

FEATURE STORY: HOW ONE WORD REVEALS JESUS' HEART FOR THE PREBORN

"And this will be a sign for you by which you will recognize Him: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."



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βρέφος (bref'-os)

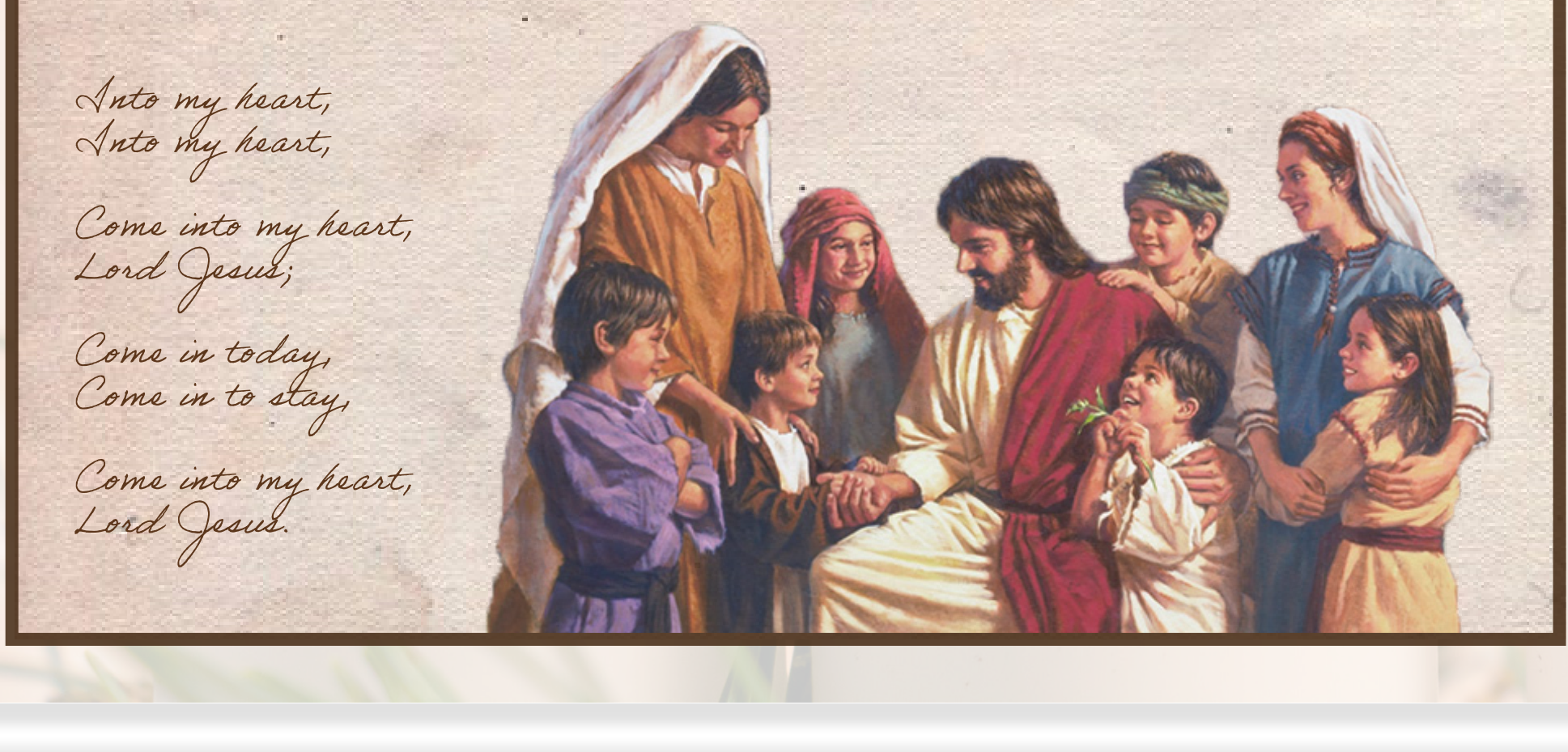
HOW ONE WORD REVEALS JESUS' HEART FOR THE PREBORN.

STRONGS NT 1025: βρέφος
βρέφος, βρέφους, τό;
a. an unborn child, embryo, fetus:
Luke 1:41, 45; (Homer, Iliad 23, 266; Plutarch, rep. Stoic. 41 τό βρέφος ἐν τῇ γαστρῇ).
b. a new-born child, an infant, a babe (so from Pindar down): Luke 2:12, 16; Luke 18:8; Acts 2:19; 1 Peter 2:2; ἄλλό βρέφος from infancy, 2 Timothy 3:6 (so ἐκ βρέφους, Anth. Pal. 9, 567).

