

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
PRESENTS



ENDING ABORTION

THE ONLINE TRAINING SERIES

TRANSCRIPT 10: INFLUENCING THE CULTURE



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40 DAYS FOR LIFE

10908 Courthouse Road

Suite 102229

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Web: www.40daysforlife.com

E-mail: info@40daysforlife.com

To access all content from other sessions of the Ending Abortion online training series, visit: www.endingabortion.com

David: Hello! This is David Bereit, National Director of 40 Days for Life. I also am serving today as the moderator of this Ending Abortion Webcast Mega Event. It is an absolute honor and privilege to be joining you on this final session of a 10 hour marathon webcast event.

What a whirlwind of a day we have had. It has been absolutely amazing. A lot of people ahead of time were like, “You’re kidding? You’re going to be on the phone for 10 straight hours piping out this webcast? That’s insane! How are you going to be able to do it?”

I will tell you, I am more fired up. I am more energized now than I was when we got started at 10:00 this morning. I have heard so many amazing speakers. We have had so many great topics covered.

I know we have had our co-hosts for this entire day have been Shawn Carney on our 40 Days for Life team and Kristan Hawkins from Students for Life of America. They have been absolute troopers in going through this entire day.

Kristan, let me ask you first, can you believe it? Here we are, the final session of the day. Can you believe we finally made it? What has been the most amazing to you about how this has all come together?

Kristan: I just – this has been such an amazing day. I am so excited to be a part of this event! I know everyone listening in, I even know the presenters were all blessed being a part of it.

I have gotten so many ideas. I’m sitting here writing down notes as everyone’s speaking. It’s a tremendous event. It’s great to see the unity and how many resources that are out there today that if you’re a pro-lifer and you want to take action, and hopefully this conference has compelled you to take action, you know exactly what you need to do and where you need to go for those resources.

David: That’s right. Shawn Carney, you’re still in Texas getting ready to move up here to Virginia, just outside of D.C. to work full time with 40 Days for Life here. You still are in Texas and a good Texas friend of mine once said, “If that don’t light your fire then your wood is wet.” We’ve had an amazing day of activity here. What in your mind has been the most amazing about seeing all of this come to fruition?

Shawn: The wood has definitely not been wet today. The fire is lit. Like you, I’m energized. I pictured myself just kind of collapsing after the last call, but that’s not the case at all. Every panel we have had all day

today since 9:00 a.m. Central Time has just built upon itself. We have gone into every single corner of the pro-life movement.

A lot of new people are on the webcast. Some people have stuck with us throughout the day. I know tons more will listen to the recordings. But like Kristan said, it's the unity and it's mobilizing and motivating all of these people who are looking for something to do in their communities. I'm very excited about the next panel. I think it's going to be great. I guess we could keep going but we're out of panelists.

David:

That's right. There's no pressure on these final panelists. Literally the bar has been set so high through all of these previous sessions.

If you have not listened to the nine previous sessions, I don't care what part of the pro-life movement you're involved in or feel called to, you've got to go through it all. There has been so much wisdom. There has been all of these gold nuggets and great ideas and information.

I know I am going to be going back. I've heard every word that has been said today. I'm going to be going back and listening to all the recordings and take notes and really glean everything I can from all of this.

Literally, we've had the who's who of the pro-life movement, 35 of the top experts and leaders sharing, 30 different organizations uniting together all around one simple focus – ending abortion.

Specifically educating, equipping and empowering you to save lives where you live. Not sitting back and waiting for somebody else to do the job, whether it's a politician, judge or some lobbying group. It's not sitting back. It's empowering you and me that we can take our faith, put it in action, speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

This event has been amazing. Literally the first promotion for this event went out just a few days ago, and here we are today with over 10,000 people a part of this event. It's kind of like walking into a big arena where there's a big wrestling match going on and there's thousands of people in there except instead of coming out to watch each other beat each other up, they're coming to learn about how we can drive abortion out of America for once and for all.

That is what we're a part of today on this Ending Abortion Event. With two co-hosts, Shawn and Kristan, Shawn how about I ask you to lead us

in an opening prayer. In a minute Kristan, I'm going to ask you to emphasize why this topic of Influencing the Culture is so critically important as we dive into this energetic last session of this Ending Abortion Webcast. Shawn, would you lead us in an opening prayer?

Shawn: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. Help us use every single day to work to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray for our nation. We pray for our culture which is starving for truth, starving for mercy and starving for your son.

We are a confused people in America today and throughout the world. Guide us. Bring us back to protect the most innocent among us, the most vulnerable among us.

As lives are saved, as women are healed from their abortions, as workers have conversions and leave the abortion industry, help us always give glory to you, because you are the author of life. It is you who we serve in this movement. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

David: Amen. We have gone through an awful lot of information today from The Case for Life first thing this morning, to The Abortion Crisis, Planned Parenthood's Abortion Empire, The Power of Prayer, Pregnancy Care Centers, Saving Lives Outside Abortion Facilities, Hope and Healing for Post-Abortive Women and Men, Legislative and Political Efforts. We just finished up the panel on Pro-Life Youth Advocacy.

Ultimately when we think about ending abortion, yes, we've got to pass good laws. Yes, we have to intervene and help those who are at risk of having abortion. Yes, we need to bring healing. But ultimately, we need to change hearts and change minds. We have to influence the culture around us.

It's not just big national leaders. It's not just politicians. It's not just media people. Every one of us has an opportunity to positively influence the culture around us. This is critical to bringing an end to abortion and saving lives right where you live. That's why we've seen so many groups unite together across the pro-life movement for this event, so that you can be empowered to influence people around you.

We've been able to record every session today as an audio recording that then you'll be able to go back to and listen to many times over.

You can download the recordings to your computer. You can put it on your mp3 player while you're exercising. You can burn it to CDs, share it with your friends.

All of this we're giving it freely to you. Get it out there, use it yourself, whatever you can get from this information, put it to work for you.

The other thing I'm going to ask related to the recordings. We have had the most unbelievable day of fundamental pro-life 101 training on every aspect of this movement from the top leaders in this movement.

All of these leaders have come on free of charge. All of them have taken time out of their Saturday to come on. Some have been calling in from airports and out on the road where they're actually doing their pro-life work to give this freely to you.

