



April 2019

Dear Friend:

It's hard to believe spring is already in full swing and Easter is coming up quickly. Christ's death and resurrection form the very centerpiece and foundation of our faith. Without Easter morning, Christianity would be just another hollow belief system based upon the teachings of a charismatic man.

But Easter is not just a tribute or tradition honoring an inspirational historical figure. It's a bold and audacious proclamation that Jesus, the Son of God who submitted Himself willingly to death—for you, and for me, and for all who would believe—is ALIVE. He is with us *now*, today and every day. The Resurrection was not only a singular event in history more than 2,000 years ago. It is an ongoing, life-giving, daily reality for all who are in Christ.

Christ's resurrection is a *miracle*—something that can't be explained through science, and yet concrete evidence that God is at work in the world and fulfilling His promises. As the apostle Paul testifies: *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."*

(1 Corinthians 15:3-8 ESV)

Paul's detailed accounting points to the fact that the resurrection is a historical, real-world event. But it also attests to the miraculous, supernatural nature of Christ's victory over sin and death.

In many ways, this balance between science and supernatural relates to Focus on the Family's See Life Clearly campaign, which I told you about last month (FocusOnTheFamily.com/Pro-Life). This is our 12-week effort to promote and proclaim the sanctity of life, culminating early next month with the Alive from New York event in Times Square on May 4. That is when our team will broadcast live, 4D ultrasound images on a massive jumbotron in one of the most traveled and recognized locations on the entire planet.

We could certainly make the pro-life argument in Times Square from Scripture alone. The Bible is full of references to the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception. Every one of us is not just a body, but a soul, made in the image of God and of inestimable worth. The psalmist expresses this most eloquently: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together

(over, please)

in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14).

But one of the wonderful things about the See Life Clearly campaign is that it proclaims this same message using the tools of science. When the masses in New York City look up and see a 4D ultrasound image on the big screen or when an expectant mom sees a similar image of her living, beautiful baby in a Pregnancy Resource Center equipped by the Option Ultrasound program science and the Psalms are sending the same message: *fearfully and wonderfully made*. Technology enables us to see what Scripture has made clear from the beginning—that life is sacred. You don't have to be a theologian or a biblical scholar to understand that.

A friend of the ministry recently wrote to share her testimony with us, a story that combines many of the themes I've been discussing: the salvation we celebrate on Easter, the sanctity of human life, and the ways God uses science and technology to confirm the timeless truths of His Word. Danise's past experience with abortion ultimately pointed her to Christ, and not surprisingly, one of the things that God used to enlighten her to the reality of life in the womb and ultimately, to draw her into a personal relationship with Jesus, was ultrasound technology. I hope you'll be touched by her beautiful testimony:

I entered my senior year in high school in 1972. I turned 17 in October of that year, met a boy and immediately fell in love. Soon after, I became pregnant and knew I could not tell my parents. They would have been mortified, disappointed, and heartbroken. And for all I knew, I would be cast out from my family. So I went to the only place I felt I could go — Planned Parenthood. The people there seemed kind, helpful, almost caring. They told me I did not have a choice (an interesting use of words), that I would not be able to finish high school, that I would be stuck with a kid and would have to get a low-paying job. I had no idea what my options were, but one thing I knew for certain, I would not hurt my parents by sharing this news with them.

Planned Parenthood helped me arrange a trip to their clinic in New York City for a safe and quick little "procedure." I told my parents I was going shopping with friends. Only my boyfriend and my "shopping" friends, who served as my alibi, knew the truth. Off I went to New York, all by myself, to take care of this nuisance that would keep me, at least from Planned Parenthood's perspective, from achieving all my dreams. After all, it was no big deal. It was just some tissue.

I made it home safely within hours of the procedure, and went on with life. I never told my parents. I pushed down any regret or guilt. I buried the lie so deep, building a fortress around my heart. I ignored everyone that ever spoke about abortion or unborn babies. I brushed away the pangs that whispered, "Perhaps it was really a baby." It is my body...and my soul and I would make my own choices.

That is until 1978.

