

## Striving for a Culture of Life

### Language Development Starts in the

**Womb** Using non-invasive sensing technology to measure changes in fetal heart rate, researchers from the University of Kansas Medical Center found that babies in the womb **can distinguish between two rhythmically different languages**. A bilingual speaker made two recordings of a passage, one in English, and one in Japanese, which were played to the unborn babies.

They found that fetal heart rates changed when pre-borns heard the unfamiliar, rhythmically distinct language (Japanese) after having heard a passage of English speech. However, their heart rates did not change when they were presented with a second passage of English instead of a passage in Japanese. The researchers examined 24 women, who were on average eight months pregnant.

Utako Minai, associate professor of linguistics and the team leader on the study published in *NeuroReport*, said. **“Fetuses can hear things, including speech, in the womb.** These results suggest that language development may indeed start *in utero*. Fetuses are tuning their ears to the language they are going to acquire even before they are born, based on the speech signals available to them in utero. Pre-natal sensitivity to the rhythmic properties of language may provide children with one of the very first building blocks in acquiring language.”

[The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, a leading pro-life organization in the United Kingdom.]

### Nigerian Pro-life Leader Criticizes Melinda Gates' Push for African Population

**Control** Obianuju Ekeocha, a Nigerian-born biomedical scientist and the founder of Culture of Life Africa, a U.K.-based pro-life group, argued on BBC's *Sunday Morning Live* that the Gates Foundation's push for contraception in Africa might be “an insidious way of moving the agenda of population control” since in many African countries the **“desired number of children is actually quite high.”**

Melinda Gates announced last week that the Gates Foundation will commit an additional \$375 million to family planning programs, including abortion. “When a woman has access to contraceptives, she tends to have fewer children. Families can devote more resources to each child's nutrition, health, and education, setting them up for a better future,” Gates said.

“I'm sure Melinda Gates means well,” Ekeocha began. “In most African countries, research [continued on page 2]

### Would it Have Been Better if These Kids Never Lived?

Jeanne Mancini, 45, is the president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, which hosts its annual march around the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. She previously worked at the Family Research Council and the Department of Health and Human Services.

“My family was a bit of a leftward-leaning Catholic family. I had an experience when I was in high school that was profound and life-changing for me, a retreat called **Youth Encounter**. I came away from it with a sense of mission. Which, in some ways, informs what I do now.”

“After college, I went into the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and worked in a **youth crisis shelter** and in residential treatment homes with kids who had either been sexually abused or even had been molesters. We're talking deep, deep wounds. And I went through a whole kind of philosophical grappling: Would it have been better if these kids never lived? I came to the opposite perspective: Every life is a gift. Who am I to judge the value of this one's life or that one's? So that was very formative in my ultimate calling to pro-life work. I believe that **everybody has inherent human dignity, from conception to natural death. And each person has the right to live out their unique mission. I can't think of a more important social justice cause.**”

“What really makes me cry today is that you can't even stand up for what you believe without being attacked for it anymore. But you can't back down. You have to do what you know in your heart is right.” [10 interviews by K.Ottesen, “I Could Use My Voice,” *Washington Post*, 7/6/2017]

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“My dear friends, **love is** not only a spontaneous or instinctive thing; it is **a decision** to be confirmed constantly. When a man and a woman are joined by true love, they each take to themselves the destiny, the future of the other as their own, at the cost of hard work and sufferings, so that the other “may have life and have it more abundantly” (Jn 10:10).” St. John Paul II

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### Why a “Culture of Life”?

Humans, as the philosopher Jacques Maritain and others argue, have intrinsic dignity and worth – if we can see how we are connected to the source of all goodness and truth. Without **belief in that divine connection**, humans are just another animal to be managed for others' purposes. We now see disrespect shown to children in the womb, those near the end of life, and many vulnerable persons in between. God made us, male and female, in His own image and likeness. That's why life has great value. [Robert Royal, “Modern Catholicism,” *Catalyst*, March 2016.]

