



# The Caleb Report

March-April 2010

Life Decisions International

vol. xix • no. 2

## KILLING “THE LEAST OF THESE”

In 2003, four college roommates came up with the idea that would eventually become the social networking website Facebook. Users may post messages and photographs, link with friends, and join any of several groups (church, school, likes/dislikes, etc.). The website is used worldwide. But the young men surely did not envision the long list of problems they would encounter along the way, including determining how to deal with “delicate” material posted on the website by Facebook users.



Early this year, an Italian Facebook group came under fire for launching a scathing attack against children afflicted with Down syndrome. In less than 24 hours, more than 1,700 Facebook users had signed up as “fans” of the group. The page featured

a photograph of a baby with Down’s and the word “scemo [stupid]” scrawled over his forehead. The group’s administrator offered a suggestion—“Let’s use Down’s [sic] kids for target practice because it’s the only end these parasites deserve.” The creator of the page also referred to the children as “useless baggage” and “foul creatures.”

Italian authorities denounced the webpage and urged Facebook to censor it. While legal issues prevented an immediate closing of the offensive page, it was removed within a matter of days. Some 50 Facebook users quickly created rival pages. More than 20,000 people signed up as “fans” of these pages.

Mara Carfagna, Italy’s equality minister called the page “dangerous” and “unworthy of civilized society.” She told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* that, “Inciting crime is the same thing as committing crime...” and those responsible for the page “will be found and charged.”

Down syndrome children as target practice? This is surely just an isolated example of an intolerant nut. We wish. The same month the Facebook page opened, a Russian journalist publicly advocated the killing of disabled newborns. In an article titled, “Finish *it* off so *it* doesn’t suffer (emphasis added).” Aleksandr Nikonov said that for many families the birth of a disabled child would be like living in “hell” and that “the killing of the newborn is in fact the

same as an abortion.” Nikonov said taking the life of a disabled infant is “true humanism” and suggested that parents of such newborns should be given the legal right to have them euthanized, which he compared to the right of family members to end life-sustaining care of patients in a “vegetative state.”

Nikonov, who described disabled newborns as “defective blanks” and “newborn idiots,” was taken to task by the mother of a disabled child. “The author is not raising a disabled child—that is why his generalized conclusions about the life of disabled people and their families...are just speculations,” said Svetlana Shtarkova. Joined by another mother of a disabled child, she wrote a letter of complaint to the Board of the Union of Russian Journalists, which scolded the newspaper that published the article for failing to present a balanced look at the issue. Nikonov was criticized for not realizing he was humiliating people who already have a disabled child, but he steadfastly defended his position:

You make people suffer for the sake of ideologies and interpretations of humanism you have in your head. What we offer is choice, and you wrap it inside out, presenting it as if we call for killing of all those disabled people. Nothing like that! We don’t stand against wheel cart ramps or your right to bring up disabled children; we stand for the right to choose.”



Nikonov said that the original title of the article was, “Commander, finish me to spare the suffering.” He said it is a well-recognized reference to a war-time scenario, where a wounded soldier asks that he be sacrificed so as not to slow down his retreating squad.

Author Deidre Clark argued that the right to express one’s opinion is sacred, regardless of how it may hurt the feelings of others. “There are lots of things that lots of people write that hurt someone’s feelings. You don’t want everyone in the newspaper to just write things that won’t hurt anyone,” she said. “But [Nikonov’s] debate actually ended up being a good thing for Russia because so many people are now discussing the *problem* of Down Syndrome [sic] babies (emphasis added).”

The Institute for the Study of Disabilities and Bioethics at Regent University used its blog to question why so many people have expressed surprise and outrage over the

Russian's article. "Nikonov's intent is no different than what the rest of the pro-death crowd say, just slightly more uncivilized," it read. The blog entry continued:

Let's begin with Nikonov's own words of the title. Newborns with disabilities are suffering; therefore they should be finished off. Also, these newborns are *its*—not baby boys or girls, or even newborn humans, they are nonhuman. Harsh? Yes, but exactly the same sentiment that many Western countries are swallowing. (The Netherlands routinely kills disabled newborns as well as the elderly and the infirm. Scotland is talking about assisted suicide for children. Dignitas in Switzerland will help do you in for a fee. Canada's medical community increasingly calls for the legalization of assisted suicide. The pro-death crowd in the US isn't happy that only several states have already legalized assisted killing—they want more).

