

Moral perspectives

Baby Louise conceived in life-giving love

Little Louise was born and is reportedly healthy. Suddenly we are all arm-chair experts in ethics as we praise or blame the new medical ability to intervene directly in the process of conception.

One complaint is that doctors have intruded on divine prerogatives. "We don't want people handling what God gives." But God's gift of life includes intelligence which has developed thousands of benefits, including advancing medical skills. Appreciative use of intelligence is accepting a divine gift.

What is the gift of life? The wisdom of thousands of years finally came into written words which say the gift of life was the infusion of breath or spirit into physical bodies which thereby became human. Life is not mere biology. Religions teach that the body is a temporary home of an eternal spirit. The real question is the meaning of spirit and body united in each unique person.

A HELPLESS human baby can survive only if there is dependable physical care. But this dependence is more than physical. Tender loving care is not sentiment or luxury but a literal necessity. Humans must be loved into life and survival hinges on love continuing for a long time.

Life-creating love is intentional investment of energy. It is not what we think of as private emotion or delightful fantasy; the common definition of love as romantic feeling is a destructive distortion.

Love is energy flowing between people. Love is power crating mutually. Love is communication by which each affirms the other. Love is commitment to risk involvement in each other's well being and destiny.

CONCEPTION is uniting sperm and egg and giving the cell division process a nurturing home in a womb. Psychologists say the risks are so great that a positive intention to be a mother is required, even if not recognized; in this sense there is never an unwanted child.

But thousands of unwanted children suffer because biological processes run without intentional life-creating love.

Conception is, morally, an act which involves parent-to-be in an obligation to provide the love which gives and sustains infant life. Without the love and intention, conception is a biological accident as horrible as a death-causing accident or worse. A decision to love a child-to-be is commitment to thousands of acts in pre-natal care and infant nurture.

REV.
CHARLES
ERICKSON



DO WE INSULT God by interfering in physical processes? No, it is when we view life as merely physical that we insult God. Tradition teaches that we are created in the image of God, and then jolted us with only two descriptions of God—God is love and God is spirit. We live in trouble with a childish view that God's image is like a mythical Uncle Sam or Paul Bunyan. Our intervention in physical processes is not usurping divine power but acting responsibly to focus on love and spirit.

We began tampering with physical processes when humans learned to control fire and design clothing so we could survive in life-threatening climates. Medical "tampering" has eradicated much disease and lessened the ravages of many ills. Why be upset because there is new ability to ease the heartbreak of infertility?

THE REAL QUESTION is intention and consequences. If we think only of possible aberrations and misuse of skills, we defy history. Should we prohibit a wheel because it has now become an automobile which kills and maims thousands daily? The wheel is here to stay and so is medical skill.

Medical aid in conception gives not less but more opportunity to focus on what it means to be human. The intention to offer life-giving love to a new life becomes more clearly a decision. Love makes us human and spirit is the power and direction in our choices. We are decision-making animals and every chance to put love and spirit at the center of choice increases

the humanity in us. The secret of life is not a biological unknown but a spiritual mystery of life-giving love. We need all the medical aid we can get, and more, to focus love by intention and commitment.

Bond group fashions a couture showing

Haute couture especially designed for the show will be highlighted when the 1978 Michigan Premiere Israel Bond Fashion Festival comes to Oakland County.

The annual presentation showcasing the best of Israel fashion will tour 60 major cities in the U. S. and Canada and will be presented here on Thursday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield.

Mrs. David B. Hermelin of Birmingham has accepted the chairmanship of the show, according to Mrs. Allen Charlupski, women's division chairperson.

Hattie, Inc. in Birmingham will lend its expertise in coordinating and staging the presentation and, as in the past, local TV celebrities will help model the clothes.

A meeting to organize the fashion show committee will be held at the home of Mrs. Fred Walters in Southfield on Aug. 22.

Mrs. Hermelin commented that Israel's fashion and textile industries have grown remarkably in the short year history of the country.

"Export is vital to Israel's economic health and fashions are now the third largest export product and are staple items in top fashion stores throughout the world," she said.

"The women's division of Israel Bonds is an organization dedicated to the economic development of the State of Israel. By sponsoring the annual all-Israel fashion festival, we create a showcase for exciting Israeli fashions and also help make additional loan dollars available, through Israel Bonds, for the development of the fashion industry, as well as many other industrial enterprises," she said.

