

# MPS/Best Options E-News

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Guest commentary by Rev. Robert Foust

## Unseen benefits

Most supporters are excited about the obvious successes seen at pregnancy help ministries across the country. Partners of this ministry are rightly enthused to hear of babies' lives saved, of mothers praying to receive the gift of eternal life, but did you know that your center is involved in another aspect of spiritual growth that is resulting in eternal rewards?

I write of the volunteers that give so sacrificially of their time and gifts to serve here at the Center. You see, they are trained in how to share their faith without fear, keep confidentially, build bridges of friendship, listening skills and in how to use the Bible to meet deep needs.

I was conducting a six day volunteer training in one city a few years ago. During the second session we learned how to simply share the gospel message and charged the group to share what they had learned with someone before the next training session. The next evening a volunteer asked to speak before we began. This lady stood with tears in her eyes as she said "For 19 years I have attempted to tell my brother about Christ, I visited him today and said I had an assignment, would he help me? Well, today, he prayed to trust Christ as his Savior."

Every volunteer has seen God answer specific prayers. They have seen young women enter the Center determined to abort, then prayed with other volunteer counselors. They see that same woman change her mind and heart. So as you pray for this ministry, remember to pray for the volunteers.

The apostle Paul requested that the Ephesians "pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel (Eph. 6:19-NIV)". When you do, you're making a difference not only in the lives of the clients who come in the door, but also in the lives of the volunteers who are serving selflessly on the front lines.

*Bob Foust served as director of two pregnancy help centers and has assisted in opening over 90 centers throughout the United States.*

**Dear volunteers who are reading this – I appreciate you! You are the heart of this ministry. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:3-6**

*In His love, Priscilla*



## Just numbers? Or a powerful plan to make abortion obsolete?

Want to see some interesting numbers? For one, now 44% of Americans according to a recent Pew Research Poll, want to see more limits on abortion. Most likely, they consider themselves pro-life. Another number? That 44% figure, according to the U.S. Census figures of 2008, represents about 51 million U.S. households. Let's use those numbers to create an idea: What would it take to make abortion obsolete in America?

Using a conservative number, let's say *just* 45 million U.S. households are pro-life. Imagine, with approximately 2,500 pregnancy help ministries across the country like ours in the greater Muskegon area, if each of those households gave just \$10 a month to their local ministry, these would be the totals:

On average, each ministry would receive \$180,000 *per month*. That's a yearly budget of **\$2.1 million+!**

Do you think, with funds like that, we could soon become the first choice of anyone in our area facing an unplanned pregnancy? And if we were the first choice, we would soon see abortion clinics shut down, because fewer and fewer women would choose them as a second choice. In time, we could, and will, see abortion become a thing of the past.

This year, join us in making a monthly gift to **create a true culture of life in America**. Your gift may be \$10, or you may want to step up on behalf of others with a monthly investment of \$25, \$50 or more.

You can give electronically by visiting our donor web page at **Info.bestoptions.org** and click on "make a donation". We can sign you up for recurring electronic giving once you make your first gift there and designate "monthly" on the giving page. Or send your first check to PO Box 1703, Muskegon, MI 49443 and we will see to it that you have an envelope for your gift for next month. Either way, we're on our way to ending abortion here in the greater Muskegon area and across this country and **you can be part of the solution!**





## What now?

Today's culture has let our young people down. They have been given permission to ignore the code of ethics taught in the Bible and have been left to establish boundaries based on feelings and societal mores. What has resulted is a disconnect between when it is acceptable to engage in sexual activity and when it is acceptable to have a baby. Today the following conditions are affecting our young people:

Conditions under which it is acceptable to have sex:

- If you are in a “committed” relationship or think you are (no matter your age)
- If you feel emotionally ready
- If you're free of sexually transmitted diseases, or think you are
- If you have access to contraception and may use it

Conditions under which it is acceptable to have a baby:

- If you can afford it
- If you've finished your education
- If you feel emotionally ready to parent a child
- If your partner would make a good parent and wants a baby
- If you're ready for all the lifestyle changes that would be involved with parenthood and a baby fits your current lifestyle

As long as those two lists are the measure of procreative readiness, we will live in a culture where abortion is common and where women are at war with their own bodies. Teaching that you are free to engage in sex without consequences as long as you use “protection” is akin to saying you are free to use real guns as toys as long as there are blanks in the chamber. Someone is going to get hurt!

But the good news is this: God is the Creator. Inherent in His creation (humans made in His image) is a desire to find His purpose in His creation. There is a longing for direction in our young people, for boundaries that make sense and honor their lives. It's in that context that we find our mission and define our ministry, honoring life – the life of the unplanned baby *and* the life of the parents. We have the opportunity to speak the truth in love to those who have been told “there is no truth”. In their hearts we find a desire to grasp it. Who doesn't want to know that there is a purpose for life, that their Creator loves them enough to give them a set of rules to live by so that they can find the path set out for them? We can counteract the societal mores by reaching them in the name of Christ and offering them a plan for living which has good, healthy boundaries and focuses them on a hope for the future.

Does it sound exciting? If it does you may be just who we need to train as our

newest client advocate! If you want to be a part of this outreach and can give four hours per week call us now – we are forming our next training class. **Call Judy at 726-2677 – you'll be glad you did!**

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## Statistics for 2009

Total Client Contacts - 1709  
New client contacts for 2009 – 547  
Returning visits – 1162  
Pregnancy tests – 383 Positive – 215 Negative – 168  
Abortion vulnerable clients – 128  
Ultrasounds preformed – 201  
Babies saved from abortion – 96 (documented, more likely)  
People receiving material aid – 137

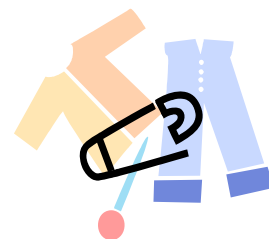


## SOS Response

WOW! I am blessed to report that the response to my SOS for special funding to replace a vital component of our ultrasound machine was answered in total in less than a week – thank you! On the evening of January 21<sup>st</sup> we had a new (had been used as a demo) monitor connected to our machine. On Monday, following Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we were once again able to reveal life at it's very beginning in the wombs of young moms. Those of you who were able to help at this time have made a difference that will impact generations to come. God bless you abundantly.

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## Material Needs



For layettes:

Crib Sheets  
Towels  
Diapers – all sizes  
Socks or booties  
Spring Jackets – up to 18mos.  
Small baby safe stuffed toys for top of layette (new or barely used)

Maternity closet:

Any casual maternity tops or pants for Spring/summer

Furnishings:

This baby furniture is “earned” through compliance in our LifePlan Program:

Cribs (please check online for recalls first & be sure all parts are included)

Change tables

Bouncy seats

Swings

Strollers

High Chairs

Bassinets

(We can only take in items in excellent repair and with all parts)

Office: We are looking for a tall, lockable file cabinet (4-5 drawer) in excellent shape