

## **NEWS & NOTES**

■ Abortion clinics are closing at an astounding rate as states continue to pass measures to restrict and regulate abortion access. Bloomberg Business reports that since 2011, at least 162 abortion providers have their clinics or closed stopped offering abortion procedures. Only 21 new clinics have opened. Texas passed sweeping regulations against abortion in 2013, has seen at least 30 abortion clinics close. Iowa saw 14 close, while Michigan saw 13. Even California, a largely Democratic state, saw a dozen abortion clinics close. A clinic in Bridgeport, Connecticut recently closed after 40 years of providing abortions, saying that demand was too low.

Christian Headlines, 2/25

■ On Wednesday, a threejudge panel for the Fifth Circuit unanimously voted to allow a 2014 Louisiana law requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at

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nearby hospitals to go immediately into effect. As a result, many abortion clinics have already shut down or will be closing their doors.

FACT, 2/26

■ Ohio Gov. and presidential hopeful John Kasich signed legislation Sunday to defund Planned Parenthood in his state, making the Buckeye State the 10th state to take action to eliminate public subsidies to the abortion giant. The nearly \$1.3 million annually that would have gone to Planned Parenthood will be redirected to non-abortion health-care facilities. The action frees up money for more widely available and more comprehensive low-cost health care options for women and families in the state. At least a dozen state governments and the U.S. Congress began investigations into Planned Parenthood following videos released by the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) last summer. FACT. 2/26.

Daily Signal, 2/23

■ Kentucky's Gov. Matt Bevin has filed a lawsuit against Planned Parenthood for allegedly performing abortions without a license. Bevin filed the suit on Feb. 18 against Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky for performing 23 illegal abortions in December and January. Planned Parenthood claims that the state's Inspector General told them that there was a longstanding policy that said they could begin operating even without from California though gave a license.

Christian Headlines, 2/23

■ Pregnancy centers in California are in a First Amendment battle with the state over a new law that requires them to post a notice that free or low-cost abortion are available to low-income women through public programs, and to provide the phone number to call. The clinics argue that the law, which took effect in January, flagrantly violates their rights of free speech, and it appears that many of the dozens of licensed pregnancy centers in California are not yet complying on the basis of free speech. The Constitution's high bar for interfering with free speech has largely protected the centers from regulation. Previous efforts in New York City and a few other places to require them to state, upfront, that they do not provide abortion referrals and make other disclosures have been largely struck down by federal courts. So far, California's law has fared better, with three federal district courts and one state court refusing to block it as the cases proceed toward trial.

NY Times, 2/10

■ A surrogate mother of triplets is filing a lawsuit against the father of the children she was carrying, claiming that the father told her to abort the babies because he could not afford to care for them. The 47-yearold surrogate pro-life mother

birth to all three baby boys on Monday. Under state law, she does not have a legal right to care for them but is going to court to gain custody. Christian Headlines, 2/25

- A new Google extension created by an abortion advocate will allow the words "pro-life" to be changed to "anti-choice" in all articles and websites when the program is being used. Abortion advocates are promoting the program as "a more accurate framework" for a discussion about abortion, but pro-life advocates disagree.
  - Christian Headlines, 2/23
- Pro-lifers criticized Lands' End for featuring proabortion advocate Gloria Steinem in the same clothing catalog that also features children enjoying an Easter egg hunt. "A feminist who adores abortion and hates religion doesn't deserve one inch in a catalog that also celebrates Easter and family," said Media Research Center reporter Katie Yoder. Land's End has since taken the interview off its website and issued an apology.

FACT, 2/26

■ A new city ordinance that allows men and women to use public bathrooms. showers, and locker rooms based on their "perceived" gender rather than birth gender goes into effect in Charlotte, NC, on April Fool's Day. This initial victory for the LGBT community could short-lived, however. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory explained that the state legislature could overturn it. "Shame on Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts and the city council members," N.C. resident Rev. Franklin Graham wrote Tuesday after the council voted to pass the controversial ordinance promoted by Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts. A bill (HB 2414)requiring students in public schools and public universities in Tennessee to protect the privacy of its students by prohibiting them from adopting "open bathroom" and "open locker room" policies will be heard in a House subcommittee hearing on Tuesday.