I married in 1976 and was pregnant two years later. I was working as a Nuclear Medicine tech at the

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time. We had just purchased a brand-new ultrasound unit, and I decided to try it out on me when I was ten weeks pregnant with my daughter, Marisa.

And then it hit me: I had killed a baby. And even though the reality of what I'd done rocked my world, I ran from that thought, and buried myself in my career, my image, my success. It wasn't until 1990 that I finally began to understand real love. I understood that Jesus came to this earth in the form of a baby, lived, died and rose again so I could be free from all the guilt and shame of living in a fallen world. I understood a true and authentic relationship with Jesus. But because of the lie rooted so deeply within me, I didn't believe that He would ever forgive me for having had an abortion. How could He?

My mom passed in 1996, never knowing. Barely a year after my mom passed, God gave me a beautiful picture of His love and forgiveness. As I was sitting with my daughter at our kitchen table, I envisioned my mom standing there just as vivid to me as my daughter was. Mom was beautiful and radiant as she stood there looking at me. In her arms was a beautiful baby. She didn't speak, but looked as though she were saying, "Look who I have."

My mother was holding her first grandchild! God pulled back the curtain of heaven to show me how much He loved me and valued that baby. Such a picture of forgiveness I will never ever forget. Never. That baby had been sucked from my womb limb by limb because of a lie I believed, and yet God showed me a baby that was whole being held by Grandma.

The veil of guilt and shame was lifted, the need for validation from others was crushed, and I knew I was so loved and totally forgiven. I only needed God's validation. The freedom I've experienced since has been incredible.

You didn't have to experience an abortion to feel guilt and shame. No matter what lie you may believe about God or about yourself, I want to share this truth with you: Jesus loves you no matter what you've done. He died for you so that you can be free to live an abundant life He has created you for. The place to begin is to ask Him for forgiveness, trust that He has forgiven you, and ask that He help you walk out a life of freedom.

Isn't that incredible? What a powerful testimony to the Divine love, grace, and redemption we celebrate every Easter—and to the amazing ways that God can use science and technology to point us to His eternal truth!

Will you join me in our continuing effort to help hurting people SEE LIFE CLEARLY? Whether that is seeing the life in Christ they were meant to live or choosing life for their preborn baby, your gift today will save lives. As I mentioned before, here are three specific ways you can make a difference:

- **Sign our online petition** that will be delivered to the White House and United States

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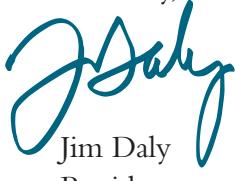
Congress. It's called "A Declaration for Life" and found at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Pro-Life, along with all the details of our See Life Clearly campaign.

- **Pray for our Alive from New York event, May 4**—held in the very same city where Danise made her regrettable decision all those years ago. If you're able, we'd love to see *you* and your family in Times Square on May 4! But if you aren't able to attend, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/Pro-Life to learn how you can see it.
- **Give today to help save a baby from abortion through our Option Ultrasound program.** Every \$60 helps save a life as we provide ultrasound machines and training to help mothers considering abortion see the child growing inside of them clearly. **And, thanks to a \$1.73 million Matching gift, your gift today will be DOUBLED and go TWICE AS FAR to save babies from abortion!**

Our sincere hope is that God will use this unprecedented opportunity to not only proclaim the dignity and sanctity of life in the womb, but also to point people to the Author of Life and the forgiveness and hope that are available only through Jesus Christ. Does that sound like an ambitious goal? Yes, it does. But with God, all things are possible. Just ask our friend Danise.

Thanks for your ongoing partnership as we advance the cause of life and ultimately endeavor to point people to Jesus Christ through our numerous ministry efforts!

Sincerely,



Jim Daly
President

P.S. Please take advantage of our \$1.73 million Matching gift to DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS to help save babies from abortion and continue all the outreaches that share the Easter message of grace, forgiveness and ETERNAL LIFE! Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration!

FAMILY FOCUS®

FOR OUR PARTNERS IN FAMILY MINISTRY

APRIL 2019



*She took a life.
Was forgiveness and new life possible?*

An Easter message of life and hope that you are sharing with others!

