

## A Haven for Babies

By Sandra Palmer

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and so it was on a recent morning when I opened the local newspaper and saw “the picture.” A police officer was taking a picture of the inside of a common brown, paper bag. Glancing at the picture, I thought perhaps someone had been caught shoplifting, or maybe the bag contained drugs or explosives. Then I read the caption, “*Fire station takes in newborn; it’s a ‘safe haven’ for unwanted infants.*”

As I continued reading, I learned that inside the bag was a “tiny baby girl with a wisp of blond hair, sleeping naked except for the blanket in which she was bundled.” It was only when I read the caption that I understood. As I sat there in my comfort zone, I was suddenly awakened. I was reminded of a story just a few days earlier in which a dog had unearthed the upper torso of a newborn, dragging the remains of the infant to the back porch of his owners’ home. This story had been conveniently filed away in my mind, dismissed because of senses that have been dulled by similar, harsh tragedies: unwanted babies being murdered and buried in backyards, unwanted babies being dropped off in brown paper bags, and, of course, the thousands of unwanted babies who are aborted on a daily basis. I asked myself, “Where will it all end?”

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The psalmist writes, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3).

How many of us would treat an inheritance so commonly as to bury it in the backyard or put in a paper bag? We all have heirlooms that have been handed down in our families from generation to generation, and they usually hold a place of honor not only in our homes but in our hearts. Yet, mothers can deliver innocent, helpless, precious, little souls and consider them something common.

We must stop the disrespect for human life that has become so commonplace in our society today. It begins by opening the pages of the only Book that can bring about a change in our hearts, our minds, our society, and our world. We must read it, study it, meditate on it, and teach it to others - beginning with our children. Our boys and girls need to understand God’s pure and simple will for them. They need to be taught at an early age about purity, the sanctity of marriage, and respect for human life. It is not until we put purity back into the hearts of our children that we can offer a “safe haven” for all of them.

The words of Philippians 4:8 should be ingrained in our children from the time they learn how to speak and act. They need to be reminded of these same words with each new milestone in their lives. With age comes responsibility and our children need to learn how to be responsible. They need to be responsible for their modest dress, for their modest

speech, for their modest behavior. If it is not “true, noble, just, pure, lovely or of good report” they need to know to stay away from it.

Our children must know their actions bring about consequences, so they need to be taught to stay away from compromising situations and dark corners. Our children should be taught the meaning of Hebrews 13:4, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Our children need to stop believing the lie that “contraceptives” are the way to prevent unwanted pregnancies. They need to know the truth - that the purity of abstinence is the only God approved “birth control method” outside of marriage. Our children need to know exactly what constitutes intimacy, and they need to be taught that intimacy outside of marriage is sin; regardless of what the masses say is acceptable.

“Purer in heart, O God, help me to be, that I thy holy face one day may see.” How many of us parents and grandparents really want our children to see God’s holy face one day? Only when we teach them the blessings of a pure life – of living life by God’s prescribed methods – will they.