January 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision which legalized the killing of pre-born babies here in the United States. For decades, this action has cast a dark shadow on our nation. To have legally killed over 50 million children says a lot about us. Obviously, a baby causes too much inconvenience for our self-centered humanistic lifestyle, so let’s just make the “problem” go away. Our “right to choose” is deemed a greater and higher value than the new human life developing in the mother’s womb.

We are a nation that is truly schizophrenic. We save life and we kill life. In our medically advanced neonatal units, we are saving babies that are born prematurely as early as 26 weeks. This is a blessing to so many parents (just ask Blair and Adam Culy). But then down the street at the local abortion clinic, we are killing babies at the same age. The NT author James referred to the double-minded man as “unstable in all he does.” I think this description fits our nation well.

For forty years now, the church and Christians have been fighting for the rights of the pre-born. It’s hard to believe that the battle is still going on. You would think forty years would be long enough to bring this holocaust to an end. At one point, we were close to victory…we were just one Supreme Court vote away from overturning Roe v. Wade. But now, with President Obama’s recent liberal appointments, and with another term to appoint more, it’s hard to tell how many years this could go on. Every day, the abortion clinics in this nation continue to do their gruesome work.

In a lot of ways, it seems like we are losing this battle. Our government leaders are mostly in favor of maintaining current abortion laws. Planned Parenthood, the nation’s biggest supporter and provider of abortions, had a record year in 2012. Also last year, the Susan B. Komen Foundation made a decision to pull their donations from Planned Parenthood. This caused a media firestorm and Planned Parenthood played perfectly the role of schoolyard bully, threatening the Koman Foundation back into giving their yearly donation (which ironically was just a sliver of the abortion giant’s billion dollar budget). In New York, public schools are passing out Plan B - the morning after pill - to girls ages 14-18, all at the expense of tax-payers. It seems like one victory after another for those who support abortion.

Another practice gaining momentum in recent years is “webcam abortions.” Rather than meeting the abortion doctor in person, a pregnant woman converses with him long-distance via webcam. The doctor then prescribes two drugs. The first is Mifepristone, or RU486, which kills the baby in the mother’s uterus. The second drug is Misoprostol, which expels the dead child. Using webcam technology allows abortion doctors to see more patients with less travel time to the various clinics. Score another win for the abortion team.

But while it seems that the abortion side is winning, there are signs that the momentum is shifting to the pro-life side; and hopefully it will carry us through to a victory in the future.

Take, for example, a recent article from Time magazine titled “Why Abortion Rights Activists Have Been Losing Ever Since Roe v. Wade.” Now note this is Time magazine. This is a very secular and liberal publication. And yet they are afraid they are losing the battle. To quote from the article – “Getting an abortion in America is, in some places, harder today than at any point since it became a constitutionally protected right 40 years ago this month.”

Cont. on pg. 2
Here are some reasons why the pro-life side is gaining ground:

- The passing of state laws regulating abortion and abortion clinics. In 2011, 24 states passed a record number of laws. It is now required in most states that a woman wait 24 hours before she proceeds with an abortion. No longer can she just walk in and have it done. This waiting period causes women to think about their decisions, and many times they choose to keep their child. Some states even have passed laws requiring that the mother listen to the heartbeat of her baby. This makes the mother realize that her baby is alive and well. By passing laws like this, fewer women are returning to the abortion clinic and the momentum is definitely shifting to the pro-life team.

- The lesser number of abortion clinics in America. In 1982, there were over 2,900 abortion clinics in operation. Now there are 1800 fewer abortion clinics. A lot of this is due to the tightening of regulations by the state lawmakers. Obviously, fewer clinics result in fewer abortions.

- Abortion workers quitting their jobs. Abby Johnson left her Planned Parenthood Center of Bryan, Texas, after she witnessed on ultrasound the abortion of a 13 week old baby. She went on to write a book titled Unplanned. Her courage to leave resulted in many others following her footsteps. She started an organization to support these former abortion workers called And Then There Were None (ATTWN). ATTWN has assisted 40 workers to make their exits from the abortion industry. Johnson’s ministry provides legal assistance, spiritual counsel and help in finding new jobs.