A native Detroit and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Mrs. Her-



DOREEN HERMELIN

melin devotes much of her time to actively serving the community and Israel.

She presently serves on the boards of the Israel Bond Women's Division, Jewish Welfare Federation Women's Division, Sinai Hospital Guild and Michigan Regional O.R.T. She is vice-president of Cong. Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood and co-chairperson of "Orchards," the National Council of Jewish Women's mental health facility and is active in other communal organizations.

She and her husband, David, are parents of five children and have made frequent visits to Israel. Mrs. Walters is a past president of the Michigan Region of O.R.T.

For more information about the meeting or the Oct. 19 festival, call the Israel Bond office at 968-0200.

Consumer mailbag

Lake Michigan ecology improving

We've just come back from a week-end trip to Chicago. Walking along the lake shore made me think about how clean the water could possibly be with all the congested and pollution sources surrounding it. What is the condition of Lake Michigan?

Mr. and Mrs. C.S., Southfield

Good—and bad! A two-year EPA study of Lake Michigan shows that some pollution has been checked but the open lake waters are deteriorating. The research suggests that the partial ban on phosphates in laundry detergents and on the insecticide DDT have improved Lake Michigan water quality. "The strategy of banning substances before they enter the environment can be an effective technique,"

the study concludes. Because of industrial and municipal pollution abatement programs, certain lake nearshore areas have improved, several public beaches have reopened for public bathing, and some abatement of taste and odor problems in drinking water gotten from the lake has occurred.

On the bad side, however, eutrophication, or overenrichment of the open waters, continues. The level of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and dieldrin (a pesticide) in fish still remains high, and concentration of chloride in the lake is higher than before.

The light at the end of the tunnel is evident, however, in a particularly striking example of how an ecosystem can rebound from human mis-

management. In 1976, the dramatic reduction of DDT levels in Lake Michigan fish. In 1976, the levels of this toxic insecticide found in coho salmon, lake trout, and chub were down about 90 percent from the 1969 concentrations (when DDT was finally banned nationwide).

The Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the world's fresh water. Most of the 30 million Americans in the Great Lakes Basin drink from, swim in, or fish in these waters.

The lakes bring jobs, affect our health, and cost tax dollars. The Great Lakes Basin today faces serious environmental and economic choices. Responsibility for these choices must be shared by all.

The Great Lakes Basin Commission is working on a plan to coordinate and

round out the numerous water management and planning activities throughout the region. To succeed, the basin plan must be responsive to the needs and desires of the people who live and work in the region. In this context they are seeking your help. Great Lakes problems: What do you think? Send your comments to the Great Lakes Basin Commission, Box 999, 3475 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106.

Concern Inc. Detroit answers your questions on environmental and consumer issues. Send your letters to Concern Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy, Mich. 48068.

