

Rally for Life

What a wonderful and powerful witness for life it was this past Saturday, Feb 20 at True Vine Baptist Church -the gathering place for the “***Rally for Life***”. People of all ages, races and religious affiliations coming together as Children of God to say “Yes” to life and “No” to Planned Parenthood in the city of Knoxville TN.

The crowd gathered under a beautiful, sunny sky enjoying temperatures that we haven’t seen since last fall! It couldn’t have been a more perfect day in terms of both weather and the spirit of those who came.

Pastor Sharon Welch gave the opening remarks and led all in a prayer of thanksgiving and a call to action. Lisa Morris gave a brief summary about Planned Parenthood, who is the largest abortion provider in the country, using 350 million tax dollars to do it. She went on to tell of the history of the organization, founded by Margaret Sanger. Following is an excerpt from that history:

“Margaret Sanger, the founder of PP, was a devout racist who created the Negro Project designed to sterilize unknowing African-American women and others she deemed as undesirables of society. She saw birth control as a way to bring about the “Perfect” society - eliminating the feeble minded, the poor, those with lack of education, those with addictions and those within the African-American population. This was the mission of Planned Parenthood when it began and that is their mission today. Planned Parenthood knew they needed to gain the support of the African-American leaders. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was among those that Planned Parenthood targeted to advance their agenda. They presented him with the Margaret Sanger award on May 5, 1966, to encourage his support of their organization, so that others in the African-American community would follow his lead. Dr. King was totally unaware of Planned Parenthood’s hidden agenda, as many still are today, since they went into the African-American community saying they were helping women and families. As God would have it, Dr. King’s niece, Dr. Alveda King,

is now on the forefront of the pro-life movement and speaks out boldly and courageously against Planned Parenthood and abortion. She believes that protecting the lives of the unborn is the most pressing moral issue of our time, drawing the connection between the civil rights movement of the 60's and the killing of the unborn. She is an educator, author, and minister of the Gospel. She is also a leader of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which is a group of dedicated men and women committed to exposing the emotional, physical and spiritual pain of abortion in an effort to end the secrecy and silence. Dr. King's own testimony in this area is very powerful as she shares the story of her own abortion."

Lisa Morris went to on to say this about Alveda King, "We have spoken with her several times about what is happening in Knoxville. Dr. King wanted to be with us for this rally, but was unable due to her schedule. However, she sent a message to let the people of Knoxville know that she is in this fight for life with us 100 percent." Dr. King's words are very powerful and encourage us to stay the course. Following is an excerpt from Dr. Alveda King's full statement:

"Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the U.S. accounting for a quarter of the 1.1 million abortions each year in the U.S. - 78% of their clinics are in minority communities -including their newest target in Knoxville. African-Americans make up 12% of the population, but 35% of the abortions in America happen to Black babies. African-Americans are the only minority in America that is on the decline in population, yet we remain the biggest target for Planned Parenthood services, including abortion. Abortion kills more African-Americans than AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer, and heart disease combined - well over 1400 each day. This is the agenda that the Knoxville Planned Parenthood community wants to hide while they are building their new center. The people of Knoxville are right to say no to Planned Parenthood."

Steve Arnold spoke on the deceptive nature of Planned Parenthood; outlining the secrecy and deceptive tactics they used to purchase this new facility, and discussing similar deceptive practices by Planned Parenthood affiliates in Denver, Aurora and Cincinnati. Steve also cited several undercover investigations where Planned Parenthood clinics around the country were exposed for both ignoring parental notification laws and hiding sexual abuse of minors. Steve also addressed Planned Parenthood's TeenWire website (www.teenwire.com), which is designed to teach children sexual practices that go against the morals and values of most East Tennesseans.

Monsignor Mankel of the Knoxville Diocese, offered powerful words regarding the need to keep Planned Parenthood out, and to promote life in every community.

Pastor Jean Delaney shared the Prayer Team vision of the Pro-Life Coalition of East TN. There will be a prayer vigil every Friday during Lent, from 8:00am - 4:00pm in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic located at 710 N. Cherry St. She directed those present to sign-up to commit to an hour of prayer at www.40daysknoxville.com/vigil or to call 567-1245.

Pastor Barbara McKinney of Clayborn Temple AME and Pastor Johnny Watson of AME Bethel Church both spoke boldly and courageously about the need to rise up and say "No" to Planned Parenthood. Pastor Watson said, "If we don't stop this now, something bigger is coming."

A statement from Lt. Gov Ron Ramsey was read by Paul Simoneau and Bonnie Brezina read a statement from Congressman Zach Wamp. Both candidates for Governor expressed their support of the efforts to promote life and defend the unborn.

Knoxville: *A City of Life* - Andy Rittenhouse, an Associate Pastor at First Baptist Concord, addressed the crowd with a passionate plea to say "No" to the presence of Planned Parenthood in our city and referenced the movie *Maafa 21*, which he encouraged everyone to watch. This DVD by Life Dynamics is a powerful tool in

bringing to light the true agenda of Planned Parenthood. He said that there was a ground swell around this issue in the city of Knoxville. Pastor Rittenhouse then lead all gathered in the reading of the City of Life Declaration.

Pastor Joseph Parker explained to the crowd that he would have some resources available for those who wanted materials that could be used to bring the abortion issue to the forefront in any setting. He then lead us in prayer before we crossed the street to line the sidewalks in front of the Planned Parenthood building for 30 minutes of silent prayer, each holding signs with various messages, such as: “ Women Do Regret Abortion” , “Planned Parenthood Steals Souls”, and “Planned Parenthood - Bad for Babies”....

What a testimony to all those who passed by to see the sidewalk filled with those willing to stand up and pray for an end to abortion. At the end of the prayer vigil, a worker who had been in the Planned Parenthood facility left saying that he just found out who he was working for, and stated that he had only been told was that it was a medical facility. As he left the parking lot he said, “I am on your side.” When that news was shared in the church later, those who had not heard the story broke out into applause.

Pastor Maddox ended the comments at the Rally, summarizing what he had heard regarding Planned Parenthood’s racist history and deceptive nature. Pastor Maddox spoke boldly and directly - repeatedly saying, “sounds like a system to me!”

Throughout the event, educational and pro-life materials, from pregnancy help centers and other organizations, were made available and attendees were given an opportunity to sign the City of Life Declaration.

God is at work! The power of prayer is the foundation and God is at the head of it all. We know that with Him all things are possible.

The Scripture that was read during the rally says it all: Deuteronomy 30:19-20 says, “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live.”

Say “NO” to Planned Parenthood services, say “NO” to Planned Parenthood in our community...in any community. **CHOOSE LIFE.**