FACT, 2/26; RT, 2/24

■ University of Nebraska at Kearney was all set to include Chick-fil-A as a dining option at their student union after the majority of students selected the chicken sandwich establishment by a landslide vote. But when members of the Queer Straight Alliance spoke out against the Christian-run restaurant for its "discriminatory" views on marriage, student government had a revote and left Chick-fil-A off the ballot. UNK is not the first school to consider a ban on Chick-fil-A. Last year, the Johns Hopkins University Student Government Association demanded the university consider "nondiscriminatory alternatives" to Chick-fil-A because of the chain's support of traditional marriage. Several other schools have voted on resolutions calling for the removal of Chick-fil-A from campus, including Elon University, Davidson College, the University of New Mexico, New York University, and Wichita State Univer-FACT. 2/26

■ A bill (SB2186 & HB1905) is scheduled on the Tennessee House and Senate floors that seeks to prevent religious indoctrination in public schools by requiring local school boards to adopt a policy on the use of religion in curriculum and instructional materials and to

T X 7 hen a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." — CORRIE TEN BOOM

Corrie woke on this morning, February 28, 1944 with the flu. For two days she had suffered with it, including the noise from Jewish guests. The secret compartment in which she hid Jews opened through her room. That day, the Ten Boom family was betrayed by a man claiming to be a sympathizer but was actually an informant to the Gestapo . She just managed to hid the Jews when the secret police entered. When they saw that the family members would not speak. they led them from the house and took them to various prisons. In prison, the Lord helped Corrie and Betsy retain their witness and lead desperate souls to Christ and shared the fellowship of His sufferings. Through a clerical error, Corrie was released. The rest of the family died in prison or soon after. Corrie became a "tramp" for the Lord, spreading the gospel of forgiveness from sins to many nations.

make public the syllabus for grades six through 12.

■ A Christian college student claims she was fired from her position as editorin-chief of the college newspaper for giving street preachers on campus food and drink. Nicole DeCriscio, a student at DePauw University in Indiana was dismissed from her leadership position after befriending the street pastors, who were with The Campus Ministry USA. Newspaper advisor Meg Kissinger disagreed, saying, "Nicole wasn't up to the task of gathering the diversity of opinions."

Christian Headlines, 2/25

- The atheist group Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) has filed a complaint against four Ohio school districts which has led two schools to suspend their Bible clubs, which had been held during lunch breaks and were led or regularly attended by local pastors. The FFRF said that the Bible clubs have to be completely student-led and could include no involvement from pastors. Christian Headlines, 2/25
- A serious vehicle crash took place near Memphis last Sunday afternoon. The driver was pulled from the burning vehicle and everything else inside was burned

up, except for a Bible on the vehicle's front seat which police found completely unscathed. Christian Headlines. 2/23

■ A recent survey revealed that the majority of Americans value the Bible and want to see it have a greater role in politics as well as the church. The survey found that 51 percent of Americans said that the Bible has too little influence on society today. Only 19 percent said that the Bible has too much influence on society. "Onequarter of adults say they never hear the Bible read aloud at a church service or Mass," according to part of the survey summary.

Christian Headlines, 2/22

■ Mormons are the most heavily Republican-leaning religious group in the U.S. at 70 percent with only 19 percent leaning Democratic. Members of Southern Baptist churches have a near tie for second place with the Church of the Nazarene with 64 percent Republican and 26 percent Democratic. At the other end of the spectrum, an overwhelming majority of members of the AME Church (92%) identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, while just 4% say they favor the Republican Party.