Grace R. Gluskin
Executive Director

Your Invitation to Worship

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| <p>For Church Directory Information Please Call: Debbie 644-1100 Ext. 217</p> <p>CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST 20500 Middlebelt, Livonia Pastor Gerald Fisher 474-2444 9 a.m. First Worship Service 10:15 a.m. The Church School 11:15 a.m. Second Service of Worship Nursery Provided at All Services</p> | <p>ANTIOCH LUTHERAN CHURCH 13 Mile & Farmington Rd. Service 10 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Nursery Provided Pastor Bert Anderson 626-7906</p> | <p>"I AM THAT I AM" TEACHINGS OF THE ASSIGNED MASTERS "SCIENCE OF THE SPIRIT" "STUDIES OF THE AURA" "STUDIES OF THE CHAKRA" "STUDIES OF THE KARMAS" "STUDIES OF THE REINCARNATION" "STUDIES OF THE DEEPTER DEGREES OF SINGING" NEW STUDENTS MON 7:30-9:30 TUE 7:30-9:30 WED 7:30-9:30 THU 7:30-9:30 FRI 6:00-9:30 SUN 10:00-12:00</p> | <p>BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 5631 North Adams Road SUMMER SERVICES Sunday 9 AM Family Worship Communion—first Sunday of each month Monday 8 PM. Wednesday Service Frid 7 PM. Pastor Dorothy F. Schuler, Pastor MI 6-5241</p> | <p>EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 22425 Warren Rd. (East of I-96) Phone 557-1848 9:30 AM The Service Rev. Dr. L. Eldon Lundgren</p> | <p>COVENANT BAPTIST Covenant is a church where Christian Education is important. There is a place for you and your family to study and grow. Church School 9:45 Worship 11 AM & 8:30 PM 5000 W. Maple Rd. Livonia, Mich. 48031 855-9191</p> |
| <p>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH English Synod 26715 Farmington Rd. Farm. Hills (across from Orchard Ridge Campus) SERVICES Sun. 9:30 AM Mon. 8:00 PM V.H. Mesenbring 474-1136</p> | <p>NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14 Mile and Lathrop Roads Morning Worship and Church School 10 AM Pastors: L. J. Peterson & E. Dunn Phone 642-0200</p> | <p>THE SUMMIT LIGHTHOUSE OF DETROIT 23647 WOODWARD AVE. #1 9TH FLOOR 545-6769</p> | <p>Birk in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN 13207 E. 14 Mile Rd. MINISTERS James F. Anderson Robert L. Lindsey Rosa H. Gooch Worship Services and Child Care Sundays at 9:30 and 11:30 A.M. Church School through October 1st at 9:30 A.M. only</p> | <p>ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 165 E. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills, 171 East of Woodward 328-2333 Minister Dr. Roger Ireson Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> | <p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church 35300 Eighth Mile Road Farmington Hills EINO M. TUORI, PASTOR 474-2579 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 A.M.</p> |
| <p>First United Methodist Church 1589 West Maple of Pleasant Ministers: James W. Wright, G. Bryn Evans John H. Bunce, Thomas H. Beven Harold E. Weenhoff Summer Service 8:30 & 10:00 Church School 10:00 Nursery Care Provided</p> | <p>Bloomfield Hills Christian Church The Community House 380 South Bates, Birmingham Sunday 10-10 A.M. 10:00 A.M. Bible School 6:00 P.M. Prayer Service Wednesday 7:15 P.M. Bible Study 851-8516</p> | <p>The Orchard United Methodist Church 3045 Farmington Road (Between 12 and 14 Mile) Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. Nursery & Pre-School Ministers: Robert L. Lindsey James F. Anderson 626-8220</p> | <p>Salem United Church of Christ Oakman & 2nd Ave., Farmington Worship Service 9 AM Church School 9 AM Church Office GR 4-6880 Oakman & 2nd Ave., Farmington Rev. James A. Bates Minister Telephone 474-2864</p> | <p>St. John American Lutheran Church 23225 Oak Road, Farmington Pastor: Charles, Jr. 474-2816 Service 9:30 No Sunday School Nursery Provided</p> | <p>St. Andrew Lutheran Church LCA 6555 Teverson Rd. Birmingham N. of Maple Worship Service Sunday Church School 10:30 A.M. Thursday Church School 6:00 P.M. Charles William Pieter 646-5207</p> |
| <p>First Baptist Church Bates and Wallis, Birmingham, Mich. Robert O. Middleton, Minister David W. Davis Glenn H. Aspin Jr. Home 2-4333 (Assistant Minister)</p> | <p>WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA Farmington Road & Six Mile Road 422-1150 Worship & Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. "How to Think of Yourself" Dr. Bartlett L. Hess 7:00 p.m. "Pilgrim's Progress" Film version of John Bunyan's immortal classic, narrated by George Beverly Shea Wednesday 7:30 p.m. HOUR OF POWER Psalm 12 Nursery Provided at All Services</p> | <p>St. Andrew Lutheran Church LCA 6555 Teverson Rd. Birmingham N. of Maple Worship Service Sunday Church School 10:30 A.M. Thursday Church School 6:00 P.M. Charles William Pieter 646-5207</p> | <p>Franklin Community Church United Methodist on Franklin's Village Green 10 A.M. Nursery Care 10 A.M. Lawn Reception following Service Senior Minister Frank B. Cowick Associate Minister J. Chester Stubbs</p> | <p>Beverly Hills United Methodist Church 7000 W. 11 Mile at Longview 474-1777 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM Monday-Wednesday Monday-Wednesday</p> | <p>Principle of Peace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 12 Mile & Farmington Roads Behind Crowley 2 The Rev. R.A. St. Pierre—pastor Sunday Worship 8:00 and 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 A.M. Church Phone: 553-3380</p> |
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