

CONNECTOR



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SERVING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

Gosnell — The Face of Abortion in America

By: **Bradley Mattes, MBS**

Among those who followed the sordid trial of the Philadelphia abortionist, the name Kermit Gosnell has become synonymous with the likes of Adolph Hitler and Jeffery Dahmer. Sadly, many Americans remain uninformed regarding what is easily the trial of the decade, perhaps the century. Why the ignorance regarding such an impactful event? It was censored by most of the mainstream media in an attempted cover-up of the abortion industry. More on that later.

Pro-abortion activists and bloggers tried to make the public believe Gosnell's mill—dubbed the “House of Horrors” by the FBI—was a single, isolated abortionist gone rogue in an otherwise sterling network of “physician abortion providers.” However, there is considerable evidence that proves otherwise. Kermit Gosnell isn't an exception; he's the face of so-called safe, legal abortion.

Thanks to the 281-page grand jury report and five weeks of testimony by witnesses for the prosecution, the doors of America's abortion mills have been flung wide open and the abortion industry exposed for all to see. If every citizen were to peer in, it would shake our nation to its core.

Due to the political decisions of two pro-abortion Pennsylvania governors—it started with a Republican and continued under a Democrat—inspections of abortion

mills in the state ceased because they believed it would inhibit access to the procedure. As a result, the state's abortion facilities hadn't been inspected or investigated in 17 years.¹ The blame for the deterioration of Gosnell's mill rests mainly with the abortionist, but a good amount can also be laid squarely at the feet of PA officials as well as pro-abortion activists.

The FBI raided Gosnell's abortion facility, not because of its repugnant condition, but because he was suspected of illegally selling pain prescriptions. A few minutes after entering the facility, the agents realized they had gotten more than they bargained for.

There were drugged women, moaning and lying on filthy, blood-stained beds and blankets. The smell of cat urine permeated the air. The cats, brought in to catch the rats, defecated everywhere. The remains of 47 babies were stashed in a freezer or piled in bags and boxes in the basement or elsewhere. In what appeared to be macabre trophies, FBI agents found a bookshelf lined with jars containing the severed feet of many of his small victims.

Gosnell's unqualified staff would administer anesthesia medicines in his absence. Many of the babies were delivered live and he would then slit the back of the child's neck with scissors and violently sever the spinal cord. One staff member testified during the trial that hundreds of

babies were murdered in this gruesome manner, likened to “beheadings.”

Kermit Gosnell was also charged in the death of 41-year-old Karnamaya Mongar, who died in 2009 from a botched abortion. She and her family had immigrated from Bhutan just months before going to Gosnell for a late-term abortion. Gosnell is charged with giving Mongar an overdose of Demerol, a drug eschewed by many physicians because of its dangerous complications.² This was the second woman who died under Gosnell's care.

Prosecutors wanted to take the jury on a tour through Gosnell's facility, but the deteriorated condition of the building rendered it unsafe to enter. Posts had been placed on the third floor to prevent the ceiling from caving in. Decay was evident throughout the building. Instead of the tour, prosecutors brought the filthy equipment and furnishings into the courtroom to demonstrate to the jury the appalling condition of the abortion mill. Those who saw these horrifying items said pictures could not do them justice.

Gosnell had applied to become a member of the National Abortion Federation (NAF) in 2009, but was denied because of the appalling conditions in the mill.³ However, NAF did not report these conditions to PA health officials. Nor did they stop Gosnell from performing abortions part-time at a NAF affiliated mill in

Delaware. This is particularly ironic because their mission is “to ensure safe, legal, and accessible abortion care, which promotes health and justice for women.” By not reporting Gosnell’s ‘House of Horrors’ to officials, NAF ensured anything but safe, legal abortion for the many vulnerable mostly minority women who were poor. If they had, it’s likely that Karnamaya Mongar would be alive today.

