



CONNECTOR

Genuine? FALSE? TRUE?

FACT?

not true?

Authentic?

FAKE?

Real?

Romney's Conversion on Abortion—Is it Authentic?

By J.C. Willke, MD

The conversion of a political candidate prior to an election is naturally met with questions and even skepticism. Mitt Romney has been no exception. It has led even the casual observer to say, "Is this authentic?"

In History

To fully understand why this can be true, we must first review some history. Pro-life conversions have happened in the past at the highest levels of politics. Central to this was President H. W. Bush. As a vice presidential candidate, George Bush changed his position from pro-abortion to pro-life after a lengthy meeting with me.

My relationship with George H. W. Bush, who was to eventually become president, began in August 1980. Mr. Bush and Ronald Reagan had run against each other in the Republican primary. Reagan won that race and was nominated for president at the Republican National Convention in Detroit. During the primary campaign, it was evident the two men did not see eye-to-eye on several issues. Most of us had the distinct impression that while Ronald Reagan was quite pro-life, George Bush was not.

At the convention, Reagan—prob-

ably for political reasons—chose George H. W. Bush as his vice presidential running mate. This came as quite a surprise to us, and immediately presented a problem. I had just been elected president of the National Right to Life Committee. We very much wanted to have our people support the Reagan ticket, but now it was complicated because his running mate seemed to be pro-abortion. I decided to see what I could do to change the situation.

On the last day of the convention, I took an elevator in the Pontchartrain Hotel up to the 14th floor, which was Republican headquarters, and knocked on the door. I explained who I was and asked to talk to Mr. Bush. The young lady answering the door seemed somewhat taken aback as I explained that this was important for the upcoming election.

A few minutes later she came back and said, "Mr. Casey will be seeing you." Bill Casey later became head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and I would become well acquainted with him. We sat and talked for a bit. Mr. Casey was quite sympathetic to our issue, and said that he would arrange for me to meet Mr. Bush.

After about 30 minutes, I was ushered into what obviously had been a committee meeting room. The smoke still hung

heavy, and there were a number of folding tables, some with empty drink glasses and cups. Mr. Bush got up from his chair and came over, shook my hand, and we sat down alone in the room. I explained who I was and that we supported Ronald Reagan's pro-life stand. We wanted to support the ticket, but there seemed to be some real question about his position on our issue. Due to that uncertainty, I didn't know whether pro-life people would support the ticket.

Mr. Bush thanked me for my straightforward comments and said, "Let me tell you where I stand." I held up my hand, interrupted and said, "Please don't. I think perhaps if I could brief you on this entire issue, then you could think this over and I might possibly change some of your thinking. I would like to give you a professional briefing."

Mr. Bush relaxed, sat back, smiled and said, "I think that is a good idea, Doctor." He fished for his business card and said, "We are all taking some time off now, but when we get back to Washington, call. I'll have (he mentioned her name) set you up with an appointment." I said, "I would like to be very respectful here, sir, but that won't be sufficient." "Oh," he looked at me. "To do this right would take

the better part of three or four hours and that is what I'd like to request from you." He almost swallowed his teeth. "Four hours?" I interrupted and said, "Of course I would like to change your opinion and make you pro-life. I am probably not going to do that. But if I can report in our *National Right to Life News* that you were so interested in this issue and so respectful of it that you gave me this kind of time, that is going to make a profound impression on our people." He sat back, mulling this over for a bit. Then he said, "You're pretty convincing."

He paused again, then said, "Okay . . . look, I am going back to Kennebunkport, which is our home in Maine, umm . . . let me carve out a time up there and umm . . . here is the person you want to talk to, we'll set you up there for a morning meeting. Will you come alone?" I said, "I would probably bring one lady with me." "That's fine," he said, "I will have one of my aides with me. We will meet at my home." "Fine, Mr. Bush, we'll meet in the morning. My presentation will be medical and scientific with moral overtones. Would you mind then, perhaps after lunch, if I could bring a few other more political people with me? Then we could discuss the campaign." Another long pause and he said, "All right, let's do it."