In a passage I hope you've all read as we embrace this Christmas season, Luke 2:12, Luke uses the Greek word *brefhos* when referring to the **baby** that was to be found wrapped in a swaddling cloth. He uses the same word later, in verse 16, when telling of what the shepherds found upon arriving, with haste, to the stable – Mary and Joseph, and the **baby** as He lay in the manger. This sweet picture is made all the sweeter when we move back in Jesus' life to when He was yet in the womb, the oh-so-hotly-debated location in our culture, the place of what is meant to be unmatched safety. In Luke 1:41, Dr. Luke tells us that the **baby** leaped in her womb when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting. The same Greek word is used in both passages, **Brefhos: baby, infant, fetus, unborn child**. When it comes to the personhood of the being in question, Luke makes no distinction. God makes no distinction. Both the newborn and preborn babies are *brefhos*, neither deserving more or less than the other.

In Jesus' ministry, we see again God making no distinction between the stages of life and subsequent worthiness of love, protection, and nearness to the Creator. In Matthew 19:13, we see the moment in Jesus' ministry when parents began to bring their children to Him. Of course, they are rebuked for this. Surely, they are not worthy, and the Son of God does not have the time for this. But Jesus shows us the opposite. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them." Come to Jesus. Nurses, directors, administrative staff, volunteers, and those those working in pregnancy centers daily know how necessary it is to come to Jesus. As those individuals faithfully show up to the center each day with Jesus in their hearts and the Holy Spirit guiding their every step, they allow a mother to bring her child, her *brefhos*, to Jesus. The love shown to this woman is Jesus' love. The truth shown to her struggling family is the everlasting truth of Jesus Christ.

By committing our ways to God's ways, we become His hands and His feet; therefore, in whatever workplace we are in, we make that place His dwelling place. A place where Jesus can be found when he says to those wandering, "Come to me."



MEET OUR MEMBERS

KELA - MALAMA PREGNANCY CENTER OF MAUI | WAILUKU, HI

"The island of Maui has experienced devastating loss of life, homes, and businesses after unprecedented wildfires, paired with hurricane-force winds, devoured several major areas around Maui this past August. Our community is suffering through shock and grief. We canceled our annual fundraising gala and trusted the Lord for provision. The team at New Life Pregnancy Center in Decatur, IL saw these events unfold on their local news and reached out to provide an extremely generous donation, they even went further and fundraised for us at their annual gala! The Lord's provision through their generosity reminded us that God is still on the throne amidst great uncertainty; He moves in miraculous ways to bring healing, hope, and restoration."



"The team at New Life Pregnancy Center in Decatur, Illinois, fundraised for us at their annual gala!"

The Malama Pregnancy Center of Maui is the only pregnancy resource center serving Maui County. In Hawaiian, *Malama* means to care, nurture, and preserve. We've had many unique opportunities to "malama" the lives of women and their unborn children during this difficult time by providing life-affirming pregnancy test services, ultrasounds, referrals, education, material assistance, and emotional support. We rest knowing the Lord will continue to malama our community and center."



www.pregnancycentermaui.com



MEET OUR SPONSORS

PATRIOT MOBILE

Patriot Mobile is a cellphone service provider that supports pregnancy center work by donating a portion of every dollar earned to likeminded organizations, including NIFLA. They offer nationwide 4G & 5G coverage on all networks, while supporting organizations like Susan G. Anthony League, Folds of Honor, Students for Life of America, and now, NIFLA! This year, they will give more than \$1.5 million to such causes. **Sign up using NIFLA's link to receive free activation and ensure your dollars reach pregnancy centers nationwide.**

PATRIOTMOBILE.COM/NIFLA



MEET OUR BOARD

TINA RAMIREZ - MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NIFLA

"I have been a lifelong supporter of pregnancy resource centers and am very grateful for the work NIFLA and their team do. I was honored to be able to join NIFLA's board this year to help them continue to make a difference in the lives of children and their families through pregnancy centers across the country. Sadly, too many women are hearing the message of abortion, and pregnancy centers are the greatest vehicle to counter those messages."

