

The Sanctity of Life

Several years ago, a fragile young woman expecting her first child was under the care of Dr. Joe Wheeler.

About a month before the baby was due, it was discovered that the baby was in a breech position, which caused the doctor great concern as he knew the difficulty of such a delivery and the high death rate involved.

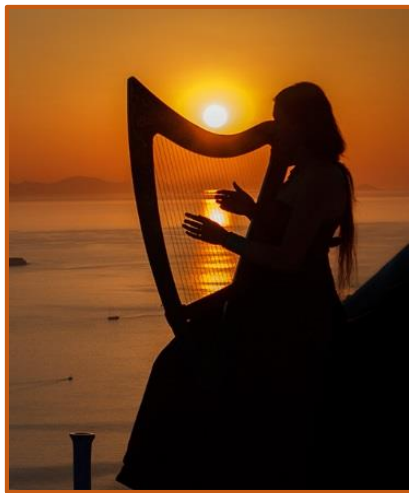
On the day of delivery, Dr. Wheeler was ready to move quickly as time was of the essence. When the time had come for the delivery, he retrieved the first tiny leg from the birth canal and then reached for the other. To his horror, there was no other, as it was evident that the baby's entire thigh from the hip to the knee was missing.

In that brief moment, he knew the traumatic effects this would be on this young family. Surely, they would spend a life's savings taking the child to every famous orthopedist in the world. And he envisioned the little girl sitting sadly by herself as the other healthy girls danced and ran and played.

In his contemplation, Dr. Wheeler was tempted to slow the delivery for just a few moments. No one in the world would ever know, and after the first shock of grief, the young mother would be spared from the pains of having a handicapped child.

Dr. Wheeler resisted that wave of temptation – as the life of the mother and the baby had been entrusted to him. The little girl was delivered with her one pitiful little leg, and the mother suffered in the hospital several months, causing the doctor to wonder if he had done the right thing in not yielding to his temptation.

Seventeen years later, Dr. Wheeler attended the annual Christmas banquet for the



hospital staff. This year, there were three lovely musicians playing in unison with the organ. Of the three, he was fascinated by the young harpist. Her fingers plucked effortlessly across the strings, and her face was upturned as if the world in that moment was a wonderful and holy place.

When the program was over, Dr. Wheeler's attention turned to a woman whom he did not know running down the aisle toward him. "Oh, you saw her!" she cried. "You must have recognized your baby. That was my daughter who played the harp – the little girl who was born with only one good leg 17 years ago. We tried everything at first, but now she has a whole artificial leg on that side.

(more)

“Best of all,” the woman continued, “through all those years, she learned to use her hands so wonderfully. She is going to be one of the world’s greatest harpists. She is my whole life, and now she is so happy. And here she is!” the mother exclaimed as the young girl approached.

Impulsively, Dr. Wheeler took the girl in his arms and thought back to those temptations 17 years ago.

This story is repeated time and time again every day across our country and around the world. Some babies are not handicapped, but simply not wanted. The same is increasingly true for the elderly, whom some have surmised have lived past the ability to have quality of life.

Sadly, we live in a culture that has devalued life to the point that no longer is a baby called an unborn child, but a choice. Since the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973, more than 57.7 million babies have been aborted. And today, assisted suicide is a hot debate.



Too often, mankind seeks to apply limited human knowledge – seeing “through a glass, darkly” – to supplant the divine plan God has for every life, from the unborn to the aged.

Thankfully, the people of Life Care and Century Park believe that life is sacred and is to be valued.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed (Psalm 127:3-5 NKJV).

Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you (Isaiah 46:4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter