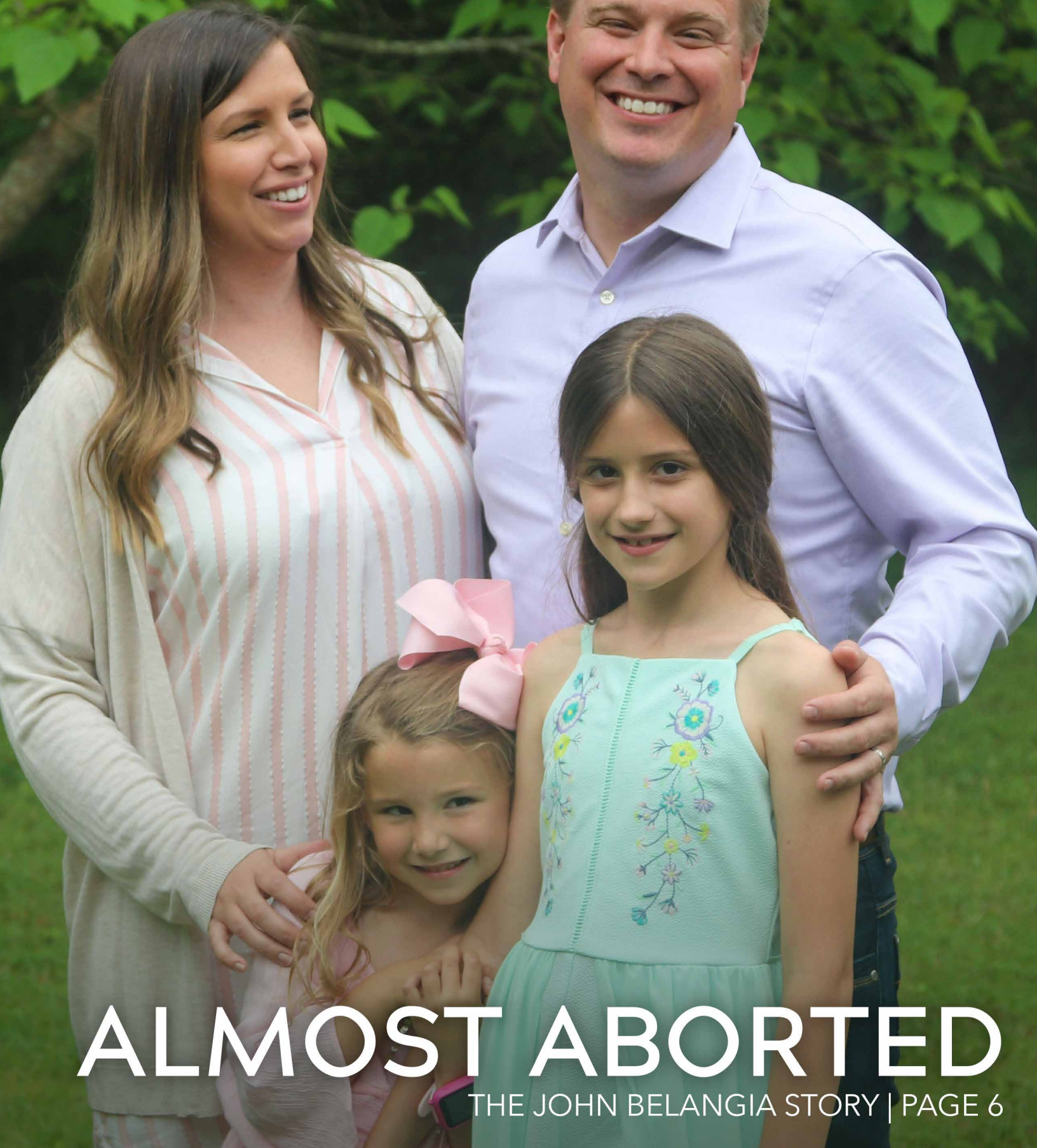


THE GOSPEL
MESSENGER

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ALMOST ABORTED

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THE GIFT OF *Life*



Bishop Scotty Poole

*Bishop Poole serves the CHC as the
General Superintendent*

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7 Even a casual reading (if there can be a casual reading) of the Bible will lead to the knowledge that the Bible is a book about life and death. As God created man, He made him become a living soul. However, when Adam sinned, death entered humanity's life, and this battle between life and death continues to this day. Our God is the God of life. He is the giver of life. He is the restorer of life.