## Melinda Gates [continued from page 1]

continues to show that African women's desired number of children is actually quite high in cultures where people value children or value big families." Ekeocha clarified that she was not saying family planning programs were "bad in and of themselves" but that "there is a real problem with a multi-billionaire from a Western country coming in to **tell African governments what to do or how to control populations.**" [Loretta Brown, 7/18/2017 *LifeNews.com*, writes for *Town Hall*, where her article originally appeared.]

## Free Abortions, Even For Illegal Aliens

Oregon's legislature passed a bill in July that **requires** health insurance plans to cover the total cost of abortion services for all Oregon residents, including illegal aliens.

House Bill 3391, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, ensures that all Oregonians receive the full range of preventative reproductive health services they need at **zero out-of-pocket cost** – regardless of their income, citizenship status, gender identity, or type of insurance. It requires health insurance plans to cover a full range of contraceptive and preventative care without cost sharing, including STD screenings, certain cancer screenings, vasectomies, IUD insertion, and **abortion**.

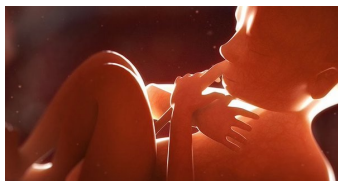
The \$10 million bill also mandates that taxpayer dollars be used to "reimburse" low-income illegal aliens for the cost of contraception, abortion procedures and other "reproductive health services." The bill allows for patients to obtain insurance-covered abortions for pretty much any reason at any point, **including sex-selective abortions** and the termination of children with unwanted medical issues or special needs.

[mrctv.org, Brittany M. Hughes, @RealBrittHughes, 7/6/17]

## Fetus Pictures Being Shared on Facebook

Last year, the Doritos Super Bowl ad that showed an ultrasound picture of a baby carried by its mother was condemned by the pro-abortion group, NARAL, for "humanizing the fetus." It did just that. The humanizing effect is so powerful that some women report not feeling pregnant until they've seen the pictures.

Anti-women feminists such as Allison Benedikt also acknowledge the effects of this technology. In a 2012 *Salon* article, she lashed out at pregnant **women who were sharing pictures of their unborn babies on Facebook.** "The more women share these pictures, the harder it will be to deny that they are people." She was exactly right.



Similarly, in 2007, author Melody Rose's pro-abortion book decries the way "recent developments in imaging technique certainly have facilitated a reliance on powerful pictures that humanize the fetus in a way not possible two decades ago."

In 1994, the great English historian Paul Johnson, author of *Modern Times*, **compared abortion to slavery.** He said the advances in medical technology have had a dramatic effect. "The fetus is being humanized," he said, "just as the slave was humanized." That's what worries NARAL.

[Catholic League, *Catalyst*, March 2016.]

## What's So Bad About Planned Parenthood?

- Planned Parenthood is willing to cover up child rape and sex trafficking. It regularly instructs underage girls to lie on medical documents to avoid having to report statutory rape.
- It provides "sex-selection abortion" if a developing baby is the 'wrong' sex. This is called **gendercide**.
- PP does not offer mammograms and provides less than 2% of the nation's cancer screenings. Its CEO admitted under oath to Congress that she lied in claiming that women depend on her company for mammograms.
- Prenatal services are virtually nonexistent in almost all their facilities. Their ultrasound machines are used to help abortionists locate the preborn child prior to its destruction.
- PP does **over 30% of the nation's abortions.**
- It offers pizza parties and paid time off for workers who "sell" the most abortions.
- PP misdirects the public about the services it provides women in order to justify the \$540,000,000 it receives in **taxpayer funding** each year.

The preceding findings are based on investigations by undercover reporters in dozens of abortion centers, interviews of former abortion workers, and extensive research into Planned Parenthood's operations. These efforts are being spearheaded by *Live Action*, a non-profit organization dedicated to "defending the most vulnerable." Lila Rose, its president, says "abortion corrupts the soul and infects everything it touches—even a corporation as large and powerful as Planned Parenthood."

In one of its earliest investigations, Lila posed as a pregnant underage teen girl and entered eight PP facilities in six different states. She was **given advice that is illegal in all states.** As a result of these videoed reports, one state defunded Planned Parenthood, and others opened official criminal investigations.

But the fight goes on. If you would like to support the group, or get more information, visit [www.liveaction.org](http://www.liveaction.org).

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