My request is that you in turn, to whom much is given much is expected, you give this freely to others. If you benefit from any of this, please be sure to share this information by telling all your friends and family members, other pro-lifers to go to www.endingabortion.com where they will have access from now on to all of these recordings absolutely free of charge. Make sure that every pro-life American has the opportunity just like you and I to benefit from all of this great information.

With that, I had Shawn do the opening prayer. Kristan, in just a second I'm going to ask you to talk about why it's vital to influence our culture. Then you'll be hearing from our presenters.

I'm going to tell you that one of our presenters unfortunately was not able to make it on to the call. We're going to cut him a little slack because of his reasoning. That is Eduardo Verastegui. Eduardo is actually on location in Mexico filing a film. I guess we'll cut him a little slack because he's making another wonderful masterpiece that can help to change many lives all around the world. We'll hear a little more about that from one of his friends and associates here in just a moment.

But the three presenters we have on, if you want to have some high energy to wrap up an Ending Abortion Mega Webcast Conference, these are the three people to have on. We've got the opportunity to hear from Jason Jones. Jason is with Bella Hero Project. He'll also talk a little bit about his work on Whole Life Ministry.

Then we're going to hear from Jill Stanek. Jill is a nurse who had a profound experience that propelled her into the pro-life movement. Today she uses the platform of being a prolific pro-life blogger. She uses technology to literally influence thousands upon thousands of people.

Then Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King and daughter of slain civil rights activist A.D. King is going to be talking about how we can use the aspect of influencing the culture to mobilize the African-American and minority communities. Great information. Great presenters.

So Kristan, how about share with us just briefly why is it that we influence the culture?

Kristan: Well David, thanks for throwing me that softball. Influencing the culture. That's fundamental what we're trying to do in the pro-life movement. We have to change the culture before we can change the laws. Laws and culture go back and forth between each other. In 1973 when *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton* were first handed down, instantly abortion became legal.

What's interesting today on the college campuses, a lot of people think abortion is okay because it is legal. Now we're seeing this turning of the tide of all these pro-life movies, secular movies that have pro-life movies. New technology being used by pro-lifers and Christians. Outreach into specific communities for pro-life. You're slowly starting to see this culture shift.

I think there's great proof at this. If you look at any of the recent polls, the Gallop Poll for the first time this year since it started polling on pro-life, America is now a pro-life nation. Our culture is shifting. We're starting to understand the sanctity of human life. We've got to keep propelling that forward.

I think this is a great session to end our Mega Event today on. This is fundamental what we're doing. We've got to change the culture before we can change the laws. We're well on our way to doing that.

David: Absolutely. The point of this session is not to say the three speakers are the only way you can positively influence the culture. It's for you to learn from them, to be inspired by them that each of us has a sphere of influence.

Each of us has friends. Each of us has ways, gifts and talents that God has given us through which we can positively influence the culture. I hope you will be inspired to look inside yourself and say, “What can I do to make a tremendous difference?”

Certainly the topic of influencing the culture is much broader than we can cover in a one hour panel here. So we will be covering the basics, the fundamentals, kind of the pro-life 101 here on this topic. But each of the speakers will share with you how you can learn more about how you can positively influence the culture. Then we’ll wrap up with a few send-off points.

The other thing is we’ve gotten a gazillion questions that came in. Literally, we were quite surprised to see the thousands upon thousands that registered for this event in a few short days. As a result a lot of those people submitted questions on every single one of the panel topics.

We had more questions on Influencing the Culture than we’ll be able to answer during the live session. So what we did is we went through and picked out the most frequently asked themes and made sure the questions that are being asked of our presenters and the closing comments will help to address those.

With that, let’s go ahead and dive into our very first presenter. This is one of the first guys I met on the national scene on the pro-life movement. I was just like, “If this is what pro-life is all about, count me in.” He’s one of the most fun people, one of the most tireless energetic people. Every time I talk to him he’s living in a different place, doing different things, all over the map doing amazing stuff. That is Mr. Jason Jones.

Jason is probably most known in the pro-life movement by a lot of people as being one of the producers for the award-winning film *Bella* that starred Eduardo who is not able to be with us today. Jason is also the founder of H.E.R.O., which is the Human Rights Education and Relief Organization. That is also an organization focused on whole life, which Jason I hope you will go into in a minute. Then Jason is also the founder of The Bella Hero Project. Jason, how are you doing today?

Jason: I’m doing great David. Thanks for having me on.

David: We’re excited to have you here. You live right in the heart of the entertainment industry now. You live out in Los Angeles. You live

right near Hollywood. You're engaged in the film business in a lot of your work. Let's talk Hollywood for just a minute.

If we're going to influence the culture, Hollywood has a profound influence, not only here in the states, but I was in Italy about a month ago and I was amazed to see how much impact Hollywood has on the entire world. So when we look at Hollywood as it stands today, does it have a pro-abortion bias?

Jason: You know, I used to think Hollywood had a pro-abortion bias. In fact, about ten years ago I started doing research on abortion in film and popular music. You can look at a lot of films and say, yes it's true. Hollywood often seems to be the propaganda arm of the culture of death.

But when it comes to the topic of abortion I think what we found is that artists when they create, when they're writing a song, or writing a screenplay, they draw from their own personal experience. So I would say it's exactly the opposite, that now we see in Hollywood a real bias against abortion, a recognition that abortion's a devastating experience in the life of a woman.

If you look in just the past few years we've had *Bella*, *Juno*, *Waitress*, *Knocked-Up*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Legion*, and I wouldn't recommend these films necessarily for anyone or their children.

Legion is a film that just recently came out. It was a big Hollywood film. God orders the angels in heaven to destroy the world but St. Michael can't do it because he witnesses a young woman leave an abortion clinic to keep her baby and a young man who lives in her trailer park wants to raise that child even though it's not his. It's just shocking.

Or a film like *Waitress* that was written from her own experience. She was pro-abortion and pregnant out of wedlock by a man she didn't feel she loved. She didn't want to keep the baby, but she couldn't have an abortion. So she felt guilty about being a feminist who couldn't have an abortion. She felt guilty about carrying a baby that she didn't think she could love. She wrote this beautiful screenplay to try to work out these feelings. It's the celebration of motherhood and life.

