

Heartbeat

January 2012

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Volunteer Information Night
January 31

Volunteer Training
February 21-23,
28-29, March 1

Walk/5K Run for Life
May 5

A Word of Encouragement:

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven...a time to tear down and a time to build."

Ecc. 3:1&3

“Sanctity of Human Life” ...Catchphrase or Conviction?

Most Christians would at least give lip service to the idea that human life is sacred. Indeed, after a generation of fighting over issues such as abortion, stem cells, and euthanasia, “the sanctity of life” has become a slogan wielded by many Christians as justification for their positions. But sometimes little thought goes into that slogan. It is assumed that “everyone” knows what “sanctity of life” means. Yet the concept is actually much more complex in its origins and its implications than is commonly understood. And it won’t be sufficient for Christians to continue mouthing a slogan without thinking through what it means and how it really affects our worldview.

So what is the sanctity of human life? Should Christians of all stripes assert it and in what ways? Or should we abandon the term as either politically motivated or too limited in its application? On the contrary, I believe that the sanctity of human life is not simply a slogan, but an extraordinarily rich and important Christian moral conviction that has far wider implications than most of us realize. The belief that each and every human being has an inviolable dignity and immeasurable worth is one of the most precious legacies of biblical faith to the world. It profoundly elevates the way human beings view and treat one another. It restrains the darkest impulses that course within our fallen nature. Every day for millennia it has both saved lives and enriched their quality. Indeed, it provides the bedrock upon which the moral and legal codes of our culture and much of the world have been built.

For these reasons it is a concept worth protecting.

“The Sanctity of Human Life”
David P. Gushee

A Moment with the Director



Delores Wolterstorff
Executive Director

Our Mission Statement:

To affirm and promote the value of human life to our community through a network of care with the love of Jesus Christ

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Building Bridges...

It is with a grateful heart that I write this first article for Heartbeat 2012. This past year has been filled with one blessing after another from our loving Heavenly Father. Allow me to share just a few.

Untold volunteer hours of manual labor coupled with many materials purchased at cost made the dream of moving into our own building by July a reality. Financially, God's people gave beyond my wildest dreams. The Knights of Columbus raised the money to purchase a new sonogram machine with the capability of hearing the heartbeat.

Our Community Education program got a new name, "Exposed: revealing the facts about sexuality" and is expanding into more schools, reaching 5,852 students last school year. Katie, our community education director, hosted a six-hour training for eight centers from northern California and Nevada. Our conference room was packed!

Client services increased as we served 974 people.

As we "dream" for 2012, we wonder, "Can it get any better than this?" There is much work still to be done in this community where 25% of students in high school don't graduate. Why? Where does MPC fit into this picture?

Our theme this year is "Building Bridges" – to our youth---- to our clients---- to those suffering from post-abortion stress. Our theme is based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 3, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven...a time to tear down and a time to build."

This is the time to build!

Delores Wolterstorff
Executive Director

From PACE - Post-Abortion Recovery

As the New Year begins it always gives me an opportunity to look back at the past year, and maybe even prior years and assess what changes, goals, hopes, or healing I would like to petition before God. As I pondered my past and asked God to direct me, I thought of the many others that might be asking Him the same thing. But what stood out to me the most is the possible pain some might be in due to a decision that has impacted their lives in a way they didn't expect. What am I referring to? Something I know too well on a personal level...

PACE con't...

There are many (men and women) who have experienced a crisis pregnancy, which led to a decision that changed their life...abortion. As hard as it is to talk about, it's one of those passions God has given me. I know that He (and only God) can take that greatest source of pain and turn it into joy. Sounds crazy, right? But God knows all our secrets, all our good and bad decisions and yet He is still there – waiting to heal us in a way no one can truly comprehend. My challenge (MY HOPE) to those of you who have suffered because of this trauma, or maybe you know someone who has – There is HOPE in Christ! He is Jehovah Rapha, our Healer.

The Modesto Pregnancy Center is looking forward to starting our next Post-Abortion Recovery study. Please call for more information, or to talk to one of our trained Abortion Recovery leaders. There is also a male leader available for the men!

Helping men and women find peace and healing through the forgiving hands of Jesus Christ.

Rose Jurado
Client Services Director
PACE Director

From Community Education

"You've changed my philosophy about sex." This was the response Julie and I received from a local high school teacher after spending four days in his classroom discussing the impact of sex outside of marriage with his students.



Julie and I entered his classroom the first morning and he briefly introduced us to the class, "This is Katie and Julie from the Modesto Pregnancy Center. They're here to give you their philosophy on this topic." Interesting, I thought, our "philosophy". It was an introduction I had never heard before, but I realize not everyone agrees with truth.