Several weeks later, I found myself entering the Bush home with my Political Action Committee director, Sandra Faucher. I had brought my trusty Kodak carousel

projector and some literature. It was a very pleasant day, which I have never forgotten. The house was on a small peninsula extending into the ocean, and on a bit of a rise. The French doors and windows were all open with a gentle ocean breeze wafting through. Barbara Bush was very gracious, serving iced tea and some snacks. I set my projector on a small coffee table. Mr. Bush was on one side and I on the other. The aide provided a screen and the briefing began. For about three hours, I would speak, then flip on a slide, then speak some more. Mr. Bush would question. I would answer. His aide spoke occasionally, as did Sandy, but basically it was a dialogue between the two of us.

Barbara Bush sat about 10 or 15 feet away, knitting. She only spoke once, asking "Well, what if the life of the mother is in danger?" I answered. She seemed to be satisfied and went back to her knitting.

Lunch was served and then the other pro-life leaders joined us. For another two hours that afternoon we all discussed the campaign. When it was time to go, I said, "Well Mr. Bush, back in Detroit you offered to tell me where you stand. Now I am going to ask you, would you be so kind as to answer?" He smiled, looking at me with an "Okay you did it" sort of look. He said, "I wasn't here before, but I am now. I will support an amendment to the Constitution to forbid abortion and to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, but it will be a states' rights amendment. I can't support a federal amendment."

When we publicized this news, the pro-life movement

strongly supported the Reagan-Bush ticket and the rest is history.

As of June 1988, Reagan and Bush had served two terms, a total of eight years. I was in the White House with some frequency during those years. Sometimes I met with President Reagan, sometimes with Vice President Bush, and occasionally both. My acquaintance with Mr. Bush grew during those years, and we worked together on several things.

After the Reagan administration, it was a pleasant four years with George H. W. Bush in the White House. We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got the important things. Every time we asked him to threaten a veto, he did. While we are still not sure that this good man is completely pro-life in his heart, he certainly was pro-life in his actions. He was a man of his word.

What does this mean for Romney?

As this is written, Barack Obama has proven to be the most pro-abortion president of modern times and he is now seeking a second term. Former Massachusetts Governor, Mitt Romney, is the presumptive nominee for the Republican Presidential slot in November. Naturally, some have questioned his pro-life credentials and convictions so let's examine the details of Governor Romney's conversion.

When he was first elected Governor of Massachusetts, it was generally presumed that his position was "pro-choice." However, about half way into his first term as governor in 2005, Romney announced that he was opposed to embryonic stem cell research and proceeded to veto a bill making the "Morning After," plan B contraceptive pills available. In the same year, he declared that he was pro-life.

Governor Romney tells us that he changed his mind in November 2004. At that time, he was obviously searching and had questions. He met with Douglas A. Melton, PhD, a scientist from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute on November 9. In that interview the Governor said this researcher told him, "Look, you don't have to think about this stem cell research as a moral issue because we kill the embryos after



fourteen days.” This had a major impact on Romney and his chief of staff, as they saw it recognizing that such embryonic stem cell research in fact was killing what they were convinced were human lives already in existence. Later, through a spokesperson, Dr. Melton disputed that he used the word “kill.”

But Governor Romney, wanting to know more, consulted with one of the best people available in February 2005. This expert was William B. Hurlbut, a physician and professor at Stanford University Medical Center Neuroscience Institute. Dr. Hurlbut is a dedicated pro-lifer.

The two of them met for several hours, discussing the issue in great detail. They went through the dynamics of conception, embryonic development and repercussions of the various research and experimentation that has been going on aimed at exploring the first weeks after fertilization. At that point, Romney was under intense pressure to change a state law that, at the time, still protected human embryos from lethal stem cell research. Some of the pressure came from Harvard, his own alma-mater. After this in-depth consultation, Romney stated that he was pro-life.

Asked about their meeting by columnist Kathleen Parker, Dr. Hurlbut said, “Several things about our conversation still stand out strongly in my mind. First, he clearly recognized the significance of the

issue, not just as a current controversy, but as a matter that would define the character of our culture way into the future. Second, it was obvious that he had put in a real effort to understand both the scientific prospects and the broader social implications. Finally, I was impressed by both his clarity of mind and sincerity of heart. He recog-

nized that this was not a matter of purely abstract theory or merely pragmatic governance, but a crucial moment in how we are to regard nascent human life and the broader meaning of medicine in the service of life.”