NAF wasn’t the only one to attempt to distance themselves from Gosnell. Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, boldly declared, “...we have the highest-quality staff. We have medical doctors from the most prestigious medical schools. Our doors are open to anyone to come and visit and see exactly what we do.”

Since Ms. Richards extended the invitation, millions of Americans whose tax dollars are being used to fund this giant of the abortion industry, should accept her invitation and demand to inspect their local Planned Parenthood abortion facility. They

after getting no results from Planned Parenthood. Jayne Mitchell-Werbrich and Joyce Vasikonis actually feared losing their licenses if they continued to work there.

They told WPVI-TV that women received a “meat-market style of assembly-line abortions.” The abortionist refused to wear gloves, the procedure tables were left bloody when used by the next patient. Surgical instruments weren’t cleaned before reuse. State laws requiring parental consent were violated, and untrained staff performed key duties. Since the beginning of the year, five women have been rushed to the hospital from the Delaware facility. Mitchell-Werbrich said, “I couldn’t tell you how ridiculously unsafe it was.” She also witnessed the abortionist, Timothy Liveright, physically strike a woman patient on her thigh. Another patient also made a written statement that he punched her in the stomach.

The *Chicago Sun Times* reported⁴ that a Chicago area Planned Parenthood botched an abortion that killed Tonya Reaves. An autopsy report later revealed Tonya may have survived if Planned Parenthood wouldn’t have waited for over five hours to transport her to a hospital.

A St. Paul, Minnesota Planned Parenthood called an ambulance to rush one of its patients to the hospital.

At the same time, they were sending out requests for supporters to help them stop legislation that would require them to provide the same level of medical service as other out-patient surgical centers.⁵

It appears that Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania CEO, Dayle Steinberg, lied about not being aware of Gosnell’s ‘House of Horrors’. WHYY radio reported⁶ in February 2010 that she denied knowing of the problems. However, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported⁷ on April 18, 2013 that Steinberg admitted patients had reported atrocities to them but they had done nothing.

These Gosnell-style abuses permeate the abortion industry. In an art-

icle, *USA Today* contributor, Kirsten Powers—not known for her pro-life leanings—wrote a column titled *Gosnell’s Abortion Atrocities no ‘Aberration’*.⁸ She cited some examples of proof why Gosnell wasn’t an exception:

“Last week, Ohio officials shut down an abortion clinic after inspectors found that a medical assistant administered narcotics to five patients, that narcotics and powerful sedatives weren’t properly accounted for, that pharmacy licenses had expired and that four staff members hadn’t been screened for a communicable disease.

“Last month, Maryland officials shut down three abortion clinics, two for failings in their equipment and training to deal with life-threatening complications.

“Last year, an Associated Press investigation found that Illinois hadn’t inspected some abortion clinics for 10 to 15 years. After state health officials reinvigorated their clinic inspections in the wake of Gosnell, inspectors closed two clinics, including one fined for ‘failure to perform CPR on a patient who died after a procedure’ according to AP.”

These are just a few recent examples. Details on all the abortionists and their facilities that have endangered, maimed or killed women would fill this entire publication many times over.

The facts of this trial have all the ingredients for sensationalized news headlines. Gosnell’s trial should have appeared on the front page of every news publication and heard by all TV and radio outlets. So why are most Americans unaware of the Kermit Gosnell trial? There’s been a near universal cover-up of the abortion industry by major media outlets fearing these facts would diminish support for abortion-on-demand. In other words, the secular media is so dedicated to abortion rights, they will prostitute their ethics to prop up an eroding political ideal.

Perhaps Marc Lamont Hill, during a *HuffPost Live* segment,⁹ said it best. “For what it’s worth, I do think that those of us on the Left have made a decision not to cover this trial because we worry that it’ll compromise abortion rights. Whether you agree with abortion or not, I do think there’s a direct connection between the media’s failure to cover this and our own political

“women received a meat-market style of assembly-line abortions”

- former Planned Parenthood nurses
Jayne Mitchell-Werbrich & Joyce Vasikonis

would probably be shocked and horrified by what they see.

