



Dear Friend:

Here we are already nearing the end of summer! I hope these last couple of months have provided you and your loved ones many opportunities to connect and make memories, and that the school year ahead will be much more “normal” than last year.

We've had a busy summer at the ministry, especially now that our entire staff is back in-house on a full-time basis. And, as our See Life 2021 live event approaches, our team is excited about how God will use our ongoing efforts to help foster a culture that embraces all human life — including life in the womb. As I mentioned last month, all indications point to a growing number of Americans who oppose abortion and believe instead that preborn children should be protected. At a time when it often feels the culture is on a never-ending moral decline, how encouraging to know that the pro-life movement is gaining ground and changing hearts on this life-and-death issue.

The sanctity of human life is a topic that's especially close to my heart. I'm all too keenly aware of how tempting it might have been for my own mother to abort me. After all, she already had four other children and probably felt ill-equipped to care for yet another little one — and she was advanced in her child-bearing years to boot. Considering those challenges, I'm all the more grateful she chose life for me.

One of the arguments you often hear from those in favor of abortion stems from the belief that it's better for a child not to be born than to grow up in less-than-ideal circumstances. I can speak directly to that claim.

Perhaps you are familiar with my story. My father battled alcoholism and abandoned our family when I was only 5 years old. Then, at age 9, I was devastated when my mother died of cancer. Stricken with grief over my mom's death, my stepfather emptied our family home and deserted my siblings and me while we were at our mother's funeral. It would be impossible to put into words the deep wounds that were inflicted on my tender young heart by that series of losses in a span of just four years.

After my stepfather disappeared, I was placed in foster care. As a teenager I moved in with my older brothers and then eventually my biological father, who ultimately lost his fight against alcoholism and passed away. By the time I was a senior in high school, I was living on my own. Mine was not a childhood I would wish on anyone.

Does that mean, however, that I wish I had never been born? Absolutely not.

I can see how the Lord used those early experiences in my life to instill in me a deep compassion for others who suffer and a strong commitment to the indispensable value of solid, secure families. And, ultimately, my hardships led me to a place where I was ripe for the Gospel. Today, as the president of Focus on the Family — and, even more importantly, as a husband and father — I can see how God was shaping me throughout my life to position me exactly where He wanted me.

In other words, the reality that there will always be some kids who, sadly, experience tumultuous childhoods never gives an excuse to justify abortion. Babies in the womb have value simply because God created them and they are made in His image. What's more, as believers we know that we serve a

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loving Father who is able to redeem all suffering and heartache for our good and His glory.

Let's remember, too, that adoption offers us a beautiful way to reflect God's heart in the lives of hurting children in need of loving homes. Instead of advocating for abortion, can we work to minister to abortion-minded women so that, for those who find themselves unable to parent a child, they consider adoption as a courageous alternative to abortion?

It's with that aim in mind that our *Option Ultrasound* program was launched back in 2004. Since then, we estimate that nearly *472,000 babies* have been saved from abortion as a direct result of *Option Ultrasound!* The incredible success of that initiative can be traced directly to the powerful impact of seeing a living, moving baby on a sonogram screen.

Through your support, our *Option Ultrasound* program equips pregnancy resource centers across the country with ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses' sonography training so abortion-vulnerable mothers can see their babies . . . and be moved to choose life.

A couple of years ago it struck us that we might have this same impact on a broader scale if we could give even more people the opportunity to see for themselves the miracle of preborn life. Since ultrasounds offer a window into the womb, why not *show* ultrasounds to as many people as possible?

Alive from New York, which took place in May of 2019, was the result of our brainstorming. More than 20,000 people packed into Times Square for that celebration of life, while hundreds of thousands more watched online, and the following year we held a virtual See Life 2020 event that allowed us to show even more people the beauty of preborn life.