Similar to my time with President H. W. Bush, Dr. Hurlbut presented Governor Romney with sound scientific

and medical information. The Governor responded by changing his position to support the protection of innocent human life from the point of fertilization. He declared himself pro-life and has repeatedly done so since that time.


For over twenty years, Life Issues Institute has been solely dedicated to pro-life education. It has been my primary contribution to the pro-life movement since the 1960s. Our strength comes from the central fact that we are daily changing the hearts and minds of Americans on abortion. And our efforts have greatly been assisted by

organization should rejoice when anyone—political or otherwise—responds to the unmistakable fact that human life begins at fertilization and that it should be protected.

Life Issues Institute and I are confident that Governor Romney’s conversion is real, heartfelt and authentic. Since the Institute is a 501(c)(3) organization, we

“Life Issues Institute and I are confident that Governor Romney’s conversion is real, heartfelt and authentic.”

- J.C. Willke, MD

cannot endorse a political candidate. As such, this article should not be construed as an endorsement of Governor Romney’s candidacy but rather a testament to the fact that we believe Mitt Romney is truly pro-life. 



science. The tool of ultrasound has resulted in an entire generation having their first baby picture taken within the womb, and it’s greatly impacted people’s opinion on abortion. Every pro-life individual and



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 Designer Kevin Shelton
 The official quarterly publication of Life Issues Institute.
 Vol. 21 Number 1 Subscription \$25.
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LIFE AT ALL COSTS



EDITED BY DR. ALVEDA KING AND DR. LAVERNE TOIBERT

There is no doubt that abortionists have set their sights on the Black community. Here are the staggering facts:

- *Abortion is the number one killer of African-Americans, as revealed by CDC statistics.*
- *Deaths from abortion outnumber all other forms of death combined in the Black community.*
- *It is estimated that over 15 million unborn Black babies have fallen victim to this genocide within the womb.*

As the abortion industry's agenda continues to prey on minority communities, pro-life voices are sounding the alarm with a new tool that shines a light into the deceptive darkness and promotes a culture of life.

The National Black ProLife Coalition has recently released a new book entitled, *Life At All Costs: An Anthology of Voices from 21st Century Black ProLife Leaders*. This collection of articles, essays,

sermons and research papers is a literal call-to-action from Black pro-life leaders. With brief, yet highly impactful chapters, it is easy to read while still providing a resonating message that speaks to both the heart and mind.

Each chapter addresses a different perspective of the Black pro-life movement from the history of activism to legislation and personal stories. A variety of authors, including ministers, post-abortive women, physicians and political activists contributed to this compilation, giving readers a comprehensive overview of the issue.

Reverend Arnold Culbreath, Director of Urban Outreach with Life Issues Institute, is one of the founding members of the National Black ProLife Coalition. Rev. Culbreath wrote a chapter on a timely issue called, *Influencing the NAACP Towards Life*. The NAACP's present alignment with Planned Parenthood creates a crisis of misleading messages, falsely insinuating that abortion is a "right." It is essential to proclaim the truth, warning that abortion is murder and challenge the NAACP to take a stand in protecting a baby's right to life.

LIFE AT ALL COSTS

AN ANTHOLOGY OF VOICES FROM 21ST CENTURY BLACK PROLIFE LEADERS



Co-editor, Dr. Alveda King, feels that *Life At All Costs* will make a difference, saying, "It is our hope that convictions are challenged, minds are changed, hearts are healed and pro-life passions are refueled."

Life At All Costs is available in hardback, paperback or e-book and can be purchased directly from the publisher, Xlibris at this direct link: <http://bit.ly/LyyLs1>.

Artwork created by TheRadianceFoundation.org



Scan the QR Code to purchase your copy of *Life At All Costs*



Life Issues Institute invites you and your family to our first annual...

Family Fun Day Picnic
Sunday Afternoon—September 16th

More information to follow.

