ROE V. WADE: CHEMICAL ABORTION ON THE RISE
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CINEMATIC DISCIPLESHIP FOR YOUR CHURCH

As the enemy uses technology to trap and deceive, a new streaming platform is turning the tide, bringing freedom and healing to lives.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been an exponential spike in divorce rates, suicide hotline calls, and traffic to porn sites. The Church is feeling it. Christians are not immune to the emotional repercussions of the pandemic. They just tend more to suffer in silence.

In response to this crisis, KingdomWorks Studios, a Florida-based film production company, launched SOUL REFINER, a powerful solution to equip the Church for this tsunami wave of brokenness and addiction.

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Soul Refiner launched with KingdomWorks Studios’ flagship video teaching series, the Conquer Series, used by over 1 million men worldwide, along with its new long-term men’s series on sexual integrity called Warpath. Stronger Together, a 5-week marriage series was recently released, along with many others. The classes offer biblical answers and proven solutions to life’s toughest problems.

What’s truly unique about Soul Refiner is the cinematic quality and its focus on indepth discipleship: the renewing of the mind through Christ - and lots of proven tools.

“The Soul Refiner Platform is such an inspiration for taking the Lord’s Word to the world, but also to set people free from their burdens of addictions...It’s a God-given genius system.” Pete W., New Zealand

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“A woman just had to choose if she was going to protect her female body or the unborn. The choice was clear,” says Tim Duffy, a pro-life activist. “In the end, she decided to choose life. To them, caring for the mother and protecting the child go hand-in-hand.”

—WORLD Reporter
Leah Hickman

STANDS OUT TO YOU ABOUT YOUR ABORTION COVERAGE IN THIS ISSUE?

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MIDNIGHT TRAINS TO GEORGIA

Despite being from Georgia, I barely paid attention to the “great Georgia divide” and how big of a problem it is. Now that I am better informed, it is in my prayers.

DEC. 5, P. 40—FAITH MARSHALL/DACULA, GA.

Chirot is pertinent to our current division of left and right. Without a Judeo-Christian worldview, socialism (communism) or capitalism (fascism) can end up the same: totalitarianism. It makes me thankful for the U.S. Constitution’s checks and balances.

SPACEx AGE TRADITIONS

DEC. 5, P. 25—MOLLY CROCKER/EVERSON, WASH.

The Mandalorian’s fan base may show that folks are hungry for good entertainment, but what saddens me is the lack of good storytellers in videography, especially those using Christian themes.

A TANGLED WEB

DEC. 5, P. 20—BASSAM NADER/FISHERS, IND.

I appreciated Janie B. Cheaney’s column on “sudden onset gender dysphoria,” but I believe its main cause is the systematic indoctrination of our youth and young adults in the public school and public college systems according to the LGBTQ agenda, planting these bizarre ideas into their young minds.

WIN ONE FOR JOEL

DEC. 5, P. 72—PETER KUSHKOWSKI/PORTLAND, CONN.

WORLD Magazine was just a few years old when my wife and I arranged for a visit with Joel Belz at your old headquarters in Asheville, N.C. After greeting us, his first words were, “Tell me, how did you come to the Lord?” That spoke volumes about Joel and erased any concerns we might have had about his fledgling magazine.

PARSING THE POLITICS OF TYRANNY

DEC. 5, P. 32—CODY U. WATSON JR./BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Marvin Olasky’s interview with Daniel Chirot is pertinent to our current division of left and right. Without a Judeo-Christian worldview, socialism (communism) or capitalism (fascism) can end up the same: totalitarianism. It makes me thankful for the U.S. Constitution’s checks and balances.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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PLEASE INCLUDE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS. LETTERS MAY BE EDITED TO YIELD BREVITY AND CLARITY.
ACK IN 2017, I referred to Joel Belz as the Iron Man of WORLD columnists. He has been a model of consistent faithfulness since the beginning, logging nearly 1,300 consecutive columns in the same number of consecutive issues of WORLD Magazine, starting with Issue 1.

By now, most of you have noticed that his streak ended in the issue dated Nov. 21, just a few issues back. We've run a few “best of” columns since then. Lord willing, Joel will get right back in the saddle—modified to accommodate a healing broken femur—and start a new streak shortly.

With Joel’s streak broken, Marvin Olasky now has a chance to break Joel’s record of consecutive columns. Marvin merely needs to keep writing a column in every single issue of WORLD for the next 13 years. Piece of cake. (For what it’s worth, I’d need 48 years. I don’t think I could take that, let alone you, dear reader!)

Another, shorter column streak ends in this issue. Mindy Belz has begun sharing her column space with Jamie Dean and Sophia Lee. The three of them will alternate issues going forward, allowing Mindy more time to focus on her international reporting. You’ll see a column by Jamie Dean in the place you would normally find Mindy’s column in

this issue. Then Mindy will write another column, and Sophia will jump in for the next issue.

Mindy, Joel’s sister-in-law, has been with WORLD from the beginning. She wrote the cover story for our first issue. She was our entire international reporting division for many years—we say she put the world in WORLD. She began writing her current column at the same time she took on the role of WORLD Magazine editor in 2008.

Even with those added responsibilities, she never stopped her impressive international reporting schedule. Now, when the pandemic subsides, she’ll be able to return to the coverage she knows and loves best.
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—ERIC METAXAS, Bestselling author and host of The Eric Metaxas Radio Show

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Measuring health guesses

Don’t assume the healthcare industry has it all right

The staggering numbers so typically associated these days with the coronavirus are bad indeed. But it’s hard to know how accurate all the numbers are. They may be high. They may be low. But journalists should not pretend that they’re precise.

Asheville Pastor Bob Drake used to talk about the difference between *gnosis* (abstract knowledge) and *epignosis* (specific knowledge gained through personal experience). In God’s providence, I gained some epignosis about healthcare issues during 23 days of the waning 2020 calendar. That’s because late one October night, while sleepily making my way through a dark room of our house, I stumbled, fell, and fractured the femur in my left leg.

I couldn’t move and had to be taken by ambulance to the brand-new emergency room at our regional hospital—where over the next month I received prompt, sensitive, and helpful care.

Such care is not always predictable. Teaching the art of healthcare to a group of 12,000 employees in a dozen hospitals in western North Carolina is no easy assignment. Some will get it. Many won’t. Creating uniformly high standards is especially hard when there’s suspense about who will be running the show and what the standards will be.

Only a few months before I checked in, the hospital and most of its assets and subsidiaries had been sold lock, stock, and barrel to a giant healthcare company from Tennessee. The signals of tension I was getting from staff from hour to hour were altogether real. The debate within the healthcare community over the relative benefits of for-profit vs. nonprofit structures was being put to the test—right where I could see it up close.

Other tensions also were evident. Part of the assignment for hospital workers was to promote both healing and comfort for my badly fractured leg. A much more elusive part of their assignment was to keep in mind my 7-year-old diagnosis with Parkinson’s disease. Even highly trained neurology specialists respond to some new problematic issue for a Parkinson’s patient with a simple “Sorry, we’re not quite sure just what’s going on. We’ll just have to charge that one up to Parkinson’s for now.”

So now I live not only in the state of North Carolina but in the state of confusion as well. During my fourth week in a hospital bed, I lay there trying to wrap my drug-infested brain around some enormous problems. I hadn’t listened to the national or international news for three weeks or more, but I was tuned in to hyper-local hospital news: bickering, squabbles, tensions of new ownership.

It all makes me wonder. We’re told that something approaching 360,000 Americans died during 2020 due to the coronavirus. We’re rarely reminded that something more than 3 million Americans died—of all causes—during that same 12-month stretch.

Sometimes we’re told “underlying factors” played a part in coronavirus deaths, but it’s hard to know how large a part that was. Is 360,000 coronavirus deaths the right number? Too high? Too low? It’s hard to know. But it is sloppy journalism just to assume that the number is accurate. Future journalists and historians will be debating.

Hospitals show us what we don’t know, but they can also concentrate the mind on what we do. In bed I could not help thinking of a song my father used to sing. I wish someone would sing it now.

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*The sympathizing Jesus.*
*He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,*
*Oh, hear the voice of Jesus!*
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Cameron and Roanna, members since 2017
A house divided
Democrats win the U.S. Senate and a unified government, but the country remains splintered

by Jamie Dean

N THE MORNING Congress prepared to tally Electoral College votes on Capitol Hill, Democrats in Georgia clinched two Senate runoffs and delivered the Democratic Party a coveted trifecta: control of the presidency, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate.

The celebration was short-lived: Hours after Democrats captured the Senate, rioters streamed to Capitol Hill after a larger Donald Trump rally nearby and captured physical control of the House and Senate floors, halting the Electoral College tally and plunging Washington, D.C., into stunning chaos.
It was the most dramatic breach of the U.S. Capitol since the British set fire to the building in 1814.

Two days earlier, President Donald Trump campaigned in Dalton, Ga., just before the Senate runoffs that would determine whether Democrats consolidated control of the U.S. government.

The rally came after weeks of bitter confrontation between Trump and Georgia Republicans unwilling to declare the presidential election invalid despite pressure from the president. Multiple judges in multiple states rebuffed claims the election was stolen.

On the eve of the Senate runoffs, Trump spent part of his time in Georgia talking about the Electoral College tally set for two days later. He told the crowd he hoped Vice President Mike Pence would “come through for us.”

The next day, Georgia voters turned out in record numbers, and Democrats came through for the challengers: Democratic candidate Raphael Warnock defeated Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler by 2 percentage points. Democrat Jon Ossoff prevailed over Republican Sen. David Perdue by 1.2 points.

The close races mirrored the tight contest between Trump and President-elect Joe Biden in November (Biden won Georgia by less than 12,000 votes) and raised a question for Republicans reeling from the Senate loss: Though voter turnout was high on both sides, did Trump’s weekslong insistence that the presidential election was rigged cause at least some disgruntled Republicans to skip the runoffs?

It’s difficult to know until election officials release more data, but early results showed Republican turnout reached 88 percent of November’s election levels in precincts Trump carried. For Democratic voters in precincts Biden carried, it was 92 percent.

Republicans had little time for soul-searching about their Senate loss on Jan. 6 before a more stunning development upended D.C. and the nation: Mobs of rioters descended on the Capitol shortly after a larger, nearby Trump rally, invading the seat of government. The melee left five people dead, including a police officer hit in the head with a fire extinguisher.

“You’ll never take back our country with weakness,” Trump had told the rally before the riot, after saying he would march to the Capitol with them (he didn’t). “You have to show strength, and you have to be strong.” Later: “The radical left knows exactly what they were doing. They are ruthless, and it’s time that somebody did something about it. And Mike Pence, I hope you’re going to stand up for the good of our Constitution and for the good of our country.”

One participant in the chaotic scene later at the Capitol told The Wall Street Journal he was shocked by the mayhem he saw when he followed others into the building. He said he wanted to share his views with Congress, and that he “checked with the Lord” three times before he entered: “I never heard a ‘No.’”

Given that the Lord speaks through Scripture, Romans 13 and other New Testament passages clearly teach that Christians should be subject to governing authorities. Whatever the grievance, mob action is a most unholy war.

Earlier that day, Pence told lawmakers he was subject to his oath to “support and defend the Constitution.” He said his oath “constrains me from claim-
Continuing unilateral authority to determine which electoral votes should be counted and which should not.” He ended his letter: “So Help Me God.”

During the riot, Secret Service rushed Pence from the Senate floor to a secure location in the Capitol complex, as a group of rioters outside reportedly chanted threats against him. Pence returned with Congress late in the evening to resume the business of certifying Joe Biden as the next president.

Though chaos—including impeachment proceedings and calls to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office—engulfed Washington ahead of Biden’s inauguration on Jan. 20, lawmakers eventually will look to return to the regular business of running the government. The Democratic wins in Georgia bring the political balance in the U.S. Senate to 50-50. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris would cast any tie-break vote.

The narrow margin puts Democrats at a disadvantage for passing any major legislation that would require 60 votes to overcome a filibuster. But Democrats could pass some forms of spending-related legislation through the budget reconciliation process—a process the party used to pass substantial chunks of the Affordable Care Act.

They’ll also enjoy an easier path to confirm Biden’s Cabinet picks and any judicial nominations, including Supreme Court justices. Those votes require a simple majority.

The party will also control Senate committees and wield the power to shape the legislative agenda until at least the midterm elections in 2022—when control of the chamber will be up for grabs again.

For now, even with a unified government, Democrats will preside over a splintered country—or what Abraham Lincoln before his presidency called “a house divided,” as he echoed the Bible’s teaching that a house divided against itself will not stand.
The number of abortions for every 1,000 live births among U.S. women in 2018, according to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although the CDC figures show a 22 percent overall decline in U.S. abortions since 2009, the agency also reported a 120 percent increase in the use of chemical “medication” abortions since 2009, performed on unborn babies of less than 10 weeks of gestation. The agency reported 619,591 abortions in 2018, but that total is a significant undercount, relying on voluntary reporting from states and excluding California, Maryland, and New Hampshire. (The figure also does not include abortions caused by abortifacients.)
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Indonesian plane goes down

Searchers find data recorder but no survivors among 62 people on board

A Boeing 737-500 jet crashed into the Java Sea after it disappeared from radar minutes after departing from the Indonesian capital of Jakarta on Jan. 9. It took off in heavy rain with 62 people on board. Rescue workers have recovered the flight data recorder, plane parts, and human remains, but no survivors from the Sriwijaya Air jet.

Soerjanto Tjahjono, chairman of Indonesia’s National Transportation Safety Committee, said the recorder would help investigators understand what happened. Tjahjono said the debris was mostly concentrated in one area, signaling the jet was intact when it hit the water. The United States’ National Transportation Safety Board is aiding the investigation.

In 2018, 189 people died after a Lion Air Boeing 737 MAX 8 also plunged into the Java Sea minutes after takeoff.

ARRESTED

Hong Kong police on Jan. 6 arrested 55 former lawmakers and pro-democracy activists in an unprecedented crackdown under the new national security law. Most of those targeted had participated in unofficial election primaries for the territory’s legislature in July. The national security law carries a maximum life sentence. Former lawmaker Lam Cheuk-ting recorded the moment police showed up at his house, saying he was “suspected of violating the national security law, subverting state power.”

Police also arrested Benny Tai, a leader in the 2014 Occupy Central protests, and raided the home of Joshua Wong, an activist currently serving 13½ months in prison for organizing and participating in an unauthorized protest last year.

DIED

Hall of Fame baseball manager Tommy Lasorda died of a heart attack at his home in Fullerton, Calif., on Jan. 8. He was 93.

Lasorda had a 71-year relationship with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a player, scout, manager, and executive. He had a short career as a major league player in the 1950s but achieved stardom as a manager, leading the Dodgers to World Series titles in 1981 and 1988.

Lasorda was known for his enthusiastic personality and his occasionally obscene language with sports reporters. He also pitched SlimFast weight-loss products in TV commercials. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Jo; a daughter; and a granddaughter.

PICKED

President-elect Joe Biden named U.S. Circuit Court Judge Merrick Garland as his choice for attorney general on Jan. 7. If confirmed by the Senate, he will head the U.S. Justice Department in that role. Senate Republicans refused to hold hearings when President Barack Obama nominated Garland for a vacant Supreme Court seat in 2016.