The most outstanding example of life is Jesus Christ. When He walked on this earth, He did not go about spreading

death, but He spread life instead. He taught us that how we feel, think, speak, or act can bring life or death. To be followers of Jesus, we must choose life and live in a way that promotes life. If our thinking and feeling produce death, then that is when we must repent and turn from that way of thinking and allow the giver of life to help us. Jesus said He came to give life and life more abundantly.[1] His most significant promise to this broken world is eternal life. Jesus is life, and His teachings are life. For us to experience this life that He brings, we must choose life over death, the same choice Moses gave the children of Israel [2] because He is our life.

God also cherishes our physical life. We often see the healing and resurrection of life throughout scripture because God loves life. From the conception of life where He speaks about knowing Jeremiah from his mother's womb[3] or when Mary and Elizabeth met, and John leaps in Elizabeth's womb at the sound of Mary's voice,[4] to compassion for humanity when seeing the physically sick and dying Jesus always had compassion because He knew how precious life is. Life is a gift from God, and He loves life so much that He gave His only Son so we could have eternal life just like Him.

If life is a gift (and it is), and it is precious to God (and it is), as followers of Jesus, we should support and promote all things that bring life and stand against that that produces death. As with the Children of Israel, let's choose life and live and lead others in the same gift of life we have.

[1] John 10:10 [2] Jeremiah 1:5 [3] Deuteronomy 30:19 [4] Luke 1:41

*The thief cometh not,
but for to steal, and to
kill, and to destroy: I am
come that they might
have **life**, and that they
might have it **more
abundantly**.*

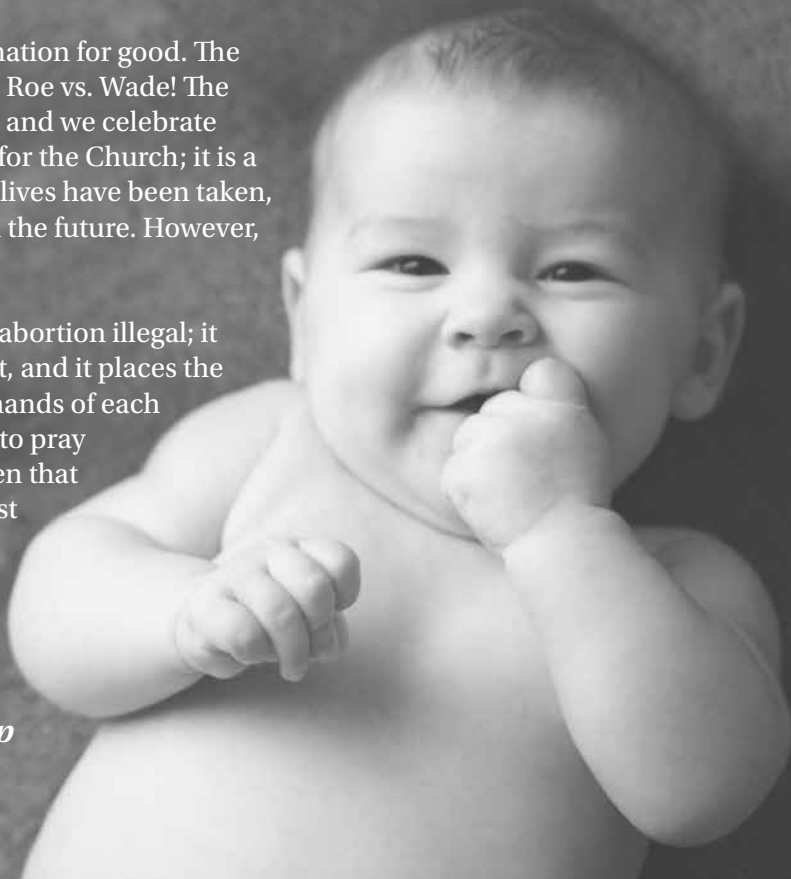
John 10:10 KJV

There's Still More...

"On Friday, June 24, 2022, we witnessed a shift in our nation for good. The United States Supreme Court reversed the decision on Roe vs. Wade! The Church has been praying for this decision for 50 years, and we celebrate this direction our nation is taking. This is not a victory for the Church; it is a victory for Life. Over the past 50 years, many innocent lives have been taken, and this decision will help save many innocent lives in the future. However, our work is not done."

