

life matters

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P.O. Box 3158

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

(616) 257-6800

1-800-968-6086

lifemattersww.org

TIME & ABORTION

Pro-life advocates recently announced the closure of an abortion clinic in Brooklyn, New York, after 22 years. That's how long the Brooklyn Ambulatory Surgery Center had been open, and how long its opponents had been praying it would close.

Clinic closures are an encouraging trend. According to one pro-life group, there were 2,200 surgical abortion clinics in the U.S. in 1990. Today there are 655 left.¹

It obviously takes a lot of time (and effort) to tear down a hulking edifice founded on hatred of God, pleasing of self, and disregard for the right to life of tiny others.

After all, it took 90 years from the date the first abolition society was established in the United States (in Pennsylvania, in 1775) to the enactment of the 13th Amendment which ended slavery (in 1865).²

In January 2013, 40 years will have passed since abortion was legalized in this country. It seems an incredible length of time for something so awful to persist, especially in the face of mounting insight into human life in the womb. We know so much more than we did back in 1973.

THE TOLL OF ABORTION

With abortion, the passage of time is not benign. Time does not heal all wounds. The toll of abortion grows exponentially. Purely in terms of dollars and cents, it's been estimated that the abortion victims who would have become productive taxpayers by now represent a loss of billions of dollars each year to the U.S. economy.³

But that pales in significance compared to the emotional, spiritual, and generational toll that abortion has wrought on women, men, and families.

First, some numbers: Between 1973 and 2012, the numbers of the aborted dead have risen to 55 million or more.⁴ By age 45, one-third of U.S. women will have aborted a baby. Each year, 2% of women of childbearing age have an abortion; half of those will have had at least one previous abortion.⁵

It's hard to fathom the loss of life that those numbers represent – and added to that, the generations and relationships that will never be.

Abortion is primarily a matter of the heart's disposition toward God's gift of life and a rejection of His sovereignty. Spiritually, people who choose abortion have a sin problem that hinders their relationship with God and requires repentance and reconciliation. God will forgive the sin of abortion, but it must be confessed and forsaken.⁶ His ears are open to that prayer.⁷ Forgiveness in Christ yields a lifting of shame, although there remain consequences to bear.

Unconfessed sin leads to other problems in one's emotional life and in relating to other people. This toll reveals itself in depression, substance abuse, thoughts or attempts of suicide, divorce, and child abuse to name a few.⁸

Abortion has also contributed to a more violent, coarse society. As predicted, we have embarked down a "slippery slope" that involves thinking of people as things and of death as a quick solution to life's difficulties.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

We must keep speaking up on behalf of the unborn, voting for pro-life laws and candidates, working to end abortion by all moral means. We must also keep creating a "culture of life" that accepts, nurtures, and protects all people – including unplanned babies, disabled people, and those reaching the end of life. For as long as it takes.

Time will tell if God will have mercy on us and bring an end to abortion in our lifetimes. Could it take 50 more years? We don't know. But the real question is, will we remain faithful, no matter what?

But be encouraged! Lives are being saved and reclaimed for Christ through the ministry of pregnancy care centers all over the country and around the world. Centers report that the children of clients from the 1980s who chose not to abort are now marrying and having children!

We also have hope because ultimate victory belongs to God. Could we see the end of abortion in 2013? Pray with us to that end.

SOURCES:

- 1) www.operationrescue.org/archives/project-daniel-525-numbering-the-days-of-legal-abortion/; <http://abortiondocs.org/>; 217 clinics dispense the abortion pill; 771 abortionists serve all clinics. 2) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolition_of_slavery_timeline. 3) bellsouthpwp2.net/j/o/josephslife/George-BaileyEffect.pdf. 4) www.nrlc.org/Factsheets/FS03_AbortionInTheUS.pdf. 5) www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html. 6) Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 1:15. 7) Jeremiah 8:6. 8) afterabortion.org/2011/abortion-risks-a-list-of-major-psychological-complications-related-to-abortion/.