Garland serves as a federal appeals court judge and previously held senior positions at the Justice Department. He supervised the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh, the 1995 Oklahoma City bomber, and has served under presidents of both political parties.
“My first thought was that the Iranians had followed through on their threat to strike the Capitol.”

Sen. SUSAN COLLINS, R-Maine, describing in a Bangor Daily News op-ed her reaction on Jan. 6 after security personnel rushed Vice President Mike Pence and two Senate leaders out of the Senate Chamber. Police later explained that violent pro-Trump rioters had forced their way inside the building (see page 38).

“Don’t tell me he was banned for violating Twitter rules. I get death threats here every day for many years, and Twitter doesn’t ban anyone.”

Russian opposition leader ALEXEY NAVALNY in a Jan. 9 tweet, commenting on Twitter’s decision to permanently ban President Donald Trump from the social media platform due to what it called “the risk of further incitement of violence.” Navalny nearly died last year after being poisoned with a nerve agent in Russia.

“I do not believe that such a course of action is in the best interest of our Nation or consistent with our Constitution.”

Vice President MIKE PENCE, in a Jan. 12 letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, rejecting Democratic requests that he invoke the 25th Amendment to remove President Donald Trump from office.

“It’s crazy. ... This is my 30th flu season. I never would have expected to see flu activity this low.”

LYNNETTE BRAMMER, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s flu surveillance team, on the past year’s dramatic drop in flu cases. Although COVID-19 cases continued to surge in January, health experts believe the social distancing measures taken to suppress the coronavirus have suppressed other viruses as well.

“Amen and awoman.”

U.S. Rep. EMANUEL CLEAVER, D-Mo., delivering final words in his House Chamber prayer marking the swearing in of the 117th Congress on Jan. 3. Cleaver prayed for peace “in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and ‘God’ known by many names by many different faiths.”
EXPLOSIVE SALE A flea market shopper in North Carolina may have gotten more bang for his buck than expected, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. In a Dec. 28 Twitter message, ATF Charlotte announced it was looking for a hand grenade purchased at the Fancy Flea Antique Mall in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., on June 13. Store employees originally thought the grenade to be an inert paperweight. “The grenade ... may contain materials that could degrade & explode,” the ATF said. In 2019, thrift store employees found a live grenade inside a donated dresser.

SUBTERRANEAN TROVE Workmen laboring in the sewers of Brussels, Belgium, made a startling discovery on Dec. 22. While trying to clear a blockage that fed to the main sewer line, the workmen caught the gleam of two bars of gold in the sewer. Rather than pocket the bars, valued at just under $119,000, the workers turned the property over to authorities. Police in Brussels have launched an investigation to see if the gold can be tied to any robberies in the city. If the owner of the gold bars cannot be found within six months, the workmen will receive a share of the gold.

SNOW AND FIRE Quick thinking by shop owners in Kansas City, Mo., helped preserve their shopping strip from an unlikely source of destruction—a snow globe. A fire started in the New Dime Store on Dec. 22 after sunlight shone through a snow globe, which focused the light like a magnifying glass. The resulting heat was enough to ignite a blaze in Kimberly Harris’ shop. The morning fire occurred before opening hours and quickly spread. Next door, employees of a barbershop phoned authorities and filled trash cans with water to put the fire out. A nearby jewelry store owner used a fire extinguisher to help control the flames.

NO GOOD DEED UNTAXED Distillers across the United States that pitched in to manufacture hand sanitizer after the coronavirus outbreak last year were shocked in December to learn federal bureaucrats in Washington planned...
to charge them a $14,060 fee for their trouble. Announced in a Dec. 29 notice, the Food and Drug Administration fee, authorized by the CARES Act, collects money from companies selling over-the-counter drug products under looser guidelines. “This incredibly frustrating news comes as a complete shock to the more than 800 distilleries across the country that came to the aid of their local communities and first responders,” said Distilled Spirits Council President Chris Swonger in response to the notice. After a public outcry, officials from the Department of Health and Human services directed the FDA not to enforce the surprise fee, which would otherwise have been due in February.

6 FLYING FANS A ceiling fan manufacturer issued a recall on a popular brand after discovering its fan blades could detach while spinning and cause injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission published the recall notice from manufacturer King of Fans on the Hampton Bay–brand, 54-inch Mara ceiling fans on its website on Dec. 23. According to the manufacturer, 182,000 of the black fans were sold in the United States, as well as nearly 9,000 in Canada. The recall came after 47 reports of individual blades flying off of the fan while the flywheel was spinning. Two consumers were hit by the blades, and four others reported property damage.

7 VIRUS ON ICE The coronavirus pandemic finally reached the world’s coldest continent, Antarctica, in December. Spanish-language media reported three dozen positive cases of COVID-19 among the staff of a Chilean research facility, the General Bernardo O’Higgins Riquelme, stationed on the Antarctic Peninsula. The Chilean government evacuated 26 members of the Chilean army and 10 maintenance workers back to Punta Arenas in Chile’s Patagonia region to receive medical care in non-Antarctic isolation.

8 PROOF OF EXISTENCE He can’t drive, he can’t vote, and he can’t get a job. That’s because 18-year-old Devin Ivy has no birth certificate. According to Ivy’s adoptive mother Christine Bence, Ivy was born in Tennessee in 2002 and spent much of his life homeless or in foster care before being adopted by a family in Independence, Mo. Ivy said relatives have told him he was born at home and that no birth certificate was ever issued for him. The Bences hired a lawyer to force the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records to create a birth certificate for Ivy, and in June a Missouri judge ordered the bureau to do so. But as of late December, Ivy was still waiting. A state representative pleaded on Ivy’s behalf, and the bureau now says it is willing to issue a birth certificate if it receives a revised court order with additional information.

9 EXOTIC ANIMAL BAN Don’t try to bring your emotional support duck, squirrel, or monkey on your next Alaska Airlines flight. Following newly revised guidelines from the Department of Transportation, the airline announced in December it would allow only qualified service dogs to sit with their owners on board its flights. “This regulatory change is welcome news,” said airline spokesman Ray Prentice. Under former federal rules, U.S. travelers have attempted to bring a variety of “emotional support” animals on flights, including a peacock and 80-pound pig.
Fifty years on
Every marriage is its own story
Said Yes.

For years afterward, I wondered about my reasons for saying yes to the second most consequential decision of my life. At the time, I had not figured out much for myself. Raised in the church, I assumed I was a Christian. Majoring in Bible at a Christian college (after losing interest in two other majors), I imagined a ministry of some kind hovering foggily on the horizon. Actually, my future was waiting for some concrete force to take charge of it. The force was a young man who had decided he was ready to get married, and that I was the one. (Back then, young men were expected to get married, and obliged when they felt “ready.” Young women were assumed to be always ready.)

We met in the fall of 1970, in an overflow Greek class that consisted of five guys and me. By November we were an item. One afternoon in the student union building I was dissecting the relationship with my best friend Karen, when it hit me: “Wait a minute—I can’t marry him! Do you realize what my name would be?”

Karen nearly fell off her chair laughing. Two months later, on Jan. 10, 1971, she came to our wedding. Our formal engagement had lasted one week. He was ready, and unlike me he made decisions—though not always logical or wise ones. At that age, decisions are not necessarily decisions, in the sense of carefully thought out and counseled and weighed against all factors. We were mutually attracted but barely knew each other. A few weeks after the wedding I mentioned spending 50 cents on a Dr. Pepper at the local laundromat. He was upset that I hadn’t cleared it with him first: Weren’t we on a limited budget? Weren’t we supposed to discuss everything? Had I made a mistake (I wondered)?

Thankfully, he soon began to loosen up. I was good for him in that way, and he was good for my self-discipline and sense of order (without him I don’t know what my house would look like today). We had our faults and weaknesses, which honed the relationship as much as our virtues. While negotiating our disagreements and recurring sore spots, he learned how to lead, however imperfectly, and I to submit for the Lord’s sake (likewise imperfectly).

A successful marriage, in other words, that almost derailed when he attached himself to a cult. It was a Christian cult, but one that took secondary issues far enough to hang perilously off the edge of orthodoxy. I didn’t share their extreme view of justification—not by grace alone, but by the correct understanding of grace alone—therefore my testimony was suspect.

That hurt. It threatened to undo us. But I prayed as I had never prayed before, meanwhile searching the Scriptures to see if those things they were saying were true. They were not true, but my husband stood firm. He was not tyrannical or mean, just convinced of a falsehood—that’s the dark side of Biblical headship. I came to see him as a victim rather than a perpetrator of bad teaching, and I prayed, often with an undertone of hopelessness and resentment, for his salvation.

God graciously gave him Alzheimer’s disease. Forgetting is not always a tragedy; the doctrine my husband once defended with such vehemence has faded to a creed he can’t articulate. He could not enter the kingdom of heaven as a Scripture-twisting theologian, but he can as a little child. All of us, I suspect, have our pretensions that will be stripped away in that great light, but my husband is privileged to lose his pretensions ahead of time. And as for me, tender-ness has—mostly—replaced resentment. This too is grace.

Every marriage is its own story, and the husband and wife are not the only ones telling it. God also testifies, and His testimony is the final word.
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QUIET IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Charming British series *All Creatures Great and Small* is a refreshing respite from a world on its head

by Megan Basham

As I sifted through movie reviewing options after an extreme end to 2020 (and an even more extreme beginning to 2021), the usual dramas with their intrigue and action, and the comedies with their snarky barbs at folks outside the tribe, struck me like hot water on sunburned skin. I felt too raw to engage with any of them. Then PBS' *Masterpiece* came to the rescue with a series that was just what the doctor, or in this case, the veterinarian, ordered.

It’s a minor miracle that the U.K.’s Channel 5 even decided to remake *All Creatures Great and Small*, the hit 1970s series adapted from James Herriot’s best-selling...
memoirs. A collection of homely and charming tales about a Depression-era vet working in a small English village, the show contains no sex, no violence, and only a smattering of minor salty language. The highest stakes are whether a cow has been misdiagnosed or whether a racehorse will have to be put down.

“Who did they make this show for?” one mainstream critic, who found it too mild, asked grumpily. “Me!” I wanted to shout. They made it for people like me, who are weary of being assaulted by all that is ugly and crass and contentious, who long for something comforting and community-minded. All Creatures Great and Small couldn’t offer more warmth and neighborliness if it was a steaming pot of tea next to a plate of shortbread biscuits.

Which is not to say there’s no conflict in the show. It’s just that the conflict arises from clashes in personality that give viewers reasons to share a good-natured chuckle rather than feel superior.

Take young James, for instance. He arrives in the tiny town of Darrowby fresh out of an urban Glasgow veterinary school. His tidy tweed suit and carefully laced Oxford shoes are no match for the lush, rolling dales of Yorkshire, which, beautiful as they may be in a panorama, can get fairly mucky close up. His timid city manners are no match for the earthy, idiosyncratic British characters he meets on the local farms—especially his cantankerous employer, senior vet Siegfried Farnon, who chomps at his pipe and barks out orders more fiercely than any of his canine clients.

As James makes mistakes and learns his trade, he and the locals argue but still come together at the end of the day for a pint in the pub. There’s no question of anyone in this community excommunicating another. James even manages a friendly relationship with his rival for a local farm girl’s affections. When differences do grow more serious, the locals encourage each other to look beneath the surface to find the best in their fellow man. No one here is dismissed as a “garbage person,” to use that odious Twitter term.

Funny as the show often is, James, Siegfried, and the other inhabitants of Darrowby left me wishing the majority of Americans still gathered regularly in a place like the pub or, even better, the local church after a hard week. A place where we’re forced to reconcile our differences and exorcise our animosities face to face.

All Creatures Great and Small doesn’t boast the addictive quality needed to earn that highest term of honor critics throw around today—“bingeable.” Rather, it’s more like a nourishing soup, seasoned with the wisdom of 1 Thessalonians 4:11: “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life.”
Type mismatch

by Bob Brown

They’re a 21st-century odd couple: Drew (Thomas Middleditch), an uptight therapist separated from his wife, is in renal failure. Party girl Gina (Analeigh Ashford) drives a bus for a retirement home and is dodging a loan shark. She moves in with Drew when they learn she’s a compatible kidney donor. The relationship is platonic thus far.

The new CBS sitcom B Positive comes from the mind of Chuck Lorre, creator of Two and a Half Men and other hit shows. Middleditch and Tony Award winner Ashford display keen comic timing, and scenes regularly set in a dialysis center must be a TV first. There, Drew commiserates with a dentist, a retired football pro, and a businesswoman.

The possible reconciliation of Drew and his wife attests to the value of marriage. But recreational drug use and Gina’s crude conversations with her elderly riders (deserving something stronger than the show’s TV-14 rating), as well as the punctilious gay affirmations, grow wearisome.

“Do you like any boys in your class, or girls?” Drew quizzes his preteen daughter over coffee. “Or maybe you feel like you’re the wrong gender?”

B Positive has a gutsy premise but stomach-turning dialogue (and gruesome opening credits). And unless Drew experiences additional organ failure, it’s hard to see this show stretching beyond one season.

DR. AUGUSTINE IS A SOLITARY MAN. When a global catastrophe strikes and other personnel abandon an Arctic Circle observatory, Augustine (George Clooney) prefers to remain behind, on his own, content with his whiskey and his medicine. But is he truly alone? Relationships are the theme of The Midnight Sky, an entertaining new Netflix film.

As disaster spreads around planet Earth, the spaceship Aether is returning after two years from K-23, an inhabitable moon orbiting Jupiter. Most crew members are eager to get home: Recorded holograms of their families and friends can’t replace real relationships. Since they left K-23, they’ve been unable to communicate with NASA, fellow spaceships, or anyone else back on Earth.

Soon after the others have evacuated the observatory, Augustine finds a little girl left behind, Iris, who will not—or cannot—talk. Desperate to connect with the crew of the Aether, he takes the child on a cold and dangerous journey to a weather station he hopes will enable communication to the voyagers.

The travelers in the Arctic narrowly escape treacherous ice breakups, blizzard conditions, and wolf attacks. (The PG-13 film contains a few frightening scenes and two instances of blasphemy.)

The Midnight Sky is really more about what makes us human than about dazzling adventure. People need relationships with family, friends, and fellow travelers on their journey through life. It’s a lesson even the isolated Dr. Augustine must learn.

TOP-GROSSING G-RATED FILMS

The Lion King (1994): $1.08 billion
Toy Story 4 (2019): $1.07 billion
Toy Story 3 (2010): $1.07 billion
Finding Nemo (2003): $940 million
Monsters University (2013): $744 million

LIFETIME EARNINGS WORLDWIDE, ACCORDING TO BOX OFFICE MOJO
MORTAL CLAPTRAP

Docuseries *Surviving Death* solicits evidence for the afterlife from shady sources

by Bob Brown

**S THERE MORE TO LIFE** than we perceive? When brain function ceases, does an individual continue to exist? The new Netflix docuseries *Surviving Death* searches for answers in testimony provided by survivors of near-death experiences along with mediums, paranormal investigators, purportedly reincarnated folks, and sympathetic academics. Nice bunch! The world’s best-selling book has a thing or two to say about death and the afterlife, but *Surviving Death* (rated TV-MA for language) dumbs down Christianity in the two brief moments it comes up.


