

Good Counsel News

Sunshine On A Rainy Day

I'd never been to the Ealing prayer vigil before, so one afternoon I decided to go and see, and of course, I took my li'l girl with me too. It was a very rainy day and my little one demanded her umbrella too because mummy has one. So we took the bus and off we went to the Ealing abortuary. When we finally we got to Ealing I noticed a big park...parents were going in and out with their children even on this rainy day!

Then next to the park I saw the volunteers and Religious Sisters praying and one of the councillors. I was stunned!! An abortuary right next to the park where children are in and out, passing that horrible place. When I walked in the front of the building I noticed pictures on the floor of babies in the womb and my baby saw them too and started pointing at the pictures saying, 'Baby! Baby!' She got out of the buggy and ran straight to the pictures, happily looking at them and touching 'the babies'. Eventually I took my baby and went to pray with the other volunteers... but my li'l one didn't want to so she took my umbrella and started walking up and down in the front of the abortuary. I noticed people passing by with children, and many of the children were saying 'Mummy, look! A baby!' as they pointed at the pictures.

Then a mother came out of the abortuary and the councillor approached her but she backed away from her few steps before stopping; the councillor approached her again and talked to her but the mum's eyes were all on that li'l baby girl playing in the rain with that huge umbrella and talking with people passing by. And then my baby ran up to the mother and offered her the umbrella! All of us we were watching what was happening and the mum couldn't help herself and started talking baby language to her! That gave some time and opportunity for the counsellor to talk with the mum about the help she

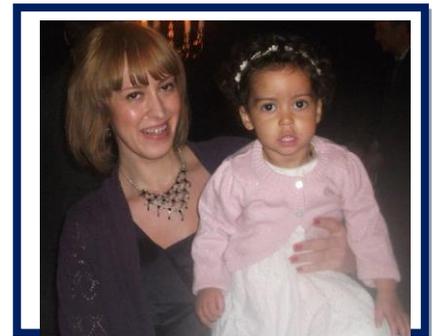
could get, real help and support, about having faith in God that He will provide for her and unborn child, and also about her family and the father of her child and having hope that in the end they would accept the baby.



Alina's daughter, ready for action!

Mum decided to come to our centre, so the councillor asked me to take her because we came at the right time! So my li'l one and I took her to our office to get the advice and support she needed. In the taxi she told me that her parents did not accept her partner at all, she was still in school and she didn't have any support from anyone. By herself, she said, she just could not do it. She also told me that she had dreamed about having her child and

that would have made her really happy but that circumstances were very unfavourable at that time. As I was listening to her I thought that we all have some difficult moments in our life but that doesn't mean that they will last forever and because of this culture of death mothers are pushed to sacrifice their own baby's life, pushing them to do the unthinkable, without even offering them some help. I was happy for her that we were there for her that day.



Alina

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Please remember to financially support Pro-Life Work during the summer holidays

Adoraemus in Aeternum

Mother Teresa famously said that "If people spent one hour per week in Eucharistic Adoration, abortion would be ended." One of the beauties of being here at Good Counsel is the liturgical life we celebrate every day. Each day we have Mass followed by Adoration and then Benediction in the evening. The Holy Eucharist, the Source and Summit of the Christian life, is at the heart of all that we do here at Good Counsel, and this Christ-centeredness immensely impacts the work we do. Where Christ is adored, He can work more freely, and His hand is visibly at work in all that goes on here. Each and every day, women come here scared and unsure, needing housing or food, needing counsel and moral support, and each and every day, they receive just that. They are given truthful and loving counsel, help in their practical difficulties, and the assurance that they are not alone in their pregnancy. Their child is recognised for the person he or she is, and the mothers are helped to see the beauty and sacredness of the flourishing life within them. A thousand new beginnings have happened because of the work done here and because Christ is at the centre. The Author of all human life is among us, and, adored and given a place at the centre of our hearts and work, He is working miracles every day.

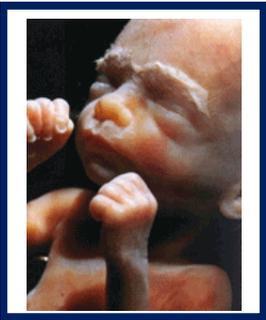


Charis



Above: Some Good Counsel Babies who we've snapped in the last few weeks!

Feelings



In mid-January, while on duty as 'pavement-counsellor' outside the Marie Stopes at Ealing, a young girl arrived at the centre with an older woman. They walked past the baby models which we place on the ground by the abortion centre's wall. On her way, the girl kicked the largest baby model. I went to pick it up and, as I was putting it back in its place, she approached me and, visibly angry, asked, 'Does it make you feel better?' The older woman pleaded with her to come away and the two walked into the abortion centre.

Feelings are very often the touchstone for 'right' and 'wrong' in Western culture. One could deduce from this that when one's feelings change, something which was once wrong 'becomes' right and something else which was once right 'becomes wrong'. This is not the teaching of Christ.

When a surgeon performs an operation for the ultimate purpose of healing the patient (which abortion never does), the latter will almost invariably feel physical pain, or at least 'soreness' afterwards. Pain is part of the process of healing. This is deeply embedded in the story of redemption.

Having the baby models outside the abortion centre doesn't make me feel better. But how I feel is irrelevant. These models have been effective in saving lives and, whenever an abortion takes place despite of their presence, they are at least helpful witnesses to the truth.

