, should not be subject to contraceptive indoctrination while they are in that state, and certainly not as a condition of discharge. This smacks of the kind of heavy-handed propaganda

techniques used in China and other countries."

See the Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/study-solve-new-mothers-problems-with-contraceptives-hormone-drugs>

Catholic Culture—

"Congratulations to National Public Radio for discovering what Steven Mosher has been telling the world for the past 35 years: that China's brutal "one-child" population policy led to flagrant and widespread human-rights abuses, including millions of forced abortions, and produced a demographically imbalanced

generation in which 30 million young Chinese bachelors can't find wives."

A failing economy, an aging population, and 30 million men who can't find wives are just three of the long-lasting consequences of China's one-child policy. And now, the two-child policy still denies families the right to decide the number of their children. According to Mosher, third pregnancies will still be forcibly terminated, forced sterilizations will still occur, and the communist party may even go so far as to force pregnancy and childbirth should the country's economy fail to improve as expected.

See the Source: <https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/the-city-gates.cfm?id=1227>

Correspondence

Dear Mr. Mosher,

I recently came across your book *A Mother's Ordeal* in our convent library and I couldn't put it down! Thank you for helping the Wei Family escape the one-child policy. Their story is absolutely heart-breaking, even though they had a happy ending. So many families broken, women butchered, children murdered!

I am writing not just to tell you how moving your book was, but also to ask for something. Can you tell me what has happened to the Wei family since they were granted asylum? I am anxious to know how their family has grown and whether they are all doing well.

Also, the news has gone around that China is finally loosening up on the one-child policy. Is this true? I'm rather skeptical, honestly. Are changes really happening in urban and rural China, or is it rather a show? You may not have this information, but it seems that if anyone does know what's going on, it would be you.

Thank you again for your book!

In Christ,

Sr. Mary of the Incarnate Word

Dear Sr. Mary,

The family lives in the southwestern United States—I don't want to be more specific because the Chinese authorities may read this—and have adjusted well to life in America. Because of the way that she was brutalized in the past, chi An was not able to have any more children, but both their son and their daughter have been a great joy to her. They are active members of their parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Steven Mosher

Hi Jonathan,

My name is Mihaela and I am a social and pro-life activist from Romania.

My work involves educating young people about abortion and its consequences. As part of this, I would like to show for free in the schools and churches the documentary series that PRI has created entitled, "Overpopulation." The problem is that the movie doesn't have Romanian subtitles and the projection will be in a rural region where not everyone knows English.

As a result, I'm writing to you in the hope that you can provide us with the following: (1) The actual .avi/.mpg file for the documentary in English, (2) The English transcript (if available) to ease our translation work.

Best wishes,

Mihaela

Mihaela

Not a problem. I have provided links to the video files for you in your dropbox. We are working on getting transcripts to you. We will have them to you shortly after Christmas. Let me know how the videos worked out. Were you able to show them at your event?

Best,

Jonathan

Hi Jonathan!

We were able to do showings of these videos in churches. We conduct a series of small events, with audiences ranging from 10-50 people. We had two events, and we have planned a few more in the coming months. In March, we have the Month for Life, dedicated to pro-life activities, it will be a more busy period. We are working hard in that direction.

Thank you so much,

Mihaela

Dear Steven Mosher,

St. Lucia was on the itinerary for our cruise in the Caribbean when I received the information in the National Catholic Register about the Caribbean Family Center being started on St. Lucia.

As a longtime supporters of PRI (after meeting Fr. Paul Marx in the mid 1990's), my husband and I wanted to take this opportunity to see your work "up close." I was so happy to meet Sarah, Caroline, Melissa, and Lisa! What generous volunteers they are! They showed me the donated building being transformed into the CARIFAM Center. They also drove me by the dreary Planned Parenthood building with the sign, "November. 20% off all services."

The new center to help mothers and families in need is so important! Although we donate automatically each month, I want to help this initiative with our enclosed donation.

I mentioned PRI and your website at the Sunday Mass on board the ship. I was sorry I didn't have a hand out to share with others on the cruise. I would hope that those of us who enjoy the beautiful scenery and climate would help the local people in need.

I'm writing a story for our local newspaper. Maybe we can stir up some new interest in your apostolate protecting life. I enclose what I submitted. I also have pictures and will e-mail them to PRI.

God bless all of you, especially in this season when our Lord came to us as a baby!

In Christ,

Mrs. Deborah Bloomfield