Pew Research, 2/23

## Assisted Suicide — a Poison Pill

by John Stonestreet

■ Israeli archaeologists

have discovered fragments

of "remarkably preserved"

3.000-year-old fabrics.

leather and seeds dating to

the era of the biblical kings

David and Solomon. This is

the first discovery of textiles

dating from the 10th century

B.C. "and therefore provides

the first physical evidence"

of what residents of the Holy

Land wore. The excavation,

carried out in southern Israel

at the ancient copper mines

of Timna — believed by

many to be the site of King

Solomon's mines — pro-

vides "new and important in-

formation" about the

Edomites, the descendants of

Esau who often fought

against the Israelites and

mined in Timna. Textiles

were preserved thanks to

Timna's extremely dry con-

ditions, the archaeologist

■ Christians in India have

called on the government to

intervene in the increasing

tension and persecution they

are experiencing from Hindu

extremists. Although India is

supposedly a secular state,

the Christians claim that they

are being targeted by

"Hindutva" adherents who

are antagonistic toward

Christianity and attack

Christian churches. The state

of Tamil Nadu is the second

most dangerous Indian state

for Christians, after the cen-

tral state of Madhya Pradesh,

according to the Catholic

Secular Forum. India's rul-

ing BJP party adheres to fun-

said.

RNS. 2/25

re there ever times when deliberately taking an innocent human life is okay? What if our intentions are merciful? What if we're trying to relieve the suffering of one we love?

My home state of Colorado is asking these questions right now. A bill before the legislature would make us the fifth state to legalize assisted suicide, following Oregon, Washington, Vermont, and California. Sponsors of the bill are proposing it under the commonly used name "Death with Dignity."

That's a euphemism for killing elderly and terminally-ill patients by giving them a cocktail of toxic drugs. And unlike abortion, which has become less and less justifiable with the availability of ultrasound and neonatal care, it's easy to make physician-assisted suicide sound compassionate.

"I feel that it's a basic human right to be in charge of your own destiny," says assisted suicide proponent Lance Wright. "The situation now is that you and I are not in control of what happens at the end of our lives."

Wright thinks that we should be in control, and that assisted suicide is the means. Many agree with him, and it's not hard to see why. Writing at Linkedin, emergency physician Louis Profeta describes the grisly details of what it looks like when doctors keep dying patients alive at all costs:

"Nearly 50 percent of the elderly US population," he writes, "now die in nursing homes or hospitals...surrounded by teams of us doctors and nurses, medical students, respiratory therapists and countless other health care providers pounding on their chests, breaking their ribs, burrowing large IV lines into burned-out veins and plunging tubes into swollen and bleeding airways," all to delay the inevitable.

Profeta contrasts this with a time when the terminally ill and elderly slipped away quietly at home, surrounded by loved ones who offered comfort. He admits to fearing a day when physicians like him who've given aggressive end-of-life treatment will face God, Who'll ask them, "What ... were you thinking?"

All right. Let's begin by clearly stating that valuing life does not mean staving off death at all costs. We who believe in the resurrection of the body should be the first to reject this notion. But we've got to reject speeding up death through so-called "death with dignity" as the answer as well.

As hospice volunteer Krista
Kafer explains at The Federalist, when we
elevate suicide as a solution, it exerts a
"poisonous effect on the practice of medicine," directly contradicting the Hippocratic
Oath, which binds physicians never to "give
a deadly drug to anybody who asks for it."

Offering a poison pill to patients in pain distorts the motives of all involved. Insurance companies, hospital staff, government agencies, and even family members suddenly have an increased financial stake in a speedy death. And as we've seen in other countries, lines of "consent" and "futility" can blur, and even patients with psychological issues, like depression and schizophrenia, often become targets.

What's more, the emotional appeal of assisted suicide depends on a false dilemma. Weeks of agonizing, futile treatment, or death-by-doctor are not the only choices. Kafer suggests that hospice and palliative care are viable, humane, life-affirming options for the dying. I'll link you to resources on these options at BreakPoint.org.

In the meantime, we have our work cut out for us. With a cascade of states turning caregivers into potential executioners, we've got to help our neighbors understand that although assisted-suicide may sound compassionate and dignified, it's neither. It just dehumanizes patients and physicians. As 1 Samuel 2 says, "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up."

## ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

**★★NEW MOVIES** Quality Moral Age

 Eddie the Eagle
 PG-13
 +4
 -1
 T/A

 Gods of Egypt
 PG-13
 +3
 -2
 T/A

A- Adult, T-Teen, OT- Older Teen

Film "Quality" is an estimate (+1 to +4) of appeal for the *intended* audience or age group. "Moral" rating ranges from extremely objectionable (-4) to very good (+4).

movieguide.org

damentalist Hindu ideology.
Christian Headlines, 2/24.