"We must remember that this decision does not make abortion illegal; it only declares that abortion is not a Constitutional right, and it places the decision about allowing or denying abortion into the hands of each state and its people. As the Church, we must continue to pray and be ready to serve the families, women, and children that are going to be affected by the SCOTUS ruling. We must also recognize the division this has caused in our nation and be the first to seek God for the peace and unity of our nation. As the Church, we must stand in love and compassion as we stand steadfast for Life."

*"Thank you, Lord, for our nation taking a step
in the right direction, the direction of Life."*





The Fitzpatrick Family

When Does Life Begin?



Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick

Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick serves the CHC as World Mission Executive Director.

Something I have observed over time is that what a person actually believes about when life begins, and the position they take about it can greatly differ based on political views rather than biological facts.

Life can be defined as “living matter and, as such, matter that shows certain attributes that include responsiveness, growth, metabolism, energy transformation, and reproduction” (<https://www.britannica.com/science/life>). Biology is the “study of living things and their vital processes” (<https://www.britannica.com/search?query=biology>). An embryo is defined as “an animal in the early stages of growth and differentiation that are characterized by cleavage, the laying down of fundamental tissues, and the formation of primitive organs and organ systems” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/embryo>).

If life is defined as something that must have the attributes of “growth” and “responsiveness,” and an embryo

exhibits growth in its early stages, isn’t it alive? And if biology is the study of living things, doesn’t it stand to reason that any biologist who desires to remain true to the discipline of biology should define life as beginning at conception since the embryo of a human exhibits the characteristics of growth and even organ systems? Well in fact, many do. And who these biologists are may surprise you.

According to a 2019 article from Focus on the Family’s Daily Citizen, in a survey conducted as part of his doctoral dissertation for the University of Chicago’s Department of Comparative Human Development, Steve Jacobs discovered that 96% of Liberal, Pro-Choice and Non-Religious Biologists agree that life begins at conception.

In his research, Jacobs emailed surveys to over 1000 institutions around the world to various biology professors. He found that a vast majority (5,337 biologists) affirmed that the life of a human begins at conception, with only 240 biologists disagreeing with the view. These results are even more surprising considering that the majority of those surveyed identified themselves as either liberal (89%), pro-choice (85%), or non-religious (63%). When looking at these statistics, we might wonder why there is a debate, to begin with? The answer? Politics.

Jacobs did not begin his research to support the pro-life position, but as an attorney, mediator, and researcher, he

wanted to see if a compromise could be found between the two opposing viewpoints. However, he received what I would consider unprofessional responses from some of the professors. One responded with, “This is some stupid right-to-life thing... yuck, I believe in the right to choose!” Another replied, “Sorry, this looks like it’s more a religious survey to be used by radicals to advertise about the beginning of life and not a survey about what faculty know about biology. Your advisor can contact me.” (<https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/life-begins-at-fertilization-96-of-liberal-pro-choice-and-non-religious-biologists-agree/>).

These responses may very well indicate the existence of professors and others across the globe who believe that life begins at conception, but because they feel threatened that sharing their true beliefs will substantiate the pro-life argument, they lash out to prevent any “stupid right to life” arguments or “radicals” advocating for a right to life for the unborn benefit from their input.

It seems that some who identify as pro-choice liberals and believe in the science that indicates life begins at conception are willing to disregard or suppress these scientific facts because they do not fit their particular political narratives. We see this disregard for science in the gender identity debate. Gender definition has long been a biological fact represented by centuries of research in human biology and anatomy. However, when the debate enters the

realm of politics, these facts are disregarded to give way to the relative ideas of the moment. So called politically correct ideas are touted while scientific facts are tossed aside like yesterday’s newspaper for the sake of argument about choice. In my opinion, if biological science presents facts that life begins at conception, then “choice” is only a synonym for genocide when used in this context!

Much more could be said about this topic, but hopefully, I have pointed out that a mindset exists in some people in which they believe life begins at conception because of the scientific evidence; however, because of extreme liberal politics and political pressure, some of these people outwardly support the pro-choice position but inwardly they know the truth.

The Lord said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5). I believe this verse presents God’s point of view as to when life actually begins very well, and as far as I’m concerned, even though the science exists to support that life begins at conception, His point of view is still the only one that matters.





ALMOST ABORTED

the John Belangia Story

I am sure you are aware that on June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade*. On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision in favor of Norma McCorvey, stating that women had a fundamental right to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restrictions. Over the last several weeks, I have been extremely attentive to the conversations surrounding the decision of the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*. I am not interested for political purposes like so many, but my interest is piqued because of my story! That is what you are reading. This is not a political piece. This is my experience!