Nikonov hasn't learned the Western trick of making killing much more acceptable when it's prettified. The pro-death crowd would recoil in horror at the description of finishing people off. Instead, they talk about euthanasia, aid in dying, dying with dignity—making the ugly beautiful. Most people don't like ugly, but they do like beautiful. It's simply a matter of lying often enough that the lie becomes desirable truth.

However, the pretty-talking pro-death crowd is really down with Nikonov, because any way you slice it, finishing off is the intent of assisted suicide and euthanasia, warm fuzzy terminology notwithstanding.

Here's what Nikonov said in a Radio Free Liberty interview:

Parents, in particular parents, should be free to decide the fate of their own offspring. If you want to bring up a child with Down syndrome, you can do it. But if you don't, you can euthanize him. Why is prenatal abortion legal and post-natal abortion is not?

Well, he's got a point: If we feel free to allow and legalize the abortion of unborn children with Down syndrome and other "defects," as we have done, then why not allow and legalize killing after birth?

Logically, there should be no difference. At least Nikonov is consistent—kill—sorry, "finish off" children with disabilities wherever you find them, unborn and born.



While publicly distancing themselves from Nikonov, many journalists, bloggers and politicians realize this is not the end of the story. "Like it or not, the debate about euthanasia is gathering strength in Western Europe too," wrote one blogger. "It's all about quality of life. When it's not present, life itself is meaningless and a burden for relatives..." But one must wonder if Nikonov and those like him take such a stand for the sake of the disabled child—or for the sake of themselves.

As though Facebook does not have enough controversy, one (former) user chose the website to announce his intention to commit suicide—after murdering his 9-month-

old son, Wyatt. Stephen Garcia, 25, detailed the killings for his Facebook page just before committing the act. Garcia's motive was revenge against the child's mother, Katie Tagle, who had left him. But Garcia claimed he killed Wyatt to save him from a "difficult life" in a one-parent home. "It was the only way we could be happy without Katie," he wrote. "I did this out of love for our son, to protect him and myself."



Garcia said his son would have "never been happy" because of the ongoing battle for custody between the two adults. "I did not want to keep fighting her, but I did not want to just give up and give her Wyatt. I did not want Wyatt to have that life. Understand and respect that... I understand my actions will have devastated a lot of lives but, I could not continue to live the rest of my life in constant pain and watch our sons [sic] life be thrown away..." Garcia referred to Wyatt as a "precious and beautiful baby boy with a heart of gold."

Does this way of thinking—killing to prevent what one suspects may lead to human suffering—sound familiar? Nikonov and the person responsible for the anti-Down syndrome children page would surely recognize it. But let us recall the words of the late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who in his final speech said "the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped." Let's just hope Princeton University does not offer Nikonov a job as a professor of bioethics.

## THE PRAYER PROJECT

Join us in daily prayer for the people who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions:

March: U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Harry Mason Reid**, D-Nev.; April: **Vanessa Cullins**, vice president for medical affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America; May: pro-abortion "Christian" actress **Jane Fonda**; June: Rep. **Bartholomew Thomas "Bart" Stupak**, D-Mich., who betrayed the Pro-Life Movement by supporting the Obama Health Care Plan; and July: **Mavis Leno**, radical pro-abortion wife of talk show host Jay Leno.

## ADOPTION=TERROR?

When it comes to pregnancy, Planned Parenthood views adoption as just one of several choices. The implication is that all options are equal from both a moral and practical perspective. Regardless of the choice a mother makes it should be validated through praise and support. After all, the most important thing is that she had a choice.

Do supporters of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) *really* look at adoption as a choice equal to abortion? Do they *honestly* believe adoption is a reasonable option that should be considered? Do they *truly* see adoption as “the loving option?” In other words, is their position heartfelt or is their rhetoric carefully chosen for public relations purposes?

