

Family & ProLife News Briefs

August 2021

Empowering Women

AGT Singer with Terminal Cancer

Jane Marczewski, who sings as Nightbirde, wowed judges, earning America's Got Talent's "Golden Buzzer," automatically qualifying her for live shows this summer. What stood out to judges & viewers alike, however, was her courage and optimism in the face of great adversity. When the bright-eyed, energetic-looking young woman revealed that she had cancer, the judges were visibly stunned.

Judge Howie Mandel said "You've got a beautiful smile and glow, & nobody would know." To which Nightbirde replied, "Thank you. It's important that everyone knows that I'm so much more than the bad things that happen to me.

... You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy." She sang an original song, "It's OK," which conveys the feelings of being lost and alone yet reassured and optimistic.

Shortly after a crushing diagnosis of terminal cancer throughout her body, at age 28, Nightbirde's husband divorced her. With her diagnosis, she would qualify for assisted suicide in many nations where the anti-life practice is legal. Increasingly, our culture sends the message that life with difficulty and suffering is not worth living, encouraging people like Nightbirde to end their lives instead of fighting.

Studies show that the reason people seek assisted suicide is not illness or physical pain but instead feelings of despair & fear of becoming a burden to others.

After leaving the stage, Nightbirde said, "I have a two percent chance of survival, but two percent is not zero percent. Two percent is something, and I wish people knew how amazing it is. Physically, I'm doing really well. For me it's just like miracle after miracle. I just finished up some treatments a week ago. It's too early to really check. It'll be a few more months until we can go back in & see what's going on. But I'm expecting good news, I really am." [Texas Right to Life, 6/23/21, LifeNews.com]

Do You See That Baby in the Back?

On March 18, we were at the abortion facility in St. Petersburg and a car pulled up. The windows were rolled down and the driver asked us that question. He continued: "We were here a couple years ago, and we decided not to abort him. Thank you for being here today!" [Florida Preborn Rescue, April 2021 newsletter]

Woman Wakes After 10-Month Coma

Cristina Rosi, 37, was seven months pregnant when she suffered a heart attack last year. Her daughter Caterina was delivered by emergency Caesarean section & spent several months in hospital due to a lack of oxygen during delivery. However, Cristina was left in a coma with grave fears about permanent damage to her brain. Both her husband & mother were at her side when she woke up; her first word was "Mamma." Her husband Gabriele said, "We didn't expect it; it was a real joy after so much suffering." A crowdfunding page has raised more than \$200,000 for her further rehabilitation & physiotherapy. [Italian Tribune, 7/1/21]

DID YOU KNOW? A developing unborn human being, at 15-week gestation, feels pain, has a face, and sucks its thumb.

Fighting Against Abortion is Pro-Woman

American feminists in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries fought for basic rights such as the right to vote, the right to own property, & the right to shared custody of their children if divorced. They called abortion "child murder." Many of them were Christian leaders who saw abortion as another means for men to dominate and exploit women.

In a speech in 1875, "Social Purity," Susan B. Anthony compared abortion & infanticide to rape & prostitution, referring to all four practices as male wrongs against women. Feminists for Life wrote: "Anthony argued that laws pertaining to these matters, made and enforced exclusively by men, further victimized women while absolving men of all responsibility." (<https://bit.ly/35DvCDX>)

Saving Current Legal Safeguards That Protect Women

Prolifers in Britain and Wales thwarted an attempt by Member of Parliament Diana Johnson to add an amendment—which would legalize abortion up to birth—to the Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Bill. Bob Blackmun MP said he had "received more emails and calls about New Clause 55 than I have about any other measure since I was elected to the House 11 years ago."