As previously stated, in 1973, the Supreme Court decided a case that would affect the lives of literally millions of mothers, families, and unborn children. I am one of those children. My story starts exactly one decade after this decision was made by the supreme court. By the end of my story, you will see why my experience causes me to have joy, unspeakable joy for any and every decision and law that will protect the lives of every unborn child in the world.

Behind every story is a story. So, before we look at my story, let's look at the story behind the story. It speaks volumes to the subject. Allow me to introduce to you two of the greatest and most special people in my life, my parents Benton and Ruthie Belangia.

Let me start with Benton Belangia. Benton was born into an incredible legacy and heritage in regards to the Congregational Holiness Church movement. Throughout the history of this movement, the Parton family has made a significant impact and investment. Benton is the son of one of the Parton girls, born in a Godly family into a holiness family. His father and mother raised him in the church and raised him to love Jesus. Not only was he raised in a Godly environment, but he was born a musical prodigy. He started playing instruments at a young age, going on to sing, lead worship, and travel throughout the country, leading people into the presence of God. Benton traveled and led with evangelist and worship leader Fred Johnson, one of the worship leaders from the Jimmy Swaggart ministry. Benton is the epitome of a man after God's own heart.



Now let me introduce you to Ruthie Justice, later to become Belangia. Ruthie was born into a home quite contrary to Benton's. Jesus was nowhere to be found in the Justice home. Instead, her home was a home of addiction, abuse, and dysfunction. My mother has told me stories of her home that would bring tears to anyone's eyes. She was not raised in the church, no one prayed with her at bedtime, nor did she hear the Bible stories, so many others were familiar with. Luckily, Ruthie had a best friend later in her school years that started taking her to a small church in Startex, SC.



That little church started bringing its students to a youth camp at Faith Temple Church in Lincolnton, GA, in 1979. It was there that Benton, leading worship as a high school student, met and fell in love with Ruthie. The two dated for four years, and then the unthinkable happened. Ruthie became pregnant out of wedlock. What were they going to do? Benton was a minister of the Gospel, traveling the country with a well-known evangelist. This could ruin his ministry. The two were



only 18 and 19 years old. Their whole lives were ahead of them.

While ministering in Texas, my father wrote my mother a letter. He shared his concerns with my mother and went on to make a request. The request was for my mother to have an abortion before anyone else found out. She agreed to grant his request. She and my grandmother traveled to the abortion clinic together to "fix" this situation. This decision was not an easy one. Nevertheless, it was the decision. Lucky for me, the law, at the time, declared she was too far along. They could not follow through, and my mother was forced, by that law, to carry me to term. That is exactly what she did. A law saved my life!

That is why this decision is so important to me! I am one example of what I am sure are millions of people who the law has saved. I am not here to argue politics. I am just here to tell you that we can celebrate all the children who will be protected by law. There was no one more grateful on January 24, when the decision came down from the Supreme Court than I was!

My story shows some very important lessons.

1 There are some wonderful people who have had to face very difficult decisions and need our love and support. There are not two more wonderful people or parents on this Earth than mine. But even the best of us struggle with decisions sometimes. Look at what the grace of God can do with people fraught with these decisions! Let's be a little more gracious when talking with and about the families struggling with these decisions!

2 If we, the church, are going to celebrate this decision, then we had also better be the first ones ready to be there for these families and children. It means giving more, serving more, and adopting more! It means loving more!

3 As a Bible-believing Christian, of one thing I am certain. The Bible makes it very clear that life begins before birth. The Bible makes it clear that children are a gift from God, and we are quite literally aborting gifts from God! Look at passages such as Psalm 139:13,16, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 44:24, Galatians 1:15, and Luke 1:39-45. These are just a few. If you are a Jesus person, then scripture makes this straightforward. Life and value are bestowed before birth! The plan of God for each one of us not only starts before our day of birth, but it begins even before our conception. I believe my life is a testimony to this as the enemy wanted to abort more than just my physical body! He wanted to abort the purpose and the plan of God for my life! God knew his plans for me, and those plans are being fulfilled, despite a life that was almost aborted!