So it's exciting to see, and as Kristan said, I think as Hollywood is beginning to shift we're beginning to see the opinion of the United

States shift, and around the world. Right now *Bella* is in theaters all across Italy.

David: Jason, you worked very closely with Eduardo on *Bella*. I was just amazed at the tireless energy that you guys had going around the country and getting people excited about this, and then ultimately the impact that movie has had.

Can you just use that as a case study to talk about how just that one film, the kind of influence that has had on our culture from what you've seen?

Jason: David, I would say to folks that are listening, if they're listening even after 10 hours, we get the cream of the crop. We get the people that are so pro-life that after 10 hours they're still here. If you're listening, I know you brought your friends to the theater, or you sponsored a show time or a screening.

We had some people sponsor a market. One guy so loved the film he invited his entire town to the film and he was willing to pay for everyone's ticket. They were bussing public schools to the theater in Manhattan. Businesses were paying for the buses and the tickets. It was really the grassroots effort that made *Bella* a success.

What was the impact? Well, we won the Toronto Film Festival. We were number 1 with *New York Times* readers. We won the Heartland Award. We won all these awards. We were recognized at the White House and the Vatican.

But I would say that the biggest success for us was our goal was we would know of one woman who chose life because of *Bella*. Just from the theatrical release alone we had confirmed 86 women who were scheduled to have abortions saw *Bella* and chose life.

David: For every one of those I am sure there are many more.

Jason: Yeah. Then we would pray every day. We would pray, "Lord we just pray that young women who are thinking about abortion or are pregnant and don't know it but would think about abortion that you lead them to buy a *Bella* ticket."

Once we went to DVD we realized we'll continue to pray, but we can put it in the hands of women. That's when we came up with the *Bella* Hero Project where my nonprofit donates the *Bella* DVDs to pregnancy centers to give to abortion minded women who come to the clinics.

So that program as of last week we've confirmed 144 women who chose life.

David: That's on top of the ones from the theatrical release. Just the Bella Hero Project alone.

Jason: It is. And how has it impacted people? Bill O'Reilly gave us the Patriot, he does the Patriot and Pinhead. At the end of one of his shows when we were in theaters he gave us the Patriot Award. The same day on her show Rosie O'Donnell came out and said, "Everyone in America has got to go out and see *Bella*. I love this movie *Bella*." Rosie O'Donnell.

David: Wow.

Jason: Beethoven said, "What comes from the heart goes to the heart." Art has an ability to communicate our message. We have the easiest thing in the world to sell, which is the intrinsic dignity, beauty, and incomparable worth of the human person.

That's – we have the greatest mission on Earth. It shouldn't be that hard to convince people of that truth. Through art it's a very effective way to communicate human dignity.

David: Absolutely.

Jason: Hollywood with film you have music, light, color, and have all of these things working together to communicate. Paul Lowrick 10 years ago wrote an open letter to the conservative movement and said, "You know, we should just pack it in. We've lost. We've achieved all of these goals politically, but we've failed to engage the culture."

He's right. If we're not going to engage the culture we should pack it in. Winning Hollywood back, and back – because it was ours 40 years ago - winning Hollywood back is a necessary condition for winning the culture war.

David: Jason, I think it's important for everybody to understand when you use the example of the Bella Hero, the DVDs going into these pregnancy centers, or the example of somebody renting out a theater and showing it to lots of people.

It's not just the big movie star in Hollywood that can have an influence using art and entertainment to promote a culture of life. It's literally every person. It's putting on a DVD with some friends. It's giving the

DVD or encouraging somebody to watch it. It's sharing good messages with other people. So everybody can make a difference.

The other thing, and this is something I wasn't originally planning to ask you, but since Eduardo is not here I guess that means we can talk about him behind his back.

Jason: That's right.

David: Eduardo, here he is, "the big movie star" and yet I've seen him working in the pro-life movement very much behind the scenes, not looking for any attention, any glamor whatsoever. He's doing the ordinary things that we're encouraging everybody else on this call, this webcast, to do as well.

Can you maybe just share a little bit about what you've seen in terms of Eduardo out on the streets and his involvement in the pro-life movement beyond what we see on the screen?

Jason: Oh, yeah. Eduardo is my hero. I'll give you 40 Days for Life. I think you know this. I was in the first 40 Days for Life with you. I remember meeting you. I'm like, "This is the guy." I think I told you when I first met you, "You're the guy. You're the guy. You need to do what you do around the world." I was so excited.

Then I went to the second 40 Days for Life in Green Bay. I think this is the third or fourth 40 Days for Life this year. I called Eduardo. We had two saves in Green Bay. I was feeling quite happy with myself. Eduardo calls me and he's like, "Frater, Frater. Oh Frater, you're not going to believe it. 12 women Frater, were in front of an abortion clinic in L.A. 12 women chose life today."

In fact, Eduardo every Saturday morning has been consistently standing in front of an abortion clinic for years now. That abortion clinic has stopped performing abortions on weekends as of two months ago.

David: Wow.

Jason: It's hard for me to get Eduardo often to focus on some movie stuff. If a pro-life opportunity is ever presented, he always takes it. You never have to ask twice. If there's a conflict between something that has to do with film or promoting human dignity directly in the pro-life movement he'll always lean towards doing the pro-life thing. He always says yes if he can.

For example, I asked him to come with me to Sudan to Darfur in the middle of the war last March when everyone left the country. I said, “Eduardo, I’m going to go in there. Will you come with me?” He said, “Yes.” This year for St. Valentine’s Day I said, “Eduardo,” and he doesn’t like us talking about this. But you’re right, no one who’s listening, don’t tell him.

I said on St. Valentine’s Day. “Frater, the first Valentine’s Day card was sent from a priest from a cell who was being executed because he was marrying military officers against the emperor’s orders.” So the first Valentine’s Day he signed this letter, it was basically a homily on marriage. He signed it ‘Your Valentine.’ That was the first Valentine. That was from death row.

I said, “We need to go visit death row inmates and share with them God’s love for them on St. Valentine’s Day. Let’s bring you to meet the women on death row and speak in prisons. He said, “Okay.” He did it.