In last month's letter I announced our See Life 2021 campaign, which combines a series of pro-life videos that are released each Friday for six weeks with a live event on August 28 at 7 p.m. at the American Airlines Center in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

Below is our summary of each of the six episodes, some of which have already debuted:

Episode 1: "The Truth About Life" (Friday, July 16th)

When does life begin? What does the Bible say about life in the womb? These are among several critical questions that must be answered with grace and truth if we hope to advance the pro-life cause. I'll be joined by Amy Ford, President of Embrace Grace, to examine these important topics with special guests from the March for Life and Students for Life.

Episode 2: "Inside Pregnancy Resource Centers" (Friday, July 23rd)

A pregnancy resource center (PRC) is where life-and-death decisions are made. Every day, these centers meet young women at their deepest point of need, offering them counsel, ultrasound services, and most importantly, *hope* for a better path forward. In this episode you'll meet some of the women and men behind the scenes who are engaged in the lifesaving work of PRCs.

Episode 3: "The Power of a Picture" (Friday, July 30th)

It's one thing to talk about the humanity and dignity of preborn babies using theoretical, abstract terms. It's another thing entirely to see the beauty of life in the womb displayed on an ultrasound screen in real-time! In Episode 3 you'll hear from PRC workers who are using the power of ultrasound to minister to women facing unexpected pregnancies, and you'll also hear from a young mom whose life was changed — and whose baby was

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saved — as a result of this technology.

Episode 4: “Sometimes the Choice is Hard” (Friday, August 6th)

What would you do if you became pregnant as a result of rape? What if your doctor told you that the baby growing inside of you would be born with devastating health challenges? As followers of Christ, we believe that *all* human life is sacred — even in the toughest situations. In this episode you’ll hear from brave women and men who faced difficult circumstances and chose to trust God with the outcome.

Episode 5: “It’s Going to be Amazing” (Friday, August 13th)

Human life is sacred and beautiful, even in those situations when someone doesn’t fit society’s standards of what is “normal.” As followers of Jesus, we should be the first to embrace those whom the world considers outcasts — and we should teach our kids to do the same! In Episode 5 you’ll hear from a number of guests who are embracing the sanctity of life in all its diversity.

Episode 6: “Families Helping Families” (Friday, August 20th)

“Being pro-life” isn’t just a role for grown-ups. It’s a mission that the entire family can and should embrace! In this final episode, we’ll explore ways that you and your loved ones can get involved in the holy calling of defending and celebrating God’s gift of life, whether by volunteering at a PRC, supporting a new mom, or getting involved in a pro-life ministry at your church. Everyone can do *something* to advance the sanctity of life!

I hope you’ve had an opportunity to see the first few videos or, if not, that you’ll visit **[FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife](https://www.FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife)** to watch the episodes and learn more about this exciting endeavor. And, we’d love to have you livestream our August 28 event — or even attend in person if you’re able! In case you miss it, we’ll have a recap of the event on our Daily Broadcast on August 30.

In the meantime, I’d like to leave you with two testimonials that have been sent to us by pregnancy resource centers we partner with. I think you’ll be moved to learn of the powerful ways in which God is using *Option Ultrasound* to inspire expectant moms to choose life.

When April arrived at Thrive Women’s Clinic in Dallas, she was in a dark place. She, her boyfriend, and their two young children were living in a hotel due to their financial situation. Neither had jobs. April was taking classes through an online technical school, but her nausea and fatigue were making it nearly impossible. Her boyfriend was drinking heavily, causing a strain in their relationship. She could not understand why God would give her a baby in the midst of all this chaos.

She sat with a Thrive counselor and they talked through her pregnancy options. She believed in God and knew that abortion would kill her baby, but she remained unsure about her ability to care for a third child. Her sonogram in the clinic revealed her baby was in the early stages of development. The nurse gave her a list of Bible verses to encourage her and requested that she return for another sonogram in a few weeks. At the second appointment, April saw her baby moving and kicking. She wept and said, “Now I can’t have an abortion; the baby is too far along.”