Since they will most likely deny you access, allow us to shine some light on what Richards calls “highest quality” staff and facilities. Further, we’ll expose the exploits of their abortionists with so-called Ivy League pedigrees.

One doesn’t have to look far for proof that Planned Parenthood provides Gosnell-like conditions that are more akin to a back-alley abortion establishment.

The Wilmington, Delaware Planned Parenthood fired its abortionist and suspended surgical abortions. It wasn’t out of concern for women’s health, but because two of their nurses quit and went public

Continued on page 3

commitments on the Left.”

Other reporters tried unsuccessfully to excuse their inaction. Sarah Kliff, a *Washington Post* health-policy reporter, responded,¹⁰ “I cover policy for the *Washington Post*, not local crime...” To which Robert VerBruggen with the *National Review*, noted the obvious hypocrisy.¹¹ “Makes sense. Similarly, national gun-policy people do not cover local crime in places like Aurora or Newtown.”

ond trimester of pregnancy. Without their knowledge, they were used as guinea pigs to test Karman’s sadistic abortion tool called the “super coil.” It was described as essentially a ball of plastic razors that were coated in gel. As the woman’s body temperature melted the gel, the razors were supposed to spring open and cut up the baby.

Karman had previously tried his hazardous tool on unsuspecting women in Bangladesh with the help of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The experiment was a disaster in both situations. In Philadelphia most of the 15 women suffered serious complications, with one needing a hysterectomy.

To this day it’s referred to as the Mother’s Day Massacre.

On May 13, 2013, Kermit Gosnell was convicted by a jury of his peers for his most recent unspeakable crimes against humanity. He was found guilty of first-degree murder in the deaths of three of the four babies. There were very likely hundreds more, but there wasn’t enough evidence to convict him of additional deaths.

He was also convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a patient, Karnamaya Mongar, who was given an overdose of drugs during her abortion.

Gosnell was judged guilty of one count of infanticide, one count of racketeering, five counts of conspiracy, and 21 counts of illegal late-term abortions—doing them past the 24-week limit allowed by Pennsylvania law. He was convicted on 211 counts of violating a state law requiring a 24-hour waiting period before performing an abortion. In total, he was convicted of 243 crimes.^{14,15} Gosnell received three life sentences with no chance of parole.

Even though Gosnell was not on trial for the tens of thousands of babies he killed, justice was served for all of them, because the jury’s verdict will ensure that he can no longer harm any more babies or

their mothers.

Tragically, the deaths and trauma caused by Kermit Gosnell and his staff were unwarranted and unnecessary had health and government officials done their job. In the process, it has exposed the underbelly of the abortion industry, revealing that Gosnell wasn’t the exception but the norm for what pro-abortion activists call safe and legal abortion. *Roe*, in a cruel hoax on society, has simply moved the door of the back-alley abortion mill to the street out front. To date, over 55 million babies have been sacrificed on the altar of “choice” while countless women have been physically maimed or killed. It’s time to stop the madness. ☀

“I couldn’t tell you how ridiculously unsafe it was.”

- former Planned Parenthood nurse
Jayne Mitchell-Werbrich

The silence of the media didn’t change until pro-lifers participated in a “tweetfest” which generated a whopping 166,800 tweets in just twelve hours. It shamed several media outlets to finally—yet in limited fashion—report on the trial. A surprisingly substantial and fair report was done by CNN’s Anderson Cooper on his show *360*.

The Obama administration has had nothing to say about Gosnell’s gruesome practices because the President’s own position on infanticide is closer to Kermit Gosnell’s than the American public. As a State Senator, Mr. Obama on several occasions, beginning in 2004, and as recently as August 13, 2008, opposed the Illinois Born-Alive Infants Protection Act¹² that would require life-saving treatment to babies who survive late-term abortions.