This year on his birthday, he celebrated his birthday this year in Haiti at an orphanage. Every year on his birthday he goes somewhere and he does something whether it’s building homes for the poor in Mexico or going to an orphanage in Haiti.

For me David, 10 years ago as a pro-life activist in Hawaii, I said a prayer. I was an atheist for my first 15 years in the pro-life movement. I was an atheist 10 years ago. But I said a prayer just out of desperation because I felt my work wasn’t going anywhere. I said, “God, if you exist, I can’t end abortion on my own.”

When I was 18 I made a 40 year plan to end abortion, as silly as that may sound. 8 or 10 years into it I just felt helpless. I said the prayer, “God if you exist, I can’t end abortion. I need rich people, famous people and powerful people. Rise them up.”

When I look at Eduardo and the courage and the grace that he has, I realize that he’s the answer to a lot of our prayers. That God would raise somebody up in Hollywood that could communicate to people in a way that we couldn’t and would have a stage that we don’t have. That’s Eduardo. He’s fearless.

I’ve seen him turn down tens of millions of dollars in job offers since I’ve known him because the films, they’re not evil. People know not to offer him bad films. But he’ll always say, “There’s a little hair in the soup. People are drinking so much soup that seems so good with just a

little hair that they have hairballs in their throat. I don't want to contribute to that.”

David: Wow. I think it is profound, and I hope everybody listening really understands the profound importance of what you've just communicated Jason. Because Eduardo, a big movie star, is humbling himself to do the fundamental things to change the culture by going out to an abortion facility.

I remember during the 40 Days for Life when the local 40 Days for Life leaders in L.A. contacted us and said, “Eduardo is out here!” All of the abortion facility staff, all of the women were coming out to get their picture taken with Eduardo.

His condition was, “I'm going to give you a prayer and give you some information. You have to promise you'll go through that before I come back next Saturday. If you do, then I'll take my picture with you.”

I thought, here's a guy who is positively influencing the culture, yes on the silver screen which is something most of us probably will not do in our lifetime, but also every single week, every day doing what he can to change the culture.

Jason, let me ask you one final question before we move on to our next presenter. I know we've gone a little off track here. But art, culture, life, beauty. What can we do, each of us individually? How can we influence the culture through art and through entertainment from right where we live?

Jason: For most of us, we're never going to be able to be an actor, writer, director or invest in a film. So we have to be good consumers. We cannot give money. We wouldn't want to go and give money to Planned Parenthood, even if Planned Parenthood had a good service we wouldn't go there for that service because we wouldn't want to give them that money.

When companies produce films that attack the faith, attack the dignity of the human person, we have to be wise consumers and not give them our money regardless of how entertaining it is.

A film like *Avatar* is a tremendous attack on the dignity of the human person. It's a spectacle, it's beautiful. Sometimes it's hard to resist. But we have to know that when we give money, when we reward those types of films, we're promoting a culture of death. We're helping to promote a culture of death.

So be good consumers. The other thing is you know there are pro-life films out there, films that promote the dignity, support them. Not if they're garbage. We can't support every project that comes down the pipe. But if they're beautiful and worthy of support we need to support them.

The other thing is The Bella Hero Project, if you go to the website...can I do a little self-promotion?

David: Please do.

Jason: We have 280 pregnancy centers that have *Bella* DVDs. We want every pregnancy center in America to have them, a steady supply of them. You can go to www.bellahero.com to see how you can do that or you can go to www.movietomovement.com and we're actually doing a short right now.

There's a young director who won the Cannes Film Festival. He's extremely talented. He has a script. Here he is a young talented director, could do anything he wants in Hollywood. He comes to us with a script and says, "I want to do what you guys are doing. Help me."

So right now we are helping him produce this script in Movie to Movement. We are looking for investors, people who want to help support that. If you sent me an email at Jason@iamwholelife.com we can talk back and forth. If you're in a position to support films, to invest in films, take a look at it.

Often times I think as Christians, as pro-lifers we've had a welfare mentality. We want to demand that Hollywood give us content that we want. If we want that kind of content, we're going to have to be the ones to create it. We're going to be the ones that have to take that risk.

I do believe with Paul Lowrick that if we don't take back the culture, if we don't take back Hollywood we can't win. We might slow the advance, but winning Hollywood is a necessary condition for changing our culture. Not just here in the United States, but Hollywood is changing the culture around the world. Often it's not for the good.

So as Christians who have access for me, David, I was a pro-life activist who met the Three Amigos, Eduardo, Alejandro and Leo. They needed funding for *Bella* and I said, "I'm here to help any way I can." They needed help with grassroots. I didn't know anything about film. But I just said, "I'm here to help."

I called everybody I knew and said, “Let’s help.” The pro-life movement really came together. If it was not for the pro-life movement, *Bella* never would have had a theatrical release. Everyone we asked, everyone, helped. They did all they could. So we’re forever grateful.

So another project, I know there’s a company called Spirit Juice. They have a new thriller that’s supposed to come out around Halloween, but it’s very pro-life. I wish I knew the website, but if you Google Spirit Juice you could see it. There are a lot of other companies out there that have been inspired by Metanoia Films. They’re doing their own thing. So when their projects come, support them.

David: Alright. Jason, thanks for letting people know about the additional resource of the Bella Hero Project and how they can get DVDs for their local pregnancy centers. Any other website you would point people to where they can learn more about you and your work, and specifically about your I am Whole Life Project?

Jason: Yeah. I have a pledge. I got involved in the pro-life movement when I was 17. My high school girlfriend got pregnant. I dropped out of high school, joined the Army and was going to be a dad.

While I was away at basic training her father forced her to have an abortion. Didn’t know that abortion was legal. I found out from her crying. I promised her that I would end abortion for her. I know that is a naïve promise now, but I always whenever I’m tired, I don’t want to travel or do something, I remember my promise.

We have a pledge. It begins, I promise... If you go to www.Iamwholelife.com you can sign our pledge. This website has all sorts of resources. It has a \$5,000 scholarship for students. It’s a pretty expansive website. www.Iamwholelife.com.

For me I want as many people to sign the pledge as possible. We have people in communist China who have signed it. We have people in over 50 countries and all 50 states.

