

WILFRED WONG

We are very grateful for the support that our patrons give us so generously. Their firm stand for the sanctity of human life, and endorsement of our pro-life work, are a clear witness among the evangelical leadership of this country.

A number of patrons have also taken an active part in our work. One of these has been Wilfred Wong, who was one of the platform speakers at our conference last autumn. Even before he became a patron in 2008, Wilfred was giving us a lot of active support and this has continued. So we felt that a place on the committee would give him greater scope to develop his involvement, and he joined us in June.



Wilfred Wong

Born in Singapore, but trained as a lawyer in the UK, Wilfred makes this observation about the situation here:

"There is a key struggle taking place ... The pro-death campaign is always looking to gain more territory. The Body of Christ is being called on to respond to it in an active way. We call ourselves 'Bible-believing Christians' but it's not enough just

to believe; we also have to act and that includes defending life and opposing the pro-death culture of abortion, euthanasia and embryo-experimentation. Surely God will hold us accountable for our inaction in the face of such evil."

We thank God for Wilfred's contribution as a patron of SPUC Evangelicals, and welcome him in his new role on the committee.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Do try to come to this year's Conference (programme and booking form enclosed). Last year we had a great time at Swanwick, with good fellowship, prayer and teaching.

Although we are not repeating last year's all-evangelical input, there will be an Evangelical Track, which will enable delegates to attend a number of evangelical events throughout the weekend, as well as the main platform sessions.

On the Saturday morning, Bobby Schindler will be the main speaker. Bobby is the brother of Terri Schiavo, who in 2005 was dehydrated to death in Florida by court order, in spite of her family's attempts to save her.

Bobby's analysis of their experience is a moving and powerful exposé of the drive for euthanasia in western society.

We are also delighted that the final speaker at the conference will be Dr Peter Saunders, the Chief Executive of the Christian Medical Fellowship, and an evangelical Christian.



*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.*

Summer 2011

GIVE CHILDREN BACK THEIR CHILDHOOD

Dear Christian Friends,

'Sexualised imagery is now a mainstream part of children's lives.' So comments the independent report *Letting Children be Children*, referring to the products of our high pressure consumer society - magazines, clothing, music videos, etc.

It is a sad fact that children are exposed to such sexual material, but it is even sadder when schools and uniformed organisations, who we trust will look after them, instead expose children to the same sorts of pressures.

Earlier this year, the Scout Association launched a 'sexual health' campaign for its members that has been designed in association with the pro-abortion Brook organisation. The materials and advice offered buy straight into the world of early sexual activity and abortion. Later in this newsletter we give more information on how the same agenda is being pushed in our schools.

So why is this happening? There is a large and lucrative industry that provides the so-called 'services' of advice, contraception and abortion to our young people. This industry relies on a continuing supply of clients and it is working hard - including through advertising - to ensure that supply grows. Schools and organisations such as the Scouts provide a potentially rich source of future clients, if young minds can be influenced and lives set in this direction.

We may be appalled at the idea that children could be used in such a way. But we should

not be surprised. As Christians, we know the power of sin in fallen human beings, and we can see here the harm that greed will do - just as much as in the recent riots in our cities.



As pro-life Christians, we take a stand on these matters for four reasons:

- God's intention for sexual fulfilment within marriage is being subverted
- young people, made in God's image, are being damaged
- parents are being undermined in their God-given responsibility for their children in this area
- the policy of pushing sex education and contraception is a failed one, leading to more abortion - the killing of unborn children.

Steven Foster Vice Chairman

See page 3: Children at Risk to find out how you can act on this issue now.

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PETER'S PROGRESS

Please continue to pray for Peter Smith, Secretary of SPUC Evangelicals, as he carries out his full-time pro-life work. Much of this is international, and the work at the United Nations can be particularly gruelling spiritually (Ephesians 6:12).