It’s a tragic irony. Had Pennsylvania authorities not looked the other way four decades earlier, the ‘House of Horrors’ would never have become a reality. Harvey Karman, a man with no medical training who already had served time in prison for performing illegal abortions, teamed up with Gosnell.¹³ They bused 15 poor women from Chicago to Philadelphia on Mother’s Day, 1972. All were in their sec-

1 Back-Alley Abortion Never Ended, James Taranto WSJ US Ed. 4/19/13 p. A15

2 <http://www.lifetimesnews.com/news/state-inspector-women-were-drugged-left-unmonitored-for-hours-at-gosnells-c/>

3 <http://prochoice.org/news/releases/20110121.html>

4 <http://www.suntimes.com/news/mitchell/13957308-452/death-of-tonya-reaves-after-an-abortion-is-a-reminder-that-abortions-carry-risks.html>

5 <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/04/23/planned-parenthood-clinic-botches-abortion-ambulance-called/>

6 <http://why.org/cms/news/health-science/2010/02/24/probe-finds-deplorable-and-unsanitary-clinic-conditions/31594>

7 http://articles.philly.com/2013-04-18/news/38619220_1_gosnell-trial-abortion-issue-kermit-gosnell

8 <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/04/29/gosnells-abortion-atrocities-no-aberration-column/2122235/>

9 <http://live.huffingtonpost.com/r/segment/kermit-gosnell-abortion-media-blackout-conservative-liberal-left-right/516c4c22fe34442d7f000710>

10 <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/346983/life-ruins-and-dangers-euphemistic-addictions>

11 <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/getreligion/2013/04/awapo-reporter-explains-her-personal-gosnell-blackout/>

12 <http://www.nrlc.org/ObamaBAIPA/ObamaBornAliveAssertionsFacts.pdf>

13 Back-Alley Abortion Never Ended, James Taranto WSJ US Ed. 4/19/13 p. A15

14 http://articles.philly.com/2013-05-15/news/39258136_1-abortion-doctor-abortion-patient-karnamaya-mongar-illegal-late-term-abortions

15 <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20130513/NEWS01/305130056/Gosnell-guilty-three-counts-first-degree-murder>



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Planned Parenthood's Business Model

By: Heather Gims

Under the deceiving guise of women's health care, Planned Parenthood has been running the largest, most lucrative business in the abortion industry. We'll analyze how this business model operates by looking at Planned Parenthood's services, locations and profits.

SERVICES

In any company, you want to provide products or services that are related and create the opportunity for more business. For example, a consumer goods company may sell laundry detergent, fabric softener and dishwashing liquid. A customer may buy any one of these products, but the most ideal (and most profitable) customer is one who loyally purchases all three.

That same principle applies to Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood's services are structured to create a cyclical and interdependent relationship with women based on sexual activity. A woman may come in for a pap smear and then be persuaded to consider the birth control pill or other form of contraception. If she contracts an STD, Planned Parenthood is there to provide testing and treatment. If a woman faces an unplanned pregnancy, she returns to Planned Parenthood for a pregnancy test and potentially an abortion.

Let's take a look solely at the abortion services. Planned Parenthood likes to claim that abortions only reflect a mere 3%

of its medical services. However, that number is deceiving. Planned Parenthood offers three primary services to pregnant women: prenatal services, adoption referrals or abortions. According to Planned Parenthood's 2011 Affiliate Medical Summary, a record high of 333,964 abortions were performed, representing over 90% of the services rendered to pregnant women. This means 9 out of 10 pregnant women who walked into a Planned Parenthood aborted their babies. This