Dr. Matthew Turner

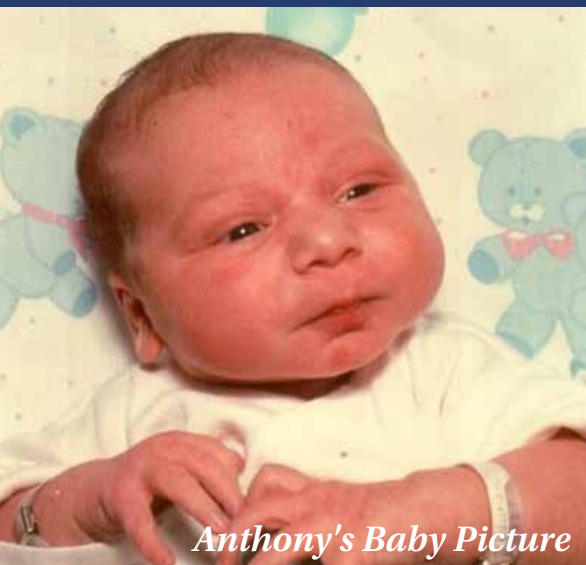
The Turner Family: Matthew, Anna, Elia, Edyth, and Ephriam. Matthew serves as the Mission USA Administrator for the CHC.

As you read scripture, it is evident that God values life. He is the creator of all life. While creating life, the Lord used at least two different methods, according to Genesis 1 & 2. First, most creation came into being after God spoke it into existence. How amazing would it have been to have a front-row seat to see the Lord speak and matter appear in brilliant, vibrant color? In my mind, I can imagine God speaking and off in the distance of space, great explosions of color appearing in the darkness. On the sixth day, God created man. Scripture declares that "the lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being" (1). Did you know that God has given you something that no other creature in this vast universe has ever received? He bestowed upon you His image (2). This is what establishes our value. We are valuable because we are image bears of God! How encouraging it is to know that I do not have to rely on anyone or anything else to give me value. God has already established my value!

1. Gen 2:7

2. Gen. 1:26-27

I am honored to have asked a great friend, Rev. Anthony Baumann, to share his unique story about the value of life. I know you will be blessed by this incredible story from one of our CHC pastors.



Anthony's Baby Picture

"Sign right here, Mrs. Baumann, and we will get this taken care of."

My mother had heard the worst words in the English language, "you have cancer."

Cancer... and just when the pregnancy was starting.

My mother and father had been trying to have a baby for two years. Doctors appointments, fertility specialists, and home remedies, they had tried it all. Until one day, the other line on the test showed up. The joy and happiness that my mom and dad felt were almost tangible for the entire family. They knew what to name me. They knew they wanted a boy and even knew what they wanted me to wear home from the hospital... after all, they had plenty of time to think about these things.

When my mom went to confirm the pregnancy, the doctor came back and delivered the news. "You have cancer cells in your uterus, Mrs. Baumann." My mother was shocked. My dad was heartbroken. Here is the baby they have prayed years for, and something is wrong. They made another appointment to discuss how to proceed.

"Mrs. Baumann, do not be alarmed, we can simply take the cells out, and we will take care of this." the doctor said. The doctor turned around and scheduled what they called a "termination." As my mom was thinking and reading the paperwork, it occurred to her just what they were planning. They didn't want to take the "cells" of cancer. They wanted to take the "cells" of the baby! She confirmed by asking the doctor, "what exactly are you planning?" The doctor looked at my mom and said, "abortion, your body simply will not be able to carry the weight of a baby."

"You're fired!" my mom said as she walked out of the room. My dad, in amazement, followed right behind her.



Anthony's Family

They found a doctor at another hospital fresh out of medical school. My mom asked this new doctor two questions: Do you believe in God? And Do you believe in miracles? She, without hesitation, said yes to both. "Great, let's have a baby," my mother said.

Fast forward nine months and nine days later, I was born at 9 pounds. I was a healthy, happy baby with a head full of hair. However, the celebration was cut short when my mom was in surgery for a partial hysterectomy just six weeks after having me. As my mom was recovering, my grandmother weened me from nursing to a bottle as mom had to start chemotherapy immediately.



Rev. Anthony Baumann

Anthony, Kirstie, and Isaiah. Anthony is the Pastor of Rhema Worship Center in Alabama.

I am blessed that I have a mother that said no to abortion. She believed that she would have a baby that would do great and mighty things in the Kingdom of God. I'm thankful I have a father who believed in the

Lord's report instead of the doctors' report. I'm grateful for the doctor that believed in miracles, and I am thankful for my entire family, that stood behind my parents in prayer and support.