Three months after her son was born, April brought Jeremiah and her other two children to the [clinic] to thank us for being available for her when she did not know where to turn. She said the Bible verses were an incredible comfort to her during the darkest days, and she clung to them. She smiled broadly throughout the visit as she told us of many things that God has done. April and her boyfriend, the father of their children, have both found good jobs: She works full-time as a home health aide and he

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is a chef. They have moved from the hotel and into a nice apartment, and her boyfriend has stopped drinking. April has returned to school to finish her drafting certification; she dreams of one day being able to design a nursing home. She profusely expressed deep gratitude for the support she received at Thrive that enabled her to choose life for her baby. She said she can't imagine life without Jeremiah.

A young woman came to our center with her mother for a pregnancy test and became hysterical when her test was positive. Her mother firmly insisted that the daughter have an abortion, but agreed to accompany her into the exam room for an ultrasound to confirm the test result and gestational age.

When the nurse identified the baby on ultrasound, the baby was facing forward, looking right at the young mom. As the nurse pointed that out, the baby began to hiccup. The young patient and her mother were amazed at this baby and the hiccups.

The whole family had planned to meet that night to make a decision regarding the abortion. We later learned that upon leaving our center, even before their family meeting, the mother had begun to make plans to arrange for her daughter's prenatal care.

In her exit evaluation, the young mom said "seeing my baby clearly" was the deciding factor. God worked through the baby's position and even the hiccups to save the life of this little one!

You can see that God is using the *Option Ultrasound* program to save lives! More than 54% of abortion-minded women who receive counseling and an ultrasound choose life! But the lives of so many more are at stake. Nearly a million babies will face abortion this year unless we can share the truth about life with their mothers. Your gift today will save mothers and babies from the pain of abortion.

Every \$60 you send today will help save the life of one preborn baby through our *Option Ultrasound* program. And now, through a \$4.25 Million Matching Opportunity, your gift will save TWICE THE LIVES! But this incredible opportunity won't last long. I hope that I hear from you right away. We'd be deeply grateful for your assistance.

Many thanks for reading this latest update of our pro-life efforts. Your supportive interest in our work means more than words can express, and I hope you'll call us at 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459) if we can serve you and your family.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and God bless you!



Jim Daly
President

P.S. In addition to lending your financial support to the *Option Ultrasound* program, we would deeply appreciate your help in spreading the word about See Life 2021. We want as many people as possible to participate in this life-saving initiative! Go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife.

FAMILY FOCUS[®]

FOR OUR PARTNERS IN FAMILY MINISTRY

AUGUST 2021



SEE *Life*[™]
2021

The truth about life . . .

Double your gift to
save moms and babies
from abortion!

Eve* was utterly confused.

When she found out that she was pregnant, Eve wasn't sure what she wanted . . . but her boyfriend was. **He wanted her to get an abortion.**

The expectant mother was torn. Today's culture claims that the baby growing inside of Eve was just a blob of tissues and that abortion would "take care of it." Eve didn't know the truth about life and didn't know where to turn.

Thankfully, she found a pregnancy

resource center online and made an appointment. Once there, she received a free ultrasound because of the generosity of friends like you.

The young mother saw her baby for the first time and heard that unmistakable heartbeat. After that, there was no confusion.

Eve saw the truth for herself and after talking it over with her boyfriend, they chose life for their baby!

This is the kind of lifesaving impact you are making through our *Option Ultrasound*[™]

program that equips pregnancy resource centers with ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses' sonography training so abortion-vulnerable mothers can see their babies and choose life.

Since the beginning of the *Option Ultrasound* program in 2004, the number of babies saved is estimated to be more than 472,000! But so many more are at risk.

Every \$60 gift you share helps save the

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THIS ISSUE

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by Jim Daly

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your favorite things?

The latest efforts
to stop abortion . . .

5 Benefits of
Parental Love





Daly Focus

By Jim Daly, President

Whose life are we saving?

As you may know, you are saving lives when you join Focus on the Family efforts like the *Option Ultrasound* program. But you might be surprised to know whose lives you are saving.

When you rescue a baby from abortion, you are not just saving a baby's life. You are also saving the mother's life. So many women have been told lies about the life growing inside of them. When you reveal the truth about life in the womb to a woman considering abortion, you are helping to rescue them from a lifetime of pain and regret.