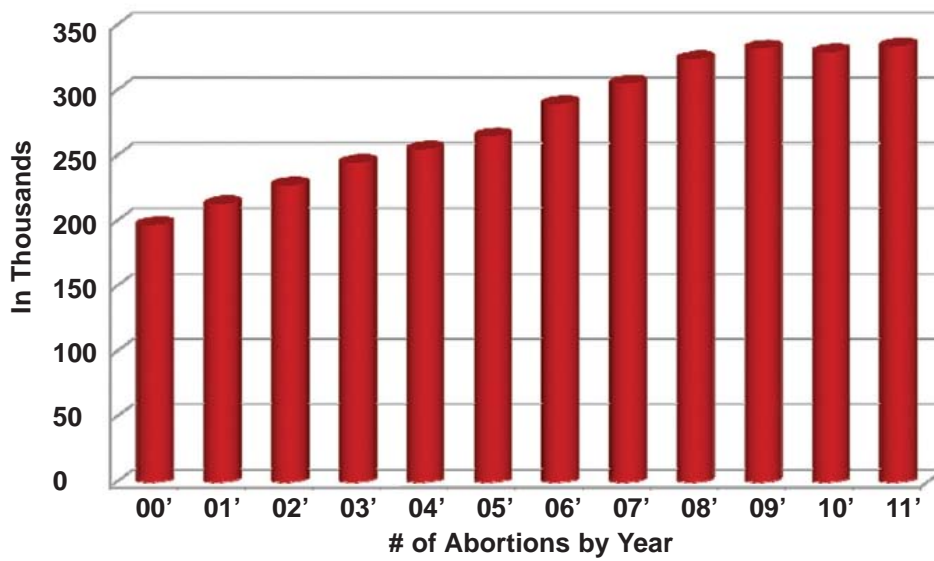
197,070 in 2000 to 333,964 in 2011. Abortions have not become rare at Planned Parenthood, but instead have grown by more than 65%. In addition, while abortions have risen, cancer screenings and prevention services have dropped from the previous year by 29%. This certainly gives just cause to question Planned Parenthood's true motives when it comes to women's health.

LOCATIONS

In business, location can mean the difference between thriving and closing the doors. Planned Parenthood's abortion business is no different. They locate their abortion facilities near those most likely to have abortions. Statistics show that abortion is decimating minority populations. It is the leading cause of death for African Americans, more than all other causes combined. Hispanic women have abortions at a rate 2.1 times higher than white women; Black women have abortions at a rate of 3.4 times higher than white women. It

should come as no surprise that 79% of Planned Parenthood's 165 surgical abortion facilities are strategically placed within walking distance of African American and/or Hispanic/Latino communities. In a research study conducted by Protecting Black Life (an outreach of Life Issues Institute), 2010 Census tract data was used to construct an interactive map showing a two-mile radius around the Planned Parenthood surgical abortion facilities. The

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD REPORTED ABORTIONS
2000-2011**



Exact figures by Year

00': 197,070, 01': 213,026, 02': 227,385, 03': 244,628, 04': 255,015, 05': 264,943, 06': 289,750, 07': 305,310, 08': 324,008, 09': 332,278, 10': 329,445, 11': 333,964

reflects only surgical abortions; chemical abortions, like the abortion pill RU-486 are not included. If they were, the statistics would be even grimmer.

More alarming is the trend that Planned Parenthood abortions have steadily increased over a ten-year period. The old battle cry of the pro-abortion movement was "safe, legal and rare." A look at Planned Parenthood's own annual reports reveals that abortions have increased from

Pro-Life Pioneer Called to Heaven



Mrs. Barbara Willke
1923-2013

Life Issues Institute mourns the passing of a dear wife, friend, mentor and pro-life pioneer—Barbara Willke. She died April 14 at the age of 90 due to a severe head injury after a fall.

Barbara leaves behind her beloved husband of nearly 65 years, six children, 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, she dedicated her life to helping others, particularly unborn babies and their mothers.

Jack and Barbara have had the kind of marriage that many others dream about. They were a team throughout their lives, which translated into their lifetime work for the pro-life movement. Together, they wrote and published many books and brochures on the life issues. They became famous for their style of lecturing—present-

ing the material by alternating between them.