The first episode of *Surviving Death* contains the least amount of doctrinally unsound material. Several near-death experience (NDE) survivors share memories that occurred while they were clinically dead. Mary Neal, a spinal surgeon, drowned in a kayak accident but was revived after 30 minutes. She says “beings” told her she had more work to do. A woman who flatlined during a cesarean section claims she watched the procedure from above and saw the spirit of her deceased grandmother. A University of Cambridge neuropsychiatrist claims “millions” of people globally have had NDEs and reported a remarkably consistent set of phenomena.

Sadly, these survivors and researchers seem content with spurious and vacuous assurances. One man says his NDE “truly healed my spirit.” A physician says, “My medical mind turns more to a spiritual place.” None mention turning to Scripture.

Episodes 2 and 3 focus on prominent mediums and a medium training retreat in the Netherlands. The Bible doesn’t deny mediums have a degree of power, but it warns that consulting them “defiles” a person.

An episode on reincarnation begins in Indiana, not India. A 5-year-old boy uses a murdered toddler’s name for himself and identifies the victim’s mother as his own. A young Oklahoma boy knows personal details about a Hollywood agent who died in 1964. Parents and investigators conclude the children lived past lives.

Many of the claims cannot be verified. But even if the interviewees are sincere, they and viewers should heed the Apostle Paul’s admonition: “In later times some will … [devote] themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1). Anyone who wants to survive death for good will find the answer only in the Bible.
THE LATEST TOM HANKS vehicle, *News of the World*, is set in the 1800s: It’s a few years after the Civil War, and the greatest argument in our nation’s history has been settled through the bloody clash of state against state, brother against brother. But that doesn’t mean America has put resentment and division behind it. No one knows this better than Capt. Jefferson Kyle Kidd (Hanks). He rides a circuit of Western outposts, synthesizing stories from newspapers all across the country and retelling them in engaging fashion to disconnected townsfolk who pay a dime a head to gather and listen. He is, in essence, an Old West version of a news anchor.

Kidd is so good in his role that he manages to persuade a group of bitter Texas isolationists to see themselves in the suffering and triumph of some Yankee coal miners. He needs every ounce of his rhetorical and martial skills when he agrees to transport an orphaned German girl, living with the Kiowa tribe so long she’s forgotten her native language, to her relatives in California.

As Kidd and little Johanna (Helena Zengel) make their way across the dusty trails, the film becomes a classic odyssey story. Each town, each bend in the road, offers some new threat to escape or riddle to solve. Yet within this simple, quiet plot is a world of emotional complexity.

Hanks has already shown he’s more than capable of carrying an action-heavy film, but *News of the World*—originally in theaters, then to video on demand platforms—proves he can successfully channel his inner Eastwood as well. He trades fire and steely barbs with a pack of outlaws without sacrificing any of his innate fatherliness and warmth. (The shootouts, mild for the genre, and a few instances of profanity earn a PG-13 rating.) But Kidd’s more important weapon is empathy. “I hear you. We’re all hurting,” he tells a mob of angry ex-Confederates. It’s hard to recall any other recent film hero making a connection with characters like this. Other scriptwriters likely would have established Kidd’s goodness by having him give a blistering speech of condemnation. But of course he can’t: He was a Confederate too.

Perhaps that’s why, when confronted with the horror of how Johanna came to lose her family and live with a Native tribe—there are whispers of defenseless throats cut, babies brains dashed out—he’s able to counsel, if not forgiveness, at least a determination not to pursue perpetual enmity. He knows the past always provides enough sin to go around, and the only hope for the future is for everyone to move forward with grace.
Randy Alcorn’s *Pro-Choice or Pro-Life* (EPM, 2020; Kindle price 99 cents) is my new inexpensive go-to book for—here comes the subtitle—*Examining 15 Pro-Choice Claims: What Do Facts & Common Sense Tell Us?* Among the claims he swats away: The unborn child is not a person, has no right to live off the body of another person, and should be killable when rape, incest, or disability are factors. Alcorn also deals with adoption fears, overpopulation concerns, and “personally pro-life” and “wanted child” excuses. He shows that abortion encourages men to exploit women and abuse children and points out that the Bible refers to both an unborn and a born child as a yeled.

Anticipation of Presidents Day next month led me to John Dickerson’s *The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency* (Random House, 2020). He contrasts campaigning and governing: “Voters are judging a football game and then putting the winning team in charge of synchronized swimming.” George Washington’s character made a huge difference. Thomas Jefferson said Washington’s “moderation and virtue … prevented this revolution from being closed, as most others have been, by a subversion of that liberty it was intended to establish.” Harry Truman channeled Washington by saying appealing to prejudice might be good election strategy, “but it does a lot of harm to the country.”

 Sadly, presidential elections now emphasize grandiose promises. John Kerry’s running mate in 2004, John Edwards, said “when John Kerry is president, people like Christopher Reeve are going to walk, get up out of that wheelchair and walk again.” (Reeve died in October 2004.) Barack Obama in 2008 called his campaign “the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal.” Donald Trump said, “I will give you everything. I will give you what you’ve been looking for for 50 years. I’m the only one.”

Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on the same day: Feb. 12, 1809. Lincoln’s words have stood the test of time, while *Evolution & Intelligent Design in a Nutshell* (Discovery, 2020) shows why Darwinism and its neo variants fall short. Authors Thomas Lo, Paul Chien, Eric Anderson, Robert Alston, and Robert Waltzer explain that life could not have emerged from a chemical soup, because it only exists via secret ingredient: information. Cells are intricate machines. Irreducible complexity is an unavoidable complication. Junk DNA is not junk. Our surroundings, and chemical elements themselves, are fine-tuned for life.

Jerry Bergman deserves an award for lifetime perseverance: In at least 15 books he has connected the dots of evolution, atheism, racism, powerful institutions, and suppression of dissent. In *Darwinian Eugenics and the Holocaust* (Involgo, 2020) Bergman explains how Darwinism (via Ernst Haeckel and others) connects to Hitler, and how Henry Ford and IBM helped Nazi Germany. —M.O.
Freedom calling
Four best-selling novels
by Susan Olasky

The Guardians by John Grisham: In his 40th book, Grisham introduces Cullen Post, a lawyer/Episcopal priest who works for Guardian Ministries, a small nonprofit dedicated to freeing inmates wrongly convicted of murder. Post throws himself into his latest project: freeing Quincy Miller, a black man incarcerated for 22 years for a murder he didn’t commit. Post has to find evidence that will convince a judge to overturn the conviction, but his investigation alarms some dangerous people. Fueled by his religious convictions, Post works with a relentless focus. Though Grisham writes as an advocate, he doesn’t lose sight of the need to tell a good story, and he continues to write best-selling novels without resorting to the strong language that’s become typical in modern fiction.

The Tunnel by A.B. Yehoshua: Zvi Luria, a retired Israel Roads Authority engineer, learns he has the beginnings of dementia. His neurologist urges him to live fully, but already he’s forgetting first names and the ignition code for his car. When his pediatrician wife pushes him to become a volunteer assistant on a military road project, he gets roped into a plan to build an expensive tunnel—rather than razing a hill—to save a Palestinian family lacking proper Israeli identity papers. The novel offers a warm and often humorous view of a loving long marriage while exploring the increasing disorientation that comes with dementia. Yehoshua sets this particular story in the context of Israeli society, which seems as confused as Luria.

Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman: The offbeat protagonist of this best-selling 2017 novel is a lonely 29-year-old office worker who drinks vodka and watches TV every weekend. She has no friends and has never had anyone over to her house. When she and the IT guy at work rescue an old man who collapses in the street, her life changes. An unreliable narrator, Eleanor has no filter between what she thinks and what she says. She’s judgmental, lacks self-awareness, and is clueless about most things, which makes for humor and pathos. Kindness eventually breaks through the self-protective shell she created to deal with terrible childhood trauma. Reese Witherspoon optioned this 2017 novel for an upcoming feature film, which probably will need an R rating for language.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: Abandoned by her mother and siblings—and finally even her abusive, alcoholic father—Kya grows up in the marshes near the North Carolina coast. She ekes out a living and becomes a keen observer of birds and other wildlife. Her interactions with people are more fraught. Shunned by respectable people, she becomes the subject of gossip. One boy shares her love of nature and teaches her to read and grow in her scientific understanding. Another uses her. The book combines lush nature writing, a murder mystery, and a detailed portrait of small-town life. Since its publication in 2018, the book has sold millions of copies, and Reese Witherspoon optioned it for a movie as well.
Delightful discoveries
Four recent picture books
by Mary Jackson and Kristin Chapman

**The Bear and the Moon** by Matthew Burgess: A curious little bear spots something “red as a berry and round like the moon” with a long silver string attached to it. The balloon goes everywhere with him, providing quiet company and new excitement, seeming to smile back at him like a friend. But one day, it pops. The bear desperately tries to fix it, to no avail, and sorrow and loneliness set in. Nature has a way of providing comfort, and the bear realizes that all good things are a gift, and loss is not always a result of bad behavior. The book’s soothing tone, soft illustrations, and muted landscapes make it a good bedtime story. (Ages 3-5)

**Over and Under the Rainforest** by Kate Messner: A child and an adult companion traverse a Central American rainforest teeming with life. Above them, monkeys, birds, and insects make a symphony of sounds. Along the way, the child observes a host of exotic animals on the ground, down in the river, and up in the trees. Colorful illustrations and rich sensory details accompany each animal discovery, the afternoon rain and snack, and nightfall, when the jaguar comes out. Messner’s latest installment in her ecosystem exploration series lives up to previous titles. Its concluding notes give additional info about rainforests and animals featured in the book. (Ages 5-8)

**The World Needs Who You Were Made To Be** by Joanna Gaines: Gaines’ second picture book opens with a racially diverse group of children working to create a fleet of hot air balloons. As each child tackles his or her project, differences in personality abound. Gaines affirms the blessing of these differences and shows how together the children’s uniqueness creates a beautiful outcome. “We may not look or work or think the same, but we all have an important part to play... You’re one of a kind, and it’s so clear to see: The world needs who you were made to be.” (Ages 4-8)

**The Song for Everyone** by Lucy Morris: A beautiful melody drifts down from a small upper window and flows throughout the town, searching out “the lonely and lost, the needy and sad.” The music seems to give the townspeople something they have been missing: When they listen, it transforms them from lonely to delighted and from weary to lively. But one day the music abruptly ceases, and the town begins to suffer. After the people discover the source of the music, they must work together to restore it. Morris’ soft pencil, watercolor, and crayon drawings beautifully illustrate the power of music. (Ages 4-8)

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**Afterword**

As Valentine’s Day approaches, some books will help children contemplate enduring messages about love. Max Lucado’s *The Boy and the Ocean* (Crossway, 2013) follows a little boy as he looks for, but does not find, the end of the ocean, mountains, and starry night sky. In each beautifully illustrated scene, his parents are beside him, taking in God’s vast creation and likening it to His love—always here, always deep and big, never ending, and special.

**Saint Valentine** by Robert Sabuda (Aladdin, 1999) tells the story of a physician and priest in ancient Rome who cared for and prayed with patients, asking for little in return. He ultimately lost his life for his Christian faith, but not before sending a little note to a jailer’s blind daughter.

**In God Loves Me More Than That** by Dandi Daley Mackall (WaterBrook, 2008), an inquisitive boy tries to grasp the height, depth, and width of the love of God. The book concludes with the boy sound asleep, resting in the greatness of the Lord’s love. —M.J.
When it comes to collecting, few coins are as coveted as the first and last of a series. And when big anniversaries for those “firsts” and “lasts” come around, these coins become even more coveted.

Take, for example, the 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars. These 90% pure silver coins were the last of their kind, a special one-year-only resurrection of the classic Wild West Silver Dollar. Three years prior, the Pittman Act authorized the melting of more than 270 million Morgan Silver Dollars so their silver could be sold to our allies in the United Kingdom. Facing our own Silver Dollar shortage, the world’s favorite vintage U.S. Silver Dollar was brought back for one year only while the U.S. Mint worked on its successor, the Peace Silver Dollar.

Dealers Begin Stockpiling Last-Year Morgans
Knowing what we’ve told you about special anniversaries, dealers around the country are preparing for a surge in demand. 2021 will mark the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar—the last-year-of-issue for the most popular vintage U.S. Silver Dollar ever minted. But slow-moving collectors may be disappointed in what they find when they seek out these coins.

Since the days of the Pittman Act, millions more U.S. Silver Dollars have been melted or worn down in commerce. It’s been estimated that as few as 15% of all the Morgan Dollars ever minted have survived to the present day. That number grows smaller each year, with private hoards now accounting for virtually all the surviving Morgan Silver Dollars. And that was before silver values started to rise...

Interest in Silver Is on the Rise
As you can see from the chart on the left, in 2020, we’ve seen daily silver prices close as low as $12.01 per ounce and as high as $28.33 per ounce. That rise in value has led to a sharp increase in buyers’ interest in silver. We’re already seeing a surge of interest from collectors wanting to add vintage Morgan Silver Dollars to their collections. But at what price?

Don’t Wait—Secure Your 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars NOW!
With this special offer, you can secure a last-year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar ahead of the rush in About Uncirculated (AU) condition for just $39.95! Mint marks vary.

These vintage U.S. Silver Dollars allow you to hold 100 years of American history in the palm of your hand. But only if you secure yours before our limited supply of 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars lasts in our vault.

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Actual Size is 38.1 mm
CONNIE MARSHNER was executive vice president of the Free Congress Foundation in the 1980s and chair of Ronald Reagan’s Family Policy Advisory Board.

In 1972, if you were told one party would become the pro-life party and one party the party of abortion, which would you have selected? The Democrats would be pro-life. Lots of Republicans favored “population control.”

Abortion was a subset of population control? It wasn’t on the conservative radar. At the time the standard joke was, “Congressman, what do you want to do about this abortion bill?” ‘Oh, pay it.’” When Roe v. Wade came along, nobody paid much attention to it except for those who were religiously oriented.

Were people following the Roe v. Wade oral arguments at the Supreme Court? Nobody on the right paid much attention to them.

What was the initial reaction to the Roe decision in January 1973? Nellie Gray, a liberal feminist civil rights activist who worked for the federal government, took it upon herself to visit senators with
names like Kennedy. She assumed they would say, “We’ve got to fix this.” But her heroes were not interested.

She thought Ted Kennedy would see injustice? She assumed he and others would share her horror about people deprived of personhood. She couldn’t believe they wouldn’t talk with her.

So she organized in 1974 a March for Life. In those days that’s what you did if you had a civil rights issue: You organized a march. She contacted a couple of guys in New York, the Long Island equivalent of good old boys. They brought a couple of buses down, probably their American Legion buddies: blue-collar, Catholics, probably Irish. They came and they marched. It was very small.

Nellie found allies among conservatives? To her horror she discovered Republican conservative James Buckley wanted to introduce a human life amendment. She hadn’t talked to Republicans and had no use for them, certainly not conservative ones, but all of a sudden she found herself with a new set of friends. Paul Weyrich, who co-founded the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation, cemented the relationship? Paul would only support a candidate who agreed to support the Human Life Amendment. He did not want the pro-life issue to be a Republican-only issue. But in 1978 the Republican establishment said several elections were unwinnable—and Paul won them. For example, he had Roger Jepsen in Iowa go into the Democratic precincts with a pro-life flyer, and Jepsen won. The pro-life issue turned out Democratic voters to vote Republican. They elected Ronald Reagan. But he didn’t deliver. Nancy Reagan was always pro-abortion. He would never do anything for the March for Life. Morton Blackwell at the time of the march in 1984 got him to meet with pro-lifers. This was considered a real accomplishment.

