

May 1, 2008

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**President's Perspective:
What is Churches for life, in
2 minutes or less!**

**Date Slate – May, 2008
(visit www.cflstl.org to see regional
calendar & more info on events)**

CFL Life-Affirming Agency Luncheon	5/1
National Day of Prayer	5/1
CFL @ Concordia Seminary, LT 101	5/7
Thrive, St. Louis' Walk 4 Life	5/10
Mother's Day	5/11
CFL Sidewalk Supporter Boot Camp	5/17
CFL @ Risen Lord Community Church	5/18
N. County Pastors for Life – Prayer	5/27
CFL Life Team 101 Workshop	5/30

Welcome to the inaugural issue of CFL News, a monthly e-letter from Churches for Life designed to encourage and edify champions of life with Biblical insights and other relevant resources.

I could not think of a better subject for my inaugural article than to explain simply and briefly **what Churches for Life is**. And if what I am about to explain below is not enough, please visit www.cflstl.org to read to your heart's content!



Rev. Merkey being commissioned by The Church to launch CFL, 1/15/08

CFL's mission is to nourish churches as gospel-driven champions of life. Our direct work with churches involves three interrelated strategies: (1) establish Life Teams in churches that can champion life in and through their congregation, (2) encourage pastors and other local church leaders to provide courageous oversight of their church's life-affirming efforts, and (3) embolden denominational leaders to encourage the churches under their oversight to champion life.

We invest in the future of local churches by **equipping seminaries and Christian colleges** to train upcoming generations of church leaders to lead in the life arena when they arrive on the field in their post-academic calls. To complete the network, we **endow life-affirming agencies** (i.e. pregnancy care centers) with the skills they need to support the local church, and in so doing, receive reciprocal support.

CFL operates on a set of **Biblical core values, especially the primacy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ** in all program content and delivery. Long term, the vision of CFL is to see the American Church affirm life so that America becomes a life-affirming nation! In the coming months, this column will be used to expand on various aspects of CFL's vision, mission, strategies and core values for our mutual encouragement. God bless you! ~ Doug

**Spotlight on God:
Sidewalk Supporter Boot Camp at Concordia Seminary**

Part of God's passion for His church, specifically for local churches, is to **call and equip her future leaders, readying them to lead His people as champions of life.** He does this through the dedication of people like Dr. Jeff and Renee Gibbs who recently asked Churches for Life to help train the students at Concordia Seminary, the Lutheran CHURCH--Missouri Synod seminary in Clayton.

On a normal Saturday, only a few members of the Concordia community minister at the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic where about 15-25 children are surgically killed by abortion that very morning. *However,* On Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 am, **God brought about 45 seminary students** to Loeber Hall on campus for "Stand Once for Life," a special opportunity to be trained by CFL on **how to do godly ministry on the sidewalk in front of an abortion clinic.** This workshop is known as CFL's Sidewalk Supporter Boot Camp.

After about 30 minutes of **classroom instruction,** we headed out to the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood's Midwest Regional Headquarters on Forest Park Parkway in the Central West End for **on-the-job-training.**

While on the sidewalk, CFL's President Rev. Doug Merkey shepherded the students, answered questions, and helped them apply principles of godly sidewalk ministry previously shared in the classroom. Many were nervous. Some were crying. All were **brave and godly reflections of Christ's heart for the unborn** and moms and dads in crisis that morning.

After about an hour on the sidewalk, we went back to the seminary for **debriefing and prayer.** It is clear that God accomplished much that morning, as evidenced by this comment from an attendee who had never been involved in this facet of life-affirming ministry:

I just wanted to drop you a note and say; "thank you very much" for everything you did that day to guide, direct and help us to better understand what happens on mornings such as these.

All together, it was **a glorious morning of walking with Christ and each other into difficult but essential sidewalk ministry. Even more, God saw that these seminary students received training that can be used to lead His people to do likewise.**

CFL Website is born!

Resources, resources, resources! That's what you'll find at www.cflstl.org, our new website that was launched on April 21, 2008! What you will see is our temporary, "appetizer" site for our fully-interactive site to be launched in late Summer, '08.

Upcoming CFL Workshops

Churches for Life' **workshops are Biblically-based, interactive, and highly practical times of equipping** various aspects of the life arena. Register at least 1 week before each workshop online at www.cflstl.org (FOR LIFE TEAMS>Workshops). Or, just mail your name, church, address, phone, and workshop name to doug@cflstl.org. There is a \$10 fee per workshop, payable at the door.

Life Team 101

Who should attend: Laypeople and clergy who are curious about church-based life-affirming ministry, want to start a Life Team (LT), have just started a LT, or have had a hard time starting a LT in their church. Bring your Bible.

Next LT101 Workshop: Saturday, May 31, 8:30am – 1:00pm. Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1230 Big Bend Road, (636) 861-1870

Sidewalk Supporter Boot Camp

Who should attend: The fearful, the seasoned, and the skeptical – anyone interested in exploring what godly, gospel-driven, grace-and-truth balanced ministry in front of an abortion clinic looks like. There will be about 1 hour of classroom instruction followed by 1 hour of on-the-job-training in front of an abortion clinic. Training concludes with a debriefing time. Bring your Bible and clothing appropriate to spending time outside. Bring a lawn chair to sit in at the clinic if you are unable to stand for about an hour.

Next SSBC101 Workshop: Saturday, May 17, 7:30am – 10:00am, Central Presbyterian Church, 7700 Davis Drive, Clayton, MO ~ (314) 727-2777

Partnership Opportunities

Churches for Life wants you as a partner! Here are the most accessible ways you can partner with us to nourish churches as gospel-driven champions of life:

PRAY. Add CFL to your prayer lists. Our top requests are (1) spiritual protection, (2) financial footing, (3) board members, and (4) opportunities to serve.

FINANCIAL GIVING, as follows:

1. **Monthly support** of any amount: \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or more per month
2. **One-time general giving:** funds given for CFL to apply as needed
3. **One-time project-specific giving:** CFL's remaining one-time launch needs:
 - a. \$1,000 – trademark and copyright filing and legal fees
 - b. \$550 – basic office furniture, equipment, and software
 - c. \$950 – fully functional website setup
 - d. \$4,160 – tabletop display for church and other conferences

Send checks, payable to "Churches for Life," to PO Box 411752, St. Louis, MO 63141.



If you want your check to go toward a specific item(s) on the list above, please note that in the memo section of your check. Or, if your check is the first of an ongoing monthly commitment, please note that in the check's memo section.

Churches for Life is in the process of becoming a registered 501(c)3 organization, and as such, **all contributions to it will be tax deductible**. You will receive a statement of your contribution in time to prepare your annual tax return, pending our approval as a 501(c)3.

CONNECT. Contact us to schedule vision-sharing meetings with those in your congregation or organization who might resonate with CFL's mission: session, diaconate, missions committee, life-minded congregants, board of directors, etc.

THANK YOU for partnering with us and God in this important mission.
Together, we can do it, as Christ strengthens us!

Contact & other information

Contact CFL

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To take your name off the CFL News distribution list, just let us know by emailing us.