Barbara taught nursing at St. Elizabeth in Dayton, Ohio and at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati. She was head of the department at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati before dedicating herself to being a full-time mother. Barbara was instrumental in establishing pro-life women help centers in the metro Cincinnati area and served as the president of Cincinnati Right to Life until her retirement from pro-life work. Even then, she continued to serve on the board of directors of Life Issues Institute, only months ago retiring from that board.

Barbara Willke traveled with her husband, Jack, to many countries that entailed meeting world leaders including members of Congress, Parliaments, the

Pope and presidents. No couple has done more to advance the pro-life movement than Barbara and Jack Willke.

As Dr. and Mrs. Willke entered the winter of their lives, they realized that everyday spent together was an added blessing. During their last few years together, special effort was made to enjoy the time God was giving them. And now, much too soon for those of us at Life Issues Institute, God has called his faithful servant home to Him in heaven. Barbara has faithfully run the race to the very end. Her legacy will live on under the continued direction of Dr. Willke at Life Issues Institute. Please keep Dr. Willke and his family in your prayers as they struggle to adjust to life without their beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We miss you and we love you. 🌀

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map incorporates Google Maps functionality, giving you an up close and personal view of just how close these abortion facilities are to minority neighborhoods. The interactive map and supporting research are published at www.protectingblacklife.org.

Another targeted demographic is college aged women (20-24 years). They receive 32% of all abortions. 75% or 124 of the 165 Planned Parenthood surgical abortion facilities are within walking distance of one or more college campuses.

By targeting those most likely to have abortions, it is evident Planned Parenthood's goal is to ensure that it is the familiar and convenient location for abortion services.

PROFITS

Planned Parenthood has three primary sources of revenue: health services, private donations and government grants and reimbursements. Unlike a business, Planned Parenthood receives over 45% of

its budget from taxpayer funds equaling a record high of more than \$542 million according to its latest annual report. While taxpayer funds cannot be used to directly fund abortions, it provides the financial resources necessary to pay utilities and other expenses that enable Planned Parenthood to remain open. It can then allocate other funds toward abortion services. Now, under Obama as the most pro-abortion president in our nation's history, we can expect that more taxpayer money will continue to support the abortion giant.

Just how much is Planned Parenthood making off of abortions? In Fiscal Year 2009-2010, Planned Parenthood earned an estimated \$154 million from the 329,445 abortions they performed. This is a significant portion, representing nearly half of the income from all health services rendered.

Although Planned Parenthood is considered a non-profit organization, each year they consistently yield a substantial

profit. In the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year, their profit equaled \$87.4 million. The highest year of profits was experienced in 2010-2011 with a staggering \$155.5 million.

This is evidence of the blood money coming at the cost of countless unborn babies and their mothers. Clearly, abortion represents a much larger portion of Planned Parenthood's business than they care to admit. In reality, abortion is an essential and significant segment of Planned Parenthood's business model. It is critical that Planned Parenthood be held accountable for the injustice of being the largest promoter and provider of abortions in America. 🌀

Pro-Life Advocates Support Teen Moms After Birth



reaching out to help teen moms. Later in her adult life, she experienced an eye-opening moment when she realized, "I've told those girls 'Don't abort your children,' but I've never given a single thought to how I can help them afterwards." This prompted Christa to do her own research, interviewing over 70 organizations that worked with pregnant teens. But she discovered that there was not one dedicated to assisting teen moms after the baby is born.

Christa first started Teen Mother Choices within her church. TMC pairs teen moms with a mentor who is a wife and mother. Mentors help the teens to set six-month goals. They are also there to provide support in crisis intervention. In addition, it is required that the girls attend weekly "life skills workshops" taught by volunteers. A full curriculum is available to teach the basic proficiency they need for parenting and other practical skills like financial management, homemaking and studying. One of the major goals of TMC is to ensure that the teen mothers finish school. To accomplish this, the group offers child care assistance, paying up to 100% of the child care expenses. Girls are typically in the program between one to five years, with the average being two to three years. In order to "graduate" they must be financially stable, age 25 or under, graduated from high school and have reached goals set with their mentor.


