

## PATRONS

David Andrew's first pastoral charge in 1982 swamped his diary with ... funerals! An elderly congregation – and some family tragedies – ensured that it was quite a challenge to preach the word of life in the midst of so much death and sorrow. However, vulnerable people don't have the usual guards up against 'good news' and many grieving folks discovered the literal truth that Our Lord is 'close to the broken-hearted'. He gave them new life! Thirty years of Bible teaching have confirmed David's conviction that, since God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (Ezek. 18:32), he can only be described as 'pro-life'! Only one being in Scripture bears the titles 'Destroyer' and 'father of lies' – so it's clear who supports the pro-life position... and who is (dishonestly) 'pro-choice'. Clear biblical examples of 'unborn fellowship' also confirm the rightness of the pro-life cause. "Ironically, in pastoral ministry we often proved that only 'the perfect law that gives freedom' offered genuine choice. Women were often faced with 'pro-choice' medical advice that amounted to 'no choice'. Caring, life-affirming alternatives to abortion were often never explained – except by glibly Christian women. You can't offer



David accompanies the singing at our recent conference

eternal life and support a culture of death." David is the Editor of *Sword*, an evangelical magazine which seeks to 'restore the confidence of God's people in the Word of God and the God of the Word'. David and his wife Agnes participated in our recent Swanwick conference. They have two daughters, one married, and three grandchildren.

## SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the Committee tries to have a presence at a number of major Christian events, from Christian Resources exhibitions to the Keswick Convention. Our members, however, attend all sorts of gatherings. If you are going to an event next year – it might just be a local fair, or an agricultural show, say – would you be willing to use this as a pro-life opportunity? If so, please let us know and we can supply advice and materials (contact Katherine Hampton at Head Office: details below).

## AND FINALLY ...

We are aware that this is arriving at a busy time of year, but hope that you will be encouraged by what you read and moved to press on in your pro-life commitment. As Christmas approaches, we wish you peace and joy from the Lord, who took our human flesh in the womb of his mother.



*Defend the cause of the weak and the fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.  
Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

Winter 2010/11

Dear Christian Friends,

So many people still will not receive him. Let us take every opportunity this Christmas to proclaim the good news about the baby born in Bethlehem, God in human form. We can say he came to die in our place, because undeserving as we are, he loved us. It is a good time to remind our fellow Christians that Jesus was God from conception, and Mary was then called his mother. Remind them that every unborn baby needs his mother to nurture him, and that as Jesus loved us, so we should love our neighbours, and bring help to them. Every blessing for the Christmas season,  
*Jan Bell* Chairman

## VICTORY IN EUROPE

We thank God that an attack on the right of conscientious objection to abortion has recently been defeated in the Council of Europe.

The Council's Parliamentary Assembly voted in October on a report, the original text of which recommended a crack-down on medical personnel who refuse to be complicit in the provision of abortion and other unethical procedures. Pro-life Assembly members, however, led the Assembly in passing amendments which totally reversed the tenor of the report, from a pro-abortion attack on the right of conscientious objection to a defence of that right. Christine McCafferty, the report's British author, was therefore forced to vote against her own report! In the debate, the Irish Senator, Ronan

Mullen, pointed out that:

- the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the rights of unborn children;
- there is no human right to abortion, whereas conscientious objection is a basic principle of human rights;
- the report's original text was in reality a furtherance of pro-abortion agenda.

This was a wonderful victory for the right of staff in medical institutions to refuse to be complicit in the killing of unborn children and other unethical practices.



## RENEWED THREAT TO SCHOOLS

As we go to press, the Government's White Paper on Schools has just been published. It is deeply concerning. It contains proposals for sex and relationships education that would destroy the innocence of younger children, promote abortion and the contraceptive culture among teenagers, and undermine the role of parents. Please prayerfully consider writing to your MP about this (there is guidance on the SPUC website).

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## PETER'S PROGRESS

### A report from our Secretary, Peter Smith

I spent two weeks at the UN in New York in both October and November. The work is hard, but we have been able to slow the moral decay somewhat.

