Breathing Life into a Culture of Death
By Michele Mason, 40 Days for Life CSPGS Coordinator

The phrase “breath of life” took on a whole new meaning when, at seven months pregnant, I found out our preborn son may or may not be able to breathe once he was born. In that darkened ultrasound room, I was told that Luke had Congenital Cystic Adenomatoid Malformation, or cysts, in one of his lungs. The doctor told me that Luke may survive birth, or he might die when he was born. I needed to prepare for the worst. I called my husband in tears to tell him the heartbreaking news.

Those final two months of pregnancy were very difficult, not physically, but emotionally. Seeing mothers with newborn babies put me into depression, knowing that my Luke might not survive. As a mother who had given birth seven times previously, my focus on my preborn babies had always been, “Hurry up and grow so you can be born.” For the first time in pregnancy, I did not want my preborn child to hurry up and be born. I wanted Luke to stay in the womb... in the safest place he would ever be.

This difficult time was a blessing in disguise though, for God developed in us a deep love for preborn children that we had only had a glimpse of before. We experienced how precious life was on a whole new level, since we knew it could be gone in a heartbeat.

On Aug. 9, 2006, Luke was born. As he let out a strong cry, we cried with him. Luke’s cry was the most beautiful sound I had ever heard before or have heard since. The medical staff – ready for the worst – rushed Luke to NICU, put him in an oxygen tent, and monitored him closely.

Luke had surgery the next morning, at one day old, to remove 2/3 of his right lung. In surgery, the laparoscopic equipment malfunctioned resulting in massive blood loss. The surgeon had to do CPR to revive our little baby.

Praise be to God that Luke pulled through! Luke went through some difficult times in his early years, but he is now 13 years old and is a healthy, kind, and energetic boy. His right lung has grown back.

I tell the story of Luke and his miraculous breath of life because the culture we live in today is in dire need of that breath of life. We need that breath of renewal, in our own lives, in the lives of our families, and in the world.

I can see this breath of life happening within the 40 Days for Life movement, as people who participate are drawn closer to God. The fruits of the Spirit are seen all over the world. We hear stories of women who have been helped to choose life, women and men who have received healing from past abortions, and abortion workers who have quit working in a place of murder and death.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful movement of prayer and outreach. Once again, Colorado Springs will have a 24/7 vigil this fall: Sept. 25 - Nov. 3.

I challenge you to make a difference in our fallen world and sign up for hours to pray at the sidewalk. I call on our faithful Knights at Night (Knights of Columbus and other faithful men) to sign up for nighttime hours. Babies have been saved in the middle of the night, as Jim Ball, the 40 Days leader in Green Bay, WI, has experienced.

Do not underestimate the powerful witness of a person praying at the sidewalk. Here is what one woman shared with 40 Days for Life volunteers: “Because you were out here with your sign, I changed my mind. Here is the result, my beautiful little girl.”

I call on those of you who have participated before to invite at least one new person who has never been to the sidewalk before to pray with you this fall. We can double our efforts that easily! Let us all be the voice for the voiceless and be the witness in which the Holy Spirit can breathe life into the culture of death.

Find out more and sign up for vigil hours at the newly updated website: www.40daysforlife.com/coloradosprings or download the 40 Days for Life app. Contact Michele Mason at prolifefamilyof15@gmail.com or 719-659-2097.

As you read this newsletter we are one week into the largest 40 Days for Life Campaign EVER. Over 500 cities around the world are participating and you can too. To sign up for hours, go to www.40daysforlife.com/coloradosprings, AND also mark your calendar for the mid-point rally and closing celebration.

The mid-point rally Saturday, October 19, from 4:30-6:30pm will be hosted by Save the Storks in their beautiful auditorium at 4050 Lee Vance View, COS, 80918. The rally will feature a special screening of Unplanned and testimonies by those impacted by Save the Storks lifesaving work.

The closing celebration Sunday, November 3rd at 1pm will be at Life Network’s Westside Pregnancy Center (3925 Centennial Blvd) featuring a baby shower, tours of the center, and prayer. These are always powerfully inspiring events so we encourage you to be there if you can.
The President’s Corner

Summer 2019 is ending with some significant pro-life victories, nationally and locally.