31 years later, I look at my life and think how, if the doctors had their way, I would not have the opportunity to pastor Rhema Worship Center, marry my amazing wife, Kirstie, have our sweet son, Isaiah, and serve in the Kingdom of God.

The enemy will try to take you out before you ever begin, friend, but there is hope in Jesus Christ. When the enemy tries to come against you, I hope you'll remember a woman in Birmingham, Alabama, that was told she couldn't have a child. She was given ONE option, but she and God had another plan.



Anthony & Father (Scott)



Anthony & Mother (Terri)



Rev. Brian Willingham

Rev. Brian Willingham serves as the Men's Ministry Executive Director for the CHC.

I will never forget the moment I witnessed the birth of my daughter Allyson. Due on Valentine's Day 2009, she stubbornly waited until four days later to make her grand entrance into this world. I've often thought about the fact that Jesus was once four days late. As the oldest of seven children, I was comfortable being around newborn babies, but this was the first time I had ever witnessed the miracle of a child being brought into the world. The moment was not what I expected. Her face was blue, and her body rigid and lifeless. I was too ignorant to know that it is completely normal for an infant to remain breathless until a gentle slap on the bottom stimulates their respiratory system. Soon, her tiny face had turned a rosy red, and from her small lungs came a cry that is still among the most beautiful sounds I have ever heard. With the backdrop of a safe and loving family, it is difficult for me to imagine how

anyone could ever take the life of a baby- whether in the womb or out of the womb. Recently our nation witnessed the fruit of five decades of tears and labor as the church travailed to bring forth a Supreme Court ruling that, at least for now, suggests we may have a chance in our fight for the sanctity of human life. But we must not give up! Our nation needs revival, and the key to a new birth rests in the prayers and repentance of the church first.

As we move into the fall of the year, I want to remind the men of our church that the battle for the lives of unborn children is not strictly a women's issue. We must raise young men who are intentional in their pursuit of purity. Young men who are willing to work hard and provide for the children they have fathered. This should never be a burden a woman bears alone.

This October we will celebrate those faithful men among us who honor God, provide for their families, and serve their churches and communities. October is recognized by the Congregational Holiness Church as Men's Ministry Month. In keeping with this celebration, we will be preparing some special things to honor the men of our denomination. We are blessed with some of the best examples of Christian manhood, and I for one, am thankful!



Christian Hope CHC Presents
Heroes of Faith
September 30, 2022
Dinner- 5:30 PM
Service- 7:00 PM

Free Dinner: Chicken & Rice, Veggie, Bread, Dessert, & Sweet Tea

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
Eddy Sullivan

Christian Hope CHC
 1600 Elberta Rd
 Warner Robins, GA 31088

For info or to RSVP
 352-235-1287
 glennlcorbett@yahoo.com



Men's Ministry Day
 South Alabama Campmeeting



General Men's Ministry Board
 member Bobby Muncy receiving
 his ordination certificate



Rev. Micah Messer

The Messer family: Caleb, Micah, Laura, and John Mark. Rev. Micah serves the CHC as the National Royal Rangers Commander.

You are not a mistake or an accident. You were planned on purpose and for a purpose.

The Scriptures definitively proclaim, The Spirit gives life, (2 Corinthians 3:6), a bold truth repeatedly exemplified in the Bible. Only the Holy Ghost gives life.

The Holy Ghost gave life at the creation of the world. He moved upon the waters when the earth was formless in darkness (Genesis 1:2). It was the power of the Holy Ghost that produced life. He garnished the heavens by His Spirit (Job 26:13). With the Breath of His Mouth, the host of heavens were made (Psalm 33:6). It was the Holy Ghost who measured the waters in the palm of His hand and weighed the mountains in scales and hills in a balance (Isaiah 40:12-13). When He sent forth His Spirit, every animal, and insect, fowl and fish, was created (Psalm 104:30).

The Holy Ghost gave life at the inspiration of the Word. The same Spirit, who moved upon the waters, moved upon holy men of God to write the Word of God (2 Peter 1:20-21). We call the Bible the Living Word of God, because all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, the Bible is literally God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It was the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Ghost, who revealed the Messianic prophecies penned by the prophets (1 Peter 1:11-12). When we hold the Bible in our hands, we're holding the Word of Life (Philippians 2:16).