Did anything emerge from that? No, nothing was ever supposed to emerge from that. It was just window-dressing. Two of the three Supreme Court justices who came out of the Reagan administration were disappointments. Sandra Day O’Connor made it because Reagan said he’d nominate a woman, but why that particular woman? A young staffer checked with a few people in Arizona. He didn’t talk with Carolyn Gerster, an Arizona doctor who was the Right to Life leader. By the time the pro-life people in Arizona made contact with us, it was too late. The Reagan folks wouldn’t withdraw her name.

How effective was the National Right to Life Committee? NRLC created an ungodly management structure: a board of 50, one member from every state. Getting all those people to make any decision was a nightmare. So in 1978 or 1979 NRLC hired Judie Brown, an office manager who had run a Kmart in Seattle. She wanted to see pro-life candidates elected and took it upon herself to endorse them. The board says “we never authorized that, so goodbye”—and Judie founded the American Life League.

What started out as the Christian Action Council became Care Net, which grew a crisis pregnancy center network. A huge grassroots movement came in for Reagan because they thought he would be the pro-life savior. That didn’t happen. They dropped out of politics, but they didn’t drop out of the pro-life movement. They went back to their communities and set up CPCs. For years, when I would travel and meet people who knew my name because I had been visible, they’d say, “I used to do politics, but now I do this.”

Operation Rescue received a lot of attention in the late 1980s. OR was a PR disaster for the pro-life movement. We had made a lot of headway at the cultural person-to-person level on Main Street, but Operation Rescue, combined with shootings that were happening at the same time, gave the pro-life movement such a black eye that many people became afraid to be pro-life.

OR was playing off frustration. You could make a case that it was a safety valve, giving people a creative outlet for their anger so they didn’t do something more drastic.

But out of that low point some new strategies developed. The pro-life trajectory changed forever when people at our early-1990s pro-life leaders meetings said “Love them both”—the baby and the mom—would be our new thing. We hadn’t been talking about the woman.
A classical comeback

What a resurgence of new recordings tells us about the music industry

by Arsenio Orteza

N OCTOBER, JOURNALIST IVAN HEWITT reported classical-music recordings were enjoying their biggest sales in years, due largely to the scarcity of live performances resulting from COVID-19 lockdowns. Downloads and streaming led the way, but hard-copy sales were up too.

Hewitt didn’t report what people were buying, but record companies’ data is instructive on two levels.

Level 1: Classical musicians and record labels remain indifferent to complaints by social-justice warriors that classical music lacks “diversity.”

Counting new hard-copy, digital, or streaming recordings and compilations, the Top 10 most-recorded composers were, from top to bottom: Beethoven (2020 marked his 250th birthday), Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Brahms, Schumann, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, and Handel—all white, all male, all Eurocentric, and all but one (Debussy) contemporaneous with the Atlantic slave trade.

Apparently, at least some of the giants on whose shoulders society stands still lie beyond the iconoclastic reach of cancel culture.

Level 2: Classical musicians and record labels lead the fight against the idea that supply should be driven only by demand. There were approximately 500 new Beethoven recordings or compilations in 2020, one of them a 123-disc box (Deutsche Grammophon/Decca’s Beethoven 2020: The New Complete Edition)—more Beethoven than anyone could be expected to take in.

The situation wasn’t all that different with Bach (the subject of approximately 300 new releases), Mozart (over 200), or Schubert (approximately 150). Even fans of Vivaldi, Haydn, and Liszt (Nos. 11-13 on 2020’s most-released-composer list) had more titles to choose from than there are weeks in the year. Most of these titles stood little chance of turning a significant profit, so something besides wealth and fame drove the dedicated people who made and released them anyway.

The takeaway: With so many musicians willing to perform Beethoven and others out of love rather than obligation to the bottom line, the instinct for doing something worthwhile for its own sake—an instinct vital to a truly free society—is at least alive and maybe even well.

One performer who received a boost from the streamosphere in 2020 was the late jazz pianist Jacques Loussier. Play Bach (UMG), originally released on CDs in 2017, chronologically compiles the five Play Bach albums that Loussier recorded for Decca from 1959 to 1964.

He, Christian Garros (drums), and Pierre Michelot (double bass) jazzified Bach without dumbing him down or gimmicking him up (much).

His most imaginative was Play Bach No. 4 (Tracks 30-34 in Play Bach’s streaming version). Haunted throughout by an overdubbed church organ so ethereal that it might as well have been the ghost of Bach himself, No. 4 remains unique in the best sense of the word.
What doesn’t is the country-rock sprezzatura with which Dawes helps the medicine go down. Even if Goldsmith hadn’t used the word “desperado” in “Me Especially,” the Eagles would be proud. And maybe jealous.

**Blessings by Aled Jones:** The Welsh tenor Aled Jones has the type of vocal tone that’s often described as “golden.” Pure and ductile yet with no aspirations either to pop or to opera (looking at you, Andrea Bocelli and Jim Nabors), it’s why the marketing genre known as “classical crossover” exists. It’s also proof that not everything labeled as such is a mere shadow of something more substantial. Every detail of the recording, from the track selection and the orchestra to the guest vocalists (The Priests, Susan Boyle, Libera, Sami Yusuf, a recording of Jones himself as a boy soprano) and the guest reciters (Judi Dench, Brian Blessed, the D-Day veteran Harry Billinge), contributes to a sense of benediction.

**Good Luck, Seeker by the Waterboys:** To be clear, Mike Scott is not a Christian. He not only comes out in the title cut for occultist Dion Fortune but even includes the mailing address of her “esoteric” organization in the lyrics (which, for maximum clarity, he recites rather than sings). He is, however, open to Christian influence: “The Golden Work” (which, for maximum clarity, he sings through a vocoder) borrows enough from the Arthurian poetry of Charles Williams to merit the Inklings a composer credit. And, musically, Scott’s refusal to discriminate yields a bumper crop of catchy surprises. Techno, R&B, folk, pop—plus the best (only?) songs ever about Van Morrison (“The Soul Singer”) and Dennis Hopper (“Dennis Hopper”).

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**Encore**

**Time Outtakes (Brubeck Editions)** is a recently discovered collection of alternate takes from the sessions that produced *Time Out*, the 1959 album by the Paul Desmond, Gene Wright, Joe Morello iteration of the Dave Brubeck Quartet that featured the smash single “Take Five”/“Blue Rondo à la Turk” and that even now remains one of the best-selling jazz albums ever. It accumulated a quarter of its sales, however, within the first four years of its release, a statistic that testifies to its gradually diminishing appeal as less-buttoned-down jazz styles have come to define authenticity and genius.

In this context, *Time Outtakes*’ seven tracks (eight if you count the botched-take montage “Band Banter”) feel more like footnotes than like a secret history. “Blue Rondo,” for instance, although two minutes longer than on *Time Out*, sounds pretty much the same. Still, it’s interesting to hear a “Take Five” in which Brubeck sits out the drum solo, allowing Morello two minutes and 40 seconds of long- overdue spotlight. —A.O.
“Elvin’s death”
Finding hope, even in grief

Three weeks after World featured civil rights leader John Perkins as our 2020 Daniel of the Year, I received an email from our 2019 pick: St. Louis native Michael Miller founded the Micah Project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and the Christian ministry has offered a stable home to street boys for 20 years.

The subject line of Miller’s email stung: “Elvin’s death.”

Elvin Meraz was one of the boys I met during my 2019 visit to Micah Project. At age 15, Elvin was learning to read and write after spending years on the streets of Tegucigalpa, begging for food and addicted to yellow shoe glue.

It’s a common plight for scores of boys and teenagers forced or drawn into street life in a city plagued by gangs. After years on the streets, Elvin agreed to live at Micah House. He had kicked his addiction and was adjusting to a stable, healthy life.

In 2019, we spent a morning visiting the home where some of Elvin’s family still lives in the hills above downtown. Elvin carefully packed the van with a handful of gifts to share with other children—a soccer ball, candy, and a pair of shoes.

When we arrived at a two-room shack perched on a craggy hillside, Elvin asked if he could buy lunch for the group. He and a Micah House social worker disappeared down the hill and returned with plates of fried chicken and french fries. Elvin darted around, making sure everyone got something to eat.

Later that day, we stopped at McDonald’s, and Elvin looked more like a kid than a teenager trying to provide for his family. He grinned from ear to ear, laughed at silly jokes, and slurped down a Coke. “This was a good day,” he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a swift lockdown to Honduras. For six months, residents could leave their homes once every two weeks. Miller says most of the boys at Micah House adjusted, but the lockdown hit Elvin hard. He crumbled under the dramatic changes.

By April, Elvin sat in a corner knitting—a skill a staffer had taught him. He skipped meals. He started sneaking out. Eventually, he asked to return to his home in the hills. In August, Elvin’s mother told Miller a gang had kidnapped her son. A month later, she said police believed gang members murdered Elvin and buried his body in an unmarked grave. Someone from the neighborhood brought her Elvin’s clothes.

The loss wasn’t entirely surprising in a nation with one of the highest child homicide rates in the world, but it was heartbreaking for Elvin’s mother, for Miller, and for the boys at Micah House.

At a memorial service in early December, Miller wore a thick, orange-and-blue scarf Elvin knitted for him. He read from 1 Corinthians 15 and told the group about the hope for those who put their faith in Christ: “One day we will be resurrected as Jesus was on the third day. ... To a place where there will be no crying, nor pain, nor sickness, nor pandemics, nor gangs, nor violence, nor injustice.”

Elvin’s body may lie in an unmarked grave, but Elvin didn’t live an unmarked life. Miller and other ministry staff members, including warmhearted Hondurans, spent years loving and caring for Elvin and boys like him. Their grief is a measure of the joy Elvin brought them. And it’s a model for pursuing unsung, sacrificial service, whatever the outcome.

That’s a model we could follow at the grief-marked beginning of this new year. Amid our own scenes of gangs and violence, American Christians can lay aside any hope in a political rescue and put our faith wholly in a sure resurrection. We can serve others, and we can lean into Sundays as weekly Easter celebrations that propel us through difficult weeks and remind us the one outcome that matters most is most certain: Christ is risen indeed.
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THE DAY MOBS OWE
Chaos ensued inside the halls of Congress on Jan. 6, raising questions and leaving a country even more divided.

**BY HARVEST PRUDE**

IN WASHINGTON

PHOTO BY SAMUEL CORUM/GETTY IMAGES
In the early hours of Jan. 7, Congress certified the Electoral College victory of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President–elect Kamala Harris. ¶ But first lawmakers withstood evacuations, a lockdown, and a stampede of rioters storming the Capitol. So did staff, security forces, and journalists. I was one of those journalists, covering the proceedings from the Press Gallery above the floor of the House of Representatives. Here’s my firsthand account of the events of Jan. 6 and a survey of the national consequences.

My First Indication something was wrong came when an aide passed through the Press Gallery and told me to make sure I had everything I needed at my side and to prepare for a lockdown. Perhaps for hours.

I had arrived at my reserved seat in the upper balcony of the U.S. House of Representatives earlier on Wednesday ready to cover political theater. The chamber does not allow bags or backpacks, so when the aide gave the warning, I scurried to grab my phone and laptop charger from the press room, then settled back in my seat.

A few minutes later, Capitol Police officers began running to every door in the House Chamber. They shuttered the glass doors with heavy wooden doors. About 100 lawmakers were on the House floor, with about 25 more lawmakers in the upstairs gallery.

As a babble of questions broke out, a police officer briefed legislators: Protesters had “breached” the Capitol Building and had gotten as close as the rotunda, where police had fired tear gas.

The officer told lawmakers to ready themselves to crouch beneath their seats but also be prepared to evacuate if necessary. Another burst of frightened chatter broke out, and one representative yelled from the upstairs gallery that someone should call President Donald Trump and ask him to tell protesters—whom he addressed at a rally before the march on the Capitol—to stand down.

After minutes of confusion, the officer told lawmakers to grab gas masks secured under their seats.

Press aides ran around, handing everyone in the upstairs gallery “escape hoods”—essentially gas masks that pull over your head to your shoulders.

I ripped the heavy gray packaging off mine but kept my eye on the situation on the floor. Soon, banging on the doors echoed throughout the chamber. The noise grew outside, and inside the chaplain for the day began praying aloud.

One lawmaker, Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., told members how to operate their gas masks. Capitol Police began to evacuate members through a side door. Upstairs, press aides told photographers to stop taking pictures. Some snapped away anyway. Then police gave the evacuation order for the gallery. I grabbed my laptop, chargers, escape hood, and reporter’s notebook. Almost as soon as I started to move toward the door, police changed their directions. “Get down!” someone yelled from behind me.

I crouched behind the seats. There were perhaps three reporters behind me, and the rest in a crowd ahead of me. I heard a bang and thought someone had shot into the chamber. My heart was pounding. I clutched my gear and an uninflated gas hood. My hands shook. I peered around the chairs I hid behind. I had the morbid thought that maybe someone would shoot if he saw exposed faces, but I wanted to see what was happening.

I could see that a small group of lawmakers and Capitol Police with drawn guns had barricaded the door with furniture. Above the furniture, protesters had broken holes in the glass of the door.

I heard several pops and could smell smoke. Another reporter said he heard an officer say “shots fired,” though I did not hear that directly.

Police and lawmakers tried to talk to the protesters through the glass. “This is un-American!” someone yelled. “You ought to be ashamed of yourself.... This is not the way to do it.”

The commotion continued down-
stairs, but the gallery was told to continue evacuation. “We can’t leave until you leave,” one exasperated aide told us. To get out, I had to duck below several banisters because I was too short to hop over.

Aides led us through the Capitol’s maze of basement tunnels to a location I can’t disclose in the nearby Longworth House building. On the way, I stuffed my reporter’s notebook into my right boot. The time was 2:57 p.m. Once I got to the room, I placed my unused escape hood on a table near the door. As quiet fell, one aide cried quietly while another comforted her. Around the room, a few staffers began to pass out water bottles.

Security initially told reporters we couldn’t be in the room, then said instead that if we tweeted about our location, they would take our phones. Right in front of me, Democratic Reps. Eric Swalwell and Adam Schiff of
California and Joe Neguse of Colorado huddled, discussing the situation quietly enough not to be heard. About an hour later, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., told the room that members planned to carry on with the Electoral College tally. Lawmakers from both parties clapped and cheered.

Security forces wouldn’t secure the Capitol for several hours.

**IT WASN’T JUST LAWMAKERS** in the House and Senate chambers who evacuated. Rebekah Hoshiko, communications director for the House Committee on Natural Resources, said she had to evacuate twice from an office in the Cannon House building. The first evacuation came at about 1 p.m. because of the threat of a pipe bomb nearby at the Republican National Committee headquarters. The second came when mobs overran the Capitol.

Hoshiko had previously assumed the day would turn violent but didn’t think it would happen until that night: “Given all of the protests that happened over the summer, everything happens after it gets dark outside.” She rode out the evening in lockdown with a small group of others in the Longworth House building.