"Growing up, my mother was a nurse midwife, and at a very early age, she taught me the importance of life and helping those in need. I can still remember my mom waking up in the middle of the night because God was leading her to pray for someone considering an abortion. She may have never known the girl she was praying for, but I know her prayers and work made a difference and that every life was sacred to our Father in Heaven, who created each one. Intervening in prayer and in person is the life-giving work that pregnancy centers do – and NIFLA makes it possible for them to exist freely."

"I came to appreciate the sacredness of life and those who help women choose life in a whole new way."

"Protecting life has always been important, but when I had my daughter, I learned how great the need was for pregnancy centers in a way I hadn't experienced before. I previously worked for a member of Congress who wrote several key bills to defend life - from the Pain-Capable Bill to the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act. But when my husband left shortly after I became pregnant with my daughter, I experienced the challenges that so many young women face. And I came to appreciate the sacredness of life and those who help women choose life in a whole new way. While I have been very blessed with resources and support to be able to care for my child on my own, it is still hard at times to be a single parent, which is how I understand how difficult it can be for women with little support or resources. As someone who is very vocally pro-life, I was shocked at how many people suggested I have an abortion because of my difficult position. I know that women are constantly being attacked with messages to abort their children, as though their circumstances determine their child's value rather than the fact that every child is made in God's image and has inherent value regardless of their parents."



"Knowing how often women are encouraged to abort is heartbreaking, which is why I'm so grateful for the thousands of caregivers at pregnancy centers who are encouraging women to keep going and understand the precious gift of life they've been given. Life is always a blessing, and it's an honor and a privilege to encourage women to hear this message by defending pregnancy centers across the nation."

A gift that gives just a little more...

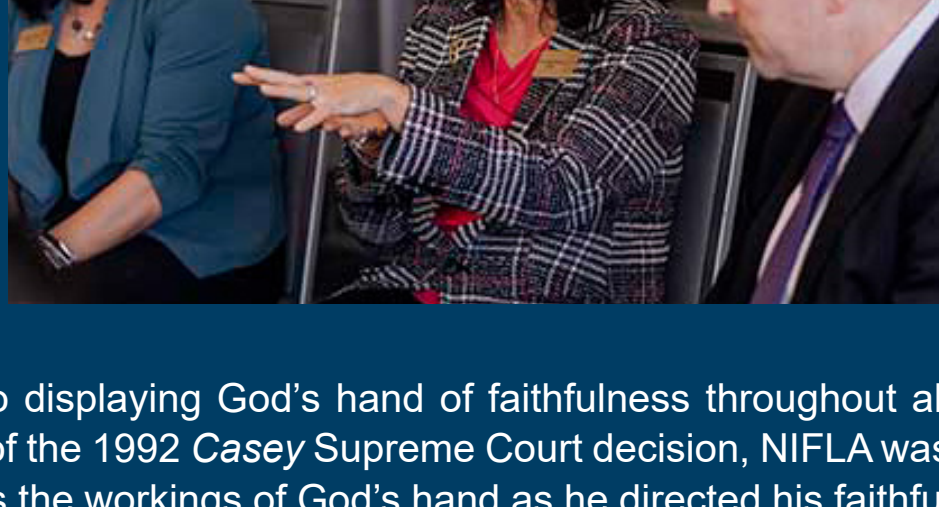
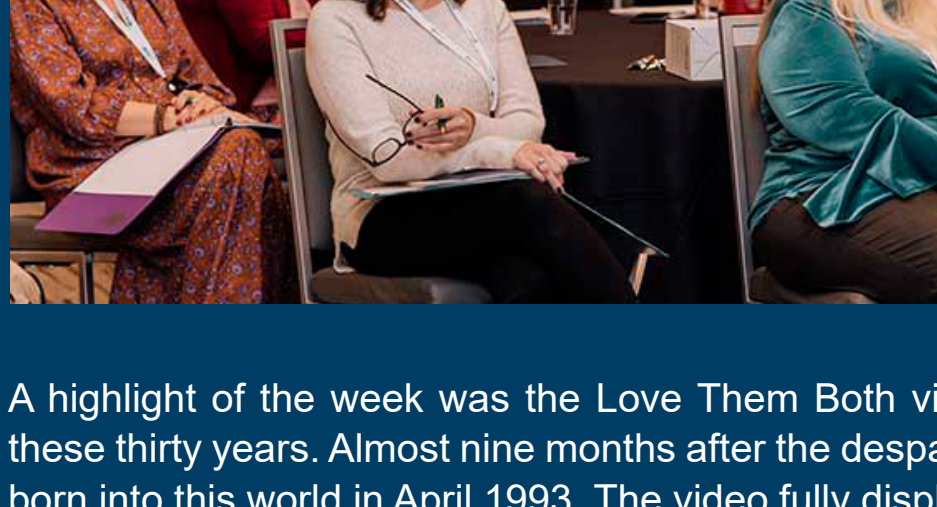
Give Seven Weeks Coffee to your loved ones this holiday season and 10% of all proceeds will support pregnancy centers and, in December, NIFLA!

