

## Press Conference Notes, Pastor Bryan Longworth, October 12, 2006

### I. The Problem.

#### a. STD Epidemic

The nation is experiencing an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases that is steadily expanding. In the 1960s, the beginning of the "sexual revolution,"

- STDs - syphilis and gonorrhea.
- Today, there are more than 20 widespread STDs, infecting an average of more than 15 million individuals each year.<sup>1</sup> Two-thirds of all STDs occur in people who are 25 years of age or younger.<sup>2</sup> Each year, 3 million teens contract an STD; overall, one-fourth of sexually active teens have been afflicted.<sup>3</sup>
- There is no cure for sexually transmitted viral diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and herpes, which take their toll on people throughout life.
- Other common viral STDs are the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)--the leading viral STD, with 5.5 million cases reported each year,<sup>4</sup> and the cause of nearly all cases of cervical cancer that kill approximately 4,800 women per year<sup>5</sup>
- Chlamydia trachomatis, which is associated with pelvic inflammatory disease that scars the fallopian tubes and is the fastest growing cause of infertility.

1. Shepherd Smith and Joe S. McIlhane, M.D., "Statement of Dissent on The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior," issued by the Medical Institute of Sexual Health, Austin, Texas, June 28, 2001, and American Social Health Association, Research Triangle Park, N.C., "STD Statistics," at <http://www.ashastd.org/stdfaqs/statistics.html>.

2. American Social Health Association, at <http://www.ashastd.org/stdfaqs/statistics.html>.

3. Alan Guttmacher Institute, Sex and America's Teenagers (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1994), pp. 19-20.

4. American Social Health Association, "STD Statistics."

5. American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts and Figures, 1998, at <http://www.cancer.org>.

Pasted from <<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/BG1533.cfm>>

- The Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common causes of sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the world. Experts estimate that as many as 24 million Americans are infected with HPV, and the frequency of infection and disease appears to be increasing. More than 60 types of HPV have been identified by scientists. Pasted from <<http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/std/std.asp>>
- STDs affect men and women of all backgrounds and economic levels. However, STDs disproportionately affect women, infants, young people, and minorities. STDs are most prevalent among teens and young adults with nearly two-thirds of all STDs occurring in people under age 25. Some contributing factors in the rise of STDs include the facts that young people have become sexually active earlier, divorce is more common, and sexually active people are more likely to have multiple sex partners. Pasted from <<http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/std/std.asp>>
- **St. Lucie County has the highest rate of HIV in Florida. 1 in 35 African Americans have HIV in St. Lucie County.**

b. **I commend the Executive Round Table for addressing the HIV epidemic in St. Lucie County.**

c. **However, Graphic, Explicit, Risky Sex Education is not the answer.**

### II. Quotes from Curriculum

**Conventional "safe sex" programs (sometimes erroneously called "abstinence plus" programs)**

**place little or no emphasis on encouraging young people to abstain from early sexual activity.**

Instead, such programs strongly promote condom use and implicitly condone sexual activity among teens. Nearly all such programs contain material and messages that would be alarming and offensive to the overwhelming majority of parents.

Pasted from <<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/BG1533.cfm>>

"Teenagers can obtain birth control pills from family planning clinics and doctors without permission from a parent." *Reducing the Risk*, p. 137.

Your child may actually be taken on a field trip to buy condoms! *Get Real About AIDS*, p. 130.

"Go to the store together. Buy lots of brands and colors. Plan a special day to experiment. Just talking about how you'll use all those condoms can be a turn on."

*Be Proud! Be Responsible!*

Pasted from <<http://www.SexEdFacts.com>>

### III. Florida Law

#### **1003.46 Health education; instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome.--**

(2) Throughout instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, or health education, when such instruction and course material contains instruction in human sexuality, a school shall:

(a) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.

(b) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.

(c) Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

(d) Provide instruction and material that is appropriate for the grade and age of the student.

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#### **1003.42 Required instruction.--**

(n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

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### IV. High Failure Rate of Contraception

#### **Pregnancy**

According to the regional Planned Parenthood website, "of 100 women whose partners use condoms, about 15 will become pregnant during the first year of typical use."

Pasted from: <http://66.151.111.132/pp2/gmpbtc/files/portal/medicalinfo/birthcontrol/pub-condom.xml>.

#### **Chlamydia, Syphilis, HPV, Herpies**

In a study done by the National Institutes for Sexual Health on condom effectiveness, Chlamydia (the number one bacterial STD) and Syphilis were found to be prevented 50% of the time with consistent and correct condom use, in Human Papilloma Disease (the leading viral STD which can cause cervical cancer) condoms were found to provide little or no protection.

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/stds/condomreport.pdf>. One in five Americans age 12 and older are infected with the incurable *genital herpes*. At the 2002 National STD Prevention Conference the risk reduction with condoms use, in the case of herpes was stated to be approximately 40%.