Whenever I feel tired and alone, or frustrated, I just go to that little map. I see all the people. I think that’s just a little small representation of everyone who wakes up every morning with the idea in their mind that in our lifetime, and that’s where I love the name of this conference, Ending Abortion. In our lifetime we need to end abortion.

David: Amen.

Jason: We need to when our generation leaves and we leave this planet, we have to make sure the human person is protected under law from the biological beginning to the natural death. That's our mission of the generation.

David: Amen. Jason, you are doing a lot to advance that mission. I appreciate it. Thanks for all you're doing to influence the culture in your battles there in Hollywood and all across the country. Thanks so much for being a part of this webcast.

Let me shift now to our next presenter is a hero to many people. That is Dr. Alveda King. Alveda King is the daughter of slain civil rights activist A. D. King. She is the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She's a pastoral associate for Priests for Life. She is a wonderful friend and a courageous woman.

Alveda, how are you today? Alveda, if you're muted you can hit *7 to unmute your line and you can join us again.

Alveda: Okay, please excuse me. I'm here. It takes a moment.

David: There you go. How are you Alveda?

Alveda: I'm fine thank you. I'm here.

David: We're glad you're here. This is the final panel of the Ending Abortion Mega Webcast Event. How about giving us a quick start by telling us how did you get here in the pro-life movement specifically?

Alveda: I've been in the pro-life movement since 1983. My grandfather, Martin Luther King, Sr., rescued me from abortion in 1950. My mom had been invited by the Abortion League, which later became Planned Parenthood. She had conceived me and she was just starting college. So my dad Reverend A. D. King and my grandfather said no.

My granddaddy said he had seen me in a dream three years before, a little bright-skinned baby girl. No ultrasound. So that's when you hear me say "I have a dream" it's in my genes.

Fast forward, I'm here. I had secret abortion experiences, hid it from my family, thought I hid it from God. In 1983 I was born again. From that time on I began to ask the question. I said a woman has a right to

choose what she does with her body, but where's the lawyer for the baby? How can the dream survive if we murder our children?

So I started in 1983. I met Father Frank Pavone over at Priests for Life about 1998 or 1999. Early in the 21st Century I became director of African-American Outreach of Priests for Life.

David: That's amazing. Alveda, you come from the most prominent family of civil rights leaders in American history. You've got a very unique vantage point. I'm wondering from your perspective, what do you see as the relationship between the civil rights movement of the 20th century and the pro-life movement of today?

Alveda: As a matter of fact, for an example, during the summer of 2010 there were some very important events organized, one of those being the Pro-Life Freedom Ride. Pro-Life Freedom Rides just mirroring, or adding to the Freedom Rides of the 1960s, 1961 where people took to the busses to test the new laws that said people – all people were human beings no matter what your skin color and you could eat at a restaurant or ride on a bus and have a seat. So dealing with the humanity of people in the 1960s.

We're seeing in the 20th century that was a major issue. In the 21st century humanity is being challenged by the babies in the womb. So that event has been organized and is ongoing. It should be going on and on, Pro-Life Freedom Rides.

Other events, any time I'm invited to an event, say like an event called Jubilee Fest for example, I talk about the connection between the sanctity of life of all people, every person is a person no matter how small to quote Horton Hears a Who, or no matter what your skin color is remembering Jed Scott and those kinds of things. So it's very important.

Even in the 10 Steps to End Abortion Project, that's a Priests for Life campaign as well. Remembering as an African-American woman my people are more impacted by abortion. When I say "my people" we're all human beings. But that doesn't mean I'm excluding anyone. But African-Americans are being targeted. So I tend to join in projects like that. *Maafa 21*, the film by Mark Crutcher over at Life Dynamics.

So I uniquely remember being a part of the civil rights movement with my uncle, Martin Luther King, Jr., with my father, A. D. King, with my grandfather, Martin Luther King Sr. Very pro-life family and using the

house of King, the unity of King, the name of King to uphold the King of Kings who is Jesus Christ.

That's why I am so glad to unite with 40 Days for Life because since the very beginning of 40 Days for Life I began to see hearts changed.

Like Jason just said with media, I began to see media change. I began to see people in every area being able to boldly step forth and proclaim truth.

I do want to say it's a little bit off subject, but Satan has been called the prince of the power of the air. That's in the Bible. But Jesus is Lord.

One way to do that is to do what we're doing today, this simulcast telephone call where we're all able to join thousands of people together in prayer. Where we can go into the media realm with positive films like Eduardo, don't put a little hair in the soup sort to speak. I loved that when I heard that.

So when we take back the airwaves, through the internet. YouTube and Facebook, some Christians would say, "Oh my God, that's of the devil. Don't do it!" I say, we use everything we have in the power of prayer to our father God, David is so right with that.

If we're praying and taking back the airwaves and talking and communicating to people, if we are reminding people that we are the human race, that this is a human cause, a human race in need of a divine savior, and we are all entitled to life.

That's how I got into the pro-life movement. That's how the message of my uncle Martin Luther King, Jr. He said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

David: Amen.

Alveda: He said, "The Negro cannot win if he's willing to sacrifice the futures of his children for immediate personal comfort and safety."

Even that Planned Parenthood award that he's credited with receiving in 1966. My uncle did not attend the ceremony. My uncle did not write the speech. His wife went. Loretta's speech that somebody else wrote and tried to appropriate her husband's name and image with something she believed in.

My uncle for the record was pro-life. My grandfather definitely. My daddy, my mother is today. She speaks with us across America when

she feels like it. That's how I got involved. I know I said a whole lot trying to explain it.

David: You set the stage well because what you're talking about is how we need to influence the culture. You've been such a gift to the pro-life movement because you are positively influencing the culture from the platform that God has given you, from your family background.

Eduardo uses the platform of being a movie star. Jason uses the platform of going in to change Hollywood. Jill Stanek we're going to hear from in just a couple of minutes, she uses the platform of technology and her own personal story. Each one of us, we have to look at what opportunities God has given us and then reach out, influence the culture the best way we can.

Alveda, just as a final quick question here about two minutes to go on this before we go to Jill, what do you see as the best ways to influence the culture, particularly in the African-American community to educate them on the genocide that is happening, and to engage them actively in the pro-life movement?