- The younger generation is pro-life. Watch video footage of the March for Life in Washington DC and you will notice how young the marchers are. Children, teens, college students, moms and dads make up the majority of the marchers. The last Gallup Poll found only two out of five Americans now identify themselves pro-abortion. If this trend continues with the younger generation, I believe we can someday overturn Roe v. Wade.

- Laws being passed that make webcam abortions illegal. Even though technology is making abortions more convenient, not all the points are going to the pro-abortion team. Thankfully, three states already have banned this new type of abortion. As long as state lawmakers continue to be aggressive in restricting abortions, and if they don’t fall into a period of apathy, we should see the number of abortions continue to decline in America.

So I do believe there is hope. There is clearly a shift in momentum. Even though Americans have chosen a radically pro-abortion President, there seems to be a lot of activity going on at the state level that is making a difference. Laws are being passed that restrict abortions, not expand. Hopefully we can soon see the day when all abortions are banned in this nation.

As Christians, we must persevere in this battle and never give up. We know the abortion side will continue to fight and claw and defend their sacred idol – a woman’s right to choose. We must be a voice of truth in today’s culture…giving convicting reasons why all human life is sacred and is precious in the sight of God. “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:13-14

 Pastor Kent

**EASTER 2013**

As soon as an Easter program is over, the PMC music/drama team begins thinking about the next year’s Easter program. In 2012 we went beyond our usual programming to offer “The King Is Coming!,” a two-part, two-night presentation of the biblical story of Christ’s ministry, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension in music and drama. It was a huge undertaking, a PMC “extravaganza,” which took the combined efforts of about 100 people, but we knew it would be worth the extra effort if God was glorified and people began to think about the meaning of Easter in their lives a little differently.

When we began to think about Easter 2013, we looked at one another and said, “What can we do after 2012?!” Figuring that out has involved a number of false starts, but now we think we have it!

The Easter 2013 program is simple and relies not on costumes or special effects, but on the truth of what Christ is doing – and wants to do – in our lives today. We will focus on the testimonies of people from our congregation whose lives God has changed through their responses to the opportunities He has given them in trying situations. As always, there will be lots of music and opportunities for everyone to join in celebrating the ongoing blessing of Easter.
The Evangelism and Missions Committee helped organize a work team to go to West Liberty, KY. We partnered with Central Mennonite Church and used the Mennonite Disaster Services to facilitate the trip. Nine people from PMC participated: Matt Rupp, Gene Meller, Sam Holsopple, Jim Wynja, John Siegel, Clayton Foor, Corey Ruffer, Craig Rash, and Dallas Schrock. They are currently ranked first in their division, with a win/loss record of 7-9. Our PMC Flight B team consists of Dylan Rash, Sammy Ruffer, Norah Ruffer, Joshua Norr and Ben Leatherman. They are currently ranked second in their division, with a win/loss record of 10-6. Individually, Isaac Norr is in the Top 10 of his division for points. Ben Leatherman and Joshua Norr are in the Top 10 individually for points in their division. Children’s quizzing will wrap up on March 9 with all-day finals.

In teen quizzing, they are studying the New Testament book of Matthew. There is a lot of material to learn and memorize, but the quizzers are doing extremely well. The PMC teen quizzers are: McKenna Rash, Levi Rash, Josiah Reynolds, Elijah Norr, Hannah Meller and Nichole Foor. They are currently ranked second in their division, with a 13-11 win/loss record. Individually in their division, Elijah Norr is ranked third and Levi Rash is ranked fourth. The teens’ quiz season is longer, and it finishes up in May.

Even though the quizzers are doing great in the monthly competitions, most importantly they are hiding God’s Word in their hearts. They are engaging the truth of Scripture on a daily basis. It’s far more than memorizing it for the quiz meet; there is a hunger and a desire in their hearts to know God intimately through His Word.

A special thanks to Marlin and Karen Gerig. They sensed God calling them to provide leadership for the quizzing program here at PMC. Marlin is providing leadership for teen quizzing and Karen is providing leadership for the children’s quizzing. Micah McQuillin is assisting with the teen quizzing. Terry and Nichole Beaverson are helping with the children’s quizzing. All of these coaches are donating their time for this important ministry.