Save the Date!



Protecting Black Life Goes to Trinidad and Tobago

By: Arnold M. Culbreath, Director of Urban Outreach

Recently, I had the privilege of traveling to Trinidad and Tobago, to serve as one of the speakers at the first regional *Stabilizing the Family* Caribbean Conference, co-sponsored by The World Congress of Families and the Elpis Center. Held at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, I participated at the invitation of my dear friend Rebekah Ali-Gouveia. She's not only a passionate pro-life attorney, but is also the Founder and Director of The Elpis Center, a Pregnancy and Family Resource Center in the Freeport section of Trinidad and Tobago.

Although the killing of innocent pre-born babies is still illegal in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, unfortunately it still occurs. Caribbean champions for life, like Rebekah, are working very hard to maintain a culture of life amidst the abortion industry's persistent push to persuade this Caribbean country into embracing a culture of death. Thankfully, many of our Trinidadian and Tobagonian sisters and brothers realize that if they embrace the abortion industry's deadly agenda, many of the surrounding Caribbean islands will likely follow their lead.

During my conference session, I spoke on the topic of *Protecting Black Life — Did You Know?* As is frequently the case in the US, these Caribbean conferees were unaware that abortion remains the leading cause of death among African Americans. They were shocked to discover this devastating dilemma. Like most who hear this tragic truth, they wanted to know what they could do about it, so we eagerly equipped them with practical ways to address this issue. Not only did I help them to understand where we are in the African American community regarding life and how we got here, but I also reminded

them that they don't have to end up where we are. I encouraged them to continue to choose life as a nation and urged them to be ever-mindful that it doesn't happen by remaining on the sidelines. They have to become involved and stay involved if a culture of life is to remain the norm in Trinidad and Tobago.

I also had the privilege of being one of the co-panelists in the Friday evening youth forum. It was exhilarating to look into the beautiful brown faces and speak into the destiny-filled lives of over 200 Caribbean youth and young adults.

and excitement to receive and wear our brightly colored black, green, red and yellow Protecting Black Life wristbands.

During our visit, I had the opportunity to attend a reception for the conference speakers, hosted by the government office of the Ministry of The People and Social Development. We seized the opportunity to help the leadership and staff understand the urgency of the hour in which they stand. It is our hope that they will maintain their life-affirming position and neither cave under the coercion, nor compromise for the sake of cash offered by the abortion industry.

It was a tremendous honor to meet Pastor Anthony Oliver (a board member of the Elpis Center) and Mrs. Sharon Oliver, and to be granted the privilege of preaching and playing my saxophone at the Westside Community Church. What a blessing to speak to such a diverse and passionate congregation. Pastor Anthony has expressed an interest in coordinating an opportunity for me to educate, motivate and activate pastors and leaders in Trinidad and Tobago via Skype, with the possibility of returning there in the future.

Please join me in praying for Rebekah and the Elpis Center, as well as Pastor and Mrs. Oliver and the Westside Community Church as they solidly stand for life in the Caribbean. Your continued prayers and financial support of our ongoing efforts to educate, equip and strengthen those across our nation and throughout the nations is greatly appreciated. 🌹

Protecting Black Life is an outreach project of Life Issues Institute.



I informed them that they don't have to become part of the negative statistics. They can choose to keep themselves sexually pure until marriage. I encouraged them to intentionally walk in relationships of accountability with their parents, youth leaders and with one another. It was priceless to see their hunger for our affirmation



WHERE IS THE NEXT GENERATION?

By: Heather Gims, Director of Communications

Ironically, the very same pro-abortion activists who have promoted the killing of innocent lives for decades are now wondering, “Where are the pro-choice advocates for the next generation?”

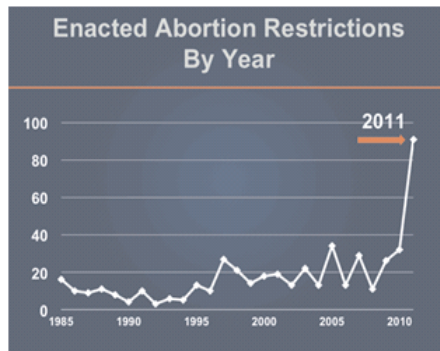
It seems that the countless voices they chose to silence during the past 40 years are now coming back to haunt them. As the pro-life movement continues to maintain vigilance, say yes to life for their children and pass on pro-life values to them, pro-abortion advocates are finding their numbers falling, not only in presence, but in passion.