800 physicians sent an open letter, saying: "The amendment would introduce abortion on demand, for any reason (including sex-selective abortion), up until birth. It would remove all current legal safeguards (many of which protect women) around abortion. This would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. It would also position England & Wales drastically away from Europe where the median gestational time limit for abortion is 12 weeks. [Maria McFadden Maffucci, ed., Human Life Review, 7/16/21]



Taking the Initiative

The Declaration for Life affirms the dignity of the human person and reminds us of the grave evil of abortion. You can sign the declaration at www.declaration-for-life.org. It's good for us to signal our commitment as the Supreme Court prepares to hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, a case that allows the Court an opportunity to overturn *Roe*. [*First Things*, 8/21]

DID YOU KNOW? America is only 1 in 7 nations, including China and North Korea, that allows abortion at any point during pregnancy.

Moms Fighting for Their Children

Many parents are speaking out against school sex education programs and other materials that they believe encourage risky sexual behavior in younger & younger children. Earlier this summer, parents in Tacoma, Washington were outraged after their middle school students received a Planned Parenthood flyer that promoted sex to 11-year-olds, telling them that they could get an abortion without a parent's knowledge.

Georgia mom Katie Allen is concerned about the reading materials that her children have access to at their public schools. It began when her daughter brought home a book called *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier, a popular children's author. Allen said the book includes sexually graphic material & "overtly homosexual themes." She and other concerned parents of Columbia County school children are beginning to wonder how many inappropriate books their children have access to in their school libraries.

Allen began a petition asking the Columbia County Board of Education to remove books that promote "homosexuality, general sexuality and transgender ideology" from school libraries or at least notify parents that their children have access to them. In June, she spoke to the school board about her concerns, and afterward she received an unsatisfactory letter from superintendent Dr. Steven Flynt. She vows to continue the effort. [M. Bilger, *LifeNews.com*, 7/15/21]

Reactions to 'True Love Waits' Program by Teenage Participants

- "I learned to respect myself."
- "I knew chastity was important but as I learned more about our relationship with God it made me think more deeply about it."
- "I found the 'Resisting the Pressure' part most useful."
- "Love is not always what you think. The impact is that I now know that lust is not love."
- "Before attending the sessions, I wasn't planning on waiting for marriage. I changed my mind." [newsletter, www.lifeneteducation.org, 6/21]

Sisters for Life Sue Louisville

Sisters for Life and Kentucky Right to Life sidewalk counselors emphasized in the lawsuit that their outreach is peaceful and compassionate in their effort to save unborn babies from abortion outside the EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville, the largest abortion facility in Kentucky.

"Sidewalk ministry is not loud, obnoxious or confrontational," the lawsuit states. Pro-life sidewalk advocates approach women offering information and support, a "much more effective means of dissuading women from having abortions than confrontational methods such as shouting, brandishing signs, blocking access, loud speakers, or other methods which, in Plaintiffs' view, tend only to alienate their intended audience."



Louisville Metro Council agreed to delay enforcing a buffer zone that would restrict pro-lifers' life-saving efforts around the abortion facility until the courts made a ruling. Abortion activists have been pressuring the Louisville Metro Council to pass a buffer zone for years, but pro-life advocates expressed hope that the ordinance will be ruled unconstitutional.

In 2020, Sidewalk Advocates for Life celebrated helping 10,000 mothers choose life for their unborn babies in its six years of ministry. They encourage mothers to give their babies a chance at life and connect them with community resources, including pregnancy resource centers, that provide financial and material help. [www.LifeNews.com, 7/20/21]

New Jersey Plans for More Abortions

Being pushed by the state's governor, the so-called "NJ Reproductive Freedom Act" bill (RFA) would allow abortions to be performed by people who are not doctors, and for abortions to continue to be allowed up through nine months of pregnancy. In addition, it would eliminate conscience protections for medical personnel who object to abortion on religious grounds, and it would increase the amount of taxpayer funds for abortion.

A recent protest at the state capital was organized by LIFENET as well as many other pro-life groups that are part of the Working Together for New Jersey Coalition. New Jerseyans are urged to contact their state senators and assembly representatives, urging them to reject the RFA.

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