The Holy Ghost gave life at the incarnation when the Word became flesh. The angel announced to Mary that the Holy Ghost would come upon her, the Power of the Highest would overshadow her, and the Holy Thing born of her would be the Son of God (Luke 1:34-35). The angel assured a fearful Joseph that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20). The same Holy Ghost, who

The Spirit Gives Life

touched the waters, who touched the writers, was the very same Holy Ghost who touched Mary's womb, and she was found with child of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18).

The Holy Ghost gave life at the establishment of the Church. Jesus commanded them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father, the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4-5). The disciples awaited the baptism of the Holy Ghost, receiving power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8-9). On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost gave life with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, the sight of flames of fire, and the speaking of tongues, as the church was birthed in Acts chapter two.

The Spirit gives life wherever He goes, whatever He does, and whoever He touches. The same Holy Ghost, who moves upon the waters in Genesis, also moves in the wind in Acts. The same Holy Ghost, who touches the writers of the Word of God, touches Mary's womb when the Word became Flesh. And it's the very same Holy Ghost who formed and fashioned you in your mother's womb. That's why life is so precious and priceless. The Spirit gives you life.

The Lord God made man in the dirt with His hands, but it was the Spirit who breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). And that same Spirit of God has made you; the breath of the Almighty has given you life (Job 33:4). The Holy Ghost formed your inward parts, knitting you together in your mother's womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-16). The Lord, who made you and formed you from the womb, will help you (Isaiah 44:2, 24). He called you by your name before birth, and He called you to be His (Isaiah 49:1, 5).

You were planned on purpose and for a purpose. The Spirit gave you life.



Save the Date

Women's Renewal Conference

April 27-29, 2023

CONGREGATIONAL
HOLINESS CHURCH



Rev. Wanda Murray

Rev. Wanda Murray serves the CHC as the International Executive Director of Women's Ministry.

According to Ecclesiastes 3:2, there is a time to be Born. Therefore, every conceived child should have that right to be born and live. Once a child is conceived, there is no longer just one body, but now there are two bodies, and that new child has the right to live. God has a plan for every child that has been conceived, no matter the circumstances.

We have heard various stories about how a mother was going to have an abortion and decided not to or that something may have happened that changed the situation. In more than one instance, that child would go on to become great in the Kingdom of God. I remember one story about a mother that decided at the last minute not to go through with an abortion; she gave birth to her son, who became very talented with the guitar. His voice was amazing, and he touched many people with his talent.

It is God's decision whether we live or die, and He knows the future. Therefore, we must leave those decisions in His hands.



"Shout Life!"

There is nothing quite like human life. Humans are extraordinary. In Psalm 139:13-14, David writes, "For you formed my innermost parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks and praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well."

Every human being has significance and bears the image of God, no matter how he or she came into existence. In Ecclesiastes 3:2, the Bible says there is a time to be born and a time to die. Only God has the right to decide those times. As the people of the world today shout death, the shout of the people of God should be life. Not shouting life with condemning words but shouting life in love.

Babies in their mother's wombs have been knit together and formed by God himself. They are not a clump of cells but human life, sons, and daughters made in the image of God. They are created with a purpose and a destiny. The church should invest in resources and places to help mothers choose life. We, as the body of Christ, must do more than quote scriptures and march at rallies. We must be the hands and feet of Jesus. We, as God's people, need to use our time, talents, resources, and the word of God to be a light in this area.

I often think of when I prayed that the Lord would give me children and how they have been such a blessing to me.

God has placed within them unique gifts and talents that they are using for Him. I think of my own life. My parents were not sure if they would be able to have children. My mama began to pray for a baby. She prayed for specific details about the baby she wanted. One night at a revival, the evangelist prophesied and told my mom that God said He would give her the desire of her heart (which was a baby girl), and not long after that, she found out she was expecting me. I often recall stories of friends who prayed for children, and some were able to have them; some were not but became mothers either by adoption or by becoming moms in other ways like being a mentor to kids. You see, each life is precious and valuable to God.

In John 3:17, the Bible says, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him might be saved." It does not matter what you've done or ever will do; God loves you. Jesus came, died, and rose again to give your life and forgive you of your sins. John 10:10 says, "The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came so that we could have life and have it in abundance."

I pray as you read this, no matter who you are or where you are, that you will always choose life. Live life to the fullest and do all that God has called you to do and be the one He created you to be.



Kim Causey

The Causey family: Seth, Shelby, Kim, and William. Kim serves the CHC as the National Girl's Ministry Director

Not Afraid to Live, Not Afraid to Die!