Your prayer support, especially when I am away from my family, is very much appreciated.

### Future travel diary

<b>Dec 14-17</b>	London, various meetings
<b>Jan 5</b>	SPUC Evangelicals committee
<b>Jan 21-24</b>	Washington
<b>Jan 25/Feb 8</b>	New York, United Nations
<b>Feb 12-13</b>	London, preach
<b>Feb 21/Mar 4</b>	New York, UN Commission on Status of Women
<b>Apr 11-15</b>	New York, UN Commission on Population & Development

## GOD'S SPIRIT MOVES IN CONGLETON

On October 12th a public meeting was held at New Life Church, Congleton. The purpose of the meeting was to inform, challenge and motivate the people of God to respond to his call to stand up for unborn children.

We had to delay the start by almost 15 minutes, as the church is on a main road and the cars arriving caused a traffic jam. Well over 100 from various denominations attended, including seven ministers.

The meeting was a great success. My opening presentation asked the question, 'What is the value of an unborn child?' Peter Smith spoke in depth about his lobbying at the UN and the great spiritual battle that we face. Robin Haig explained how the audience could get practically involved in the battle by forming a significant SPUC branch in Congleton. I closed the meeting by asking that the Holy Spirit would break the hearts of everyone present, convict us for our failure to speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves, and empower us to say to the

law-makers and the abortionists, 'Enough is enough.'

Almost everyone there stood up in response to the challenge. The outcome was that over 30 new people turned up on November 1st for the launch of a new branch.

This was the culmination of weeks of prayer, hard work and God-given opportunity. Steve Hodgkinson, the leader of the New Life Church gave us huge support. He arranged for me to meet with a number of ministers, to share the vision with them and ask them to encourage their people to get involved. He also organised massive leafleting of the area, advertising the meeting.

When the people of God work together for a righteous cause, great things can be accomplished.

*Arthur Wood*



*Arthur Wood addresses the Congleton meeting (the candles represent the 500-plus babies killed each day by abortion in the UK)*

## CONFERENCE MILESTONE

*George Bell reports on our recent National Conference*

How would it go? We have never done this before. Who will come?

These were just some of the thoughts that ran through our minds as the first SPUC Evangelicals Conference

approached. However, why do we pray and then continue to worry? Why are we then surprised that God answers our prayers? He most certainly did this and we are thankful to him. The speakers were from diverse backgrounds but there was an obvious unity in the Spirit as each one taught and challenged us.

We had four of our patrons to speak and this was a real privilege. Arthur Roderick clearly showed us why evangelical Christians must be pro-life, Wilfred Wong took up the torch and challenged us to be actively pro-life, and David Andrew, editor of Sword magazine, gave us a moving pro-life testimony. David Murray gave us a unique and inspiring view of how we should work with others and how we may expand our horizons for action.

I presented an historical perspective on the battle, and another committee member, Steven Foster, wound up the conference by inspiring us to get involved. We were delighted to have the National Chairman of SPUC present with us, together with his wife. Robin Haig has been a loyal supporter of our work and we thank him for addressing the conference and for being there when we needed him.

Clearly there had been much prayer and serious preparation beforehand and this continued through the weekend. Our prayer meetings were well attended, the question time was a real highlight and at the end

after worship and a communion service, it seemed that nobody wished to leave just yet. There was a clear recurring ripple of 'Can we do it again?'



*Peter Smith introduces the Question Time panel: (L to R: Wilfred Wong, Christine Fidler, Steven Foster and John Smeaton)*

## FUTURE PLANS

Over the winter months, the work of the SPUC Evangelicals committee changes, as there are no major Christian events to take a stall to. We will be meeting and planning for next year, and working on producing leaflets etc, so we have a good range of resources.

Please pray for us as, and for more people willing to join us, as we are often stretched to the limit. Peter will be visiting churches with his pro-life message. Has he spoken in your church? If not, can you book him a visit? The work of SPUC goes on as usual.

*Jan Bell*