Recently, Nancy Keenan announced that she would step down as President of NARAL. After serving for over eight years as a leader and spokesperson for one of the most prominent and long-standing pro-abortion organizations, why is Keenan making the decision to resign? “There is an intensity gap between our side, being pro-choice, and the other side,” she stated.

Remarkably, in the midst of their unending quest for so-called “women’s rights,” the pro-abortion movement has found its momentum not only stagnating but diminishing. The messages proclaimed in the active movements of the 1970s are no longer resonating with the 18 - 34 year-old Millennial generation. (The irony of this is not lost; as one must wonder how many Millennials would be living members of society today if it weren’t for *Roe v. Wade*.) Attempts to attract this demographic have been strikingly unconvincing. In fact, in 2010 NARAL’s very own research found 51 percent of pro-life voters under 30 calling abortion a “very important” issue, compared with only 26 percent of the same

group among abortion supporters. Clearly, the next generation is speaking up that their choice is life.

Now, we are at a pivotal time in history in our fight to preserve life. The road of death that was paved by *Roe v. Wade* has demonstrated the desperate need for us to stand up for the most basic human right, the right to live. The pro-life response is beginning to overwhelm our rivals.



Source: Guttmacher Institute

Consider:

More abortion protections (including waiting periods, required ultrasounds and clinic regulations) were enacted in 2011 than in any year since *Roe v. Wade*.

Participation in pro-life events is reaching historic highs. At the first-ever March for Life event in Rome, Italy, 15,000 were in attendance, which was over three times as many as expected. In Ottawa, Ontario nearly 20,000 pro-lifers attended the March for Life, dwarfing the protestors for the opposition by ten to one.

A 2010 Gallup Poll revealed Americans aged 18-29 were trending more pro-life. The percentage of those who think

abortion should be legal in all circumstances fell from a high of 36 percent in the early 1990s to match its lowest all-time level of 24 percent.

The pro-abortion movement desperately needs to attract the next generation to continue their assault against life in the womb. Now 60, Keenan admits that is what caused her to step down. In response to the annual March for Life in Washington DC, she said, “I just thought, my gosh, they are so young. There are so many of them and they are so young.”

Instead, she hopes her departure makes way for a new, younger executive to emerge. Keenan implored to her audience, “*Roe v. Wade* is 40 in January. It’s time for a new leader to come in and, basically, be the person for the next 40 years of protecting reproductive choice.”

With the *Roe v. Wade* 40th anniversary approaching, the pro-abortion army is planning a new attack, investing substantial funds into campaigns aimed at our youth. Armed with their propaganda machine and an accommodating media, they seek to indoctrinate a new generation. We simply cannot let this happen.

It is crucial that we maintain in our diligence to educate and empower these young people with factual resources that prove life begins at fertilization. As we begin to grow and strengthen a new era of leaders, may they be able to witness the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and raise their own children in a society where a mother’s womb is once again the safest place for a child to be. 🌀



Another Wave of Death from Pandora's Box

During 1973, the US Supreme Court opened the flood gates—or perhaps I should say *blood gates*—of abortion for any reason throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy. The later development of Partial-Birth abortion further obscured the line between life and death by making it possible to kill a baby during delivery. This expanded the window of opportunity to kill.

Now some are openly advocating killing newborn babies who manage an end-run around the abortion chamber. Two individuals affiliated with Australian universities, Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva, both PhDs, unveiled an appalling agenda to expand the window of death even further. They gained prestige and notoriety after being published in, of all things, the *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

Their article is entitled *After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?* I'm not sure which is more shocking—what they're advocating or how boldly and crassly they advocate it. The authors actually coined the phrase “after-birth abortion (killing a newborn).” They don't use the term euthanasia because they readily admit that the killing is not always serving the best interests of the victim, something they claim is always the case with euthanasia.