The topic for this Gospel Messenger publication is life. One of the most defining statements in my life that specifically addressed life came from a missionary. Her husband had been arrested in another country for sharing God's word and was treated cruelly. Even though this cruelty had touched their lives very personally and she knew the cost, she kept doing the same missionary work he was doing. I asked her how she could do these things that could end in her being severely punished, and her statement back to me changed my outlook on life. She simply said, "you have to make up your mind that you are not afraid to die." Once you know that – you really know that – nothing else matters.

As someone who has dealt with the fear of "what if" and felt the anxiety of those thoughts many times, this sentence stopped me in my tracks. A new "what if" emerged in my mind. What if, instead of worrying about what could go wrong, I changed my thoughts and made up my mind that I am not afraid... not afraid to live and not afraid to die because the God we serve holds all of these scenarios in his hands and He is with me and for me.... Realizing that God is for me in this life ministered to me so much and is giving me the freedom to live life more fully each day.

Sometimes it is easy to forget that God is with us and for us because circumstances push back so hard. My dad taught me this about two weeks before he passed away. I was sitting with him because he could no longer be left by himself, and dementia and health issues were warring on his mind and body. He was feeling very low. Our conversation turned to talking about Heaven, and for a moment, I don't think Daddy remembered that he had a mansion in Heaven. As we began to talk about it, I saw his face light up as he remembered all the good that the Lord had for him. Two weeks later, he left this world for Heaven.

Just as I reminded my dad, let's remind each other that God has good things planned for us in this life and in the life to come. ***You can trust Him, the giver of life, in all situations!*** Occupy until He comes!



Sis. Redenna Poole

Sis. Redenna Poole is the wife of Bishop Scotty Poole. Sis. Poole serves the CHC as the Minister's Spouse Ministry Director.



Have you ever seen God take nothing and make it something? I have! Not only have I witnessed it through reading God's word, but I have also seen it first-hand in my life and the lives of others. God likes to do this thing where he makes dreams become a reality. It is such an extraordinary moment when you take a step back and realize that the things happening in your life at this moment are the exact things you have been praying about your whole life. Every time I have one of these moments, I can't help but think that is how Allen and Vicky Skelton, Founders of White Fields Missions, must feel every time they step foot on their property in La Ceiba, Honduras.

Allen Skelton is the son of the missionaries Hugh and Louise Skelton that started our Congregational Holiness World Missions. Allen and Vicky have been serving in ministry together since the beginning of their marriage. Vicky, at the age of 15, dreamed of living on the mission field, spreading the love of God. Her life-long dream became a reality at the age of 51 when she and Allen moved to La Ceiba, Honduras. When they arrived in La Ceiba, the only thing on that property was the main house. Everything that has been built over the years is all because of God taking nothing and making it something.

In 1998, White Fields Inc. began as a leadership training ministry equipping leaders and pastors in more than 35 countries. They train and equip pastors and leaders to reach their people better. They have also grown into other parts of Honduras, such as San Pedro Sula's central city. They are presently expanding the vision to include disaster relief efforts. Allen has begun ongoing work to help restore homes by installing new roofs, feeding families, and distributing bibles to the area affected by the hurricanes.



Sis. Carley Jo Broyles

Sis Carley serves as the 2nd Assistant Director of Missions in South Alabama

In April, they planted a church within this area that now has a pastor and an outdoor structure so they can host services. White Fields' work in Honduras strives to make a difference in the lives of anyone they encounter, whether that would be the teams they host, the children they teach, the interns and pastors they equip, or the village and community they serve.

I met Allen and Vicky on my first trip to Honduras during my World Missions Internship in 2018. Since then, I have been back twice, during the summer of 2019 and this past summer of 2022. Both times, I had the amazing opportunity to carry my wonderful Momma with me. One thing I can say that has been consistent since the first time meeting them and being a part of their dream has been their intentionality. Watching how Allen and Vicky serve each other, their family, their workers, their teams, their interns, the village, the school, the children, the women, and Honduras as a whole, has been a true testament to what authentic leadership and ministry ought to be.



Allen and Vicky Skelton

I want you to know that there is a place for you as well, whether that's sending an offering to help with upcoming projects such as projects at the complex, feeding families, bible distribution, helping put a roof on someone's house, getting a team together to be the hands and feet of Jesus or just by simply praying for this ministry. One thing I am certain of is that God is still in the business of taking nothing and turning it into something.

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