President Donald Trump’s “Protect Life Rule,” successfully surviving court challenges, has modified Title X rules such that federal family planning funds must be separated from any sort of abortion operations or referrals. As a result of those successful pro-life court victories, Planned Parenthood, choosing to continue promoting abortion, has proceeded to drop out of the Title X program, forfeiting approximately $60 million in taxpayer funds.

Furthermore, Washington State pulled out of Title X “rather than enforce the new rules,” and two Planned Parenthood facilities in Ohio are closing at least partially due to Planned Parenthood’s exit from Title X.

Additionally, a former Planned Parenthood director and PP Employee of the Year recipient won a $3 million court award against Planned Parenthood after they dismissed her when she reported illegal conduct and medical malfeasance at PP facilities.

Locally the showing of the new “Unplanned” movie brought forward new volunteers for activities such as 40 Days for Life and the Sidewalk Advocates, ministries that are physically present in front of our local Planned Parenthood abortion facility.

We also have had many volunteers step forward to help us with our numerous educational booths at the county and state fairs, at both local malls, and at several other events including the new StorkFest event that was held at the end of August.

We hope to make autumn successful as well with the Roses for Life (thru October), the Life Chain (Oct. 6) and the fall 40 Days for life vigil.

Help us continue building a culture of life by participating in as many of these events as you can. Thank you for defending life!

Matt

Choose Life, Colorado!

T-Shirts & Stickers to Match Billboard Campaign

PPCFL’s Choose Life, Colorado campaign is up and running with seven billboards and matching stickers, T-shirts, and print advertisements. Pick up a FREE “Billboard” Sticker at the Life Chain Oct 6th or PPCFL Chapel Hills Mall Booth: 12 Oct. We also have a LIMITED NUMBER of T-Shirts available (for a modest donation).

Additionally, our fall 2019 radio ads are reminding Colorado listeners that pre-born children and the elderly are “One of Us.” The radio campaign began in September and runs through October.
**Centura Health’s Religious Freedom on Trial in Colorado Assisted Suicide Lawsuit**

It was only a matter of time. Centura Health, which is jointly run by the Catholic and Seventh-day Adventist churches, is under fire for refusal to participate in patient homicide under Colorado’s Assisted Suicide law.

Dr. Barbara Morris joined her patient Neil Mahoney in suing Centura for the right to prescribe lethal medication – in direct violation of the hospital’s policies affirming the dignity of human life. The suit alleges that hospital policy barring doctors from participating in assisted suicide violates state law.

However Centura disagrees stating: “Morris signed an employment agreement with Centura Health-St. Anthony Hospital [Lakewood, CO] in 2017, “she expressly agreed that she would not provide any services ‘that are in violation of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.’”

Centura determined that Morris’ lawsuit and stated intention to prescribe lethal medications to Mahoney for the purpose of suicide constituted a breach in her agreement, thereby terminating her employment.

According to CNA, Mahoney, “first asked about assisted suicide at Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers the day he was told his cancer was incurable; his physician there said neither he nor anyone else at RMCC would provide assisted suicide.”

Mahoney then asked his primary physician at Centura, Dr. Barbara Morris, who initially recommended he transfer care to another provider.

”Mahoney then inquired with another provider, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, who said that to obtain assisted suicide he would have to transfer his care and have his condition re-evaluated.”

According to the AP report, “Neil does not want to transfer his care to a different facility and endure additional testing,” and likes the convenience of CHPG, which is close to his home.”

So Mr. Mahoney and Dr. Morris are suing the hospital system that has a religious objection to killing him. And Dr. Morris is “shellshocked” at being fired saying, “it seemed so obvious that they can’t do it.” Well, welcome to upside down world of doctors suing for the right to kill patients.