Diana's story reminds me of how God is using friends like you to save mothers and their babies.

"I was a teen who at 19 found myself in a room with a doctor telling me, 'You are pregnant, but have choices.' I didn't know if I was going to get kicked out of my home. I didn't know what was next, but I did know that my baby had a purpose. She is now 13 years old and our life has not been easy, but my life was blessed then and continues to be blessed. I now have five children. Our house is loud and messy, but the smiles, the hugs and the kisses, give me the best feeling that I can't explain. My life did not end at 19 when I decided to walk the unknown journey of motherhood, my life started. Thank you for what you do." —Diana, California

Thank you for saving moms from abortion as well as their babies.

The truth about life . . . *Continued from page 1*

life of a preborn baby through our *Option Ultrasound* program. **And now, through a \$4.25 Million Matching Opportunity, your gift will save TWICE THE LIVES!**

Will you join the movement to help the world see life and end abortion? Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Pray for the *Option Ultrasound* program and See Life 2021.** Let us know you are standing with us in prayer by filling out the enclosed prayer response card or going online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife to sign your prayer commitment. When God's people pray, lives are saved!
- **Commit yourself and your family to #LoveEveryHeartbeat** at FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife. Learn how your family can be a pro-life family.
- **Join the movement to reveal life**

and end abortion with a gift of support! Give now to save lives. Remember, every \$60 gift you share helps save the life of a preborn baby through our *Option Ultrasound* program. **And now, through a \$4.25 Million Matching opportunity right now, your gift will be DOUBLED, dollar for dollar, to rescue twice the babies from abortion!**

- **Help save lives** by participating in the transformational See Life 2021 culmination event on August 28, live in Dallas, Texas, or online. More details about See Life 2021 can be found at FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife, especially as we get closer to the event.

Whether by giving, praying or acting, you are helping to save moms and their babies from the pain of abortion. Thank you for valuing life! ■

**Name changed to protect identity.*

He Said, She Said On *Honoring Your Marriage*

What are some of your favorite things?

With Dr. Greg and Mrs. Erin Smalley



In this issue, Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley share how to remember the good times when you are struggling.

GREG: Over the past year, even the best of marriages have experienced serious challenges. Remember that song from *The Sound of Music* called "My Favorite Things"? In the movie, Maria and the von Trapp children sing the cheerful lyrics during a scary thunderstorm — "Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens" — to fill their minds with things they love.

ERIN: When you face busy times or difficult seasons with your spouse, it's important to remember your favorite things about your marriage. Here's a list that we came up with:

- Having fun and laughing together
- Loving someone with all my heart
- Being liked and loved
- Enjoying the combined effect of the synergy between us — we can do so much more together than we could do alone
- Sharing affection for each other
- Pursuing God together
- Being real and authentic
- Raising our children together
- Being challenged to become a better person
- Making memories together
- Sharing inside jokes
- Pursuing dreams
- Having someone to celebrate with
- Sharing the deepest levels of intimacy and connection — sex
- Knowing someone deeply and being deeply known by another
- Serving together
- Being with my best friend
- Having a helpmate to share life's responsibilities
- Feeling safe and secure

The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to the Focus on the Family[®] Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you've missed one of these broadcasts, listen online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Broadcast. You can also hear us with the all-new, enhanced Focus on the Family App found at the App Store and Google Play.

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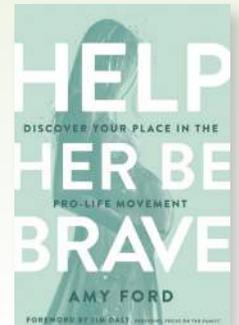
Feature Guest:
Amy Ford



