



# Voice for Life Newsletter August 2018

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## Dear Friend of Voice for Life:

Voice for Life is most grateful for the donations received from individuals, service groups/organizations, churches, and as memorial remembrances. This support is much appreciated and helps in our outreach to show the need for respect of all human life to people in our community.

In this issue, you will find a Walk-a-thon - Walk for Life - pledge sheet and explanation insert. Please collect sponsors and come out and walk on Saturday September 15th to show your support for Life. This is the Voice for Life's main fundraiser. Many eagerly walk to support research for the eradication of a disease. There is also a great need to change the plague of the culture of death into the hope of the culture of life. Regardless of age, infirmity, disability, all human life is worth living. Human life is not to be intentionally discarded as not worthy of life or as inconvenient.

Also, please note further details on the annual Voice for Life Banquet and Fundraiser on Friday October 26th. Mark this date on your calendar and come. The guest speaker is Blaise Alleyne, President of Toronto Right to Life, who will speak on 'Changing Hearts and Minds on Assisted Suicide'.

As planned, Voice for Life will have the Display tent at the Hagerville Summer's End Festival (Sept. 1), Delhi Fall Fest (Sept. 8 only), and operate a Booth for the full week of the Norfolk County Fair (Oct. 2-8). Volunteers are needed, especially for the Norfolk Fair Booth. Ideas and help would be most appreciated for set-up/layout of the Booth to improve its attractiveness to passersby. Your expertise is sought.

The National Life Chain is from 2-3 pm on Sunday October 7th in Simcoe and Jarvis. Full details on Page 4. This is an hour of prayer to end abortion and prayer for those affected in any manner by abortion choices.

**No one replied. Check within this Newsletter for the answer to "Who Am I?!"** As well, an insert was included with the June Newsletter listing group questions discussed at the AGM. It was hoped that those who could not attend the AGM would have provided feedback on these. There is still time, and all comments are important and confidential.

**In His Name and May God Bless.  
Barra Gots, Editor & Secretary**



*"Promoting, through public education, the respect for life from the moment of conception to the end of natural life."*

## Essay Writing Contest "I LOVE MY FAMILY BECAUSE ....."

### Why I Love My Family

By Daniel Blake of Port Dover



Many people have their own reasons for why they love their families. Some would say that they love how united and affectionate their families are. Others would mention how they admire the energy and humour that they have. This makes it all the more hilarious for me personally, whenever I think back on the quirky band of misfits that comprise my whole family: Consisting of my Mom, Dad, two younger sisters, my Grandma, and myself. We have our own special way of interacting with one another that, to the average family, might appear a little less than functional, but to us, is just our way of loving each other. Of course, there are numerous reasons for why I love my family, but if someone were to come up and ask me why, I would just tell them a simple story about my sister's 17th birthday dinner to sum it up.

It was a hot August day, one of which I had been lazily lying around the house for the majority of, while my sister was out celebrating. The weather was also exceptionally humid due to the fact that our house's air conditioner stopped working at the time, prompting my Mom to suggest having dinner on the backyard deck. Following suit, the six of us sat in chairs around a small table underneath of a canopy to eat our dinner.

The dinner, itself, is where things began to devolve into our usual rabble. It starts off with Danika, the birthday girl, noticing a blemish on her finger.

"Hey Papa, is this a wart? I think it's a wart" my sister announces to my Dad in her paranoia. In response, my Dad gives a bemused chuckle and sarcastically says, "Yes, Danika. It's a wart. They're highly contagious."

This immediately sets Danika off on an irrational frenzy searching for a Band-Aid in order to contain her "wart." My youngest sister, Dana-Lynn, on the other hand, sees this as an opportunity to harass Danika by relentlessly bombarding her with sly jabs about her wart paranoia. This escalates into multiple arguments between the two sisters that irritate my Dad to no end. My Mom, who was smartly ignoring that whole situation, instead, decides to focus her efforts onto pushing more food onto my plate, after I've already eaten two whole chicken legs, a small mountain of rice, and two cake slices. In retaliation, I excruciatingly complain how there's no humanly possible way for any person to eat this massive amount of food, to no avail. All the while, my Grandma just sits back in her chair, quietly chuckling, most likely at the absurdity of everything going on with that laid-back wisdom that all grandmas seem to have.

What had begun as a fairly normal birthday dinner had transformed into a crazy, almost sitcom-worthy string of antics. The most maddening thing about the whole situation is that this is how almost all of our dinners together play out: The fact that it was my sister's birthday didn't change anything. All of us argued, fought, and teased regardless of what was going on. Even looking back at that dinner and remembering the miniature war between my sisters, my Dad angrily caught in the middle, my Mom's attempts to force feed me, my frustrated attempts to avoid her "generosity," and my Grandma laughing the evening away, I still think to myself, "Wow. What a strange bunch of characters we are." However, that's just it! That's the whole point of it all. We're all flawed, erratic and stubborn, but we love each other anyways. It doesn't matter to us how different we are from the stereotypical "well-functioning family unit" since, no matter how much we feel the need to strangle each other sometimes, we'll always come back to one another. The fact that we accept each other like this, regardless of how crazy we act sometimes, to me, is why I'll always keep loving my family, and never stop.



# Voice for Life Annual Banquet and Fundraiser

This year, the Annual Banquet will be at **Emmanuel Bible Church, 24 Churchill Circle, Simcoe, ON N3Y 4Z4, on Friday, October 26th.** REGISTRATION/SOCIAL: 5:30 p.m.; DINNER: 6 p.m.  
TICKETS: Adults \$25; Children, 12 years & under, \$10. RSVP by October 22.

