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Understanding the Defeat of Initiative 26: A Few Opinions

The US Supreme court bought the lie in 1973 and ruled in Roe v. Wade to resurrect child sacrifice of olden days by legalizing the horrendous, unthinkable practice of murdering babies still in the womb. Then on November 8th, 2011, we, the voters in Mississippi, were able to vote Roman gladiator-style, giving the babies our thumbs up or thumbs down. We had a chance in our lifetime to abolish something so anathema to our faith and contrary to our values.

Mississippi, being the buckle of the Bible belt, was thought to be an easy state in which to get Personhood passed. Once one state recognized the sanctity of life of the unborn, other states would be encouraged, even empowered to attempt it. But we underestimated the principalities and powers, and the devil's determination to continue the blood sacrifice. This was a spiritual battle of biblical proportions played out in the voting booths throughout the precincts of this state, one vote at a time.

"Whose report did you believe?" Sadly, 58% of Mississippians believed the Planned Parenthood lies and voted "no" to 26. A poll later determined that only 8% did so because they identified themselves as pro-abortion. Unfortunately, the church also fell in line with those who had been deceived on November 8. Then there's the "Haley factor". 12% of voters reported they were persuaded to vote "no" by Governor Haley Barbour. What a sad legacy to leave behind after 8 years in office.

"Stan Flint, a Jackson lobbyist, was hired to organize the anti-26 forces under Mississippians for Healthy Families, a front group registered by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU" explains William Perkins, Editor of the Baptist Record. He did a stellar job...unfortunately with our money. Planned Parenthood receives \$350 million every year from our taxes. To defeat Initiative 26, they sent more than \$1 million from 24 different states, and the ACLU. Only 6 individuals IN Mississippi made contributions to its defeat. They also manned phone banks from out of state, some individuals saying they were receiving 4 to 5 calls a day getting them to promise to go to the polls and vote NO on 26. Social media were also swamped with

"No" lies.

So who bought the lies? "Flint told WLBT that he believed the faith leaders who lined up against the amendment helped turn the tide against the proposal". Church leaders he referenced were MS Episcopal Bishop Duncan Gray III, MS United Methodist Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Catholic Diocese of Jackson Bishop Joseph Latino, Rabbi Valerie Cohen, and Jonathan Will, Assistant Professor of MS College School of Law (Baptist related).

"Even though the Mississippi Baptist Convention wholehearted endorsed and supported the measure, First Baptist Church of Greenville Senior Pastor, James Nichols, at the last moment, issued a lengthy letter opposing the initiative and urged readers to distribute his document to others. He had backed the measure up to the last week of the campaign, with Vote Yes on 26 banners flying both inside and outside of his church. He wrote "I'm a Christian, and I love Jesus...I'm prolife and against abortion... and I love Mississippi... but I'll be voting NO on Initiative 26 on Tuesday, November 8th." He along with thousands of Christians believed the lie "I'm prolife, but..."

Are we still crying "Crucify Him, Crucify Him"? How can I say such a thing? The vote. The Lord said "in as much as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me" Matthew 25:40.

Melody Miller, PLM Board Member

Up until November 8, Mississippians could legitimately make the claim that we had abortion foisted upon us by judicial fiat. NO MORE. We asked for it by a broad majority vote. There were many people who were deceived or didn't really understand, but there is a bigger problem at the root.

The majority of voters (even those who go to church regularly I would venture a guess) voted No because they would rather have abortion than to be asked to give up their favorite form of birth control or be inconvenienced in their infertility treatments.

Ultimately, we, as a state have said that "we will not have this Man (Christ) rule over us" in the area of reproduction. I want to have kids if, when, and how I want to -- and

if 3000 babies have to die in our state via surgical abortion (and thousands more in labs and via abortifacient chemicals) annually so I can be in charge of if, when, and how I have kids, SO BE IT!

There's the ugly truth. If you don't believe me, ask the average woman at the abortion mill why she is killing her baby, then ask the average church goer why they want to limit or delay having children -- and the answers you get will be frighteningly similar.

The majority of Evangelicals and Catholics in Mississippi look at children, family, possessions, and life in exactly the same way that Planned Parenthood does -- not the way that God does.

Personhood is an opportunity to call people to face the truth. An opportunity to call people to repent and believe. An opportunity to call Mississippi to the II Chronicles 7:14 standard -- not to continue to be guided by political pragmatism, worldly wisdom, and fear of man.

Losing the election does not change the need for us to stand on principle and for us to continue doing the hard work of changing hearts and minds one person, one church, one community at a time. In fact, it makes it even all the more needed,

I will work with the other groups and try to come to a "consensus" (whatever that means). But for me to go back and deny the high standard God has called me (us?) to is unthinkable. . . and it could be the very thing that brings the judgment of God, that we so richly deserve, upon our own heads.

Les Riley, PLM Board Member, Founder of Personhood MS

News Flash!!!