Pasted from <<http://tc.yourhub.com/PortStLucie/Stories/Education/General-Education/Story~>>

## **HPV & HIV**

Significantly, research shows that condom use offers relatively little protection (from "zero" to "some") for herpes and no protection from the deadly HPV. A review of the scientific literature reveals that, on average, condoms failed to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus--which causes the immune deficiency syndrome known as AIDS--between 15 percent and 31 percent of the time.<sup>6</sup> It should not be surprising, therefore, that while condom use has increased over the past 25 years, the spread of STDs has likewise continued to rise.<sup>7</sup>

6. Dr. Susan Weller, "A Meta-Analysis of Condom Effectiveness in Reducing Sexually Transmitted HIV," *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol. 36, No. 12 (1993). See also National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, "Summary," *Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention*, July 20, 2001, at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/stds/condomreport.pdf>.

7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Tracking the Hidden Epidemics 2000: Trends in STDs in the United States, 2000*, at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/news/RevBrochure1pdfdoc.htm>.

Pasted from <<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/BG1533.cfm>>

Planned Parenthood's site claims that having sex without a condom is like playing Russian roulette. The odds of getting shot playing Russian roulette are 16.333%. From these statistics, one can readily see that having sex with condoms is at best slightly better than playing Russian roulette! In addition, not even contraception advocates claim that promiscuous sex with condoms is safe: They now call it "safer sex."

## **V. Abstinence Success Stories**

### **a. Abstinence doesn't work myth.**

### **b. Abstinence Policy vs. Abstinence Curriculum**

#### **▪ 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--**

(i) One-half credit in life management skills to include consumer education, positive emotional development, marriage and relationship skill-based education, nutrition, parenting skills, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and instruction on breast cancer detection and breast self-examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug education, and the hazards of smoking.

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#### **▪ How Safe is Safe Sex, by Sue Chess.**

Our state has had an "abstinence-only" policy but that is a very different thing from Abstinence Curriculum! On one occasion a teacher in our area said to me, "My school's definition of abstinence education is to abstain from mentioning sex." Another teacher described the abstinence message as a "side-bar" in the Life Skills class. The reality of our classrooms is that each school has general guidelines but there is no Authentic Abstinence Curriculum. Yes, there needs to be a change but a change from our abstinence policy is not what is needed. A change to *authentic* abstinence curriculum beginning in 6th grade throughout high school is.

Pasted from <<http://tc.yourhub.com/PortStLucie/Stories/Education/General-Education/Story~133369.aspx>>

### **c. What Our County Has Been Doing**

- St. Lucie County Health Dept. has been passing out condoms to teens without their parent's permission.
- Ft. Pierce clinic giving teenage girls Depo Provera shots without their parent's permission.

#### d. Abstinence Success

- **Despite claims to the contrary, there are 10 scientific evaluations showing that real abstinence programs can be highly effective in reducing early sexual activity.** Moreover, real abstinence education is a fairly young field; thus, the number of evaluations of abstinence programs at present is somewhat limited. In the near future, many additional evaluations that demonstrate the effectiveness of abstinence education will become available.  
Pasted from <<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/BG1533.cfm>>

- **CDC Report**

Recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the rates of teen sexual activity have dropped by nearly 14 percent between 1991 and 2003<sup>8</sup>, and that 53 percent of the decline in teen pregnancy is a result of increased abstinence<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Santelli, J.S. et al, "Can Changes in Sexual Behaviors Among High School Students Explain the Decline in Teen Pregnancy Rates in the 1990s?" Society of Adolescent Medicine, 2004; 35:80-90.  
Pasted from <[http://www.choosingthebest.org/why\\_abstinence/index.html](http://www.choosingthebest.org/why_abstinence/index.html)>

- **Choosing the Best Results**

- **2005 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Longitudinal/Behavior Outcome Study**

An independent evaluation of *Choosing the Best WAY, PATH, and LIFE* was conducted by Dr. Stan Weed. The study, funded by a Federal SPRANS grant, began in 2002 and concluded in 2004. Using a quasi-experimental design, 7th, 8th and 9th grade students in a south metro Atlanta high school and its feeder middle school received either *Choosing the Best* (CTB) or the health textbook abstinence education curriculum that complies with state guidelines. . . After one year, results among those students receiving CTB (treatment group) vs. those receiving the health textbook (comparison group) indicated a:

- Statistically significant **decrease in the initiation of teen sex of 47%**;
- Statistically significant improvements in five of the six intervening attitudinal variables associated with delaying sexual intercourse.

Pasted from <[http://www.choosingthebest.org/research\\_results/index.html](http://www.choosingthebest.org/research_results/index.html)>

- **Reductions in Teen Pregnancies**

Choosing the Best is abstinence based program approved by the Florida Dept. of Health. This curriculum has been used by Project Elevate2Wait in St. Lucie and Martin Counties for the past year. Elevate2Wait's program has grown from one school last year to six schools this year. For more information about Elevate2Wait, contact Sue Chess at 772-871-2211.