**ABORTION vs. ADOPTION  
PPFA 2000-2007**

YEAR	ADOPTIONS	ABORTIONS
2000	2,486	197,070
2001	1,951	213,026
2002	1,963	230,630
2003	1,774	244,628
2004	1,414	255,015
2005*	2,413	264,943
2006	2,410	289,750
2007	4,912	305,310
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,323</b>	<b>2,000,372</b>

\*2005 adoption referral data was not included in PPFA's 2005-2006 Annual Report. (In fact, the word “adoption” was nowhere to be found.) Yet the figure for 2005 appeared in its 2006-2007 Annual Report. No explanation for the initial omission has ever been provided.

Let’s contrast the number of abortions committed by PPFA affiliates to adoptions referrals. (Keep in mind that if a mother chooses abortion, Planned Parenthood will “help,” but mothers who decide to let their children live are sent on their way.) Based on the numbers alone, one could easily make a strong case for the argument that PPFA-style “counseling” is biased toward abortion. After all, of the pregnant customers seen by Planned Parenthood, less than one percent was referred for adoption. But there is much more evidence to back the claim.

A nationwide audit of federally funded “family planning clinics” conducted several years ago by the United States General Accounting Office found that PPFA had the highest average abortion referral rate. (PPFA affiliates that do not commit “surgical” abortions are required to refer for the deadly procedure.) The audit revealed that the overall rate for abortion referral at “family planning clinics” nationwide was 5.7 percent, but PPFA’s average was 35.2 percent. The audit found that one affiliate had referred 77.7 percent of its pregnant customers for abortion and another sent 86.4 percent to an abortionist.

A survey of PPFA customers conducted around the same time showed that 89 percent believed their “counselor” was strongly biased in favor of abortion. Some 80 percent said PPFA gave little or no information about fetal development or possible complications relating to the procedure. Most revealing of all, 90 percent of those who had an abortion said there was a strong chance they would have chosen life for the child had the “abortion choice” not been so forcefully advocated by the Planned Parenthood employee.

There is no reason to believe anything has changed at Planned Parenthood. In fact, the situation is now worse as its employees and supporters have become even more vocal, brazen and forceful.

If there is one thing more telling than statistics it is hearing directly from those who work for and/or support Planned Parenthood. Consider the shrill responses PPFA received after it merely *mentioned* that November was National Adoption Month on its Facebook page (errors in originals—far too many to point out; *emphasis added*):

As an adoptee, I am appalled that Planned Parenthood would promote “National Adoption Month”. This month was designed to promote foster children and find them permanent homes. The adoption industry has hijacked this month to serve their own needs. *Telling women that they can choose open adoption is despicable...I am PRO-INFORMED choice. Open adoption cannot be included in the choice because it is not legally enforceable.*

- Linda Gambino

Shame on you for supporting National Adoption Month. The so called “Open adoption” isn’t legally enforceable and often times is just a ploy to get the natural mother to make that “*loving choice*” (*gag*). I am a *victim* of the closed adoption experiment gone wrong and even though I know my natural family, I am not “allowed” to have my birth certificate. In turn, I am supposed to be grateful for the falsified document I hold that bears the name I was given to conceal my natural identity forever.

I will never support an industry who’s only concern is amputating families for a profit instead of trying to keep them together...

- Tracy Butler Calmer

Some teens who experience an unintended pregnancy choose adoption. You can choose either open adoption, in which you help choose the adoptive parents and can stay in touch with the child, or closed adoption, in which the names of the birth mother and adoptive parents are kept secret from one another.

Shame on you Planned Parenthood for *promoting the secrecy and lies in adoption. Open adoptions are not legally enforceable* and often adoptive parents close it after they get the child. *Closed adoption allows people to be discriminated against* because they are not allowed to have their original birth certificates or other information about their genealogy and heritage. I am very disappointed...

- Shelby Beegirl

So far, Planned Parenthood supporters have condemned both open and closed adoption, with one person even mocking the statement that releasing a baby to another family is a “loving choice.” But these fans of “choice” are not finished attacking adoption and those who support it:

I believe *going through a pregnancy and then giving up a child is TORTURE on a woman.* THE “what ifs”, the “I should have’s” “If only I kept my baby” must play out in her mind until the day she dies.