Ref: CNA "Suit challenges religious liberty of Catholic hospitals over assisted suicide" 6 Sept 19

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**Summit Ministries Presents: Life Training Institute**

**Oct 24th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. – Live in Manitou & On Demand**

**What is your role in promoting life?**

The Summit Basecamp is a series that equips adults with a deeper understanding of apologetics and biblical worldview to effectively walk alongside students in a post-Christian culture. Each three-hour Basecamp event explores a different relevant topic with speakers who are experts in that area. **This FREE pro-life event will equip attendees to think critically about the ethics of abortion and questions regarding beginning and end of life issues and technologies that directly impact our communities.** When we think critically about hard issues we can connect with students to help move them beyond what they feel is right and on to pursue biblical truth.

Speakers: Scott Klusendorf & Megan Almon from Life Training Institute (Watch preview videos at [https://www.summit.org/programs/basecamp/](https://www.summit.org/programs/basecamp/))

Even though the event is free, Summit Ministries asks that each individual register since seats are limited! Register at summit.org ([link to attend in-person](https://www.summit.org/programs/basecamp/) or [link to watch online/later](https://www.summit.org/programs/basecamp/).

Contact Heather Sewell at heather.sewell@summit.org or (502) 565-8756 if you have any questions.

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**A Caring Pregnancy Center 35 Year Celebration Gala**

**Friday, November 8**

**Pueblo Convention Center**

Guest Speaker: Abby Johnson, Founder of And Then There Were None and author of Unplanned.

For information or to register for the event visit: [acpcpueblo.org](http://acpcpueblo.org) or email: [puebloacpc@gmail.com](mailto:puebloacpc@gmail.com)

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**Stork Fest Recap**

By all accounts, Stork Fest, held on the grounds of Glen Eyrie Castle Aug. 31st was an unqualified success.

According to Luke Vercollone, Community Outreach Coordinator for Save the Storks, the goal was to bring the local community together to celebrate life with a plethora of fun, family-oriented activities.

The event certainly achieved that goal, as over 3000 people attended and enjoyed the day!

Pikes Peak Citizens for Life hosted an information booth during the event which enabled President Matt Niedzielski to have many great conversations, sharing about our mission and signing folks up to help spread the message of life.

Event proceeds benefitted not only Save the Storks (which produces mobile ultrasound units for use by pregnancy help centers around the country) but also Life Network, 40 Days for Life, Life Runners, and Pikes Peak Citizens for Life.

We are grateful to Save the Storks for sponsoring such a smashing pro-life event to celebrate the end of a great pro-life summer!
STAND FOR LIFE at the
PIKES PEAK LIFE CHAIN

Sunday OCTOBER 6, 2019
“Choose Life, Colorado” T-Shirts Available!
FREE SIGNS provided.
Life Chain is a peaceful public witness of pro-life individuals praying for our nation and for an end to abortion.
A visual statement of solidarity acknowledging that abortion kills children; and we support the sanctity of human life.

COLO SPRINGS – Austin Bluffs at Academy Blvd
PLEASE PARK at Rocky Mtn Calvary or near TCF Bank – NOT at open businesses (Old Chicago, etc.) Signs at both.

MONUMENT Tri-Lakes Life Chain – Highway 105
Signs: At Safeway parking lot
OR Bustang lot East of I-25 on Woodmoor Drive.

More Info: Linda Kracht at newlifeinhim.jesus@gmail.com or Stephanie Kemp at stephaniekemp@gmail.com

Support Roses for Life
During National Respect Life Month (October) PPCFL volunteers carry red roses to people across Colorado Springs as part of PPCFL’s Roses for Life project – to remind our local citizens to CELEBRATE LIFE!
The annual Roses for Life fundraiser helps PPCFL provide life-affirming presentations and educational booths, and sponsor pro-life advertisements. Please encourage your pro-life friends to support this vital work... FOR LIFE!

Life Network Fundraising Gala
A Two Night Event at Hotel Elegante!

Bishop’s Respect Life Dinner
Tuesday, October 24th – The Broadmoor Hall
Keynote: The Sisters of Life – Women who give their lives in service to the Truth that every person is valuable and sacred and every person’s life has deep meaning, purpose and worth. Info: 719-866-6460 or www.diocs.org

More Upcoming Pro-Life Events...
OCT 19 40 Days’ Mid-Point Rally – Details on pg 1!
OCT 24 Pro-Life Summit Event – Details on pg. 3!
NOV 8 Caring Pregnancy Center Gala – Details on pg 3!

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