Another Hill veteran, Conn Carroll, communications director for Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, told me he also anticipated trouble: “I knew it was going to be a bad day on the morning Metro ride in when I saw a guy with Trump gear on the train carrying a giant wrench. He did not look like he was in town to fix things.”

Meanwhile, Hoshiko, who used to be Rep. Bruce Westerman’s press secretary, said her former boss spent about two hours isolated from everyone when protesters breached the building. Westerman, R-Ark., had been in House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s office when the leader’s security detail hustled McCarthy away.

“The last thing [Westerman] had heard on the radio of McCarthy’s detail was that shots were fired,” Hoshiko said. “So he stuck his head out in the hall a bit later and nobody was there.” That’s when he realized he was in trouble. A bit later, Westerman heard rioters approaching.

The lawmaker hid in a bathroom in McCarthy’s office. He locked the door, turned out the lights, and silenced his phone. Rioters entered the office and tried to open the bathroom door. Westerman waited for about 2½ hours until Capitol Police could extract him.

Later that night, Westerman voted to uphold the election results.

In the room where I locked down for several hours, COVID-19 social distancing protocols fell by the wayside. Staff rubbed shoulders with lawmakers from both parties.

I tweeted everything (except our location) and monitored texts from Hill staffers who had to evacuate their offices, White House staffers who said security forces were on their way, and concerned friends and family watching the news. At some point, I began to hear reports that a woman had been shot in the House Speaker’s Lobby by Capitol Police. Later we learned the woman had died.

At about 5:30 p.m., the sergeant-at-arms said law enforcement had secured the building. It wasn’t until after 7 p.m. that Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the third-ranking Republican in the House, told the room that members hoped to get back to the chamber within the next hour.

Shortly after 8 p.m.—with press members back at their stations—both chambers of Congress gaveled back into session.

In a statement to senators, Vice President Mike Pence called on lawmakers to “get back to work,” and addressed rioters: “To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today, you did not win.
Violence never wins. Freedom wins. And this is still the people’s house.”

**NOW AMERICANS MUST** sort through still unanswered questions and reckon with the attack’s consequences.

First, the death toll. Five people died because of the melee. One, a rioter named Ashli Babbitt, was the woman shot by Capitol Police. Three people died of medical emergencies. Brian Sicknick, a Capitol Police officer, died on Jan. 7 due to injuries after someone in the mob hit him in the head with a fire extinguisher. Other rioters attacked police with metal pipes, flag poles, and other items. At least 50 officers were injured, and 15 required hospitalization.

Another, a 15-year veteran of the Capitol Police, committed suicide on Jan. 9. It’s unclear if Howard Liebengood’s death was related to the riot, but he was on duty at the time.

Second, the ordeal shows failures in the Capitol Hill security apparatus. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving, and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger all resigned. Lawmakers have called for inquiries into why security forces were woefully unprepared. The Associated Press reported that the Capitol Police turned down the National Guard’s offers for reinforcements a few days before Jan. 6 and an offer to send FBI agents.

Capitol Police planned “only for a free speech demonstration.” Apparently, law enforcement’s estimates of potential crowd size also varied wildly—from 2,000 to 80,000, according to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

Only one meager barricade—which rioters quickly overran—cordoned the Capitol where lawmakers would enter. A week later, it was still unclear how many officers were on duty on Jan. 6. But the Capitol Police force employs 2,300 officers to protect the 16-acre Capitol complex. Its $460 million budget is bigger than police budgets in Atlanta, Boston, and Detroit.

Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., reported parts of a conversation he had with Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy: “Long guns, Molotov cocktails, explosive devices, and zip ties were recovered, which suggests a greater disaster was narrowly averted,” Crow said. Federal authorities were investigating at least 25 cases of domestic terrorism days after the attack.

In 2018, one of my first WORLD assignments was to cover Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court confirmation hearing. One stark memory: the hordes of protesters who attended. Members of the public waited for hours outside the committee room to be let in. Once inside, they created regular disruptions by standing, chanting, waving handmade signs, and later, confronting lawmakers.

The Capitol Police arrested more than 200 activists during the three days of the initial hearing.

On Jan. 6, Capitol Police arrested six people and confiscated five weapons, according to MPD Police Chief Robert J. Contee (though federal agents made more arrests in the days that followed).

One Jan. 6 video showed a steady stream of rioters leaving the Capitol Building, while security officers held the doors open. Many cheered and pumped their fists in the air as they left. Some hoisted Trump flags or American flags. Someone had scratched a phrase on one of the doors they exited: “Murder the Media.” One man yelled off-camera, “Next time we come back, we won’t be peaceful!”

A third result of the riot is COVID-19 spread, with social distancing impossible in the midst of the evacuation and subsequent lockdown. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-N.J., a 75-year-old lawmaker, announced her positive diagnosis on Jan. 11. She decided to get tested after receiving a warning memo from the Capitol’s attending physician that the lockdown could have resulted in COVID-19 exposure.

I also received the same memo because I had been in a room with many lawmakers, and some didn’t wear masks. On Jan. 11, I also tested positive for COVID-19 (my symptoms have been mild thus far). More lawmakers also tested positive.

More repercussions rolled on: calls to impeach Trump and bar him from holding federal office again, tech companies’ crackdowns on Trump and some conservative voices, and questions about evangelical Christians and politics.

The mobs that overran the Capitol pinned down Congress only a few hours. The United States will wrestle with the consequences for years.
Chemical ki

Surgical abortions have slowed, but pills and chemicals are reaching more homes—and killing more babies

by MARVIN OLASKY
THREE CENTURIES PLUS FIVE YEARS.

That’s how long American legislators have tried to stop the use of abortion pills. In 1716 New York City enacted an ordinance requiring midwives to swear they would “not Give any Counsel or Administer any Herb Medicine or Potion, or any other thing to any Woman being with Child whereby She Should Destroy or Miscarry.”

The good news is that since 1990 the number of surgical abortions in the United States has probably decreased by two-thirds. The bad news is that the number of chemical abortions has increased, with some abortion pills now delivered directly to homes.

As the first article in our 2021 Roe v. Wade special section shows, abortion proponents are pushing for more death by mail. The next two stories take us to abortion discussions in the 1660s and the 1960s and show how Lawrence Lader, the master of abortion public relations 50 years ago, later fought to legalize abortion pills. The fourth article summarizes 2020’s big abortion news.

The question harder to report on is whether hearts and minds are changing. Maybe some who put up “I believe in science” yard signs are accepting factual information about the beating hearts of unborn children. Maybe some who say “Black lives matter” recognize that gestating while black is particularly dangerous: A black baby is 3.5 times more likely to be aborted than a white one.

In 2020 we saw how tragic it was for elderly individuals locked in nursing homes to die alone of COVID-19. In 2021 maybe more Americans will recognize that a young woman should not have to decide on life or death all alone, with her tiny baby dead in the toilet bowl.
The pill and the pandemic

The abortion industry uses COVID-19 to meet a long-term goal: eliminating restrictions on abortion pills. The result: more victims among unborn children, more women at risk

by LEAH HICKMAN

IN SPRING 2020, abortion advocates went to war. As COVID-19 spread, some U.S. abortion facilities closed. Others limited in-person procedures. Some governors called abortions nonessential, and the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute was livid: “Reproductive health care needs and decisions cannot be put on hold.” Its April press release claimed abortion is “as essential to people’s lives as food, shelter and security.”

The abortion industry in recent years has pushed for more telemedicine abortion, which involves sending abortion-inducing chemicals to women by mail after a phone or video consultation. When the Clinton-era Food and Drug Administration in 2000 approved use of abortion pills, it insisted that to keep women safe only physicians could dispense abortion drugs. Doctors needed to check for ectopic pregnancies (when an embryo attaches outside the uterus) and determine the baby’s gestational age. Only a woman at or before seven weeks of pregnancy could take the pills, and two pill-dispensing visits were necessary, along with a follow-up exam.

Abortion advocates said those rules oppressed women, so the Obama-era FDA loosened protections in 2016: It upped the gestation age limit to 10 weeks, scrapped the second required visit, and allowed abortion businesses to conduct the follow-up appointment over the phone instead of in person. In 2020, with many abortion centers closed, proponents shopped for a judge who would further loosen requirements. Many would not. But U.S. District Judge Theodore D. Chuang did, ruling in July that any barrier to accessing abortion pills would cause “irreparable harm.” He lifted the FDA requirements for in-person appointments as long as the coronavirus pandemic persists, but on Jan. 12, the Supreme Court granted the Trump administration’s request to continue enforcing FDA restrictions. But Chuang’s six-month injunction gave a possible preview of the abortion pill’s new frontier, especially if the Biden administration removes FDA requirements.

ABORTION ENTREPRENEURS saw the opening and rushed through, throwing off restraint and creating an abortion Wild West. Julie Amaon, formerly a Planned Parenthood facility manager in Austin, Texas, was one of them. She started medical school in 2012 with the goal of becoming an abortionist, and by the end of her Minnesota residency program was a pill proponent. In a September 2020 issue of Bustle, Amaon said, “In a perfect world, you could see a family medicine doctor for a sinus infection, for birth control, and for a medication abortion. That doctor could call the medicine in to your pharmacy or have it mailed to your home—whatever is best for you.”

Amaon last year launched Just the Pill, a startup company with an online platform that allows women to order abortion drugs directly to their Minnesota addresses and take them at home. Similar startups launched as existing abortion facilities began providing telemedicine and as U.S.-based online pharmacies like Honeybee Health started fulfilling abortion pill prescriptions.

Choix, a California startup, seems particularly lax in pill distribution. While other telemedicine abortion providers require a video call or at least a phone call with a provider, Choix allows “visits” to take place via text only, although phone calls are an option. The patient provides her medical details through an online form that includes questions about her history with ectopic pregnancies, her Rh blood type, and a place for her to fill out the date of her last menstrual cycle.

The provider uses the patient’s answers to determine if the woman is...
eligible for the abortion pill. The simple questionnaire is a risky way to assess a woman’s fitness for a drug that could threaten her life in ectopic pregnancies or pregnancies beyond seven weeks. A lack of knowledge or lack of honesty could yield false answers. When I emailed Choix customer support about safety concerns, the agent responded, “It is as safe and quicker than going to your doctor’s office or visiting a clinic.”

Although fully virtual, the sites can’t send pills to every state. When I inquired via email in November, the support staff at Honeybee said the drug required a prescription and that it wasn’t licensed to dispense the drug in Ohio, where I live. Just the Pill says it can “only serve people within Minnesota,” and Choix says it’s “a fully virtual telehealth company,” has no clinic, and is only available in California. The Choix agent said its drugs kill and remove the unborn baby more than 96 percent of the time, with complications “highly unlikely.”

State-by-state restrictions on the pill still stand, so online abortion pill providers will have a harder time operating in the 19 states with existing laws against telemedicine abortions. But at street level this doesn’t mean only state residents can get abortion pills. Brief email exchanges with both Just the Pill and Choix revealed that providers require not an in-state ID but only an in-state mailing address.

The Choix representative told me, “Our providers must be licensed to practice within any state that we wish to provide care. ... You should see Choix expanding into more states next year.” Noting my Ohio location, the Honeybee staffer recommended I visit Plan C, a U.S. website that acts as a database for online abortion pill distributors, or order pills from AidAccess, a Dutch website that illegally sold the abortion pill to U.S. women long before the pandemic. Now, thanks to the partnership of licensed U.S. doctors and Chuang’s ruling, ordering from AidAccess is legal in some states.

One group starting in 2016 found a different loophole. Gynuity Health Projects, a group with connections to the pro-abortion Population Council, started a TelAbortion “clinical trial” to push the limits even further. Now in 13 states, the program allows women to receive pills by mail after a video call from their homes. Before the pandemic, the trial required ultrasounds to confirm the pregnancy, but new protocols released at the start of COVID-19’s spread recommended skipping the tests to reduce doctor-patient contact. After Judge Chuang’s ruling, operations like TelAbortion no longer needed to disguise themselves as clinical trials.

DEVELOPMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN, which approved its pandemic-era “pills by post program” in late March, may show what the United States has in store as access to abortion pills expands. In May, leaked internal emails from the National Health Service suggested that the new system isn’t safe for women. Among the 13 incidents described: Severe bleeding from ectopic pregnancies. Delivery of infants whose mothers had attempted to abort using the pill, even though they were past the legal 10-week limit. Two dead women. Police investi-
Providers accepted the new date and bared incorrectly the first time.

The new regime has its critics. Kevin Duffy spent six years in Africa and Asia as a director and consultant with MSI Reproductive Choices (formerly Marie Stopes International). He saw what self-managed abortions look like. MSI distributed pills over the counter at local pharmacies, and no one assessed women to make sure they were eligible for a chemically induced abortion. Duffy saw more and more women with incomplete abortions needing emergency treatments for infections or severe bleeding.

Duffy sent a dozen volunteers in Tanzania to buy abortion pills in local drug shops. He discovered stores weren’t giving women the full dosage: To have a complete abortion they needed 12 misoprostol tablets, but the drug shops only sold them six. No one checked how far along the women were in their pregnancies.

In April, Duffy contacted pro-life organizations in Great Britain and proposed a survey of Great Britain’s “do it yourself” abortion protocols. With sponsorship from Christian Concern, Duffy and a volunteer recruited a team of women to spend six weeks calling the three primary abortion pill providers: MSI, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), and the National Unplanned Pregnancy Advisory Service (NUPAS).

Each pill order required two to three calls with the provider. The first conversation was usually with call center staffers, who took the caller’s general information and the date of her last period. Follow-up calls with a nurse or health adviser usually involved a flurry of yes-or-no questions about the woman’s health history and a quick overview of what to expect during the chemically induced abortion.

The volunteers adopted fake personas and gave false dates of their last menstrual periods during the calls. One volunteer intentionally switched the date of her last menstrual period between the initial calls and the follow-up calls, saying she had remembered incorrectly the first time. Providers accepted the new date and sent her pills, even though the first date she provided would have put her past the legal limit for chemical abortions.

For each persona, volunteers prepared responses to the question of why they wanted an abortion, starting with common reasons: the timing was bad, or money was tight. The call operators asked so they could check a box on the patient’s form: A patient’s reason for obtaining the abortion had to fit within the law. Usually they shoehorned the answers into the broad category of “unable to cope emotionally,” which meant the pregnancy posed a risk to the woman’s mental health.

Some of Duffy’s volunteers tried daring scenarios. When asked for the reason for her abortion, one volunteer told the midwife on the phone that she had just booked a holiday to the beach and didn’t want to look pregnant. The midwife said that was fine, but she had to fit it within a legal category: “I don’t want to put words in your mouth... Any reason other than the sex of the baby is a valid reason to us, but to attach it to a legal reason, it sounds like emotionally it’s not the right time.”

The staff showed little concern for the emotional effects of expelling a dead baby in the bathroom at home. When the volunteer callers sounded worried, staff members told them they could expect to see “blood clots.” One MSI nurse told a volunteer to “sit on the toilet seat, and let everything just fall in to the toilet... rather than you having that in your pad” to make it more “pleasant.” The nurse told the caller the bleeding could last up to two or three weeks, that there was a 1 percent chance of “complications or failure,” and that the chance of “tissue” remaining in the uterus was more than 3 in 100.