Alveda: Our most powerful tools, having a media advantage, blogs, being on the internet and YouTube. I admire Father Frank Pavone for insisting that we film YouTube clips and get them online on websites. Taking films like *Maafa 21* across the nation as part of an education campaign. Just Pro-Life Freedom Rides and things like that, Jubilee Fest Music.

It's very important to use music and film. There's a film that's not mentioned much, *Chili*. I like to use *Chili* a few times too. It's a little short film that works. So *Bella*, having people sit down and look at things like that. African-Americans respond like everybody else to positive images, positive messages.

People like to Twitter, people like to blog. So I take that message with the African-American emphasis, but not limit it to that because it's the human family that we are fighting for the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So I say that in this war we occupy until Jesus comes. In the occupation we use everything that is there, even just kick the prince of the power of the air aside and fill the airwaves too.

David: Amen to that. Alveda, how can people learn more about you and your work? Are there any resources you would point them toward that could help them to learn more to influence the culture?

Alveda: I'd like to give two. www.PriestsforLife.org. You can hear about healing from Rachel's Vineyard, Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Go to www.PriestsforLife.org/africanamerican and you'll come right to my web page. www.prolifefreedomrides.com will be going on for many, many, many days, not limited to the initial kickoff summer campaign. So find us on the internet.

40 Days for Life, we're praying with you. I meet you across the country all the time, and meet valiant prayer warriors. I'm so honored and blessed to be a part of that. I just want to say God Bless You to everyone.

David: Amen. Alveda, thank you so much. I appreciate you being a part of this webcast event today, and for all that you're doing to positively influence our culture.

That brings us to our final speaker on this panel. That is Jill Stanek. Jill is an absolute warrior. She is one of the most joy-filled but yet absolutely strong women that I know. She is a nurse. She is a pro-life blogger. I'm going to let her tell you a little bit about herself. Jill, how are you doing today?

Jill: I'm fine today. The question is how are you? How's your ear?

David: I actually have headphones on because I couldn't hold the phone up against my head that long. I have to tell you, I didn't expect that my ears would be so sore from wearing headphones all day.

No, I am so encouraged with the kind of great information we've just heard on this panel, and all the rest of the day. It has been so incredibly encouraging. If people can't go back out into their communities and do something to save a life, to change a heart or a mind, then boy something has gone wrong because this has been an absolute whirlwind, an amazing day. I thank you for being an instrumental part of that.

Jill, why don't you give us a quick synopsis of your background and how you got involved in the pro-life movement because you have a very unique story.

Jill:

I was a registered nurse at Christ Hospital on the Southwest side of Chicago in 1999 when I found out that the hospital was not only involved in late term abortion, but the method of abortion that the hospital used, now called induced labor abortion, sometimes resulted in babies being aborted alive. If they were aborted alive they were relegated to the department's utility room to die.

This came home to me one night when a nursing co-worker was taking a little baby who had been aborted and survived who had Down syndrome to the utility room to die because his parents didn't want to hold him and she didn't have time to hold him.

When she told me what she was doing I couldn't bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone. So I rocked him for the 45 minutes that he lived. He wasn't viable. His lungs weren't mature enough to have survived even if he'd been resuscitated.

But those 45 minutes changed my life. I was an ambivalent pro-lifer before and after that I was just completely consumed with trying to stop abortion.

David:

You have used the platform of not only your personal story, which I know you share at pregnancy center banquets and Right to Life events all across the country. You've been on the national media. I've watched that video clip of you on O'Reilly and you did an amazing job of relating what you experienced.

But also you have done something that is absolutely amazing. You have utilized technology in a way to educate people in a way to influence the culture utilizing tools you can access wherever you've got a laptop.

I was wondering if maybe you could talk a little bit about particularly your expertise of blogging and social media and why you think these tools can positively influence the culture for the sanctity of human life.

Jill:

I became interested in blogging in 2005 when I read Hugh Hewett's book *Blog*. In his book he would describe bloggers as part of what is called the new media, had changed journalism.

He gave several examples such as that it was bloggers who created Rather Gate in 2004 by exposing Dan Rather of *60 Minutes* for posting fraudulent memos claiming President Bush was derelict in his duties while in the National Guard.

He also said it could be said that bloggers brought down John Kerry in the 2004 presidential campaign by giving life support to the swift vote veterans for truth because the mainstream media was ignoring what they were saying and then began denouncing them. But military bloggers corroborated what they said and kept the story alive.

So I thought that this – the pro-life issue would be a perfect fit for blogging because we all know liberals in the mainstream media habitually get stories wrong related to the pro-life issue either out of ignorance or because of their ideology, or they ignore important stories that would make the other side look bad. I thought here was a way around it.

So I started my blog in 2005. I got immediate affirmation. In January 2006 my local newspaper was refusing to run an ad Right to Life of Will County wanted to sponsor that had an ultrasound photo David. An ultrasound photo of a pre-born baby that the newspaper said was too graphic. So it was refusing to post our ad. It was actually a National Right to Life inspired ad.

So that would've been the end of it had it not been for blogging. Our hands would've been tied. How many countless times have pro-lifers and the pro-life cause been unfairly treated by the mainstream media or liberals and then we had no control.

But I blogged about what had happened to us. More than that, I was able to post the actual ad itself which gave visual validation. I never expected what would follow. What happened David, was within 2 days our story and our ad was being broadcast on Fox Cable News.

So whereas we thought maybe hundreds or thousands of people would see our ad, millions of people saw our ad. Then the newspaper backed down and let us run the ad because of all the adverse publicity it got.

David: That's just one example of what technology can do. It can open up the opportunity to empower people to have an influence. That's amazing.

Jill: That's one example of how we can break through and go around the traditional media to get the truth out about abortion and so many other topics related to the pro-life issue.

David: Talk about social media. Is there an example that you have there of how you can use social media to influence the culture?

Jill: This spring somebody on Twitter named Anti-theistic Angie decided that she was going to live tweet her RU-46 medical abortion. So I picked up on that story and covered it. That story ended up making national headlines.

Where she tried to put a positive spin on it I was able to show by what she wrote that RU-46 abortions are very painful. Her experience lasted for over two weeks and she used a whole bottle of 20 Tylenol with codeine to get through her pain, experienced cramping and bleeding. So I was able to learn from her experience and also show that abortion isn't the picnic that she had at first tried to say it was. That was through social media.