...  
The few adoptive children I know of had sealed adoptions. One found out that his mom was on drugs and is the reason he has personality issues/struggles and is angry over that. He is an adult now and will most likely carry his anger throughout his life. THE other adoptive

people I know of have many questions of their birthparents that they will never ever find out. Most adoptions are secretive, few are open to the desires of both parties. NO DOUBT, everyone involved-birthmother/father, her/his parents and grandparents. Child and the new adoptive parents are forever CHANGED. It must feel almost like a divorce situation (which my family had when I was a pre-teen).

- Diane Bandy

Another Planned Parenthood supporter backed Bandy's opinion:

I hear u. my aunt will never see what she gave birth to. adoption isnt purely good or bad. with the economic collapse 1 billion of the 6 billion people go to bed hungry. 100 million children r orphans. notice the us population is 300 million people. adopting orphan children of all ages + abilities can b a dream come true for an orphan. however, *forcing women to create children bc a couple wants a perfect newborn is to often the case*, + babies r literally stolen to support the adoption business. many people idealize perfect newborns + forget the others. i am happy to see a movement of full spectrum *prolife* from cradle to grave rather than life ending at birth. the money spent against women in the name of children should go to real children + their mothers. i encourage people to open their homes to needy orphan children. *it is about time that people recognize real [born] children rather than focus on potential [preborn] children.*

- Jackie Gysler

*Don't forget how difficult adoption is on the child involved.* Secrets...all about your background...no one thinks we should know the truth.

- Ginny O'Connell

Just because I think abortion is a woman's choice so is adoption! It is up to that woman alone what she does with her body!

- Debbie Iacovelli-Shaffer

The most loquacious pro-abortion advocate of all was Hanne Anderson:

"Adoption is a permanent solution to an often temporary problem"...and the "I wonder if he/she is alive" and "I wonder if he/she is being abused" and "I wonder if she knows she is adopted" and "I wonder if she knows I love him/her" and "I wonder if he/she knows that I was told adoption was best for him/her" and "I wonder if he/she is ok" and "I wonder if where he/she lives" and "I wonder if he/she knows that I love him/her" etc.

...

I have heard many stories of natural mothers who were sold "Open Adoption" and later the adopted parents relocated and cut off contact with the natural mother. I agree Planned Parenthood should not be promoting "Open Adoption" as it is not a viable choice. It is also not enforceable in Canada.

...

The adoption agencies just cloak thier coercion in a more incideous way with the final result breaking up more families and separating a sacred bond between mother and child.

...

*Adoption is not a choice as a choice denotes 2 viable options.* Many times when a mother doesn't have enough money or support to raise her child she is left with no other option.

...

It can only be an "choice" if she is fully informed of the *lifelong grief, pain and suffering she will endure. How it will affect every relationship she has after adoption and how it will affect her sense of self. Adoption is a loss on a soul level that can never be rectified.* Adoption Agencies now do not provide all of this information to women and girls who are pregnant. It can only be a "choice" if she is fully informed of the *detrimental effects on her child...*

...

*Adoption is not a viable option. Adoption strips children of thier heritage, sense of belonging and connectedness...*To remove children from thier entire family is inhumane and cruel.

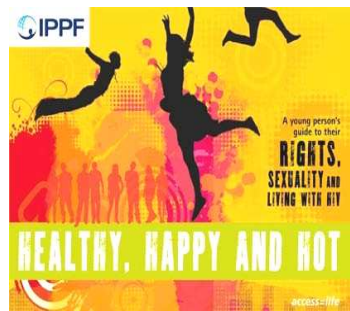
...

Again *adoption is not right and is abusive to children.* Being cut off from your family of origin and not having any contact with your extended family members and your heritage is *abuse.*

And these people call themselves "pro-choice"? They are pro-abortion in every sense of the word. Sadly, the views expressed by these individuals are the norm in the Pro-Abortion Movement. No wonder PPFA has such lopsided abortion versus adoption figures.

## GIRL SCOUTS UNDER FIRE—AGAIN

Girls Scouts, which is listed in the Dishonorable Mention section of *The Boycott List*, has been criticized for allowing a disturbing Planned Parenthood publication to be distributed at the annual meeting of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women. "Happy, Healthy and Hot" was passed out during a "no-adults-welcome" panel discussion that was hosted by The World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.