Duffy’s team successfully obtained pills 26 times. The life-ending drugs arrived at volunteers’ homes in unassum- ing paper or cardboard packages with instructions and phone numbers to call in case of emergency. Christian Concern used the NHS emails and Duffy’s findings in a legal challenge against the health secretary’s decision to allow at-home abortions, but the judge dismissed the evidence. Christian Concern appealed the decision to the U.K. Supreme Court and is awaiting an outcome.

Meanwhile, the British government is moving forward with plans to make at-home abortions permanently available. Politicians expect that the law will change before the temporary pandemic measure expires at the end of its allotted two years. The Biden administration will be watching.

THE PILL’S HISTORY

Pro-life and pro-abortion groups have fought over chemical abortions since a French pharmaceutical company first invented RU-486 in the 1980s. Also known as mifepristone, the abortive drug received approval from the French government in 1988. Early studies found that mifepristone combined with a second drug, misoprostol, was 95 percent effective at killing and expelling an unborn baby. Mifepristone cut off nutrients to the baby and misoprostol induced uterine contractions, which pushed out the baby’s remains. In 1991, Great Britain became the second country to approve RU-486.

A stalwart pro-life movement in the United States kept mifepristone out of the country for some time, but the drug eventually received an FDA-style thumbs-up after a rushed approval process in 2000. The explicit goal of all the rules: preserve maternal health. An undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy can kill a mother. If done too late in the pregnancy, a chemically induced abortion can cause severe infection. If no one checks with her afterward, no one can confirm the procedure worked. The implicit result of removing the rules: endangering women’s lives in the name of women’s health. —L.H.
THE MOVE TOWARD swallowing abortion pills at home takes us back to an earlier era when abortion-seekers avoided surgical abortion, a risky proposition for women not only morally but physically, due to the great risk of infection. Abortifacients—potions designed to produce abortion—included oil of savin, ergot, rue, tansy oil, and wormwood, all of which caused a horrible shock to the entire body of the maternal user. Dosage was key, and effects could range all the way from a slightly upset stomach to death of child or death of mother and child.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun based his 1973 Roe v. Wade decision more on erroneous history than the Constitution. Blackmun attempted to show that laws against abortion date from the 19th century, which means before that men could force women to swallow the potions without facing any legal penalty. Blackmun wrote, “It is undisputed that, at common law, abortion performed before ‘quickening’—the first recognizable movement of the fetus in utero, appearing usually from the 16th to the 18th week of pregnancy—was not an indictable offense.”

That’s just plain untrue. The secret use of abortifacients was hard to prosecute, but difficult is not the same as legal. Let’s go back to the 17th century and see what a forgotten but fascinating tale shows us about early America’s common law. The site: Charles County, Maryland, 35 miles southeast of the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. The story starts in 1656, when Mary-Land (the original spelling of the colony founded in 1634) had about 8,000 residents, including an ardently pro-life woman, Elizabeth Claxton.

That year Claxton bravely swore that a landowner, Francis Brooke, beat his mistress (unnamed in court records) and made her drink wormwood. Brooke had an illustrious last name shared by a former governor of the colony and two centuries later the U.S. Supreme Court’s chief justice, Roger Brooke Taney, who presided over the Dred Scott case in 1857.

Unawed by Brooke’s influence, Claxton testified that he “asked him if he longed to be hanged.” The evidence: Midwife Rose Smith had delivered from the mistress a dead 4-inch unborn child, and testified that he “was a man Child about three months old.” It’s strange that Claxton would say such killing was a hanging offense if abortion of an unborn child less than 4-5 months old wasn’t a crime.

The case had an unusual conclusion: Brooke’s mistress said she wanted to marry him, despite what he had done
to her and their child. Maybe she loved him, maybe she just wanted his money, but she knew from then on that Brooke was a marked man and would have to treat her decently—or else suffer social isolation and legal punishment.

Brooke accepted the deal because he did not want to be hanged: His mistress, once married, would no longer testify against him, and midwife Smith could not swear that the unborn child’s death was not via a natural miscarriage. But word spread in the small Mary-Land community: One way to marry a wealthy landowner was to bring a claim of forced abortion.

That’s important because as the Brooke case was being decided, a middle-aged jack-of-all-trades arrived in Mary-Land. During the next decade Jacob (sometimes called John) Lumbrozo was a doctor, lawyer, planter, innkeeper, wolf-hunter, and somewhat

UNTIL ABORTION BECAME COMMON, THE GENERAL PROHIBITION ON MURDER SEEMED SUFFICIENT.

of a wolf himself, according to court cases, of which there were many. He had been financially successful in Portugal and Amsterdam. He was also Jewish.

When Lumbrozo gave legal help to neighbor John Hammond, Hammond refused to pay what he owed and said (according to Lumbrozo), Let’s make a deal: You can have sex with my wife. Hammond denied that, sued Lumbrozo for defamation, and won the case against “ye Jew doctor.” Lumbrozo had to pay 5,000 pounds of tobacco, worth about $10,000.

It wasn’t unusual for landowners to have sex with servants. In 1663 Lumbrozo employed Elizabeth Wieles, 22, a recently arrived immigrant from England. If her situation was typical, she headed across the Atlantic because few things had gone right for her at home. She was probably destitute and without parents or siblings who wanted her around.

In one sense Mary-Land was a patriarchy, but Monica Witkowski threw new light on social relationships in her 2010 Marquette University dissertation, “Justice Without Partiality: Women and the Law in Colonial Maryland, 1648-1715.” Witkowski wrote that the women she studied exhibited “a sophisticated understanding of the legal workings of the colony. Many colonial women also understood how to manipulate the legal system to procure a more favorable outcome.”

IN THAT LIGHT I STUDIED Maryland archival records about what a neighbor of Wieles, George Harris, told a Charles County jury on June 29, 1663: He said Wieles had told him two weeks earlier that Lumbrozo “tooke her to bed and had layne with her whether shee woold or no, whearof before shee coold Consent to ly with him hee tooke a booke in his hand and swor many bitter oaths that hee woold marry me.” The book he allegedly swore on was probably a Bible.

Premarital sex was not unusual in many of the colonies. One advice manual for young women did not say “no sex before marriage.” It said so if you wish, but only if you have a signed statement from the man pledging marriage. Wieles gave in before getting Lumbro-
zo’s word in writing. Then he backed away. The dispute may not have ended up well for Wieles—but, having probably learned about the Brooke precedent, she played an ace, telling fellow servants and others she had become pregnant and Lumbrozo had pushed her to abort. Wieles supplied no evidence of that. While purportedly pregnant she told no one about it. No one ever saw an aborted child. In any event the child had not quickened: She told several people that after Lumbrozo gave her an abortifacient she expelled a blood clot. On June 27, even though no law specifically declared abortion to be an offense, Charles County jurors indicted Lumbrozo for a felony based on his servant’s “publick Confession tht she was with Child by Lumbrozo and that hee did give her phisick to destroy it.”

So much for the Justice Blackmun supposition that common law allowed abortion and that, at least before quickening, it was not an indictable offense. But let’s also bury the notion that the law was inhumane toward women. Wieles still wanted what Lumbrozo had promised, marriage. She wanted it so badly that she apparently made a deal with her employer: She would say she had lied, and he would marry her.

She then told the jury: “What I have said Concerning Lumbrozo it is false, for hee left mee no such things which I reported.” That she “was with Child by the doctor and lay with him every night”; False. That Lumbrozo gave her an abortifacient: False.

The jurors were startled. They questioned a friend of Wieles, one Margaret Oles: What happened? Oles testified that Wieles had asked her advice on how to testify: “whether it was best for her to clear [Lumbrozo] or no.” Thus advised, Wieles pleaded with the jury that Lumbrozo “bee Cleare from the scandal that I rise upon him for what it was spoken I did Rise of mee owne head and further say not.”

Jurors could have indicted Wieles for perjury, but they preferred a happy ending. We know Lumbrozo married her within five months of the trial, because a bill of sale dated Nov. 16, 1663, identified her as Elizabeth Lumbrozo. The provincial court dropped the case. We still do not know if that abortion ever happened.

The good news is that the Lumbrozos must have gotten along, because Lumbrozo’s will dated Sept. 24, 1665, left almost everything (including thousands of pounds of “well-conditioned tobacco”) to Elizabeth Lumbrozo, “my Dearly beloved wife,” and made her his executrix. The following year Mrs. Lumbrozo gave birth to a son.

Lumbrozo noted in his will, “I bequeath my soul to God.” He also bequeathed his story to historians willing to pay attention. The common law, unwritten but understood, declared abortion even before quickening to be murder.

During the decades since 1973, many law professors from a variety of persuasions have decried Justice Blackmun’s legal reasoning, yet left alone his faulty history. The importance of that history is evident in the way The New York Times repeatedly revisits it. Georgia State historian Lauren Thompson declared in a December 2019 column: “In the 17th and 18th centuries, abortion was legal under common law before ‘quickening’ … Abortion in the early stages of a pregnancy was common and generally not considered immoral or murderous.” Similarly, Times columnist Nicholas Kristof stated in October 2020, “Abortion was legal in the United States up to the point of quickening (the fetal movements felt in the second trimester) until the 19th century.” He evidently does not understand that Americans knew a baby in the womb is human life, so until abortion became common, the general prohibition on murder seemed sufficient. Kristof and others should read the Archives of Maryland and the records of other colonies.
Abortion’s street fighter

How Lawrence Lader led the abortion legalization drive—and later promoted the “abortion pill”

by SUSAN OLASKY | illustration by Krieg Barrie

IN 2002 THE HARVARD CLUB on 44th Street in Manhattan planned to erect a glass-walled addition to the classic building. Many alums were angry. At one meeting, Lawrence Lader, 82, got so worked up the governing board shut off his mic. He was still a frenzied orator, just as he’d been as a student in the 1930s and a self-described “street fighter” who led the movement to abolish America’s abortion laws in the 1960s.

Lader’s name isn’t much remembered today, but in the 1960s he was the historian, strategist, and publicist of abortion on demand. National Organization for Women (NOW) founder Betty Friedan dubbed him the “father of abortion rights,” and Justice Harry Blackmun cited Lader’s seminal book, Abortion, eight times in the Roe v. Wade decision. Lader co-founded NARAL, inspired the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion, and fought to make abortion drug RU-486 legal in the United States.

Lader fought for abortion until his death. One of his last acts, according to his wife, was to pay for an ad in a Sioux Falls, S.D., newspaper to protest a pro-life law. But why was abortion such a big deal to him? And how did a well-to-do writer launch a movement that within seven years overturned the country’s abortion laws? Here’s his story.

Born in 1919, Lawrence Lader grew up in an affluent, nonreligious family in New York City. His grandfather was a prominent tax attorney who once served as the assistant corporation counsel for the city. Lader attended the progressive Horace Mann prep school and enrolled at Harvard in 1937. That same year his father died of cancer.

Lader inherited from his father the clothes—“white tie and tails, a black derby, and a black Chesterfield with velvet collar”—that opened doors at Harvard. He made lifelong friends and developed a network of crucial allies in his later abortion crusade. Lader wrote for The Crimson (Harvard’s newspaper) and served as program director for an independent campus radio station.

After graduation Lader married a Vassar College graduate, Jean MacInnis, who “inducted me into the radicalism of her college circle.” He moved further left: “With all Stalin’s sins, the revolution stood as an island of socialist hope in a disintegrating world.” The marriage lasted only four years, but MacInnis also introduced him to Friedan, who became a lifelong friend and abortion-movement collaborator.

After Harvard, Lader worked in radio and then joined the Army. He snagged a position with Armed Forces Radio and wrote scripts for the Voice of the Army program that aired on NBC radio. While stationed in the South Pacific, he wrote and published his first piece in The New Yorker. When the war ended, Lader returned to New York and worked for radical U.S. Congressman Vito Marcantonio. He took a job at Esquire and Coronet magazines, whose offices “overflowed with seduction. ... I moved from affair to affair.” Despite his promiscuity, Lader denied that any of his girlfriends or wives ever had an unwanted pregnancy.

Lader had bylines in Collier’s, The Saturday Evening Post, Look, and Parade. He became president of the Society of Magazine Writers. But he wanted more: to write a book about “a new type of woman, one who would break out of all the prejudices and molds of the past.” He settled on Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger: “an extraordinary example of the ‘New Woman.’ Her vision was earthshaking. Her ability to turn an idea into a social movement was unique. ... Best of all she was alive and still organizing.”

Lader spent three years on his Sanger biography. He overcame her hesitancy by promising she’d have final say over the finished book. Correspondence between Lader and Sanger shows the extent of his intellectual infatuation with her “radiance” and “inexhaustible flame.” Sanger may have been less enamored of
him: “Lader was like a dog with a bone, digging and digging into the past.”

Sanger wasn’t happy with the manuscript and used her “final say” to demand changes before the book’s 1955 publication. Despite being a Book of the Month club selection, it wasn’t a bestseller, partially because Sanger withdrew her support. But she influenced him greatly. The relationship was non-sexual (Sanger was 40 years older than Lader), but he claimed their friendship bore “a vague resemblance to courtships. ... I was obviously flattered by an intimate link to this heroic figure.”

MORE IMPORTANT THAN the personal connection were the lessons Lader drew from Sanger’s contraception crusade: He became convinced that “contraception alone could never handle the problem of unwanted pregnancies.” He wanted to write about abortion, but publishers discouraged it as “too thorny.” So he wrote about the abolition of slavery, then returned to abortion, but magazine editors still hesitated—until two things happened.

The first was Sherri Finkbine. She was a Romper Room television teacher in Phoenix who discovered she’d taken thalidomide while pregnant with her fifth child. Finkbine sought an abortion. Heavy publicity made U.S. hospitals leery, so she traveled to Sweden to have the abortion. Journalists sympathized with Finkbine and covered every twist and turn in her case. They wanted a new word to describe her abortion symbolically, so they began routinely using “fetus” rather than “unborn baby.”

The second was German measles. An epidemic swept the United States in 1964, sickening 2 million women of childbearing age, including thousands in the first trimester when German measles is most damaging to babies in the womb. Lader claimed 15,000 to 20,000 babies were born with birth defects, and legal abortion could have prevented those births.

Suddenly, publishers were willing to consider a book on abortion, even one that challenged “all laws that restricted a woman’s right to abortion.” Lader got a contract from Bobbs-Merrill, publisher of Joy of Cooking and the Childhood of Famous Americans biography series for children.

Before the book came out, Lader landed an article in The New York Times Magazine. “The Scandal of Abortion Laws” laid out the arguments he made in his book, Abortion, which came out in 1966. Lader argued that legislators enacted existing pro-life laws to protect maternal health (not the baby), that abortion was safer than childbirth, and that current laws were vague: They supposedly kept good doctors from performing abortions and forced women into the hands of untrained and unfit abortionists.

The book received positive reviews. An excerpt appeared in Reader’s Digest and reached millions of ordinary Americans with Lader’s pro-abortion interpretation of history. Reader’s Digest promoted Lader because publisher DeWitt Wallace was a longtime advocate of Margaret Sanger and population control. He paid for Lader’s book tour, which pushed abortion law repeal along with books. On the tour Lader followed Sanger’s blueprint: “generate a new kind of excitement.”

Sanger had generated excitement with arrests and publicity stunts. Lader did the same. At every stop, desperate women showed up wanting a referral to an abortionist. Lader was happy to help. He made referrals publicly, dared prosecutors to arrest him (good publicity), and drew more women into his movement. One journalist called him “a brazen conductor on the underground railroad of abortion.”