In 2007, Christa expanded her vision to train churches and organizations to host their own TMC program. It has since

grown to include 47 churches and pregnancy care centers. They are also working with individuals in Canada, Mexico, the UK and other countries to start similar groups.

Todd Habegger has been the pastor of a TMC church since 1996. He sees this program as a way to move beyond being anti-abortion to being fully pro-life by supporting mothers who choose life. Todd even had the honor of performing the wedding ceremony for one of the TMC graduates. He said, "I feel that this program can help break the cycle many of these girls are caught in. It helps them to become productive and positive mothers to their children."

Janet Gil is one of the teen mothers currently in the program. Pregnant at the age of 14, she was referred to TMC by her school guidance counselor. After being in the program for five years, she is thankful that TMC allowed her to stay in school and provided the emotional support and encouragement she needed. She said, "One of the skills I am most thankful for is how to communicate with my child."

If you are interested in learning more about how to start a TMC group in your area, visit www.tmcint.org or call 847-826-8336.

See Teen Mother Choices International featured on the TV program *Facing Life Head-On* this summer. www.facinglife.tv 

An estimated 750,000 teenage girls will get pregnant this year. 485,000 will choose to give birth and less than 4% will give their baby up for adoption. This means that several hundred thousand will be facing life as a teen mother. How can we help encourage and equip these teenagers to be successful as parents, students and young adults?

Teen Mother Choices International is an organization addressing that very concern. TMC International is set up as a mentoring and life skills training program that helps teen moms become independent, functioning adults. It is structured to concentrate on the five major roles these young ladies face: teenager, mother, student, employee and seeker. The term seeker means that she is trying to find her identity and place in this world.

Founder, Christa March, faced an unplanned pregnancy at the age of 18. Sadly, she had an abortion. However, now she honors the memory of her child by

Photos from Ethiopia





From the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Bradley Mattes



Lessons from Ethiopia

Next to this amazing country of ours, Africa is my favorite place to travel. Once there, a piece of your heart stays forever. It's a diverse continent with loving and warm people, so I was looking forward to returning for a third visit—this time to Ethiopia.

It's been on my heart to expand our weekly TV program, *Facing Life Head-On*, to include international episodes. Thanks to the generosity of dear friends of the Institute, I was able to take the film crew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February. It turned out to be a trip of a lifetime for all of us. We left while many friends and family prayed for safety and success. We certainly achieved success, as we went with the intention of filming two new episodes and came back with content for four!

After arriving in the nation's capitol, we quickly experienced our first miracle of prayer. We managed to get all of our new, high definition cameras, lights and related equipment through customs with little trouble. Abebe Getachew, our local guide, was amazed and is probably still scratching his head over that one. He secured a driver and luxurious bus by most standards, which would be our mobile office for the next two weeks while filming.

We immediately drove to Nazaret, about 2½ hours away where there is a maternity home founded by Dinah and Mike Monahan. Dinah's parents developed the 10-week baby feet pin which is now an international symbol of the pro-life movement. This and a plethora of pro-life materials are sold through Heritage House 76.

The considerable amount of time we spent safely traveling by bus was further evidence of prayer. Driving in Ethiopia is a free-for-all experience. A particular style of

truck was dubbed "Al-Qaida" by locals because their drivers kill so many people.

Living Hope Maternity Home was the subject of our first episode. Twelve girls and several babies, with a few more on the way, lived in this safe and secure compound. It was a little oasis from the dirty and noisy streets of the city.

I love babies and old people, so this trip was tailor-made for me. The entire crew got to love on babies while we interviewed and interacted with the young women. And we learned that when Americans request the traditional dish of goat, be prepared for them to lead the "dish" into the compound and prepare a "fresh" meal! It was delicious and there were many leftovers, an extra special treat for the young mothers living there.