David: I remember actually the day that was happening you and I were sitting next to each other at a pro-life meeting and you the whole day were showing me little things and were actively engaged online with that. I was just amazed at how much you could accomplish right there at the moment things were happening due to social media.

Jill, for somebody who maybe hasn't yet read Hugh Hewett's book or has never really been involved in blogging before, what would be some real quick tips you would have for somebody interested in doing pro-life blogging?

Jill: I have 10 quick tips David. I will post these on my blog afterward so people don't need to write them down.

First of all, you can setup your own blog for free or you can pay somebody. But make sure your blog is as intelligent, as excellent and professional as can possibly be done because we're not only representing ourselves, we're representing the pro-life movement when we blog.

Then you can, the next piece of advice would be to find a niche. Find a component of the pro-life movement that particularly interests you and then develop that. Become an expert, the go-to person on that topic.

There are hundreds of possibilities. On the macro level, like abortion or euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell research to the micro level like first trimester abortions, or the post-abortion topic, or a particular political figure or particular news organization or Hollywood as Jason was talking about earlier, or a pro-abortion organization like Planned Parenthood, or even the Church of Scientology which has been exposed

repeatedly of being involved in coerced abortions or a geographical location, your state. The list is endless. Find a niche and I think you'll be better off.

Number 3, think of your blog as a ministry or a mission, not your personal ego builder. Try not to be territorial, but generous. Link as often as possible to other pro-life blogs and news sources and give credit where it's due.

Number 4, blog strategically. There is an overwhelming amount of information out there. Sometimes I look at my internet news like a deer looking in the headlights. I've blogged perhaps 5% of what I could blog. So I have to decide what topics would help us the most and damage the other side the most.

I often write posts that I think are going to demoralize the other side because I also cross-post on Twitter and Facebook and I make sure that they read what I'm writing by using hash tags that they use. People who are on Twitter will know what I am talking about.

I also pray before I begin blogging. I try to pray every morning that the Lord will send what He wants me to blog on my way. There are so many times He has made me look so much more smarter and with it than I really am just by throwing things in my path that I wouldn't have seen if it weren't for Him.

Number 5, make it pithy. I am more of an editor than a writer. In journalism they say edit until it hurts and then edit some more. That's what I do. I keep honing my post until I get every extra word out of the way. I also break up the posts with pictures and graphics so to keep people interested.

Number 6, if you blog often, if you want more traffic you have to blog often. If you build it they will come. The simple fact is the more a person or a group blogs the more readers they get.

With that said, it's better to write one solid good post than to write several inane posts. So numbers aren't necessarily everything. As I said before, I cross-post using social media. I post links to my stories on Twitter and Facebook.

Number 8, get your story straight. You check and recheck your sources. All you have in blogging is your reputation. You could lose that and lose your credibility if you get something wrong.

That said, if you get something wrong, and I have before. Sure, we're all human. Be quick to apologize, be quick to retract and try to set the record straight. People will accept that. They forgive humbleness.

Number 9, I know you know this well too in your world too David, that is get a thick skin. Get over yourself. Ultimately this isn't about us. This is about saving innocent human lives. You can't blog if you're not willing to take shots.

The shots don't always come from the other side, although they do come hot and heavy from the other side. Sometimes they come from your own side.

Number 10, I would develop a mission statement and keep your eye on it while you're blogging. Mine is that I will advance the pro-life issue through 1) Pro-life apologetics; 2) News dissemination related to the pro-life issue; 3) Respectful debate.

David:

Jill, I'm going to add a number 11 to your list if that's okay. That is go to www.JillStanek.com and learn from a master. I love, love your blog. I am there regularly, almost every day. I'm amazed at the amount of discussion and debate and dialogue that happens there.

It certainly isn't just a bunch of pro-life people saying, "Oh, kudos to you Jill." You really do engage in very healthy debate. I think you've done a fantastic job of this.

We've got about one minute left here. Then after this question I'll give you a chance to point people to any resource to learn more about you.

Jill, if somebody right now is saying I want to influence the culture but Hollywood's not my thing. Reaching out to specific populations, the African-American population may not be where God's calling me. I don't have a clue about blogging, that's not my world.

If you had a chance to just offer a minute of encouragement to that person to say you know what, whatever skills, whatever interest, passions God has given you, you can use them to positively influence the culture. What would you say to that person?

Jill:

I would say exactly that David. That people can jump into the pro-life movement wherever they are in life with whatever skills they have, whatever time and resources they have.

You can blog from home as we've discussed. You can write letters to the editor. If you've got kids at home you don't necessarily have to leave your house. There's things that you can do I just explained.

You can help with your local crisis pregnancy center. You can join your local pro-life organization. You can call your elected officials from home as far as opposing or supporting legislation. You can go to your nearest abortion clinic and pray and protest.

The list of things to do is endless. People just have to look at what they're interested in. What passions God has given them and what their skills are and run with it. Everybody is needed. Everybody that is listening to this show, whether they think so or not, are just so important to the movement.

David: The beautiful thing about what we have accomplished here today as a movement is we have given people an entire roadmap of all of the different opportunities that exist, whether it's educating yourself, educating others, understanding the crisis we're dealing with, learning about groups like Planned Parenthood, starting and ending everything we do with prayer, getting involved in the pregnancy centers, saving lives outside abortion centers, offering hope and healing to those who have been through the pain of an abortion, legislative work, political work, youth advocacy, and just finding ways to influence the culture.

So for those who have heard Jill's just wonderful call to action to get involved where you are and influence the culture, I hope this webcast and the recordings of this entire event can be a great resource for you and for others as they're discerning that.

Jill, as a closing thought, where can people learn more about you and your work? Are there any resources you would point them toward for those who want to learn more about influencing the culture?

Jill: Very simply if they want to learn more about me and the blogging they can go to www.JillStanek.com. I would also recommend if people are interested in blogging to pick up the book *Blog* by Hugh Hewett. It's a quick read. It will give you a foundation of what it's all about.