One of the new ministries we implemented last year is Bible quizzing for children and teens. Quiz- ing is designed to assist kids in studying, learning and memorizing God’s Word. Each month, quizzers meet for competition with other churches in the East Central District quiz league. It’s always a fun and exciting time for quizzers, coaches and parents.

In children’s quizzing, they are studying Acts 13-28…the missionary journeys of Paul. The teams are divided up by age. The 4th – 6th graders are in Flight A. The 2nd – 3rd graders are in Flight B. Our PMC Flight A team consists of Elias Rash, Weston Ruffer and Isaac Norr. They are currently ranked fifth in their division, with win/loss record of 7-9. Our PMC Flight B team consists of Dylan Rash, Sammy Ruffer, Norah Ruffer, Joshua Norr and Ben Leatherman. They are currently ranked second in their division, with a win/loss record of 10-6. Individually, Isaac Norr is in the Top 10 of his division for points. Ben Leatherman and Joshua Norr are in the Top 10 individually for points in their division. Children’s quizzing will wrap up on March 9 with all-day finals.

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If you haven’t heard, Josh Rychener completed his airplane. Due to the weather, he was only able to fly the plane once. He is looking forward to the summer to put the aircraft to work. To keep up with Josh and Janelle in Alaska, follow their blog: http://www.rychenerfamilyadventures.blogspot.com.

Top Secret Announcement! The missionary family we sponsor in East Asia just had a baby in January by C-section. Due to the location and the type of work they do, we don’t publish their names. Please ask one of the mission committee members, if you want more details.

Steve & Sheila Harrigan are heading to Sierra Leone for the month of February. They are planning to help dedicate a new church plant they helped start. They are hoping to come to Pettisville for a visit after the trip. Please pray for safety as they travel.

Mitch & Sarah Gerig arrived in Thailand safely. Mitch has started teaching in the school, and he was pleasantly surprised how well behaved and thankful each of his students is towards him. Unfortunately for the family, they have passed a flu bug around to each other. Mitch is the last one to recover. Please pray for all of our missionaries as they serve around the world!

-3-
Game day has arrived! The Upward Sports Basketball and Cheerleading program is in full swing, with ongoing weekly practices and games every Saturday in January and February. If you haven’t experienced it for yourself, we invite you to come to the church on Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and see why the parking lot is so full of cars. On an average game day, over 800 people enter PMC to watch the kids play basketball and lead cheers.

Besides teaching the kids more about basketball and cheering, during each practice coaches have the opportunity to share a short devotion with the kids on their team. Before each game the referees meet with the teams for prayer at center court. Following each game, the coaches meet with their teams to hand out small stars to reward the players for not only their basketball skills but also their Christ-like behavior and sportsmanship. The Upward Sports program gives us an opportunity to talk to and pray with the kids and their families that we might not otherwise have.

It takes dozens of volunteers to make each game day possible. All play an important role in the program. Many thanks to all of those who volunteer as coaches, referees, scorekeepers, concessions, greeters, setup/cleanup crews, audio/visual techs and host families. Please continue to pray for the volunteers, children and their families, especially as we move toward the end of the season and prepare to make a clear presentation of the Gospel. Find us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pmcupwardsports

Doing our part... So God can do His.
Josh Schramm

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**UPWARD SPORTS UPDATE!!**

**CHURCH WORK DAY!!**


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**IMPORTANT DATES ON THE CHILDREN’S CALENDAR**

Feb. 10 - Missionaries John & Deb Siegel speak in Lighthouse Cove

Feb. 24 - Missionaries Rod & Tammy McQuillin speak in Lighthouse Cove & Acorn Bank breaking!

March 3 - Janine Crevier Yoder is the guest speaker at our Upward Awards Celebration

March 20 - Rollerskating in Wauseon for QUEST

Week of July 21 - Vacation Bible School

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**STAR OF WONDER DVDS**

Did you enjoy our children's Christmas musical Star of Wonder? Well, dvds are available for a small donation. Please order your copy by contacting Renee Flory.

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**Children's Retreat 2013**

May 31 - June 2 at Miracle Camp

Guest Speaker Marc Hannan

Registration Forms will be available by the beginning of March.

Questions? Ask Mrs. Renee

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