"Happy, Healthy and Hot" encourages young people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to explore their sexuality. "Masturbation is a great way to find out more about your body and what you find sexually stimulating," it recommends. Young people are also urged to, "Talk about or act out your fantasies. Talk dirty to them."

"Happy, Healthy and Hot" says laws requiring HIV-positive people to reveal their health status to potential sex partners will "violate the rights of people living with HIV." The reader is urged to seek the repeal of such laws.

Over the past several months, The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and International Planned Parenthood Federation have all released reports promoting implementation of highly controversial programs designed to indoctrinate young people (see the Winter 2010 edition of *Special Reports*, which is available through LDI's website). These include teaching children as young as five to be sexually active and urging children to be vocal activists in support of "abortion rights."

### "INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES"

*Note:* This article includes text that some people may find offensive. Please use appropriate discretion!

Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region (PPWR) is pushing two programs of "highly interactive activities" that it claims "answer questions about healthy sexuality." The PPWR programs are designed for pre-teen children.

*Just 4 Girlz and Hangin' With the Boys* "explore" such topics as puberty, "social construction of masculinity," healthy relationships, birth control, and sexually transmitted diseases. PPWR claims the programs encourage participants to "voice their perspectives, challenges and choices regarding healthy sexuality."

Like all Planned Parenthood affiliates, PPWR is a strong advocate of peer-to-peer indoctrination. This is often accomplished through the use of skits and other theater-type productions. The key factor in its Peer Theatre Education Program (PTEP) is that "youth get the information from people their own age." The cast is comprised of high school and university students.



One PTEP production is titled, "Sexploration"—a series of vignettes that follow the lives of a boy and girl. "On their quest for sexual knowledge"

PPWR explains, the pair faces many issues, "personified by interesting and humorous characters." Sexual health topics addressed include sexually transmitted diseases, "pregnancy options," the media's portrayal of sexuality, birth control options, healthy relationships, puberty, homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender, and masturbation. By the time the play ends, everyone will have "a good deal of knowledge that will aid them in making informed decisions regarding sexuality."

PPWR described its program as "gay-positive, non-judgmental, [and] pro-choice" and said it "creates a safe space for participants to express themselves and challenge themselves with different perspectives." Virtually every Planned Parenthood affiliate has a peer-to-peer program.

### BASIC SCIENCE

The Dublin, Ireland-based Iona Institute for Religion and Society (IIRS) has launched an advertising campaign that promotes religious practice. The key message of the campaign, "Here's a little science—the practice of religion is good for you," began in Dublin with 110 bus shelter ads.



Quinn

"This campaign is unprecedented," said IIRS Director David Quinn. "Nothing like it has ever taken place in Ireland, or anywhere else that we know of. Its aim is to present a positive image of religion." He wants to let it be known that many studies exist that show the numerous benefits of religion.

The effort is based on a report by Patricia Casey, M.D., titled, "The Psycho-Social Benefits of Religious Practice." The piece examined the various scientific studies which have showed that religious practice is associated, on average, with lower levels of depression, marital breakdown, teen pregnancy, and alcohol and drug abuse. It also aided in faster recovery from bereavement and illness, longer life expectancy, and so forth.

The campaign was first conceived in 2006 when books like *The God Delusion* were best sellers. "We wanted to counter this negativity by pointing to the evidence that, on the whole, religious practice is beneficial both for individuals and for society," Quinn said. "If the campaign gets a good response, we hope to roll it out in other parts of the country in the next year or two." He noted that the campaign is non-denominational in nature.

### BASIC MATH

Growing birth rates among religious believers and falling rates among secular couples are poised to dramatically shift the political and demographic make-up of Western countries, theorizes Professor Eric Kaufmann of Birkbeck College at the University of London and author of *Shall the Religious Inherit the Earth? Demography and Politics in the 21st Century*.

Kaufmann said that while secular populations are "static and heading for decline," religious populations are multiplying. He argues that "the more religious people are, the more children they will have" and those with particularly strong beliefs are reproducing "faster than anyone."