Lader understood the importance of flipping abortion from crime story to civil rights story. He understood also that making referrals was a powerful symbol of resistance. But he thought the symbol would have more moral weight if ministers got involved, so Lader approached fellow progressive Howard Moody, pastor of Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village.

Moody recruited others. For six months the clergy met and hashed out plans for a referral service. But Lader grew impatient, so he leaked news of the referral service to The New York
“HER VISION WAS EARTSHAKING. HER ABILITY TO TURN AN IDEA INTO A SOCIAL MOVEMENT WAS UNIQUE.”

Times, which ran an article about it and forced the ministers’ hands.

Lader also wanted bodies marching in the street, so he turned to his old friend Betty Friedan, a relative latecomer to abortion. Lader convinced her that no woman could be free unless she had absolute control over her fertility. That meant making abortion the centerpiece of feminism.

Once convinced, Friedan sold NOW on abortion advocacy, and then joined with Lader and others to form the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL). With $3,500 scraped together from wealthy abortion supporters like Hugh Moore, former president of the Dixie Cup Co., Lader organized a national conference.

The conference—on Valentine’s Day, 1969—drew 360 delegates from 50 organizations. Debate broke out between reformers and repealers, with the reformers arguing the country was not ready for repeal. Lader and his allies thought anything less than total repeal of all abortion laws was worthless. Since they’d stacked the conference with like-minded people, the repealers carried the day and made Lader chairman of the new organization.

NARAL spent time and money mobilizing politically, but Lader doubted that radical change would come through state legislatures. So Lader turned his attention to the courts, advancing a legal strategy built upon the Supreme Court’s 1965 Griswold v. Connecticut decision.

In his book, Lader speculated that Justice William O. Douglas’ newly established “right to privacy” could extend to abortion. He and lawyer allies—Cyril Means and Harriet Pilpel—began looking for the right test case. They found it in Milan Vuitch, a Washington, D.C., OB-GYN who had performed abortions since the 1950s. Lader had referred many women to him and urged him to document the reasons for every abortion he performed. When authorities arrested Vuitch for breaking the law, his lawyers were ready. They claimed the D.C. abortion statute was too vague. What exactly did the word “health” mean?

In November 1969, U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell agreed, declaring the D.C. law unconstitutional and extending the right of privacy to “family, marriage, and sex matters.” Lader exulted: “Any licensed physician could now perform abortion legally in a Washington hospital or clinic.” A path to abortion on demand had opened, and lawyers across the country took it.

In Texas, lawyers representing Jane Roe used the same arguments to challenge state law. Within three years that case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Suddenly abortion was mainstream. NARAL became flush with money—but street fighter Lader found himself out of step with the movement’s new respectability.

TO SOME FORMER ALLIES, Lader became “an embarrassment ... because he’s so uncompromising. Where other groups have compromised politically, he’s too pure.” He split with NARAL and started “a small, hard-hitting militant group to do things others were scared to do or didn’t have time to do.” The new group, Abortion Rights Mobilization (ARM), carried on a bruising nine-year fight against the National Conference of Cath- 

colic Bishops for allegedly violating its tax-exempt status.

Even though ARM eventually lost at the Supreme Court, Lader considered it a victory because it put the Catholic Church on the defensive and scared pastors from speaking out on abortion. Next, he took up the cause of RU-486—the abortion pill—borrowing again from the Margaret Sanger playbook. In 1936 she had arranged for a Japanese doctor to mail contraceptives to her medical director in New York City, telling U.S. customs officials so they would seize the package and provoke a court case.

Lader revised the plan to fit new circumstances: “Why not have a pregnant American woman go to France or Britain and secure one dose of RU 486, which she would carry to New York to be administered by ARM’s doctor? ... The authorities would be notified when the woman took the pills, setting up a test case.”

The plan worked. “A mob of television cameras and reporters” met Lader and the woman, Leona Benten, at the airport, where customs agents confiscated both the RU-486 and a single dose of prostaglandin, the necessary companion drug. The story made national television news programs and major newspapers. At trial, the judge ruled in Benten’s favor and ordered the RU-486 returned to her, but the government appealed that order and the circuit court reversed the trial court. The case went all the way up to the Supreme Court, which decided against Benten.

She ended up having a surgical abortion, but Lader considered the episode a victory because RU-486 was now part of the public debate: “The press was entranced by the spectacle of one frail woman in a battle with the government.” He and ARM continued fighting for RU-486 until the federal government reversed its ban on the drug.

Lader, the street fighter, wasn’t happy when journalists sometimes described him as avuncular. His final book came out in 2003, three years before his death. By then he was largely forgotten by the new generation of telegenic abortion activists. In one of his last interviews Lader said, “I think I can lick the abortion thing. But how to age gracefully, that’s another problem.”
The unseen faces of abortion

The events of 2020 expose contradictions in the pro-abortion message

by LEAH HICKMAN

LAST YEAR’S COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS in the United States sparked fights between state governments and abortion groups over whether abortion is essential or elective. State governments in March and April halted nonessential medical procedures to conserve medical supplies. Governors in states including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia carved out exceptions for abortion facilities, while 11 other states deemed abortion procedures elective.

Some abortion facilities in these states, including Ohio, flouted the orders and insisted abortions are essential despite decades of calling them a matter of choice. State officials responded with cease-and-desist notices, but the cases landed in court. Judges ultimately blocked most of the orders, and states lifted their restrictions by May, allowing abortions to continue despite the pandemic.

Pro-life pregnancy centers and other groups got to talk with some of the women pursuing abortion during the pandemic. The National Institute of Family and Life Advocates polled 473 affiliate pregnancy centers in an April webinar and found 42 percent of them reported an increase in patients interested in abortion, likely due to COVID-19. By the end of March, the pro-life Human Coalition’s pregnancy help line was taking 500-700 calls a day. Many women mistakenly called to ask about abortion. Relational issues, housing, or finances—not the pregnancy itself—pushed most of those callers toward abortion. “The main concern that we’re seeing across the board is that they’re concerned about being able to pay for their existing children,” Lori Szala, national director of client services for the Human Coalition, said in March. One woman wanted to have an abortion because she had lost her job and health insurance. Once the Human Coalition helped her find employment at Amazon, she continued the pregnancy. “We need to remember that there are families in crisis that need our help,” Szala said. “They need to know they’re not alone.”

Abortion group British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) found in a survey that some women who pursued abortions in Great Britain during the pandemic weren’t finding that kind of help. One respondent said she felt “forced into a corner” because she had little means to support the child from her unplanned pregnancy. “I did something I never imagined I would ever do,” wrote another woman. “But at the back of my mind all I kept thinking is how would I have managed financially. ... I had to do this.”

In a year when pro-abortion groups saw victories in medical technology, legal fights, and abortion-as-discrimination, faces like these—of women looking for better choices—often went unseen.

MANY WOMEN WHO RESPONDED to the BPAS survey aborted their babies through Great Britain’s new “pills by post” program. Although implemented in the name of women’s health to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 at abortion facilities, the program limits in-facility assessments, which puts women at risk of taking the pill under dangerous conditions. Leaked May emails from the country’s health system showed that at least two women died from complications caused by their at-home abortions, and others hemorrhaged or suffered from infections.

In January, before the coronavirus reached pandemic status, Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) announced its partnership with the How to Use Abortion Pill website. The site offers an online course on the pills supposedly intended to teach health professionals in humanitarian aid settings,
but it gives specific directives to pregnant women.

Portions of the website encourage women in countries with protections for the unborn to ignore the law and lie about their abortions if they need medical assistance after taking the pill. But women in the poor countries where MSF operates may not get that help. Not only do some women have to travel long distances for medical care, but staff and equipment shortages often leave doctors unable to treat a woman’s complications even if she arrives in time.

U.S.-based online abortion pill start-ups also began sending pills to women’s homes and ignoring the medical issues that could arise without a proper consultation (see story, p. 46). The method makes it difficult to track complications, but the providers insist it’s safe and effective.

THE U.S. ABORTION INDUSTRY muffled other voices concerned about women’s health in 2020. In January, both houses of the Virginia Legislature passed bills rescinding state laws requiring women to obtain an ultrasound and wait 24 hours before having an abortion. Pro-life nurse Paige Coulter saw the removal of the ultrasound requirement as a threat to women’s health: “My biggest fear as a nurse is that women would be experiencing complications, and without that ultrasound component, they’re not being fully assessed.” She sees abortionists as the beneficiaries: They profit from rushing women into permanent decisions that they’ll later regret.

Five months later, the Supreme Court handed down a decision in the controversial abortion case June Medical Services v. Russo. The court sided with groups that prioritize abortion access over women’s health. Their attorneys argued the laws requiring Louisiana abortionists to have hospital admitting privileges would close down abortion facilities. Pro-life groups said letting abortionists evade common medical standards will put the lives and health of women at risk.

The June Medical case was argued and decided while Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg still anchored the liberal wing of the court. After her death, the addition of Justice Amy Coney Barrett in late 2020 gave pro-lifers hope the court will hand down rulings more protective of pregnant women and babies.

THE SAME MONTH the Supreme Court handed down its June Medical decision, 300 employees of Planned Parenthood of Greater New York said it paid black staff members less than white ones and offered them little upward mobility. The employees said “Planned Parenthood was founded by a racist, white woman” and “has a history and a present steeped in white supremacy.” (Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger promoted limiting the reproduction of minorities and the disabled.)

The New York affiliate removed Sanger’s name from its Manhattan facility. In a similar move, U.K.-based abortion provider Marie Stopes International changed its name to MSI Reproductive Choices in November to distance itself from its eugenicist founder and its history of pushing abortions and contraceptives on certain populations. Former
Planned Parenthood manager Abby Johnson remembers employees talking about Sanger’s racist worldview when Johnson worked at a Texas facility in the early 2000s. But, looking back, she said most of the comments were dismissive, along the lines of “Everybody was racist at the time.”

The abortion industry worldwide is still racist. German researcher Adrian Zenz exposed the forced abortions and sterilizations of Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in China. Officials imprison parents who have more than two children. They detained for months a Kazakh woman pregnant with her third child, then forcibly aborted the baby. Radio Free Asia reported on Uighur infanticide. James Leibold, a specialist in Chinese ethnic policy, linked such killing to “China’s long history of dabbling in eugenics.”

The dabbling continued in England, where the Conservative Party government rolled out a new prenatal screening method that will allow mothers to determine if their unborn babies have Down syndrome. Pro-lifers there fear the new testing will lead to more abortions of Down syndrome babies. Even without the new technique, 90 percent of parents of Down syndrome babies in the U.K. already abort their babies. Similar testing methods in Denmark have led parents to abort 95 percent of unborn babies diagnosed with chromosomal abnormalities. Parents in Iceland abort almost 100 percent of Down syndrome–diagnosed babies.

In October, conservative Poland’s highest court ruled that aborting a baby because of congenital defects is unconstitutional, effectively eliminating legal abortion in the country. The next day, women turned out in the streets of Polish cities by the thousands to protest. Wearing masks and dark clothing, they bore the red lightning bolt—a symbol of women’s rights—and defied tear gas and the threat of spreading COVID-19. “I think, I feel, I decide,” some chanted. Others yelled, “Freedom, equality, women’s rights.” Some Polish women have stripped naked in front of governmental buildings in protest.

In Argentina in December, thousands of women and young people wearing green bandannas in support of abortion spent a Thursday night in front of the capitol in Buenos Aires. The Chamber of Deputies was debating a bill to legalize abortion in the majority Catholic country. The bill passed 131 to 117. Later that month the Senate concurred, 38-29, and President Alberto Fernández signed the bill into law.

Meanwhile, pro-lifers in the U.S. and elsewhere looked forward to a COVID-19 vaccine but discussed the ethics of benefiting from a cell line that began with the kidney cells of a baby girl aborted in the Netherlands in the 1970s. The Charlotte Lozier Institute showed that the AstraZeneca vaccine and at least five others used HEK293, the baby’s cell line, to grow the coronavirus and create inactive versions to use in the vaccines. Companies Altimmune and Janssen Research and Development used the PER.C6 cell line, also taken from an aborted baby.

The new mRNA technology used in Moderna’s and Pfizer’s vaccines did not require cells in the design or production stages, although developers used the HEK293 cells to test the vaccines.
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PRO-LIFE PROGRESSION

Q&As with pro-life leaders: The politically diverse pro-life movement in the 1970s, and the racially and ethnically diverse movement now

by Leah Hickman

JOHN CAVANAUGH-O’KEEFE co-founded in 1977 the Pro-Life Nonviolent Action Project and was arrested more than 20 times at sit-ins. In recent years he’s concentrated on supporting immigrants and opposing racism. My questions and Cavanaugh-O’Keefe’s answers follow.

Did the pro-life movement make a mistake by concentrating on reversing Roe v. Wade? Great idea, but that’s not the end game. Reverse it, the question goes back to the states, and while →
I’m troubled by the divisiveness in the nation that the pro-life movement is now a part of, because if you give up on the Democratic Party, you have given up on ending abortion in America.

So the Supreme Court is not our savior? In the entire recorded history of the world, it has never ever happened that a nation ended a massive, deeply entrenched evil by changing the law. That just doesn’t happen. You can vote in Hitler, you can vote in evil, but you can’t vote it out. To get it out, you have to do something other than vote, and history offers only two ways to change a massively entrenched evil in society: war and martyrdom. We need to study other campaigns of nonviolence and build on them. The pro-life movement started doing that but then got badly sidetracked. Now we’re back to this effort of changing the law without changing society first.

How can we end abortion in the United States? You need to reach out to people from all backgrounds and build a national consensus. If you work with one party, you cannot change a nation. I’m troubled by the divisiveness in the nation that the pro-life movement is now a part of, because if you give up on the Democratic Party, you have given up on ending abortion in America.

What common ground can there be with the Democratic Party? The movement that calls itself pro-choice always has been and still is a coalition of two different groups: pro-choice feminists and population control eugenicists. The abortion movement came out of the eugenics movement, which is not a thing of the past: The eugenics movement has worked hard to drive down global population, particularly of people of color. Democrats are still aware of that and concerned about it. Nancy Pelosi opposes coercive abortion and led the fight against coercive abortion years and years ago in the 1980s. Obviously, Pelosi is not someone we want to work with to end abortion in America, but if we push back against coercive abortion globally, it’s still possible to find common ground.
How did the Columbus chapter of the National Organization for Women react in 1974? The so-called “feminist” movement wanted nothing to do with us. The Columbus board invited me to speak in my defense at a board meeting. I declined, but when the leadership brought it before the general membership, I used my 15 minutes to talk about why abortion was bad for women. After a long discussion, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of expulsion: The chapter had over 100 members, and only three voted to keep me. National NOW declined to expel me. I got a letter from a chapter in Washington state decrying the action of the Columbus chapter.

You were president of Feminists for Life for five years before you retired. Then what did you do? I had two biological children and two adopted children by the time I retired from leadership. My husband and I had three more children after that. At first I was too busy homeschooling and taking care of other family matters. But once I got on the internet, I found various ways to contribute through online groups. I talked to more than 1,000 women online and may have saved a few lives. You never know.