Giubilini and Minerva say that having a baby can be “an unbearable burden” because it might cause stress, economic or otherwise, for the mother or her family. What opens the door for this latest attack on innocent human life? Abortion. And I quote the words of these two advocates, “We claim that killing a newborn could be ethically permissible in all the circumstances where abortion would be.” Once society declares open season on human life like they did in 1973, there's no containing its lethal spread.

At the core of their reasoning is the tragically warped notion that newborns aren't “actual people.” They're “merely potential persons” because they aren't cognitively aware of what they'd be missing had they been allowed to live. The authors wrote, “Merely being human is not in itself a reason for ascribing someone a right to life.” Chilling isn't it? But in fairness to them, they cite prime examples already accepted by society: embryonic stem cell research and abortion. We could also add physician-assisted suicide. Of course this doesn't justify the killing, but it bolsters their case with the PhD crowd.

Further, these “ethicists” give no time frame at which a born person gains this awareness and deserves to live. It's an open-ended death sentence that would be carried out at whim by the parents and physician.

Do you think adoption is a less violent and deadly alternative to killing newborns? Not so fast. The emotional pain, they argue, of abortion and adoption is just as traumatic as the anguish of killing your newborn. And besides, they're not actual people yet.

Just for the record, Giubilini and Minerva didn't invent the idea of killing newborn babies. The Netherlands legalized euthanasia for infants in 2002 which accounts for 60 percent of all deaths of newborns in the country each year.

Peter Singer, Professor of Bio-Ethics at Princeton University (the hypocrisy is glaring) once wrote, “Human babies are not born self-aware, or capable of

grasping that they exist over time. They are not persons.” As a result, “the life of a newborn is of less value than the life of a pig, a dog or a chimpanzee.”

It's frightening to also realize that the after-birth abortion article was peer reviewed and deemed worthy of publication and serious discussion. The wolf is closer to America's nurseries that you might expect.

Americans have in the past ignored people like Mr. Singer, Giubilini and Minerva as the rants of lonely voices. Thankfully, the after-birth abortion article has generated a firestorm of debate. It's frightening though to read the comments of those who defend them, saying civilization can't give in to moral absolutes.

Tell that to the millions of Jews and other unfortunate segments of society deemed less than human by Adolph Hitler and his Nazi thugs. Tell that to the generations of Blacks who suffered enslavement, beatings and death because slave owners considered them subhuman. The blood continues to cry out on behalf of tens of millions of unborn babies also brutally killed.

No, we must take this most recent threat to innocent human life very seriously. We must also take a firm and convincing stand against such violent and barbaric philosophies. A moral absolute is exactly what this world needs. Anything less will unleash another wave of death from Pandora's Box. 🌀

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STATES EXCHANGE

Important Message Told in a Child-Like Way

Have you ever wondered when and how to introduce the pro-life message to children? We cannot emphasize enough the great importance of giving young girls and boys an early and firm foundation for understanding that life begins in the womb. However, we also understand it can be a difficult topic to tackle. One proven technique for preschoolers to elementary age is storytelling. Children not only enjoy stories, but it can also be a way for them to learn. Books give you an opportunity to share time together and discuss personal experiences, including the child's own birth.

Two outstanding age-appropriate resources are being offered by Arkansas Right to Life.

The Amazing Beginning of You by Matt and Lisa Jacobson, serves as a resource to help parents and others teach children about the beginnings of life. Creative illustrations and engaging color photos tell the story of life from conception

to birth. While educational in content, the text directly addresses the child, making the reading personal and relatable in tone. *Recommended for ages 8 and up.*

The inspiration for *Angel in the Waters* came from author Regina Doman's daughter. At the age of two, she was asked if she remembered what it was like to be inside mommy's tummy. Her response was, "It was warm and dark, and there was an angel there." Narrated from the child's point of view with lifelike illustrations, this book artistically portrays the sanctity of human life. It is highly recommended for expecting parents with young children to help them better understand pregnancy. *Recommended for ages 4 and up. Also available in Spanish.* 