2023 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

30th Year Celebration!



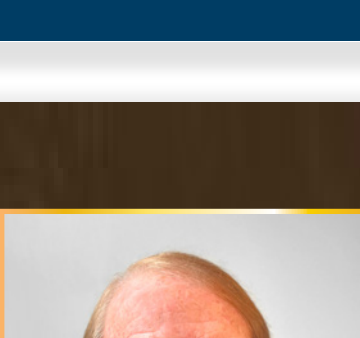
We were so thrilled to have so many join us in marking NIFLA's 30th anniversary at the National Leadership Summit this year. Attendees sought out others fulfilling the same roles in their center or community and connected all week - asking questions, sharing struggles, and finding answers. This comradery became vital as the Memorial for the Unborn Service began. The Great Comforter was invited into the service as Dawn Stout created an environment where the loss experienced in a pregnancy center could be shared. Awareness of so much pain, suffering, and loss of life weighs heavily on the individuals involved in it daily. We were so thankful to be able to create the opportunity to acknowledge that weight and bring it to Jesus, the One who carries us.



A highlight of the week was the Love Them Both video displaying God's hand of faithfulness throughout all these thirty years. Almost nine months after the despair of the 1992 Casey Supreme Court decision, NIFLA was born into this world in April 1993. The video fully displays the workings of God's hand as he directed his faithful servants to support, provide, and step out in faith, bringing NIFLA to where it is today. All glory and credit goes to Him, and we couldn't be more excited about the next thirty years!



"A TIME OF REFRESHMENT AND REFLECTION ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST."
-ELISHA SONOGRAPHER



PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHT

THOMAS GLESSNER, J.D.
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

Another year has gone by, and NIFLA continues to lead the nation's pregnancy center movement in the pursuit of an abortion-free America. The war against pro-life pregnancy centers has been brutal – over 100 have been vandalized, and of these, seven have been firebombed. Hostile state legislators endeavor to halt the life-affirming work of pro-life centers. The states of Illinois, Colorado, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, and others have either passed or attempted to pass laws severely restricting the work of pregnancy centers.

NIFLA's motto since our beginning thirty years ago is simple this: *NIFLA protects and defends pregnancy centers so that mothers may always choose life.*

NIFLA achieved a significant legal victory over the State of Illinois in 2023, obtaining an injunction against its enforcement of a law that mandates abortion referrals from every physician, whether they be pro-life or not. We are on the verge of another huge victory against Illinois' law, and we have filed suits against the states of New York, New Jersey, and Iowa for similar attempts to close pro-life pregnancy centers. We expect significant victories in these cases in the coming year.

Despite the apparent setbacks to the pro-life movement in the political arena, significant victories are being achieved in the courts to *protect and defend pregnancy centers so that mothers may always choose life.*

Will you help us in this mission to protect the work of pregnancy centers and achieve an abortion-free America? Because of YOU, NIFLA continues its successful work to save lives and transform America into a nation where a culture of life exists, and abortions are a thing of the past.

From all of us at NIFLA, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a New Year full of the unspeakable joy and transcending peace of Jesus Christ.

ACCOMPLISHED IN ONLY ONE YEAR

BY GOD'S GRACE AND YOUR GENEROSITY!

199
Board Members were Trained in Essentials of PMC Leadership

783
Medical Professionals Trained to Perform Limited OB Ultrasound

77
Executive Directors Received Training in Clinic Management

16
Resource Centers Converted to Medical Clinics Able to Offer Ultrasound

7
Pieces of Legislative Action and Defense NIFLA is Involved in

BECOME A LIFE DEFENDER!

LIFE DEFENDERS

Monthly Giving Society

Pregnancy centers now outnumber abortion clinics thanks, in part, to the **LIFE DEFENDERS Monthly Giving Society!** As a result of their support of life-affirming training for pregnancy centers nationwide, new centers are able to open their doors with highly qualified nurses, staff, and support systems right from the start. **Will you become our newest defender and continue this life-saving fight?**

Click, call, or email to join today!

NIFLA.ORG/DONATE-NOW | ADMIN@NIFLA.ORG | 540-372-3930