Living Hope teaches them to be resourceful in finding ways to make a living—something that's very hard for an unmarried mother in Ethiopian society. Most have been shunned by their families and have no government programs to rely on. We were absolutely amazed at the beautiful beaded necklaces they make to sell. You'd never know they were constructed out of paper! You can watch the two-part episode on Living Hope Maternity Home at www.facinglife.tv. Or contact us through the website to purchase a DVD of the program. Both parts have aired.

After a brief respite that included getting up close and personal with baboons, ostriches and crocodiles, we traveled back to Addis Ababa, a city of about four million. Most every vehicle belched black diesel fumes, and traffic congestion was what you'd expect times four. However, we did see a couple of functioning stoplights.

Poverty is prevalent in many

African nations, but we experienced a level of destitution that I had never seen before. Youth With a Mission arranged for us to interview several elderly widows who were being sponsored by the Christian organization through American donors. Most of the women had to scrounge through the local dump to feed themselves and the grandchildren parents had abandoned on some of the women. I wish I could have brought a couple of those dear grandmothers home with me. Their joy and enthusiasm for life, even in abject poverty, was contagious. This TV program aired the week of May 27 but will also re-air, so check www.facinglife.tv for details or to purchase a DVD.

We also interviewed those involved with a true rarity in Africa, the Ethiopian version of a nursing home, called Macedonia Center for the Elderly. It was founded by Binyam Belete, who had spent time in the USA but felt called to minister to the people back home. He converted his boyhood home into a safe haven for those considered the dregs of society—the downtrodden, elderly, mentally challenged, and those with Down syndrome and autism. After only 18 months, the home had 155 residents and was totally run by 35 volunteers. They literally went out into the streets and brought these people in to give them shelter, food, clothing and medical attention. But the most important thing they said they give to the residents is love. "For without love, you give them nothing." I asked one elderly resident what was the best thing Macedonia gave him. His animated response was, "They gave me a family again! I was so lonely out on the streets." This episode aired the week of June 3, but will also re-air, so check www.facinglife.tv for details or to purchase a DVD.

Ethiopia's beauty is matched only by the beauty of its people—both inside and out. The most humble of Ethiopia's society taught the crew and I invaluable lessons: be thankful for what God has given you and seek Him always. I can hardly wait to return to Africa some day. 🌸





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STATES EXCHANGE

PRETTY ugly

If you're wondering how Planned Parenthood operates, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has the answer—and it's pretty ugly. In an in-depth exposé, they reveal the sinister practices fueling the abortion giant. They've compiled their work into a package of resources called, "It's Pretty Ugly."

For example, did you know Planned Parenthood enforces abortion quotas to drive revenue? This is just one of the dark secrets behind the "non-profit" that boasts over \$1 billion in revenue (with over half a billion coming from taxpayer funds). Abortion is the single largest money making service Planned Parenthood provides. ADF makes a compelling case of why abortion is the central service offered to pregnant women—that's where the money is.

In addition, Planned Parenthood makes sure to operate as efficiently as possible. This translates into cutting corners to keep costs low and can mean putting women's health at risk. The abortion industry has balked at enforcing standards of health care, informed consent and facility inspections, stating that it limits women's accessibility to abortion services. The truth is that instead of insisting on practices that protect women's health, they are more interested in protecting abortion-on-demand.

ADF also outlines multiple accounts of deception and fraud. It includes: manipulation of patient records and miscoding services in order to increase government reimbursements; receiving double payment from the patient and government funding; and unbundling of abortion services, effectively allowing American taxpayers to foot the bill for the cost of services (blood tests, sonograms, etc.) associated with abortions. Numerous court cases against Planned Parenthood are

cited, demonstrating just how widespread this problem is. ADF states, "Even if people have conflicted feelings about abortion, nobody is 'pro-fraud.'"

To learn more, you can access a host of useful resources including videos, images, publications and news at:

www.ItsPrettyUgly.com.

