



Making a Christian difference

June 2017



Dear friend

A time to remember

This October, 50 years on from the 1967 Abortion Act, we are calling on Christians to join together at a commemorative event in London. I remember so clearly that momentous day back in September 1971 when tens of thousands of Christians gathered in London's Trafalgar Square for the Nationwide Festival of Light, which marked the beginning of CARE's work. A major issue for us then was abortion and it still is today.

It is estimated that tens of thousands of people are alive today because the 1967 Abortion Act does not extend to **Northern Ireland**. We give heartfelt thanks to God for this. CARE successfully partnered with the Evangelical Alliance and others in Northern Ireland on the *Both Lives Matter* initiative. This sought to raise people's awareness in the face of growing pressure to liberalise the law on abortion in Northern Ireland and to decriminalise it entirely. Meanwhile, in **Scotland** there is a determined campaign to make abortion much more accessible and to remove the requirement for two doctors to approve a termination. MP Diana Johnson introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill in **Westminster** in March to decriminalise abortion and to allow it to take place for any reason up to full term! Although this Bill was never going to become law, it is a sign of more to come; the pro-abortion lobby want to see substantial liberalisation of the 1967 Act.

A significant occasion

On Saturday 28 October 2017 at Emmanuel Centre in Central London, **CARE will be taking the lead in organising a major event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act.** We will remember the 8.5 million unborn lives that have been lost and also pray for the women who are suffering as a result of having an abortion. Please make a note of the date in your diary now and plan to be with us. We will be joining with other organisations that share our concern on this sensitive issue and believe it will be a moving and significant occasion.



We have discovered that the greatest gift you can give an unborn baby is to care for his or her mother. That's why for many years CARE has sought to equip and encourage volunteers in local Christian centres to demonstrate compassion and understanding, both to the mother facing an unplanned pregnancy and to the women experiencing difficulties following an abortion. We wholeheartedly affirm and support the Pregnancy Centres Network (pregnancycentresnetwork.org.uk), who today are continuing this crucial work.

CARE's initiative Open is a further response to the anguish of hundreds of thousands of women, and men too, who have been affected by abortion (weareopen.org.uk). It is led by Jenny Baines, who has developed her unique ministry speaking in churches and at Christian events, offering training to those involved in pastoral care and organising weekend retreats to help women come to terms with a past abortion.

We believe that unborn children should be afforded full protection and dignity from the time of conception, because each one has been made in the image of God. Since the early 1970s, CARE has assisted the many MPs and Peers who have been trying to fight back against our permissive abortion culture through research, briefings and the raising of grassroots support. Over the last year, CARE has assisted both MP Fiona Bruce and Lord Shinkwin in their efforts to highlight the reality of unequal treatment of some unborn babies because of their gender or a disability. **Our longing is to see a society where abortion is unthinkable.**

Tragic loss

Looking back over the last 50 years, although David Steel's original Private Member's Abortion Bill aimed to reduce the numbers of dangerous 'back-street abortions,' in reality it opened the door to legalised abortion on demand. **Since 1968, more than 8.5 million unborn lives have been lost.** To put this into perspective, there are an estimated 8.6 million people living in London. According to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, at least one-third of women in Britain will have had an abortion by the time they reach the age of 45.

Tragically, the 1967 Abortion Act has resulted in a greater loss of human life than any other piece of legislation in the history of our country and countless women have suffered – physically and emotionally – from the experience of ending their pregnancy. Our hearts go out to them, and to mothers who have lost babies through miscarriage, stillbirth or soon after birth.

We worked with others to oppose measures in the 1990 and 2008 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Acts to permit the creation of human embryos for experimentation, but were unsuccessful. In February last year, the Francis Crick Institute in London was granted a licence to genetically modify human embryos for research purposes. **The 1990 Act did reduce the time limit for terminations from 28 to 24 weeks, but at the last minute Kenneth Clarke as Health Secretary included an amendment that permitted abortion of babies with disabilities right up until birth!**

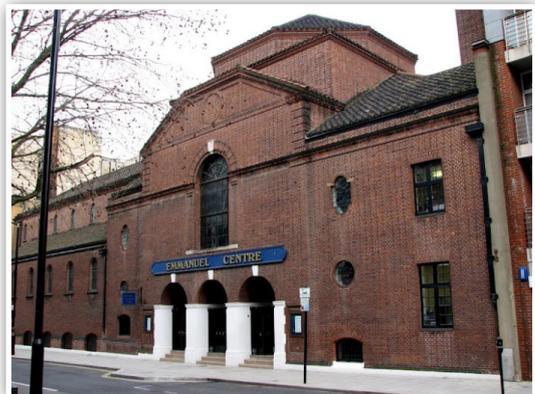
Precious lives

There's no doubt that there has been a steady erosion of respect and protection of human life over the last 50 years. Most abortions take place at or under the 13 week mark. Yet, even at ten weeks, the tiny unborn child has a beating heart, kicking limbs, finger nails, eyes and ears. Even though still so small and undeveloped, totally dependent and unable to survive outside the womb, he or she is undeniably human. A completely innocent human being who is utterly defenceless and voiceless.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus' life began at the moment of His conception by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb. Shortly after this, she visited her pregnant cousin Elizabeth. The unborn John the Baptist was the first person to recognise the presence of the Messiah in Mary's womb and the Bible records that he 'leaped for joy'.

Please join us

We would be so thrilled to see you on Saturday 28 October at Emmanuel Centre, whether you come by yourself or bring others, to commemorate and pray about the loss of life, to stand with women who have been affected by abortion and to redouble our efforts to prevent further liberalisation of the 1967 Abortion Act.



Emmanuel Centre

We cannot stay silent at this time, when there are those determined to do away with a doctor or any other health professional having to agree to a termination and make abortion freely available, without question.

We must speak out boldly, but with gentleness and grace, never forgetting that women do not make this choice without experiencing pain and regret.

They need support and understanding. Both lives matter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of CARE's work. We simply could not continue without you.

Yours in His grace,



Rev Lyndon Bowring
Executive Chairman

*P.s. We thank God for you,
standing with us at this
time as we seek to make
a significant Christian
difference in our society.*



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