Mississippi is notorious for "being first" in one thing: Mississippi was THE FIRST in America to legalize abortion just for "some" babies. On May 8th, 1966, Mississippi became the FIRST STATE to begin the blight of bringing baby murder to America based upon "exceptions". Sadly, we could have reversed the curse by voting "Yes" on 26, but failed, although only on this first attempt. We will pursue and fight the case of the fatherless so as to win it!

For the glory of the King of the Universe,
Chet Gallagher, Personhood, USA



Pro-Life Mississippi Annual Candlelight Prayer Vigil

Saturday, January 21, 2011 at 6:00 pm

Capitol Building, First Floor Rotunda

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. - Galatians 6:9

Clip this scripture bookmark to remind you to pray for the end of abortion.

Corner

To See or Not to See?

By: Beverly McMillan

Recently, Pro-Life Mississippi added a new page to our website. Entitled "Abortion Pictures", it shows the grisly dismembered bodies of little human babies after suction D & C procedures at 7, 8 and 10 weeks of development, and they are definitely human beings. Even for a seasoned Ob-Gyn doctor and former abortionist such as myself, they are hard to look at. So why put them on our website?

According to Rev. Flip Benham of Operation Save America, words alone have failed. "Graphic pictures expose the devil's schemes and make the defense of the 'pro-choice' lie indefensible. Life and blessing are visibly demonstrated by the picture of a live baby. Contrast this with the graphic pictures of children ripped apart by abortion, and you epitomize the cost of walking away from the precepts and principles found in God's law."

Indeed, the sidewalk counselors at Mississippi's last abortion clinic claim their posters of aborted babies are extremely effective in turning moms away from the killing center. "I can't tell you how many women have come out of the clinic and told us that they wouldn't be having an abortion after all, because they couldn't get the pictures we showed them out of their minds", states sidewalk counselor and board member Dana Chisholm. "I was reluctant at first to use graphic images when I counseled, but as I saw the clients' response to them, I realized that they really worked. This is a hard truth to show abortion-bound mothers, but it IS the truth, and it changes minds and hearts."

Yet people do get flak for showing these "graphic" pictures of abortion. A group of college students at Carlton University in Ottawa, Canada, were arrested in October, 2010 for attempting a campus exhibit of a pro-life display comparing abortion to past atrocities through graphic imagery. The University deemed the pro-life display "offensive" and asked the students, members of Carlton Lifeline, to disband. The students refused and stood their ground. They were handcuffed by campus security officials and subsequently charged

by Ottawa police with trespassing. The government has since thrown out the University's trespassing charge against the students, and the students are pursuing a "wrongful arrest" suit against the University. Hopefully the students will not suffer any further administrative repercussions from their bold exposure of the truth of abortion.

Soon after posting our new "Abortion Pictures" page on our website, we received an amazing email. I quote it in part:

Dear Pro Life Mississippi,

I just want to say that I have a tremendous amount of respect for the work your organization has done to preserve the lives of unborn children. Your "Abortion Pictures" section was paramount in helping my youngest sister understand the importance of keeping her child and for that I am very grateful. You have touched our family in a way that will affect us for the rest of our lives.

Yes, "to see or not to see" can mean the difference for an unborn baby "to be or not to be". And THAT is the question graphic pictures pose to abortion minded mothers. "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32.

40 Days For Life is a Success!

By: Stacy Hawsey

This fall's 40 Days for Life was held September 28th through November 6th. Even though it has ended for now, the effects of the campaign are continuing in our communities. More people than ever in our state are coming alongside us to pray to end abortion, not just during the 40 days but all through the year. Every year more churches get involved. We had over 24 churches and organizations that participated in 40 Days for Life this fall...some that came to the abortion clinic more than once. There were also many people coming out to pray on their own and even those who could not make it prayed from home. Many women were willing to listen and pray with us because of those being there on the sidewalk. Because of these prayers, babies were saved!

In the course of this 40 Days for Life campaign, we learned valuable tools to help with future campaigns. We have

learned that we can also use networking sites such as Facebook to reach a multitude of people. Our Facebook page, 40 Days for Life - Jackson Group has generated much traffic and many new supporters are getting in the fight. We have found that having someone greet people as they come is very helpful and makes them feel more comfortable. If it is their first time at the clinic, they may have questions as to where to stand or what to do when they get there. They are more likely to come back if they have this experience. It is important to learn more about what works each time we have a campaign in order for participation to grow.

One exciting thing that happened this fall is that we were able to get a couple of new sidewalk counselors. They felt God leading them during this 40 Days for Life and decided to step out of their comfort zone and heed God's call. It was very

encouraging to speak with certain pastors who are not just saying they are pro-life but living it. We will continue to pray for the other ones. There are struggles associated with trying to get people and churches to overcome the stereotype and participate, but its all worth it when the end results are as good as this fall's 40 Days for Life. God really moved and touched many hearts during this time. We are so thankful that we were able to be a part of it!