David: Okay. Jill, I appreciate you more than you know. Thank you for being on the front lines, and thank you for all you are doing to positively influence so many people, and using the platform that God has given you. I just appreciate you so much for being on this webcast today. I

wish you continued blessings in your work, and look forward to seeing you on the highways and byways across our country again soon.

Jill: Yes, ditto David. Thank you for organizing this wonderful day.

David: You bet. That brings us to the end of the panel on Influencing the Culture. In just a minute I'm going to let Kristan Hawkins summarize what we've done today. Also Kristan, I'm going to ask you in just a minute to share any closing thoughts at the end of 10 hours of back to back sessions on Ending Abortion.

It has been an amazing day. I am far more energetic and encouraged now than I was at the very beginning. I am sure those of you who have been with us through all the recordings, or through all the live sessions, or even some of them, I hope you feel the exact same way.

This entire event has been organized by 40 Days for Life. Our website if you'd like to learn more, that's the organization I'm blessed to be a part of, our website is www.40DaysforLife.com.

It's been co-organized by Students for Life of America, our good friend Kristan Hawkins. Their website is www.StudentsforLife.org.

I want to thank the speakers on this panel, Jason Jones, Alveda King, Jill Stanek, as well as all the presenters on all the other panels.

Kristan, any thoughts you have now on just what we've learned during this session and any closing thoughts you have at the end of 10 hours of working together to end abortion?

Kristan: Wow. I have two minutes to summarize 10 hours.

David: That's right.

Kristan: Terrific. This panel discussion was exactly what we needed to hear and exactly what we needed to do at the end of this fantastic Mega Event.

Jason talked about impacting Hollywood and looking at the current videos, movies that are coming out of Hollywood. Sometimes in the pro-life movement we think Hollywood is always against us. Maybe they're not always against us. Maybe we can use the tools they're giving us to impact our culture.

Jason talked about how just one person can make a difference, and his personal story how he became pro-life I think is so meaningful. All of

the work he is doing with Eduardo, reaching out to Latinos across the world.

Alveda talked about making end-roads into different communities and minority communities. She reminded us that this is a human cause. This is a human cause no matter what race. This is a cause for every race. We are all entitled to the right to life.

Jill, you wrapped this up perfectly talking about blogging and using new media, and using technology, what I'm doing with the youth. Technology is right there and that's where we're going.

David, you actually made some really wonderful comments in the middle of this talking about using the platform you have, using the skills you have, the talents you have, to change the culture. Look around you and see what opportunities God has given you.

I think today has been a wonderful day. We've shown a lot of unity in the pro-life movement. We've shown everyone exactly what they need to do, where to get the resources. If I were Planned Parenthood, if I were a pro-abortion leader, I'd be very scared.

David:

Amen to that. Kristan, thank you for those closing comments. I think we do have Planned Parenthood people right now on the line on this webcast. I think they are shaking in their boots and I absolutely love it.

I would just say to them, hey, we've had Abby Johnson and so many others who have come over to our side. We'd love to welcome you and maybe a year from now you'll be speaking on a pro-life webcast about ending abortion when God grips your heart and shares the truth with you.

With that, let me wrap up this session. I want to thank everybody and just end with three things. Three things you can do. If you've made it this far, if you've made it to the final hour of the Ending Abortion Webcast Mega Event, the first thing I want to encourage you to do, as soon as you get off the line, as soon as you get done listening to this recording, get down on your knees and pray.

Thank God for the opportunity we have to live in a free country where we have the chance to do this work where we can speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Then ask Him to guide you and show you what it is He wants you to do.

If you're already doing a lot, maybe He's going to guide you in some new directions. Maybe He's going to give you something else to do or something on top of what you're doing.

If you're brand new, maybe He's going to reveal to you the area He wants you to be involved in. But pray and ask God to show you what it is He wants you to do to influence the culture and bring an end to abortion and save lives where you live.

As He reveals that to you, number two, act. Do something! If all of this event was just about this event and nothing changes in your life today, tomorrow, next week and next month, this entire event has failed. But if you have been changed in any way, shape or fashion, then I encourage you to do something with what you have learned.

Do something today. Do something tomorrow that can positively influence and build a culture of life, that can help to save lives right where you live with the platform you've been given. You can help bring an end to abortion and work until that day when no more women cry and no more children die.

The third thing is spread the word and invite more people to be a part of this movement. A great way you can do that is to let everybody else you know learn about this event and all of the recordings, every session that you were just a part of, as well as all the previous sessions are available as recordings at www.EndingAbortion.com.

So please, not only yourself go back and listen to the recordings and re-listen to the recordings and be encouraged and be inspired and take notes and do new things, but also if you've been blessed, every speaker came on this event were unpaid for participating in this event.

All of the technology was funded by donors. Everything, it was totally taken care of. This entire event has been gifted to you so that you can make a difference right where you live.

If you have been blessed, if you have been encouraged, if this has in any way helped you to know you can make a difference, share it with everybody you know. Invite them to go to www.EndingAbortion.com where they can access the recordings of every one of these sessions, and who knows what future projects will come about to delve deeper into some of these topics.

So thank you everybody. Thank you Kristan Hawkins and Shawn Carney, who have been such wonderful co-hosts throughout the day.

Thank you to the 40 Days for Life team that has been behind the scenes making a lot of things work. They have very thankless jobs, Chantel and David Brandao, and our board of directors.

Thank you also to all of the presenters and all of the organizations. I would like to close this entire event with a word of prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you. We thank you and glorify you for what you are doing. We thank you for what you have done. We thank you for what you are doing throughout this day. Dear God, we look forward with great expectation to what you have yet to do tomorrow, next week, next month, next year.

Help each of us to take this information that we have been blessed with, and help us to share it with everybody we can. Help us to be transformed, that this event be not just about putting information into our heads, but putting it into our hearts so that it can then move to our hands and to our feet and it can become action.

Dear Lord, we thank you for what you are accomplishing as lives are being saved around our country and around our world right now. We ask you to please help each of us to be emboldened, and to be steadfast into taking these efforts to a whole new level so we can work until that day when no more children die and no more women cry.

We thank you for all of these things in the name of your son Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Thank you everybody. Let's keep pressing on. Look forward to meeting with many of you as we travel across the country. Look forward to future events as we gather together. Let's rededicate ourselves and let's commit right now to Ending Abortion.