



A FUTURE AND A HOPE

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NEWSLETTER NO. 21

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ISRAEL'S GIFT FOR THE NEW YEAR: FREE ABORTIONS

In what can only be described as a very controversial decision, beginning this year, Israel will fund abortions for women up to the age of 33. It is anticipated that the age group will be increased to 40 by next year.

The 18-person Health Basket Committee [*"the Committee"*], which is responsible for determining the procedures and medications to be included and subsidized in the "health basket" provided by the Department of Health, unanimously decided to include this procedure.

In its non-legislative announcement, the Committee effectively circumvented provisions of Israel's "Cessation of Pregnancy Law," which, until now, requires proof of medical necessity to justify the abortion committee's approval of the procedure, such as a purported "defect" in the developing child or a danger to the mother's health. The present administrative decision allows for an abortion without having to provide a medical reason, although the mother still needs to go through the process of getting an approval from the abortion committee.

The Committee decision to provide free abortions has clear political overtones. The proposal to fund abortions was introduced by the feminist organization "Isha L'Isha" and at this point, half of the members of the Committee are women. Dr. Aliza Lavie, Chairperson of the Knesset's Committee on the Status of Women (of the "Yesh Atid" [There is a Future] party), commenting on the decision, said: ***"This is an important step in the right direction, but a deeper discussion is still needed about the relevance of abortion committees— it is still debatable if it is a mechanism that makes it difficult and sets up a roadblock. It is hard to believe that such a good decision would have been made had Minister Yael German not appointed so many women to the Health Basket Committee."*** (my emphasis) The estimated cost of including this new, alleged "benefit" in the Health Basket is said to be 15.6 million Sheqels (about US \$4.5 million), which will subsidize the approximately 6,300 women who are expected to take advantage of this service this year alone, and includes the costs of the abortion committee.

Interestingly, while the Committee decision allows women to have abortions at the government's expense, it did not agree to add the "morning-after" pill because of the high cost involved. Sales of this particular medication have skyrocketed over the past few years. However, the exact figures pertaining to the number of actual users are not known. One can only imagine what the extraordinary expense would be to the taxpayer if such abortifacients were included.

Some of Committee members indicated that there are many women who become pregnant outside of marriage and cannot afford, or allow themselves, to pay for an abortion (presently costing the Sheqel equivalent of about US \$720), because they do not want their husbands to know. Thus, the financing of an abortion by the State will make it easier for women to abort.

Professor Jonathan Halevy, the director-general of Shaare Zedek Medical Center, who also heads the Committee, said: "Up until now there were women between the ages of 20 and 40 who might have been prevented from performing an abortion in a public hospital due to financial difficulties or because of a desire to hide it, and now we removed this obstacle."

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It would seem obvious that the removal of the latter obstacle (a desire to hide the pregnancy) will serve as an encouragement to have extra-marital affairs, without the knowledge of the spouse.

Although the decision of the Committee was unanimous, still, during the course of the discussions of the proposal, one member complained that **"this is a committee that is allotting 12 million Sheqels (about US \$3.5 million) to end the life of the fetus."** When the discussions were over, the amount of the subsidy had been increased by another 3.6 million Sheqels.

Notwithstanding the above argument of one Committee member, it is apparent that the ultimate decision follows the lingering, false perception that the pre-born child is part of a woman's body and not a separate, living being who needs to grow and be nurtured to see the light of day. This perception follows the classic infantile perspective that **"What we cannot see does not exist."** Typical of such a perspective is the instruction given by a secularist teacher to her class of young students: **"Whatever you do not see does not exist,"** explains the teacher. **"Do you see this apple?"** The students reply: **"Yes."** The teacher then indicates: **"Therefore, it is an indication that it exists. Do you see God?"** The students reply **"No."** **"Therefore,"** the teacher continues, **"God does not exist."** One student, whose parents instructed him from the Bible, became irritated and asked the class: **"Do you see the teacher's brain?"** The class, of course, responded: **"No."** The student then concluded, **"Therefore, it does not exist."**

The Health Basket is intended to include medications that help to extend life, improve its quality, and minimize pain and suffering. By including abortion in the Basket, the implication is that pregnancy is equivalent to a disease that needs to be treated and eventually eliminated, rather than new life that needs to be protected and nourished. This is a fundamental error in thinking. Given the advancement in medical technology, particularly in ultrasound imaging, it cannot be argued that "What we cannot see does not exist." We should take note of the fact that all those who argue in favor of abortion have already been born! We are now faced with a decision about a certain type of case to be included in the Basket. One could say that it is a basket-case decision.

This decision of the Committee will also undoubtedly pave the way for further attempts to bring about a change in existing legislation, so as to do away with all restrictions against abortion and allow for abortion on demand. We continue to offer our children to Molech for the sake of our sins and conveniences. How can we ask God to bless this land when we are killing our own children? **"So when you spread out your hands [in prayer], I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood." (Isaiah 1:15)**

Life is a Precious Gift

At the beginning of a new civil year, it is good to take a brief look at what we did during the preceding year. We could probably summarize the past year with a short prayer of thankfulness: **"Give thanks to The Lord, for He is good, for His loving kindness is everlasting." (Psalm 136:1)**

There is no shortage of stories to stir the emotions of the heart regarding those whom we counseled during 2013. All who came to us found acceptance, support, and counselors willing to "go the extra mile" for them. In a cruel world, it is not easy to find someone willing to receive a stranger with many needs and to try to help her, without conditions.