Our **Guest Speaker** is Blaise Alleyne. **Topic:** "Changing Hearts and Minds on Assisted Suicide"  
Overview - Generally:

- > - The story of Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl: Despair is suffering without meaning
- > - Defining assisted suicide and euthanasia and the law in Canada
- > - Raising the moral question: who gets suicide prevention and who gets suicide assistance?
- > - Why do we QUIT on some people?
- > -- Terminal Prognosis: the desire to die is transient among the terminally ill
- > -- Incurable Conditions: Oregon Public Health data, and addressing ablism and ageism
- > -- Unbearable Suffering: physical pain and the example of "Epidermylosis Bullosa"
- > -- Quality of Life: mental health and suicide regret
- > - The Slippery Slope: the consequences of legalization
- > - The Pro-Life Position: refusal of burdensome treatment, and creative solutions like 'Dignity Therapy'



Blaise Alleyne is a pro-life activist, technologist, musician, writer and public speaker. He has spoken at high schools, universities, and conferences over the past 10 years on a wide variety of topics, including technology, music, pro-life strategy and apologetics, and John Paul II's theology of the body. He is a songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, and has written articles for various online publications, including Techdirt, which has a readership of over 1 million.

Blaise graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science, English and Philosophy. He is currently completing a Master of Theological Studies at Regis College at the University of Toronto, with a focus on moral theology.

Blaise has volunteered in the pro-life movement since joining the University of Toronto Students for Life in 2005, where he currently serves as Education Coordinator. He is the President of Toronto Right to Life, and founded the Toronto Against Abortion project. Since 2016, Blaise has been working as the Toronto Outreach Director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform. Alongside Jonathon van Maren, he co-authored his first book, *A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide*, released in 2017.



## Voice for Life Wish List

- A flat screen TV, with HDMI, optical, USB, etc. inputs.
- Outdoor LED Rope lights to add to Panorama Display (CSA approved).

**[If any of the above are donated as a 'gift-in-kind', we require name, address and a statement of fair market value, to give a tax receipt.]**

**PRAYERS**, especially for God's wisdom, guidance, and discernment.

**Volunteers** for our Booths at the various Fairs, Festivals & activities; and to come to the Office for certain errands and tasks, and respond to phone messages and requests for help.



## Voice for Life Upcoming 2018 Events

**Walk-a-thon** - Annual Fundraiser for Life. Saturday September 15.  
Register at 9:30 am. Event begins at 10 am. Refreshments served after the Walk.  
St. Mary's Upper Parish Hall, 211 Union St., Simcoe. Please seek sponsors for your walk.

**National Life Chain** - Sunday, October 7, from 2 to 3 pm. An hour of prayer & reflection.  
Meet at the corner of Hwys 3 (Queensway) & 24 (Norfolk) in Simcoe, **or** in Jarvis at the corner of  
Hwys 3 (Talbot) & 6 (Main). Signs provided. All welcome. Rain or shine.

**Fair Booths** - Display tent at the *Hagersville Summer's End Festival* (Sept. 1), and *Delhi Fall Fest* (Sept. 8); and inside Booth at the  
*Norfolk County Fair* (Oct. 2-8). **Volunteers needed for various shifts. For the Norfolk Fair, a Volunteer Form will be posted online and  
on some church bulletin boards. A copy will also be brought to the Walk-a-thon.**

**Annual Banquet** - Friday Oct.ober 26 . Social 5:30 pm; Dinner 6 pm. Held at Emmanuel Bible Church, Simcoe.  
Tickets: \$25; Child 12 & under, \$10. Guest Speaker: Blaise Alleyne. RSVP by Oct. 22. Call any Board member to reserve tickets.



## Suicide Epidemic Exacerbated by Cultural Loneliness

Alex Schadenberg (2018) contends "that the reasons people die by suicide are the same or similar reasons why people ask for assisted suicide, even when the circumstances differ.

Most people who ask for assisted suicide feel that their life lacks purpose, meaning or hope, they feel that no one cares about them or that they are a burden on others. Physical suffering rarely causes someone to seek a hastened death but loneliness, depression or feelings of hopelessness are primary reasons.

There aren't easy answers, but [he] contends that a culture can reduce the scourge of suicide and the cultural abandonment associated with assisted suicide, by caring for and being with others at their time of need. It is essential that people who feel that their life lacks value or purpose, or feels that no one cares, is offered purpose, support and genuine hope from their significant community.

The answer is not only talking about it (suicide), the answer is inclusion, caring and being with others as they journey through the difficult times of their lives."

Reference: <https://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2018/06/suicide-epidemic-exasperated-by.html> Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Physician-assisted death (PAD) of persons in which psychiatric disorders are the basis for the procedure (psychiatric PAD) remains infrequent but rising in number in Belgium and the Netherlands where it is legal, comprising about 1% to 2% of PAD. There were 83 cases in the Netherlands in 2017 (per capita US equivalent would be about 1580 cases). Canada's euthanasia law generally excludes psychiatric PAD, but there are court challenges to expand the law.

Reference: Kim SYH, Conwell Y, Caine ED. **Suicide and Physician-Assisted Death for Persons With Psychiatric Disorders How Much Overlap?**. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online August 08, 2018. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2018.2065

### Answer to "WHO AM I ?"

John Newton. He wrote the hymn *Amazing Grace*.

Additional promised details on the Father's Day Vigil, and subsequent past events, are deferred to next Newsletter.