- Since the program is new here, we don't have results yet, but other communities that have adopted this program have seen positive results. **Mitchell County, GA has seen a reduction in teen pregnancies from 49 per year to 19 in their first year** ([http://www.choosingthebest.com/success\\_stories/index.html](http://www.choosingthebest.com/success_stories/index.html)).

- **Tucson, AZ saw a 9% drop in teen pregnancy and went from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in the state** ([http://www.choosingthebest.com/success\\_stories/teen\\_abstinence\\_6.html](http://www.choosingthebest.com/success_stories/teen_abstinence_6.html)). **This was the first drop in the teen pregnancy rate on record.**

- **Waco, Tx, which ranked number 1 in their state for the combined risk factors of out of wedlock pregnancy and STDs. Since starting the Choosing the Best Curriculum, they have seen a 5% drop in out-of-wedlock teen pregnancy rates** ([http://www.choosingthebest.com/success\\_stories/teen\\_abstinence\\_3.html](http://www.choosingthebest.com/success_stories/teen_abstinence_3.html)).

- **2001 Muscogee County, Georgia—Follow-Up Study**

This analysis of *Choosing the Best's* effectiveness in reducing teen pregnancies in middle schools compared data from Muscogee County with that of other large school districts in Georgia that had not used *Choosing the Best*. All eighth-grade students in the County—1,600 to 1,800 students per year—had participated in the program since 1996. Research results from 1997 to 1999 conclude:

- **Muscogee County experienced a 38% reduction in teen pregnancies in middle school students over this period.**
- **Other large school districts in Georgia not using *Choosing the Best* experienced an average of 6% reduction in teen pregnancies in middle school students during the same period.**

Pasted from <[http://www.choosingthebest.org/research\\_results/index.html](http://www.choosingthebest.org/research_results/index.html)>

- **Teen pregnancy rates decline 41% after state adopts policy mandating abstinence education in public schools**
  - **Georgia is now below the national average and boasts the lowest rate in the Southeast**, according to a survey of states conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in 2000. “This is a huge victory in the fight against teen pregnancy in Georgia, considering that in the not too distant past the state was known for having **one of the nation’s highest teen pregnancy rates**,” says Bruce Cook, president of Choosing the Best.
  - **Choosing the Best abstinence education programs are being used in approximately two-thirds of Georgia school districts.**
  - The latest data also suggests this trend is continuing; from 2002-2003, there was a five percent decline in teen pregnancy in Georgia--double the national rate of decline for the same time period.
  - Prior to 1994, contraceptive education was the main prevention focus in Georgia. However, in 1994 the Georgia Department of Education established a policy mandating abstinence education in public school systems, a direction that has been supported by both Democratic and Republican administrations. Parental involvement through sex education review committees chaired by involved parents was also established to supervise the selection and application of sex education programs in each school district. **Teen pregnancy rates began declining in 1995 and have continued every year since.**
  - The decline in teen pregnancy and corresponding teen births has curbed spending of taxpayer money for related support services. Based on an estimated \$10,000 per teen mom, **Georgians experienced a cost savings of over \$100 million.**
- Pasted from <[http://www.choosingthebest.org/press\\_room/press\\_release\\_5.html](http://www.choosingthebest.org/press_room/press_release_5.html)>

#### i. Personal Success Story

### VI. What do Teens and Parents Want

- According to a poll released . . . by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Sixty-three percent of teens surveyed who have had sexual intercourse wish they had waited longer. More than one-half of teen boys (55 percent) and the overwhelming majority of teen girls surveyed (72 percent) said they wish they had waited longer to have sex.
  - When asked who influenced their decisions about sex the most, more teens cited their parents than any other influence (37 percent). In comparison, 30 percent of teens said that friends influenced their sexual decision-making the most. An equal percentage (11 percent) of teens identified the media and their religious communities as the most influential.
- Pasted from <[http://www.icrsurvey.com/Study.aspx?f=NatCam\\_Teens\\_Regret.html](http://www.icrsurvey.com/Study.aspx?f=NatCam_Teens_Regret.html)>
- According to a Zogby poll, more than 90 percent of them say that society should teach kids to abstain from sex until they have, at least, finished high school. Parents want a stronger message: Almost nine in 10 want schools to teach youth to abstain from sex until they're married or in an adult relationship that is close to marriage.

that is close to marriage.

Pasted from <<http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/rector200504290806.asp>>

- In one school, Project Elevate2Wait has over 95% participation.
- In St. Lucie County, a study is currently being conducted to determine the wishes of St. Lucie County parents. While I believe it is important to know where the parents stand on this issue and I encourage everyone who receives the call to participate, I was saddened to hear from one individual who received a call who informed me that the pollsters didn't ask any questions about what type of Sex Ed training should be done. That folks is the key issue here! There is a big difference between authentic abstinence based curriculum and graphic, explicit, risky Sex Ed.
- Parents Have a Right to Know!
- [www.SexEdFacts.com](http://www.SexEdFacts.com).