DATE	TITLE	GUEST
8/2	Nurturing Joy in Your Child	Dr. Marcus Warner and Rev. Chris Coursey
8/3	Changing Your Relationships Through the Power of Kindness	Mrs. Shaunti Feldhahn
8/4	Forgiving the Past, Embracing the Future	Mrs. Deborah Pegues
8/5-8/6	Difficult Conversations for Men I & II	Pastor Johnny Hunt
8/9-8/10	How a Strong-Willed Woman can be Used by God I & II	Mrs. Cynthia Tobias
8/11	Understanding Your Child's Digital World	Mr. Jonathan McKee
8/12	How God Reunited a Birth Mom and Her Son	Mrs. Nina Hendee and Mr. Kyle Poulson
8/13	Sharing the Load with Your Spouse	Dr. Greg and Mrs. Erin Smalley
8/16	Discovering Your New Identity as a Stay-At-Home Mom	Mrs. Jen Babakhan
8/17	Sharing Your Faith with Boldness	Mr. David Benham and Mr. Jason Benham
8/18-8/19	How Mentoring Saved Our Marriage I & II	Mr. Tom and Mrs. Sandy Ralya
8/20	Leaving a Legacy of Faith for Your Children	Pastor Lee Strobel
8/23	Living a Full Life with an Empty Nest	Mrs. Jill Savage
8/24	Grabbing Hold of God	Mrs. Kim Meeder
8/25	Simplifying Life, Living More Fully	Mr. Joshua Becker
8/26	Building Courage in Your Family	Mr. Kevin Thompson
8/27	How You Can Join the Pro-Life Movement	Mrs. Amy Ford
8/30	Update on See Life 2021	
8/31	Nurturing Your Child's Heart and Mind	Mrs. Sally Clarkson

**Help Her Be Brave:
Discover Your Place in
the Pro-Life Movement**

Learn how you can save lives and make a difference for moms and preborn babies in *Help Her Be Brave: Discover Your Place in the Pro-Life Movement*. This book will help you discover your part in empowering women to choose life. You can prepare the church to help women practically, spiritually and emotionally. Get your copy for a ministry gift of any amount today.



Use the enclosed response card to mark your gift and book request or go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/HelpHerBeBrave21.

A donation receipt will be issued for funds received in excess of the fair market value of the promotional product. The Internal Revenue Service does not allow a charitable deduction for the value of goods received. This value will be provided on your receipt. Promotional items will be fulfilled via our distribution alliance with Ingram.

* The broadcast schedule is subject to change.

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
9/1	Discovering God is Enough	Mrs. Chonda Pierce
9/2-9/3	Thriving in the Early Years of Marriage I & II	Mr. Bill and Mrs. Pam Farrel
9/6	Finding God's Purpose for Your Life	Mr. Ken Costa
9/7	Improve Yourself, Improve Your Relationships	Dr. Les and Dr. Leslie Parrott
9/8	TBA	
9/9-9-10	Finding Hope After a Suicide Attempt I & II	Mrs. Kristen Kositzke
9/13	Connecting with Your Grandchildren	Mrs. Cheri Fuller
9/14	TBA	
9/15	Embracing Forgiveness as a Post-Abortive Dad	Dr. Greg Smalley
9/16	Learning to Say No	Pastor Kevin Harney
9/17	Preparing Your Family for Any Situation	Mrs. Kathi Lipp
9/20	Finding Freedom in Humility	Mr. Brant Hansen
9/21-9/22	Loving and Leading Your Strong Woman I & II	Mr. LeRoy and Mrs. Kimberly Wagner
9/23	Helping Your Child Build a Lifelong Faith	Mrs. Valerie Bell and Mr. Matt Markins
9/24	Teaching Children to Celebrate Racial Diversity	Mrs. Trillia Newbell and Dr. Danny Huerta
9/27	Showing True Love to Your Spouse	Mr. Bob Lepine
9/28	The Four Most Important Choices You Can Make as a Parent	Mrs. Crystal Paine
9/29-9/30	Finding God's Healing for Sexual Brokenness	Mr. Sy Rogers (deceased)

LIFE UPDATE

The latest efforts to stop abortion . . .

Many Focus on the Family friends like you have long been standing up for life by supporting our *Option Ultrasound* program that equips pregnancy resource centers with ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses' sonography training. When expectant mothers see their babies, they often choose life.

