

BELIEFS Values

Christian Science

Birmingham Church presents two public talks

Life 'choice' should not be based solely on convenience



REV. TIMOTHY F. BABCOCK

November 19, 1997, was a historical day. The successful birth of the United States of America's first septuplets drew worldwide attention. As of this writing, the majority of the seven have gone home, with the remaining two infants hopefully soon to follow. Countless people from every land watched and waited and prayed with the McCaughey family, and the medical teams who assisted them, and celebrated when all were born and survived.

Thousands also have reached out to support the McCaughey's in tangible ways as they undertake the awesome task of providing for this sudden growth in their family, and the care of so many babies. Hundreds of thousands rejoiced at this blessed, and even extraordinary, event.

As I write this today, I hope the irony that this event has brought about is apparent. The irony is that, according to the present law of our nation, every one of these children, or any number of them could also have had their life taken from them right up to the time they were born.

These children were born in the 28th week of gestation. They could still be the objects of abortion in the 28th week. At exactly the same time, current law gave to our nation, their mother, the right to determine whether these children would be born or not.

Some day, hopefully soon, we must face up to the dilemma advances in medical science have created in our abortion policy and legislation.

To take the life of a child who happens to still be in a woman's womb is an exercise of "choice."

To take the life of a child of exactly the same age, who now has been removed from

the mother's womb, is a criminal act. This makes no sense! This is particularly evident in the current debate over late term, or partial-birth, abortions. In these cases, the right to "choose" is extended even into the birth process itself.

The current law states that there is a difference between the child's right to life according to whether it is completely born or not.

It is considered legal and appropriate to terminate the life of the child even when a portion of the child's body as left, or been removed from the mother's womb, but the child's head has not.

What a difference 30 seconds, or so, can make. It makes no sense!

Statistics pertaining to abortions, and the reasons for abortions, vary. In most reported statistics, however, the majority of abortions are sought for reasons that have nothing to do with preserving the health of the mother, or with pregnancies that result from forced rape or incest. The most common reasons people give for supporting the "right" to abortion.

The majority of abortions are sought so that the lifestyle of the prospective mother will not be affected by the pregnancy, or the later presence of a child. In a very significant number of instances, abortion is seen as simply another form of birth control.

The fact that one individual has the right to determine whether another individual lives simply on the basis of lifestyle or convenience should not be acceptable, or legal. Life should be worth more than that.

Obviously, in my opinion, the law pertaining to the termination of unborn life needs to be changed. More and more people, as they face the implications of medical progress and our ability to treat children in the womb, are coming to the same conclusion.

Please see BABCOCK, B8

First Church of Christ Scientist in Birmingham will host two talks for the public on Feb. 9 and 10 about spiritual healing.

Susan Cobb of Laguna Niguel, Calif., will speak from her own life-experience about how spirituality and effective prayer result in physical cure.

"Healing Without Drugs," is the topic of her book talk at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Bloomfield Township.

She will discuss the application of spiritual truths found in the book *Science and Health with Key to Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, which after more than a century remains a popular book on spirituality and healing.

"What is Spirituality? What is Spiritual Healing?" is the title of her talk to be given at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Baldwin Public Library.

During this talk, Cobb will present a spiritual approach to solving problems and achieving spiritual healing.

Cobb has practiced spiritual healing as a Christian Scientist Practitioner for the past nine years.

She also has served as a Christian Science chaplain in the Orange County jail system in California, ministering to inmates and praying for those who asked for her help.

One of four children whose parents depended solely on spiritual means for their health care, she said she has

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Susan Cobb
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witnessed physical restoration achieved through metaphysical means.

Cures included those of birth defects, allergies, severe burns, pink eye, measles, mumps, chicken pox, electric shock.

Using what she learns from

the Bible and from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, she said she has not only experienced dramatic physical healing herself, but has been able to heal others as well.

"If ever there was a time when people are open to the possibility of higher ways and means of achieving mastery of the body, this is it," Cobb said.

The Feb. 9 talk will be held at Barnes & Noble, 6575 Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Township. The Feb. 10 talk will be held in the Rotary room at the library at 300 W. Merrill in Birmingham.

For more information, call (248) 644-7395.

Shir Tikvah fund-raiser is 'RENT to OWN'

The firm of Alan Frank and Associates located in Bloomfield Hills has been chosen as creative designers by Congregation Shir Tikvah for its fund-raiser — the Detroit premier of RENT at the Fisher Theatre on Wednesday, April 28.

Congregation Shir Tikvah is the only Jewish congregation in the Detroit metropolitan

area east of Woodward. After years of renting space in various religious locations, it is building a permanent home at the corner of Wadsworth and Northfield Parkway in Troy.

RENT to OWN, the campaign designed by Alan Frank and Associates, promotes the benefit premiere performance

of RENT. Winner of the 1996 Tony for best musical and the Pulitzer Prize, RENT is sold out on Broadway.

Honorees for the evening will be Sam and Jean Frankel. They have been instrumental in the development of the business climate in Troy.

The RENT to OWN cam-

paign includes invitations, the program book and an ad campaign.

All proceeds from the Detroit premiere of RENT will go toward Congregation Shir Tikvah's new building.

Call the Shir Tikvah fund-raising line at (248) 706-1703 for tickets, to place an ad and for other information.

Adat Shalom synagogue to host Joan Lunden

Joan Lunden, former Good Morning America host and author of books on healthy living, will be guest speaker at the annual CHOICES event scheduled for 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 4, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29801 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

CHOICES is the annual Allied Jewish Campaign community outreach event and fund-raising luncheon sponsored by the Jewish Federation Women's Campaign and Education Department.

For nearly 20 years, Lunden hosted Good Morning America in addition to many prime-time TV specials called "Behind Closed Doors With Joan Lunden."

Her special toured the CIA headquarters, Betty Ford Clinic and the Pentagon, among others.

She has hosted programs on parenting and appeared in parenting videos. She is the single mother of three daughters.

Among the honors and awards she has received are: Yeshiva University Spirit of Achievement Award, YWCA Outstanding Woman's Award, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights Award and Baylor University Outstanding Woman of the Year.

The National Mother's Day Committee selected her as the Outstanding Mother of the

Year in 1982-1983 for her dedication to motherhood.

She has written three books: "Good Morning I'm Joan Lunden," "Joan Lunden's Healthy Living" and "Joan Lunden's Healthy Cooking."

CHOICES chairwoman is Susie Pappas.

Susie Leemaster is associate chairman and Hannah Moss, adviser.

Admission fee is \$25, with a required minimum \$150 pledge to the Women's Campaign. Complimentary baby-sitting will be available for children age 2 1/2 and older by reservation before Feb. 15.

Kosher luncheon will be served.

Bingham Farms-based Unique Restaurant Corp. is a sponsor.

Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry of West Bloomfield; and Wright Watchers of Farmington Hills will provide the favors.

Reservation deadline is Feb. 10, unless the program sells out earlier. Checks should be made payable to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and mailed to CHOICES, P.O. Box 2010 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2030.

All reservations must be accompanied by a check.

For information, call Esther Weitzman at (248) 642-4260.

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