

Life News



December
2014

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Advent and
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Life Newsbytes

A man who was left paralyzed by a knife attack is now able to walk thanks to treatment using stem cells taken from his nose cavity, transplanted into his spinal cord. The surgery was carried out on Darek Fidyka by surgeons in Poland, his home country. Six months later, Mr. Fidyka took his first steps. *(BBC, 10/21/14; SPUC, 10/27/14)*

Population control will not cure the so-called “crisis” of a perceived shortage of resources for future generations, according to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Corey Bradshaw from the University of Adelaide said: “Even if we had a third world war in the middle of this century, you would barely make a dent in the trajectory over the next 100 years” Scientists such as the late Julian Simon argued that a growing population would adapt to the growing number of humans on the planet. *(BBC, 10/27/14; SPUC, 10/31/14)*

A mother has spoken of her relief after winning a legal battle to allow her disabled daughter to be dehydrated to death. Charlotte Fitzmaurice said: “Although I will live with the guilt forever, I know I have done everything I can for her and she is at peace.” Nancy, her daughter, was not terminally ill and was able to breathe unaided. Dr. Andrew Ferguson, of Care Not Killing, said: “It is never ethical to speed up the process of dying by any intervention which has the primary intention to end life.” *(Express, 10/27/14; SPUC, 10/31/14)*

Speaking Up For Life

“Christmas is also for the unborn. The Savior has come also for the children yet living in their mothers’ wombs. The Gospel message is addressed also to our youngest brothers and sisters. In fact, we can say it is addressed especially to them, because they are the most helpless.” *Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life*

“The great joy of Christmas is multiplied when we realize our Savior, at His birth, has already been humbling Himself for nine months because of His unparalleled love for all humanity from the moment of conception.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“Instead of doing what might have been expected, the Lord held out a promise. He said that any and everyone who looked upon His Son as Savior would be given eternal life. Read through Scripture and you will find that invitation extended again and again. It was a promise that found its fulfillment in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Savior whose birth we celebrate this month.” *Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of “The Lutheran Hour”*

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes

Life Sunday
Matters of the Heart
January 18, 2015

Bulletin Inserts • Bible Study • Children’s
Message • Worship Service • Sermons

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Backwards and a Bit Crazy by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

It was backwards and a bit crazy, but we did it. When folks get older and near retirement, most downsize and move into a more efficient home with less maintenance. But, last November, RoxAnne and I moved into a one hundred-year-old house with a lot more room for grandkids—and lots of steps! However, when RoxAnne said, “Honey, this is my dream home!” my “reason and all my senses” became null and void.

It was backwards and a bit crazy, but God did it. When most “gods” would welcome someone like David to build a house for them, God told David, “**the LORD** will make you a house” (2 Samuel 7:11). I imagine that David’s reason and senses did a double take when God added, “**And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me**” (v 16).

We know that God eventually allowed David’s son, Solomon, to build Him a house, and we have a good biblical picture of its splendor and glory. But the house that God promised to build for David, what did that look like? Well, not so splendid, not so glorious; more like a baby in a manger.

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the HOUSE and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:4-7) (Emphasis added).

The house that God built for David, the house that would last forever, has as its cornerstone, Jesus (Ephesians 2:20). Like Hiel of Bethel who laid the foundation to rebuild the walls of Jericho at the cost of his firstborn (1 Kings 16:34), God’s only begotten Son shed His blood and died to become that cornerstone of the house that God built. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead assures the living and eternal nature of this house. Our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection assures that we belong to this house. **“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”** (Ephesians 2:19).

At Christmas, RoxAnne and I thank God for a house built one hundred years ago. But it consists only of wood and brick and stucco. It will one day crumble. That is why we thank God even more for the house He built two thousand years ago and for the birth of its cornerstone, Jesus. This house will never crumble and those who live there will never die.

And just as our house has plenty of room for grandchildren visits, God’s house has unlimited room for all, and God desires all to live there (1 Timothy 2:4). He asks us to invite and welcome all (Matthew 28:19-20). Those who live in the house that God built not only have eternal life, but a house of refuge for this life. God asks that we make this refuge available especially to the weak and vulnerable (Matthew 25:34-40).

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