What is the worst decision you ever made? Janelle* says it was the day she aborted her baby.

When she found out she was pregnant, Janelle didn't know what to do! Confused and frightened, Janelle and her boyfriend visited an abortion clinic. Once there, they were rushed through procedures and—even though she wasn't sure—Janelle agreed to a drug-induced abortion.

When Janelle realized the truth of what she had done, she was broken and devastated.

God wasn't finished with Janelle . . . or her baby. You'll learn more of her unbelievable story in a moment. But with the current public outcry against pro-choice legislation in places like New York—which recently legalized abortion any time and without restrictions—we can forget that abortion not only takes the life of a child, but devastates the life of the mother. It's a pain that only Christ's forgiveness can ease.

"It was a horrible experience," Janelle remembers through tears. "When the reality of what I had done—ended my

child's life—hit me, depression set in."

How could she ever forgive herself? Jesus Christ died and rose again to provide forgiveness and hope for broken people just like Janelle. ". . . he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3 ESV).

Everything we do at Focus on the Family celebrates the resurrection of our Lord and Savior and the forgiveness and life he came to give.

SHE TOOK A LIFE, continued on page 2 ►



She Took A Life *Continued from page 1*

Through your support of our ministry to families, you are sharing this “living hope” with hurting people like Janelle, no matter what the cause of their pain.

Your support helps share life clearly with hurting people—from our counseling resources to our daily broadcast to life-affirming efforts like our *Option Ultrasound* program that equips pregnancy medical clinics with ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses’ sonography training.

A few weeks after Janelle’s abortion, she began experiencing pregnancy symptoms again. Rather than go back to the same clinic which was such a painful ordeal, she found a pregnancy medical clinic in the area that works with *Option Ultrasound*.

Because of the support of friends like you, the nurse gave Janelle a free ultrasound. Janelle couldn’t believe what she saw on the monitor . . .

“I saw a baby moving around. There were little hiccups, a beating heart, two arms and legs . . . a second trimester baby!

Tears flowed as Janelle realized she was looking at the very baby she thought she had aborted. In his grace, God had saved her child and given her a second chance!

This time, Janelle made a very different decision. **She chose life after seeing her baby . . . all because friends like you cared enough to give.**

Your generosity gives mothers like Janelle a chance to choose life through *Option Ultrasound* before they make a mistake they’ll always regret. Thank you for sharing the Easter message of forgiveness, life and hope through your support of Focus on the Family! ■

*Name changed to protect identity.

He Said, She Said On *Marriage Ministry in 2019*

Don't be the Dead Sea

With Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley



Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley share some exciting ministry updates for 2019 to strengthen more couples and families.

ERIN: Because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, our marriage can experience forgiveness, healing, hope and ABUNDANT LIFE. It's a good reminder at Easter and all year.

GREG: Absolutely! What is on my heart this Easter and throughout this year is equipping couples to share that ABUNDANT LIFE and hope with other couples. I think of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The Jordan River is a vibrant, flowing river that pours into the Dead Sea. However, with no outlet, the Dead Sea cannot even sustain life.

ERIN: That analogy can apply to a marriage. Maybe your marriage has received God's healing or growth. If so, God has poured blessings into your family like the Jordan River pours into the Dead Sea. But if you don't turn around and bless others, it's much like the Dead Sea.

GREG: Yes, we want to equip couples to bless others. Take the blessings God has flowed into your life and turn around and bless another couple. You can do this through prayer, encouragement, sharing marriage resources and articles, or even through training opportunities. We'll be sharing more about how you can bless other couples in the coming months. I'm excited about this effort . . . I know you don't want your marriage to be like the Dead Sea!

Jim



Daly Focus

By Jim Daly, President

What's the real choice? Life or Living?

Recent months have ignited an interest in the issue of life like never before.

Many people have been outraged at legislation and proposals around the country lifting restrictions on late-term abortions. With the help of friends like you, Focus on the Family is committed to helping mothers considering abortion see the life growing inside of them more clearly through increased efforts in our *Option Ultrasound* program.