Since the beginning of the *Option Ultrasound* program in 2004, the number of babies saved is estimated to be more than 472,000!

But did you know that your support is fighting for life in additional ways? Here are some of the latest efforts you make possible:

- **My Choice Network.** This unique, online network provides expectant mothers with an easy and quick way to find the pregnancy resource center nearest them. My Choice Network launched last year in 10 cities with high abortion rates. In the first four months, it had more than 31 million impressions, resulting in over 125,000 people finding information for pregnancy resource center help.
- **Targeting High Abortion Cities.** One of the critical ways your support makes a difference is through strategic targeting of high-risk areas. We provide grants for state-of-the-art ultrasound machines, nurses' training and many other resources to reach more abortion-minded women.
- **Abortion Pill Reversal.** One of the newest ways your action is saving lives is by offering grants for abortion pill reversal training of physicians and nurses. We have approved 140 grants for nurses to achieve certification to provide this protocol.
- **See Life 2021.** See Life 2021 culminates this month with a live and online event in Dallas, Texas, on August 28.

The LIFE UPDATE column features testimonies and the latest news on how your support is rescuing babies from abortion and saving moms from the pain and regret of abortion.

Parenting Corner with Dr. Danny Huerta

5 Benefits of Parental Love



Dr. Danny Huerta is Focus on the Family's Vice President of the Parenting and Youth department.

God has made children to need parental love, and He's built into parents the ability give this love. Here are five benefits of authentic parental love:

1. Spiritual Growth

Love is a physical need for children. When our kids receive and learn to give love, they won't be as thirsty for love from people outside the family. The authentic love of parents helps children develop an identity as a beloved child of God, one who has the capacity and responsibility to share that love with others.



2. Brain Growth

Research from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, reveals that a mother's love helps her child's brain grow—as much as twice the rate as that of a neglected child.

3. Self-Confidence

The children I have counseled over the years tend to become more self-confident when they feel a genuine and unconditional love from their parents. These children learn to enjoy the moments of life instead of being worried about what their future holds.

4. Strength to Face Adversity

Kids from loving homes tend to be more adaptable. The love of parents gives kids the roots needed to develop resilience and perspective for facing life's difficulties.

5. A Sense of Security and an Ability to Handle Boundaries

True parental love means helping children appreciate limits and boundaries. Kids feel safe and secure when they have them. Yes, a child's emotions do get in the way. But even if they won't admit it, children thrive in a home with loving, clearly defined boundaries. ■

Double your gift to SAVE LIVES!

With your immediate action today, you can give a child the chance to live.

Every \$60 you share will help save the life of one preborn baby through our Option Ultrasound program. The Option Ultrasound program ensures pregnancy resource centers receive ultrasound machines, resources, and nurses' sonography training — all to reveal life to expectant mothers.

Now through the \$4.25 Million Match, your gift will be DOUBLED to save TWICE THE LIVES!

Revealing life is one of the most effective ways to save lives. Research shows over 54 percent of abortion-minded women who have counseling and an ultrasound choose life.



Please be sure to include this form along with your gift.

Your support will also support efforts like See Life 2021 that culminates this month with a live and online event in Dallas, Texas, on August 28.

Remember, your immediate gift will go TWICE AS FAR through the Match to rescue mothers and babies from abortion. For more information, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife. ■

Option
Ultrasound™
LIFE ADVOCATE

Reveal Life!

Give a child the chance to dream.

Save lives all year as a sustaining member of the *Option Ultrasound Life Advocate* program! Become one of our most loyal supporters to rescue mothers and their babies from abortion. Your monthly donation will provide ultrasounds to moms considering abortion so they can see their babies, hear their heartbeats, and choose life.

Every \$60 you give helps rescue one baby from abortion!

Pick a FREE gift when making your donation recurring.



Get Your Free See Life 2021 Prayer Guide

Join the movement to end abortion with your fervent prayer. Request your free 7-day See Life 2021 Prayer Guide at FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife!



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