Y was 21, single, and pregnant. She was referred to us by an organization that reaches out to young people involved in prostitution and drug addiction. We counseled and encouraged her not to throw her life away, nor the life of her child. Our counselor, Irena, told her that we would help by providing a room full of essentials for her child, that included, among other things, a crib, diapers, baby clothes, a changing table and chest of drawers, a baby stroller, a baby bath tub, towels and even scissors. **Y** asked what the conditions were. When she was told that there were no conditions, she then asked whether she could still receive help for the first year, even if this or that circumstance was involved in her pregnancy. The answer was "yes." She continued to reveal additional things about herself, each time asking whether she could still receive the promised help and each time the answer was "yes." At the end of the back and forth discussion, **Y** was amazed and asked **"Why do you do this? How did this happen?"** Then, she added: **"There's nothing like this. I contacted a number of organizations that promised to help me, but as soon as they heard some details concerning the father, they told me to have an abortion. Another organization was willing to help all the way, on the condition that I agree to live in a closed, religious community."** **Y** was in touch almost every day for a few weeks to see if our commitment to her was real.

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Y was speechless, her eyes filling with tears, when we delivered everything that had been promised on the morning that she returned home with her child. We selected quality goods and chose each item carefully, including matching the colors of the baby hair brush and towels.

Another young woman who came to us is **S**, a beautiful 22 year old, with an extremely difficult family background—the result of her becoming involved in prostitution as a young teenager. On one occasion, she was severely beaten and violently raped; a few weeks later she discovered that she was pregnant from that incident. The department of social welfare that was handling her case pressured her to abort. She was unable to explain why she kept putting off that decision, until by God's grace she was referred to us by an organization that reaches out to young women involved in prostitution and tries to help rehabilitate them. We later learned that the referring organization actually hoped that somehow we would agree to counsel and encourage her to abort. Well, things didn't exactly work out that way.

S discovered that we were willing to give her a listening ear, while extending warmth and empathy. She was in her second month of pregnancy when she first came for counsel and in less than a week's time, she had made the decision of life for her child. However, problems with the department of social welfare intensified and she was pressured to give up her child for adoption. Orit explained to **S** that God was giving her an opportunity to get her life together and to show everyone in "the system" that she could overcome her past and become responsible enough to take care, not only of herself, but of her child as well. This triggered a response in **S** that opened her eyes to the real possibility of turning over a new leaf and beginning a new chapter in her life. She came for counseling on a regular basis. By God's grace, **S** gave birth to a healthy, beautiful girl, whom she loves and properly cares for. **S** has made tremendous changes in her life since giving birth and wants her daughter to grow up in a healthy, loving environment, which is very different from her own early family life. **S** has turned away from prostitution and we continue to counsel and encourage her to develop her artistic talents, all of which she only recently discovered.

One more note concerning **S**: About two months ago, she was diagnosed as suffering from Human Papilloma Virus and referred for tests at an expensive clinic, far beyond what she could afford. We decided to help pay the expenses for this examination. When the test was finally performed, Orit told her that we would be praying for a miracle. Two long weeks passed before **S** received a telephone call from her referring gynecologist—the results were completely negative and her womb was clean. **S** was ecstatic and thanked us for our prayers, adding her request not to stop praying for her.

R came to us midway in her pregnancy and was considering abortion. Her living conditions were absolutely minimal and she needed all kinds of assistance. We helped to whatever extent we could with her immediate circumstances and within a short period of time, her thoughts were no longer about abortion, but about the future of the child who would soon be born. She came for counsel on a regular basis and was always encouraged. We rejoiced with her when her healthy son was born and provided for all of her child's needs through our **First Year of Life Program**. **R** has made tremendous progress in her personal life and is proving to be a loving mother. A short while ago, she made another life-changing decision and came to a personal relationship with the Messiah of Israel. We continue to help her to grow in her relationship with her son and as a child of her Heavenly Father. Your prayers for her are solicited as well.



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Government Certification

We are thankful that once again, after reviewing our various documents, the government granted us a **Certificate of Proper Management**, valid throughout all of 2014. This Certificate attests to the fact that we have complied with all requirements imposed on non-profit organizations by law.

Sharing with Others

Our website is only available in Hebrew at this time: <http://hope4u.co.il>. However, please do tell others about it. There are many Israelis overseas who could learn and benefit from what we share on this site.

Please pass this Newsletter on to others (remember: we lost our entire mailing list).

We would be happy to hear from you. If you have a comment about this Newsletter, please drop us a note (*Prov. 15:23*).

Prayer Requests

1. For good health for our staff.
2. For regular, monthly finances for our "**First Year of Life**" Program, and for food vouchers for needy mothers.
3. For salvation of the unsaved women whom we counsel.
4. For wisdom to counsel with love and grace, to help cleanse this land from the shedding of innocent blood.
5. For finances to replace the amuta vehicle that was totaled in an accident in mid-November, 2013.

With thanks and blessings,

Marvin S. Kramer
General Manager

If you would like to help support this ministry in Israel, you may do so by sending a personal or bank check in any currency to: **A FUTURE AND A HOPE**, 6 Derech HaYam, Haifa 34741, Israel. Checks should be payable to: **A FUTURE AND A HOPE**. Alternatively, a bank transfer can be sent directly to our account at Union Bank of Israel Ltd., Account No. 11594-08, Bank No. 13, Central Carmel Branch 083, Swift Code: UNBKILIT, at 4 Mahanaim Street, Haifa, Israel. We will acknowledge every monetary gift with a receipt.