Easter is the perfect time to consider life. Scripture says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10 ESV).

Life is a gift from God that should be honored. What we do with that life is really where the choice comes in. Truly LIVING only comes through the death and resurrection of God’s Son. Because of our Lord and Savior’s great sacrifice, in Christ we find forgiveness, grace, hope and ABUNDANT LIFE! That’s a choice worth making!

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY® BROADCAST

The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to the Focus on the Family® Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you've missed one of these broadcasts, listen online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Broadcast.

Broadcasts are brought to you by our partners — you!

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
4/1	Craving God, Not Food	Mrs. Asherithah Ciuciuc
4/2	Dealing with Loss and Grief in an Adverse Pregnancy	Mr. Josh and Mrs. Laura Huene
4/3-4/4	Helping Your Daughter Understand Romantic Relationships I & II	Mrs. Jessie Minassian
4/5	Creating a Godly Vision for Your Marriage	Mr. Clint and Mrs. Penny Bragg
4/8	Training Sons to Be Confident, Capable Men	Mr. Jonathan Catherman
4/9-4/10	Redeeming Life, Finding Forgiveness I & II	Mrs. Melissa Ohden
4/11	Connecting Spiritually with Your Spouse	Dr. Greg and Mrs. Erin Smalley
4/12	Responding in Grace on Divisive Issues	Pastor Chip Ingram
4/15	Thriving in the Midst of Financial Ruin	Mrs. Erin Odom
4/16-4/17	Restoring the Broken Pieces of Our Lives I & II	Mrs. Elisa Morgan
4/18-4/19	Understanding the Importance of Easter in New Ways I & II	Mr. Lee Strobel
4/22-4/23	Finding Freedom as a Grace-Based Mom I & II	Mrs. Jeannie Cunnion
4/24	Facing Confrontation with Grace	Mrs. Deborah Pegues
4/25-4/26	Living Free of Shame and Guilt I & II	Mrs. Jamie Ivey
4/29	Avoiding a Midlife Crisis	Mr. Stephen Arterburn
4/30-5/1	What You Can Learn from the Bible's Couples I & II	Dr. David Clarke

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
5/2	Praying and Stepping Out in Faith	Pastor Mark Batterson
5/3	Embracing God's Gift of Life	Mrs. Laura Hughes
5/6	Alive from New York Update	Mr. Jim Daly and Mr. John Fuller
5/7-5/8	Embracing the Unique Aspects of Male and Female I & II	Dr. Larry Crabb
5/9-5/10	What You Need to be a Happier Mom I & II	Dr. Meg Meeker
5/13-5/14	Setting Healthy Boundaries with Your Kids I & II	Dr. John Townsend and Dr. Henry Cloud
5/15-5/16	Harnessing Your Strength to Transform Your Marriage I & II	Mr. LeRoy and Mrs. Kimberly Wagner
5/17	TBA	
5/20-5/21	Finding Your Path in Life	Mrs. Cynthia Tobias
5/22	Helping Your Kids Navigate Life's Challenges	Mr. Josh McDowell
5/23-5/24	Practical Advice for Those Getting Ready to Wed I & II	Dr. Greg and Mrs. Erin Smalley
5/27	Honoring America's Veterans	Pre-Produced
5/28	How a Jar of Pennies Can Make You Better Mom	Mrs. Eryn Lynam
5/29-5/30	Finding Hope Again I & II	Mrs. Kay Warren
5/31	Fighting Fear with Faith	Mrs. Ali Worthington

* The broadcast schedule
is subject to change.



Melissa Ohden

At age 14, Melissa Ohden discovered she survived a botched abortion. In this intimate memoir, she details the search for her biological parents and her very personal journey from anger and shame to faith and empowerment. This book offers a unique insight into love, redemption and the powerful bond between mother and child despite incredible odds.

Get your copy for a
ministry gift of any
amount today.

Use the enclosed response card to mark your gift and book request or go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/YouCarriedMe19.