So I continued on as I would normally, discussing media influence, setting standards for dating, consequences of sex in dating relationships, the importance of physical boundaries, etc. Julie and I came back the following day to complete our discussion on abstinence and relationships. The third and fourth days we spent talking to students about fetal development and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and after dismissal, just as we were leaving, this teacher approached us and said

MPC Statistics

January - December 2011

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From Client Services

Total Clients	974
Pregnancy Tests	370
Sonograms	370
At Risk Clients*	67
*abortion minded or abortion vulnerable	
Changed Minds	34
Spiritual Discussions	398
New Believers	3
Rededications	1

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From Community Education

Total Students	5,852
Total Presentations	291

"You've changed my philosophy about sex. Listening to your perspective and seeing the reaction of the students. You've changed my mind."

It doesn't get much better than that! God has been at work in our schools, in our community, and in the lives of our students and teachers. God is using the Community Education program to bridge the gap between our students and His truth about sexuality.

As I look back on 2011, I see God's hand at work, orchestrating and opening doors to schools, classrooms, and organizations where we have never had opportunities before. This past year we had the privilege of speaking to 5,852 students and young adults throughout the greater Modesto area. That's 1,775 more than we spoke to in 2010! God is so good and we are eager to see what He has in store for 2012!

Katie Den Brave
Community Education Director

From Men's Ministry

The Male Call...

The other day I came across some old military ad campaigns. Since the United States abolished the draft in 1973, the military had to turn to Madison Avenue to make it sound more intriguing to volunteers.

"Be all that you can be", "It's not just a job, but an adventure", "Opportunity is waiting for you", "Stand up, stand out", "It's a great way to serve" and, of course, "We're looking for a few good men".

I do not know how well these slogans motivated people but I have no objection in plagiarizing them looking for male volunteers down here at the Center. There is no greater army than God's Army.

A golden opportunity was missed the other day when a young couple came in looking for advice. The girl was 17 weeks along but her strong-willed boyfriend convinced her to get an abortion, so they left. What could have been the outcome if a male counselor had been there?

The work is not hard or time consuming, though there will be incidences when you will be involved in trench warfare.

Our statistics show Tuesdays are one of the busiest days, but we will take volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

If this is the year you are willing to put on the uniform, march on down (or call) the Center. We would enjoy having you serve with us.

Art Anderson
Interim Men's Ministry Director

Get Your S.H.A.R.E.S. Card



Thank you to everyone who uses their S.H.A.R.E.S. card!

In 2011, we received \$4,008.46. We will be looking into getting the same type of card for the O'Brien Market shoppers.

We hope that you will continue to help MPC by using your SHARES card! Call us at 209.526.1734 if you are interested in either card.

“But I could never ...” is all right with us

Perhaps you have considered volunteering with Modesto Pregnancy Center but are a bit concerned. You may have thought, “*But I would never have the words to say to someone in that situation!*”

If you are nervous, that's all right with us. We need the nervous, even the fearful. Even if you are not at the point of considering becoming a peer counselor, we need you. We need receptionists, we need community education presenters, Incentive Program facilitators, men mentors and if you simply want to lend a helping hand where needed, give us a call. You can make a difference here, in any one of a variety of capacities.

Our ministry is not for everyone, but it is for those with a heart to love and a heart to serve. If this is you, give us a call at 526.1734 and reserve your spot at our **Volunteer Information Night on Tuesday, January 31, 7 p.m.** We've got a place for you to be a part of touching hearts and saving lives.

Farewell to Nancy

Nancy Mudge has been a faithful member of our staff for a little over nine years. She started out volunteering in the office. In 2004 she became Administrative Assistant – helping to schedule presentations in the schools for Community Education and assisting the Executive Director. After a couple of years she added another hat as Events Coordinator and another assistant was hired to assume her position with Community Education.



Mid-January, Nancy and her husband Steve will be moving to Santa Fe, NM where Steve will continue his work with Lawrence Livermore Lab.

Nancy has been a blessing to the ministry of MPC. We pray God's richest blessings on them as they start a new chapter in their lives! We'll miss you, Nancy!

MPC Team

Staff:

Delores Wolterstorff
Executive Director

Rose Jurado
Client Services/PACE

Darryl Dutter, MD
Medical Director

Charlotte Brewer, RNC
Nurse Manager

Jean Pool, CNP
Assistant Nurse Manager

Katie Den Brave
Community Education

Julie Harrison
Community Education
Assistant

Jackie Bowman
Office Manager

Amy Whitley
Bookkeeper

Art Anderson
Interim Men's Ministry



Find us on Facebook!

Get up-to-date information about upcoming events on the “Modesto Pregnancy Center” page and check out what Community Education is doing on the “Exposed” page.

If you or someone you know has suffered as a result of an abortion and may benefit from a healing group class, call Rose at 209.526.1734.

Modesto Pregnancy Center
2801 Coffee Road, Ste. A5
Modesto, CA 95355

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If you haven't already seen "180 Movie" it's a must see! This recent documentary opens your eyes to shocking responses from young adults to questions about their stance on abortion. But even more shocking, are their responses to questions about Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust.

A shocking, award-winning documentary! **PUBLIC ADVISORY GRAPHIC CONTENT**

33 minutes that will rock your world!
Watch "180" NOW!

This pro-life documentary received over a half-million views just nine days after it was released and is currently up to nearly two million views. You can check out the 33-minute documentary for free at 180movie.com.