The pro-life movement has become racially and ethnically diverse. Our Dec. 26 issue had a Q&A with Care Net head Roland Warren. Here’s an interview with Savannah Lopez, client services manager at Pregnancy & Fatherhood Solutions in El Paso, Texas.

What was your exposure to the issue of abortion growing up? I grew up in El Paso’s Hispanic community. It’s primarily Roman Catholic and very pro-life. I grew up knowing I was pro-life without ever seeing the compassion for the women who do choose abortion.

What percentage of your clients at the pregnancy center are Hispanic—and what differences do you notice between the first-generation immigrants and those with families who have been around longer? Probably 75 percent. Most of our clients are U.S. citizens, probably second-generation families. We have had clients who say they just came to the country. Most of those are →

Savannah Lopez
AM LEE WAS SITTING in a doorway when he met Roberta, a white girl in her early 20s with glasses and long brown hair. She couldn’t get past him, and that was his goal. It was around 1980, and in those early years of the pro-life sit-in movement, Lee was experienced in using his body to barricade abortion facility entrances. He was 23 and had been doing it since 1978.

He probably got in the way of a lot of women, but Lee usually further along in their pregnancies, and they’re just looking for help with getting connected to medical care or continuing the pregnancy. They’re usually not planning to abort. Most are single and don’t have other children. They live with their parents and are fully dependent on them.

**Tell me about one of your Hispanic clients whose situation reflects what many of your clients go through.** I had a client recently who was considering abortion. She was unmarried, in college, between 18 and 20, and in shock and denial when she first came in—which is also common among the young women we see. She hadn’t told her family, but one parent was more on the pro-life side, and she believed the other parent would be a lot more understanding if she did go through with an abortion because she was so young.

**What happened?** After going through our coronavirus screening process, she gave a urine sample for the pregnancy test. The test came back positive, and we went over all her options with her. This client in particular needed to vent about her denial and her frustration with the timing of the pregnancy. We went over the facts about abortion. She agreed to come back for an ultrasound with her partner. She didn’t come out and say she chose life, but she said she had a lot more to think about. We last saw her a couple of weeks ago.

**How often are you able to talk your abortion-minded clients out of abortions?** We don’t talk them out of it. We can’t do that. But we do present the facts. A lot of men and women have no knowledge of what an abortion entails, thinking it’s just a Band-Aid–type fix. Many aren’t really well-educated on how a fetus develops in the womb. Ultrasounds help give them a visual on the pregnancy, and other information helps their decision-making process.

**What are typical results?** A good percentage of women who come in considering abortion walk out of here either wanting to come back for an ultrasound later to make a final decision or leaving here ultimately choosing life for their baby. About 80 percent of our clients who receive an ultrasound and go through options counseling choose life.
remembers Roberta in part because of what she said to him. “You don’t understand,” she pleaded. “If I don’t have this abortion, I’ll be kicked out of my boyfriend’s apartment.” She wasn’t angry, Lee said later: “I think she was desperate, and I was in the way.”

Not for much longer. Police soon arrived, arrested him and his friends, and put them in paddy wagons. “She went in and, as far as I know, she had the abortion. Never really did find out,” Lee says. But he points to that interaction and others like it as events that would inform his pro-life work for the next four decades. When faced with other dead ends in his activist efforts, Lee worked to build and support agencies that help women in crisis pregnancies—and he’s seen the fruits.

“How do you answer that? You can’t answer with just platitudes … like, ‘Oh, honey, it’ll be OK,’” Lee muses, remembering the effect Roberta’s words had on him. In the back of the paddy wagon, he talked about it with his friends. They all agreed they had to do something to help women like Roberta. At first, a couple of the female pro-lifers opened their apartment to homeless pregnant women. But the long-term plan was to start a maternity home.

By 1982, Lee and his friends acquired an old convent and opened Our Lady’s Inn. The home’s first live-in house parent was Gloria Fahey, the woman Lee would eventually marry after meeting her on a blind date. Meanwhile, Lee continued his involvement with sit-ins: blocking facility entrances until police arrived, getting thrown into paddy wagons, being processed at police stations, sometimes showing up in court. Police arrested him about 50 times in the six or seven years between 1978 and his last sit-in.

A month after his wedding to Gloria in May 1983, Lee began serving 314 days in a Chesterfield, Mo., correctional institution for visiting abortion facilities in violation of court orders. By the time he got out, he realized spending years in jail for joining sit-ins wouldn’t do much good for the pro-life movement or his new family. So he turned to legislation.

His experience crafting a defense for himself and his friends after their sit-in arrests gave him a natural segue into writing pro-life bills. His initial goal was to protect pro-lifers in court. He designed one of his first bills to make the “necessity” appeal easier for pro-lifers charged with trespassing. (The argument said the evil of abortion outweighed the evil of trespassing, compelling pro-lifers to sit in front of abortion facility doors.) But that bill never passed. His focus expanded to restricting abortion facilities and establishing legal protections for babies. He helped write the Missouri bill the U.S. Supreme Court upheld in the 1989 case Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, along with the state’s heartbeat bill protecting unborn babies with beating hearts. Some legislation he worked on helped close abortion clinics, bringing the statewide number down from 29 in 1982 to one in 2020.

But he says some of the most rewarding work he’s done has involved legislation that supports agencies like Our Lady’s Inn.

In 1992, Missouri elected its first pro-abortion governor since Roe v. Wade. Gov. Mel Carnahan served two terms. “We had a real dry spell,” said Lee. “It was very difficult to get things passed.” So he took a different approach: Instead of pushing bills to regulate abortion, he’d introduce legislation that could help pro-life agencies.

He crafted tax credit legislation to incentivize donations to maternity homes. That bill allowed maternity home supporters to get a reduction in their tax bill of up to 50 percent of what they gave to the agency—government support without the strings that come attached to direct funding.

It failed in 1995 and again in 1996. In 1997, Lee attached it to one of Gov. Carnahan’s priority bills, a sales tax reduction on groceries promised while on the campaign trail. Despite pushback from pro-abortion legislators, Lee’s pro-life allies in the Senate persisted. The bill with the provision for the tax credit passed unanimously in the Senate on the last day of the session, and Carnahan signed it into law.

Gloria Lee, now the chief programs officer at Our Lady’s Inn, says the tax credit helped the organization raise...
Matthew DeBoer never intended to be a spokesperson for facial recognition. Back in 2018, the principal of St. Therese Catholic Academy, a K-8 school in Seattle, was looking to upgrade the academy’s aging security system when he heard about an offer from tech firm RealNetworks to pilot test its facial recognition technology.

With support from parents and staff, DeBoer signed up and installed facial recognition by the school’s external doors.

Facial recognition technology offers potential safety benefits, but most U.S. schools remain wary

by Juliana Chan Erikson
Now, to get inside St. Therese, parents and staff stare at an external camera and smile. If the system recognizes the person’s face, the front doors automatically open. DeBoer says the system has helped staffers match faces with names and expedited routine visits from parents and delivery workers.

“I wasn’t sold on it right away,” he said. “But when I thought it through, this technology reminded me of my mantra, ‘How can we make the world smaller?’”

With a handful of exceptions, though, U.S. schools are still not sold on facial recognition.

An October 2019 Wired magazine investigation found that of the more than 13,000 public school districts in the United States, only eight had installed facial recognition systems in the previous year.

Of those, at least one has walked back its policy. The Lockport school district in New York state was among the first in the country to adopt facial recognition in all its K-12 buildings. But after the New York Legislature issued a statewide moratorium on facial recognition and other forms of biometrics in schools until 2022, Lockport had to shut down its system.

Some U.S. cities aren’t sold on it either. Portland, San Francisco, and a few other smaller cities in California and Massachusetts now prohibit facial recognition in public and local government spaces. While schools are not specifically mentioned, the bans have made introducing facial recognition there a nonstarter.

Proponents of facial recognition say it’s a powerful crime deterrent that could have prevented school shootings like the one at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in 2018 that left 17 people dead. Since the alleged shooter, Nikolas Cruz, was an expelled former student, some say school administrators could have added him to a facial recognition system, which would have denied him entrance to the school.

But Carl Chinn, an expert on church security, says facial recognition won’t identify suspicious behavior, the chief factor a security team should look for when protecting children.

“I’m in favor of watching for dangerous activities,” he said. “Facial recognition ain’t going to help you [with that].”

Much of the argument against facial recognition in school concerns student privacy, consent, and racial bias. One parent from the Lockport district told The New York Times he feared the system would have “turned our kids into lab rats in a high-tech experiment in privacy invasion.”

Others say facial recognition is too inaccurate to be useful and could lead to misidentification and wrongful disciplinary action against people of color. A National Institute of Standards and Technology study found that facial recognition systems misidentified minorities up to 100 times more often than white men.

Back in Seattle, DeBoer says that although 86 percent of St. Therese Catholic Academy students identify as persons of color, he’s found the rate of misidentification consistent across all skin colors. His school resolves privacy issues by restricting the systems to external entrances, keeping cameras out of classrooms, and never using facial recognition on students.

The school also made the system voluntary, so skeptical parents can still check in the old-fashioned way—by walking into the main office.
The wide gate
The path to destruction is a twisted form of the path to life

INCE TIME MAGAZINE announced God was dead in 1966, people have done their best to manage without Him, notably in relationships. God’s narrow way of one man and one woman monogamously raising offspring has been paved over with multilane beltways, bypasses, and loops that must look sort of messy from angel altitude.

These include elective single motherhood (“A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle”) and joint homosexual parenting. But the latest offshoot is “platonic co-parenting,” an option generating lucrative business for matchmaking services like the Los Angeles–based Modamily and the U.K.’s PollenTree and CoParents.

The idea is that your biological clock is running out because you waited till your late 30s to think about having a baby. There’s no time for the niceties of finding a “true love,” getting married, and having kids the old-fashioned way. So the shortcut (to stick to the road metaphor) is an algorithm-driven online search for a person who embodies your wish list for a good parent—though not necessarily for a romantic partner.

In other words, you want your child to have a father like Ward Cleaver while you hold out for a hunk like the Sundance Kid. So you and Mr.-Right-for-a-father-but-not-for-a-hearthrob will agree to create a baby together ASAP (some use a sperm bank but why not do it the free way?) and share his upbringing. It buys you time.

The question it raises for me right off the bat: Wouldn’t the guy who’s good father material also be good husband material? One woman describing her child’s co-parent uses adjectives like “kind,” “gallant,” “flexible,” and “brave.” What’s not to fall in love with?

I know, I know, to each his own. It’s like Woody Allen said when challenged about the choice of his stepdaughter for a lover: “The heart wants what it wants.” Good luck with that. But evidently, for many, when it comes to mate choices, “fun” and “naughty” trump those prosaic aforementioned virtues.

Here’s my other question: If the purpose of this new approach is to find the most principled and high-minded parent for your child, how is that accomplished by birthing him into an out-of-wedlock, noncommittal union? And an instantly broken family, where he will be schlepped back and forth between Mom’s and Dad’s crib for 18 years? It’s bad enough we have unplanned broken families without creating planned ones.

Did anybody consider the likely complications of two people sleeping together while agreeing not to get emotionally attached? As the Apostle Paul writes, “Do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? ... ‘The two will become one flesh’” (1 Corinthians 6:16). Or as C.S. Lewis put it in The Screwtape Letters, “The truth is that wherever a man lies with a woman, there, whether they like it or not, a transcendental relation is set up between them which must be eternally enjoyed or eternally endured.”

“God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes” (Ecclesiastes 7:29). Manifestly. When human hubris tries to fix what ain’t broken, we end up with the “cobra effect.” (In an attempt to solve a cobra problem in the city of Delhi, the British offered a bounty to anyone turning in the venomous snakes. Enterprising Indians not only delivered snakes they caught but bred more of them.)

The irony is how “platonic co-parenting” is a backdoor acknowledgment of the superiority of God’s design. It tacitly admits that children thrive better with parents who exhibit qualities such as love, nurturing, faithfulness, and commitment, which is the Bible’s own teaching. The devil can never create an original, but only twist what God has created.

“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few” (Matthew 7:13-14).
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Containing abortion

Property in men, property in babies

AN. 22 IS THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision. Ten days later, Black History Month begins. We should think about the connection.

In 1855 Frederick Douglass titled his great autobiography My Bondage and My Freedom. Ten years later, Abraham Lincoln gave his second inaugural address, which he could have titled “Our Bondage and Our Freedom.”

Lincoln spoke of the deaths on both sides in what had become a war to end not Southern slavery but “American slavery”: Both North and South had culpability. Northern shipowners had profited from slavery. Northern states had acquiesced in constitutional compromises by which a human being could be seen both as property—owners had the right to recapture future slaves and return them to a hellish existence—and as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of giving white Southerners more representation in Congress.

Even Virginian James Madison, “the father of the Constitution,” had said as he was drafting the document in 1787 that it was “wrong to admit in the Constitution the idea that there could be property in men”—but he established that wrong as a right. How to get rid of it became a 75-year debate in which abolitionists gained insufficient traction until war gave them a bloody win. When abolition wasn’t politically possible, the fallback position was a policy of containment rather than abolition: Congressman Abraham Lincoln from 1847 to 1849 voted to keep slavery from expanding into Western territories and to appropriate funds to purchase the freedom of slaves in the District of Columbia.

Historian James Oakes described that fallback strategy this way: “The federal government would surround the South with free states, free territories, and free waters, building what they called a ‘cordon of freedom’ around slavery, hemming it in until the system’s own internal weaknesses forced the slave states one by one to abandon slavery.”

Jump to 1970 when the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective, in the city that had years before been an abolitionist stronghold, declared in Our Bodies, Ourselves that unborn children were essentially the property of their mothers, to be disposed of as they saw fit. Three years later Justice Harry Blackmun declared in Roe that the government has an interest in the survival of an unborn child only when he or she becomes two-thirds of a person.

Blackmun apparently thought he was offering a moderate compromise in recognizing a child’s humanity in the last trimester of development. Some editorial writers after Roe wiped off their crystal balls and predicted an end to “emotion-charged hearings” on abortion (Des Moines Register) and the “distractive issue [for] politicians and policemen and judges” (Milwaukee Journal). The New York Times praised Blackmun for providing “a sound foundation for final and reasonable resolution [of the] emotional and divisive public argument” concerning abortion. They were as accurate as Sen. Stephen Douglas and some Southern journalists were when they said the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, which allowed for slavery expansion, would quiet the debate over treating persons as property.

Jump to 2021, when more states with conservative majorities are likely to join those that already have heartbeat laws that protect unborn children starting at six weeks of gestation—if the Supreme Court will allow those laws. Abortion strongholds like New York, Illinois, and California could be hemmed in by life-affirming states until liberalism’s internal contradictions—standing for the weak and vulnerable but killing the most vulnerable—eventually kill the abortion regime.

But abortion advocates are already pushing their new Kansas-Nebraska Act to break out of containment: Mail-order abortions, with home-delivered baby-killing chemicals: see page 46. The first line of defense against that is the Food and Drug Administration; but pro-abortion judges have already circumvented it, and a Biden FDA is likely to open wide the gates. Ultrasound pictures of their unborn babies give women (and men) much to think about, but the pro-abortion response is Don’t see! Don’t think! Just do it!

The pro-life movement will need creativity in responding. This year WORLD will report on several new initiatives.

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FROM THE FOREWORD BY
JONI EARECKSON TADA