Life Lines: PLM Ministry Update

YEAR TO DATE 2011

- **Babies Saved: 170 (Confirmed)**
- **Literature Packets Offered: 3450**
- **Office Referrals: 116**
- **Gift Bags Given to Mothers: 170**

Meet the Board Member: Les Riley

"Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble. . .Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless." -- Psalm 10:12, 14

In 1991, Christy and I (along with our then three children) were living a relatively quiet, "normal" life in Horn Lake, Mississippi. We had both "walked the aisle, and said the prayer" as children, but had just recently come to really know and walk with the Lord. We found out that there was an abortion clinic just a few miles from our home in Southaven.

We began to go down once or twice a week to pray and reach out to the abortion-bound moms. We met many Believers during this time, including Roy and Beverly McMillian, Bill and Harriet Ashley, Bruce Stuckey and others. We developed a real "kinship" and working relationship with these folks because the abortionist / owner of the Southaven mill, "Dr." Tommy Tucker also killed in Jackson as well as

his home in Alabama.

We got involved with Operation Rescue and became more deeply involved in pro life work on a number of fronts -- sidewalk counseling, rescues, life chains, memorial services, rallies at churches, and helping to start a Sav-A-Life CPC. Eventually, through a miraculous series of events, "Dr." Tucker lost his license, God closed the abortion mill in Southaven, and a church bought it.

We continued to be involved in sidewalk counseling and rescue in Memphis and beyond for a number of years after that, but it became more sporadic as the years passed -- we moved further out in the country and God continued to fill our quiver (eventually giving us 10 living children and at least 3 in heaven) and brought us one child (so far) through adoption. Christy became more focused on being a "keeper at home" and handling the bulk of our children's home education. I ran for political office and spent time researching and writing. Through my involvement with the Constitution Party,

I met Howard Phillips and heard him make the statement that for "legal" abortion to end, a government official or state could publicly declare the Personhood of the unborn, and thus, drive a stake in the heart of Roe.

So, after several years of studying the Scripture and researching the Constitution, I began to write about states rights and abortion and seek an office holder or candidate who would have the authority and the will to publicly declare Personhood, shut the abortion industry down, and challenge Federal usurpation / Judicial fiat. When none could be found, I contacted my friend, Steve Crampton in 2004, and we began what became Personhood Mississippi. In the process we have gotten reacquainted with many old friends and God has blessed us to make many new ones. We have gotten back involved sidewalk counseling in Memphis, and promoting adoption and orphan care. We are trusting God to eventually bring child killing to an end and call His church out of her apathy.

Initiative 26: A few opinions... Continued.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34, AMP)

I felt so blessed to be a part of something so big for someone so small. I want to express my heartfelt "Thank You" to the many churches, supporters, workers and helpers who voted for Amendment 26. Thanks to the hundreds of people I met during this campaign, this experience has changed my life forever. Personhood amendment 26 did not fail; I truly believe it accomplished its mission. The Personhood amendment 26 served as a voice that spoke to the whole world about protecting the life of the unborn. Declaring to the world "I Am a Person" even inside my mother's womb! Church after church welcomed me. Some just took the literature I had to offer, and others invited me to attend their services. I was amazed at the overwhelming support I received, and equally shocked at the opposition I sometimes faced. This experience brought alive to me a scripture that I use as life lessons for myself, when things happen that I do not understand, "Many are the

plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." (Proverb 19:21)

When I heard the final Personhood vote, it felt like defeat. I cried, I was mad; I felt we were cheated; that people had believed the lies and the devil had won! I felt that all of my work was in vain; I had a multitude of emotions. A few days later, we all got an email from Ester Mann, a dedicated pro-lifer, who reminded us, "I am hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, the the life of the Lord Jesus also may be manifested in our body." Reading that statement from Ester, encouraged my spirit and gave me a whole new perspective.

Thanks to all of the Mississippians who voted for life, and gave these babies a national voice. Our work is not in vain. God has won this war; this was just one hard fought battle with more to come. So Brethren, let us "Forget those things which are behind and reach forth unto those things which are before, pressing towards

the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, (Phil. 3:13-14). I am so happy that God has allowed me to be a part of His plan for Life. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (1 Cor. 3:6-7). This is God's business, we are "His battle axe and weapons of war", (Jeremiah 51:20), working on behalf of the unborn, and He will do it, in His time.

Veronica Naylor, PLM - Church Liaison

Dear pro-life friends:

I promised the Lord I would praise him whether we won on 26 or not.

There are precious saints who have been working since the first abortion clinic opened in MS in 1975 and they are physically tired. However, I believe they will see the end of abortion here in MS in their lifetime. Encourage yourselves in the Lord, dear friends, and continue to pray for the end of abortion in Mississippi. To God be the glory.

Ester Mann, PLM Board Member