Siobhan

Wanted, A New Home for Mothers: Due to the success of our work, we are selling our existing Mother and Baby Home which we have outgrown and are looking to buy a new home for expectant mums and new mums and babies, ideally able to hold up to 20 mums/expectant mums. Must be close to London, preferably within zone 5. North West London would be most suitable but all London areas considered. If you know of somewhere suitable, or of a convent or hostel etc that is on the market please get in touch: info@goodcounselnetwork.co.uk or call 02077231740 and ask for Stuart or Clare

Please Don't Take A Holiday From Being Pro-Life!



- ♥ During the summer holidays donations to our work nosedive.
- ♥ But Mothers and babies still need our support.
- ♥ And expectant Mothers who turn away from abortion still need to be guaranteed help with basics like food and accommodation.
- ♥ Please give as generously as you can this summer, before you go away, so that others might live because you care enough to give.

If a holiday is beyond your budget this year, please join us in prayer, and why not come to one of our vigils, or for Adoration in our Centre if you have some time to spare?

Volunteer & Job Opportunities

All applicants should be committed to our pro-life ethos.

Our **Intern Programme** continues to be very blessed. Interns are Volunteers who come to learn the skills needed to run Prayer Vigils and to Counsel. The programme is full-time and Interns receive a stipend, travel and accommodation in London. There are spaces available on the Programme now.

Needed for 4 weeks: **Temporary Assistant to the Mothers Help Co-ordinator**. This is a flexible paid position for 25 hours plus. Applicants must be able to handle a heavy workload, people friendly and willing to learn.

Church Collections Person

Paid position, working 12 Weekends a year (or more if you wish), you need to be people friendly, willing and able to speak clearly, passionate about our work, punctual, reliable and a driver.

For details on all vacancies and to apply please email:

fredathome2@yahoo.co.uk

Conversion of Heart in 'Impossible' Situation

Although 'Lisa' said she was confused, she came to us set on abortion. During our meeting with her we explained the risks of abortion and how developed her child was. We offered to help her with any practical support she felt would be necessary to continue her pregnancy. Slowly her story emerged.

Eventually she told us that her "boyfriend" had other children.

Later she told us that he was in fact still married. And yet a little while later, she told us that she lived with him and his wife, who is a friend of her family.

In fact this man's wife goes to Church with Lisa.

He does not go with them, she said, as he is a Muslim.

She clearly did not really want to have an abortion but she could see no practical alternative to the impossible situation; she had nowhere to live and if she stayed with this couple it would result in disaster for everyone involved.

We talked about moving her entirely out of the area, but she felt that with the family connection, his wife would still discover the pregnancy. And knowing that Lisa did not have a boyfriend, the wife's suspicion may well fall on her husband.

We then spoke to him as well and he said "I am confused, we'll have to have the abortion, but in God's sight abortion is the worst thing that you can ever do."

We talked to them at length about trusting God and agreed with them that their circumstances were extremely difficult, but it is only when we choose to do what is right in an impossible situation that we can be sure that we are totally relying on God's grace.

Nothing had really changed, the difficult situation remains, though we will work with them to make the best solution possible. But on a spiritual level everything had changed.

It was quite beautiful at the end of the counselling session when, acknowledging the wrong they had done, they both agreed that they would have to trust God and keep the baby, and he went on to say, "You may not realise it, but God sent you here today to speak to us, Thank you so much."



Thanks to all who supported our **40 Days for Life** Campaign in Ealing during Lent and thanks for the hard work, especially to Iulia, the Campaign Manager and Martyn, Rob, Rhoslyn, Slavo, Siobhan, Gaele and Charis. In total **22** babies were saved from abortion, that we know of in Ealing and, as always seems to happen during the 40 Days campaigns, when there is an increase of prayer and fasting, there is an increase in the number of babies saved at all the vigils and in our Centre. At the Twickenham and Whitfield St Vigils another 12 Mothers chose life for their babies.

Perseverance Pays Off!

One of the more difficult times of day to be pavement counselling is towards the end of the day. For a start, you've probably been there for quite a long time already and, in winter, it's probably already got dark. You never know quite when an abortion 'clinic' is going to close, and as such you always find yourself constantly hoping for the end of your shift but never quite getting there.

On one occasion I was at the vigil on just such an evening in autumn. The place was still open but had been very quiet for a long time. Earlier in the day, there had been many women going in and out, but none had been particularly receptive to us. I knew there was at least one woman still inside, but she hadn't even accepted a leaflet from me on her way in. The temptation was growing to just pack up. Nobody else would go in today, I knew that (almost) for sure. And as for the lady who was still in there, surely she wouldn't suddenly be interested in our help when she came out. Nobody else had been all afternoon.

But, though it was a struggle, I resisted the temptation and persevered. I now thank God I did. The lady came out about quarter of an hour later, the last client at the 'clinic' that day. And she stopped and spoke to me. She apologised for not stopping to talk earlier: she was in a rush, she said. Now she actually asked for a leaflet, and wanted to know what I was there for. A little later we were in a taxi heading back to the centre where she could get the help she needed to choose life.

There was an obvious lesson to be learnt from that story, and it can be applied to all of us not just to the pavement counsellors. You never know when God will use your prayers to bring about a change of heart in a mother. Being there for them all is very important, and coming right at the end of the day is definitely not a waste of time.



A little boy whose mum changed her mind and chose life at one of our abortion centre prayer vigils.

Martyn

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Many thanks. Please return to The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, P.O. Box 46679, LONDON, NW9 8ZT
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