This is set to have political implications, Kaufmann said, as believers unite to fight against the liberal agenda on issues such as abortion. For example, he contends that the once-small ultra-Orthodox Jewish community will make up the majority of Jews both in Israel and the Diaspora between 2050 and 2100. In 1960, just a few percent of the Jews of Israel studied in ultra-Orthodox primary schools.

In 2012, a third of all Jewish children between seven and eight will do so.



**Kaufmann** also pointed out that evangelicals in the United States doubled their share of the white Protestant population in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; primarily through births, not conversions. Moreover, he said that, overall, religious women have above-replacement fertility, whereas non-religious women, overall, tend to have below-replacement fertility.

Despite the secularization of young people, experts say the proportion of non-religious Americans to peak at 17 percent soon after 2050. The peak will come much earlier in major cities because of religious immigration and low secular fertility.

Kaufmann noted that the more fundamentalist religions tend to lose fewer children to secular society and as their adherents become better organized and more technologically savvy, their retention rates have grown. In addition, people in the more fundamentalist religions tend to marry within their own religion, which serves to support the family and advance its mores.

Other factors are set to contribute to this trend in the West. Poor immigrants tend to be more religious. While Christian church attendance has declined by 40 percent in the United Kingdom, it had remained stable in London because most of its practicing Christians are non-white and many others are white immigrants.

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“And if we’re talking about maternal health, you cannot have maternal health without reproductive health. And reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortion”

- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, responding to a question after a meeting at the G-8 Summit in April 2010

### “THE PERFECT WAY TO SAY YOU CARE”

Note: This article includes text that some people may find offensive. Please use appropriate discretion!

There are so many ways a person to support Naples, Florida-based Planned Parenthood of Collier County (PPCC). From “tax deductible donations that are so essential to keeping our doors open, to volunteering...time and energy to our cause,” reads a PPCC statement, there is a way for everyone to help.

One way a person may support PPCC is through the purchase of its “homemade, handcrafted, baked-with-love” cookies. These traditional cookies are topped with fondant icing, individually wrapped in a clear cellophane envelope, with a “thoughtful message” on the back. They

are packaged in a box with white tissue paper and tied with a purple satin ribbon.

PPCC describes the cookies as “a fun, creative party favor, [and] a perfect unique gift for friends and loved ones...” They are, as PPCC put it, “The perfect way to say you care.” Beautifully wrapped “traditional” cookies. Mmmm. Sounds sweet—in more ways than one.



Oh, did we mention that the cookies come in several shapes? One may select cookies shaped like birth control pills, condoms, Planned Parenthood’s logo, and various sexual body parts. And the cookies are “a discreet way to show your support for reproductive and sexual health.” Did they say “discreet”?

This is a good example of how to take something sweet and innocent and turn it into something that only a pro-Planned Parenthood zealot could love. Planned Parenthood cookies—the perfect way to say, “I’m disgusting.”

### PETITIONS

LDI occasionally receives requests to publicize and endorse petition drives. While commonly used, we view the petition as one of the least effective ways to bring about change. The rare case when a petition could be worthwhile surely exists, but it is generally used as a way to gather contact information that will be used for fund-raising activities. Such information is often sold to other groups that may use it for any number of purposes.

LDI will not support or endorse a petition drive for any reason or cause unless organizers: 1) pledge to keep private the addresses and phone numbers of those who sign, which means they may not be sold, traded or otherwise released to any other party; and 2) pledge to not use gathered information for fund-raising purposes unless the signer grants explicit permission for it to be utilized in such a manner.

People who sign a petition do so in the hope that some specific good will come of it. They do not expect their personal information to be used in any other way. Using a person’s personal data in an unauthorized way is a violation of trust. After all, the information does not belong to us so we have no right to do *anything* with it other than that which was clearly made known in advance.

*The Caleb Report*, an official periodical of Life Decisions International (LDI), is published six times per year. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of every LDI Partner or members of its Board of Directors/ Advisors or staff. This publication may be copied so long as the appropriate citation(s) are included. It may be quoted so long as proper acknowledgement(s) are provided. Write: P.O. Box 439, Front Royal, VA 22630-0009 (USA). Phone: (540) 631-0380. All past editions of *The Caleb Report* are available on LDI’s website ([www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org)).

© 2010 Life Decisions International