Check out our NEW YouTube channel
**[Youtube.com/user/
FocusOnTheFamilyUSA](https://www.youtube.com/user/FocusOnTheFamilyUSA)**

LIFE UPDATE

See Life Clearly campaign under way!

The LIFE UPDATE column features testimonies and the latest news on how your support is helping rescue babies from abortion and saving moms from the pain and regret of abortion.

As you celebrate LIFE IN CHRIST this Easter, we want to update you on our efforts to SAVE LIVES through our *Option Ultrasound* program and other outreach efforts. In February, we launched a 12-week See Life Clearly campaign designed to increase attention to the sanctity of life. It included:

- An online petition called “A Declaration For Life” to be delivered to the White House and United States Congress in support of innocent and vulnerable life. Already, tens of thousands of life supporters have signed the petition.
 - The ALIVE FROM NEW YORK event on Saturday, May 4, that will feature a live 4D ultrasound displayed on a massive jumbotron in

Times Square, showing the world that a baby inside the womb is fully human and should be given the chance to live.

- A \$1.73 million Matching gift to double the impact of support for *Option Ultrasound*. Every dollar given to help save a pre-born baby's life will be doubled up to \$1.73 million. It works! To date, the number of babies saved through *Option Ultrasound* is estimated to be more than 425,000.

We are grateful for the support of friends like you who help save lives through efforts like these.





A baby's life hangs in the balance. Be a child's lifeline and a mother's hope.

If you give a recurring gift, you will join our *Option Ultrasound™* Life Advocate program. These are loyal monthly supporters who value life and support ongoing ministry efforts to help abortion-minded mothers and save preborn babies. Your monthly gift will help provide ultrasounds to moms considering abortion so they can see their babies, hear their heartbeats, and choose life. Every \$60 helps save one pre-born baby from abortion. Call 888-862-6767 today.

Become a monthly sustainer of our *Option Ultrasound™* Life Advocate program today!

**LEARN MORE AT
FocusOnTheFamily.com/ChooseLife**



Parenting Corner with Danny Huerta



Life: Revealing God's Gift to Children

Danny Huerta is Focus on the Family's vice president of the Parenting and Youth department.

As you celebrate the life Christ came to give this Easter, you can also start to impart a value for life in general with the children you love. To access activities and discussion items to help you address LIFE no matter what stage your children are in, download this tool kit for free:

**FocusOnTheFamily.com/
ValuingLifeKit**

Here's one example of the lessons you'll find.

Help a young school-age child understand that life is a gift from God by using gift tags that say "To:" and "From:" (Or make your own using small strips of paper.)

Take these tags with you as your child looks around your home and names his favorite possessions. Ask, "Whom does this belong to?" and "Where did we get it?" Recognize each item's ownership by filling out gift tags accordingly and attaching them.

Turn the discussion to your child. Fill out a tag to read "To: You" and "From: God" and attach it to your child. Explain, "We can give each other things, but only God gives life." Have your child feel his own heartbeat and see if he can catch the rise and fall of his chest as he breathes. Explain that his very breath is a gift from God. And remind him that since he is made in God's image, his life is very special. With your child, say a prayer thanking God for the gift of life He has given. ■

Double your gift today! Help save a LIFE. Share LIVING HOPE.

You can celebrate Easter by supporting efforts to both **SAVE LIVES** and **GIVE LIVING HOPE** to hurting people.

It takes just \$60 to help save the life of one pre-born baby through our *Option Ultrasound* program, which equips pregnancy medical clinics with ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses' sonography training. In an effort to help mothers SEE LIFE CLEARLY, we are equipping even more pregnancy medical clinics across the country with ultrasound machines and targeting high-risk regions

with 3D and 4D machines to help mothers considering abortion see the child in their womb even more clearly!

And now, through a \$1.73 million Matching gift, your gift will go twice as far to help save lives.

Your gift will also help continue all the outreach efforts of Focus on the Family to share the LIVING HOPE that Christ came to give to us all. Give today and **DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS** to help save a child's life and share eternal hope with the lost. ■