Forthcoming engagements:

- Sep 16-18** SPUC National Conference – Swanwick
- Sep 19-20** Speak at Prayer for Israel Conference – Windermere
- Sep 26 - Oct 7** UN trip: Third Committee resolutions
- Nov 5** UN: Coalition meeting – New York
- Nov 7-18** UN: Third Committee resolutions
- Nov 27** Preach near Cambridge

ELIM ENCOURAGEMENT

In June, committee member Arthur Wood attended an Elim Conference with his wife, Mavis. They ran a stall, and they also had 500 copies of *Why Pro-Life?* by Randy Alcorn, which they hoped to distribute to pastors and leaders.



Arthur and Mavis Wood at the Conference

Arthur describes what happened:

"I have been trying for some time to get this particular book into the hands of Elim pastors and John Glass kindly gave me the opportunity by allowing me to put the books into the meeting room where the pastors and elders meet with the leadership of Elim for their business sessions.

"At John Glass's suggestion I placed 450 books in the meeting room. In all there were more than 400 pastors and elders who attended the business meetings and over two days every book was taken."

Here is the letter Arthur put in each book:

*"Dear leader,
I believe this is an essential read for all those who are church pastors, because the dark cloud of abortion hangs over so many families, many of whom are sitting in church congregations. With an average of nearly 600 abortions taking place in the UK every day we would be naive to think that this issue is not impacting our people, and we owe it to them and to the Lord to proclaim a clear message of LIFE, in a nation that is in the stranglehold of a culture of death. John 10:10"*

We are grateful to John Glass (General Superintendent of the Elim Pentecostal Church, and one of our patrons) for his help at the conference, and to Operation Mobilisation, who supplied the books without charge. The uptake of these books was hugely encouraging. Please pray that they will be read, and for a deep impact on the whole Elim denomination.

If you would like to receive a free copy of *Why Pro-Life?*, please contact the SPUC head office in London mentioning this newsletter.

CHILDREN AT RISK

The Government has announced a consultation on PSHE education. This is part of an internal review at the Department for Education.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education has become an important part of the school curriculum, and it also includes the critical area of sex education. The review therefore has great potential for affecting how this subject is taught in state schools. It presents an opportunity for things to be improved, but it also holds real dangers for our children.

The government's consultation document and response forms are available online at <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations> (click the *Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) Education* link). SPUC will be commenting on the consultation document, and offering guidance on making a response, so do check our website (www.spuc.org.uk) before completing the response form.

Please find the time to make a considered, Christian, pro-life contribution to the review, particularly if you are a parent or work in education. The consultation is open until the end of November.

The Government has said that it does not plan to remove the parental right to withdraw children from sex education. While this is welcome, we must be aware that parental rights may still be eroded, and the sex education lobby will be ruthless in using this review to promote its own agenda.

SPUC has launched a nationwide petition against the use of sexually explicit DVDs in primary schools. This is a simple but effective way to raise a voice against the sexualisation of young children.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a petition form and leaflet; more can be ordered from SPUC. Would you be able to organise the collection of signatures in your church or fellowship, or some other place?

PRAYING FOR LIFE

A National Day of Prayer about abortion is held each year on October 27, the anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. Since it came into force, over 7½ million children have been killed by abortion under that Act. The scale of this destruction of young lives should drive us to our knees. The terrible undermining of respect for human life that has followed – through developments such as embryo and fetal experimentation, cloning, euthanasia by dehydration of severely incapacitated people, etc. – should compel us to seek our God in prayer.

The National Day of Prayer has been set up by *image*, an organisation with whom we have worked for many years. There is more information about the Day (on a Thursday this year) on their website at http://www.image.net.org.uk/day_of_prayer.html

ABORTION ADVERTISING

The Broadcasting Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) has been revising its codes and has proposed some alarming changes affecting abortion advertising. These include removing the ban on television advertising by commercial advice providers. In practice the proposals would mean that large commercial organisations that perform abortions would be able to advertise freely, while small pro-life groups would be bound by restrictions. A consultation on the proposals closed on August 8th: please pray that they will be rejected.