

Day for Life 2006

Mums-to-be pressured by medical staff into late terminations of Down's babies

By Geraldine Durrant

PREGNANT mothers carrying babies with Down's syndrome are being pressured into having abortions at a record rate.

Prenatal tests which were once hailed as a breakthrough in the 'treatment' of babies with Down's have become little more than an exercise in seek and destroy; and in 2004 almost a thousand mothers aborted their babies includ-

ing some who were involved in "traumatic" terminations carried out well beyond the normal 24 week limit.

The incidence of Down's syndrome is rising in the UK due mainly to a doubling in the last decade of the number of women having babies in their forties.

And abortions of babies suffering from Down's now outstrip the incidence of live births: 657 babies were born with the chromosomal disorder in 2004, compared with

an estimated 957 abortions, the highest figure on record, and a threefold increase on 15 years ago.

Decision

One mother horrified to have been offered a late abortion was Lisa Green from Margate, who was within five weeks of giving birth to her son Harrison when tests showed he was a Down's baby.

After a difficult preg-

nancy, the test results upset Lisa and her husband Tim, who had already chosen a name for their expected child. "We were both in total shock but this was considerably worsened when the doctor said 'you can have a termination'," Lisa recalled. "I was 35 weeks pregnant at that stage, the baby was fully-formed and his name was decided. I was appalled."

But Mrs Green's experience was by no means

unique, says the Down's Syndrome Association (DSA).

Since 2003 all 760,000 UK women who become pregnant each year are offered prenatal screening for a range of genetic conditions, and many are 'actively encouraged' to abort babies which are deemed to be less than 'perfect'.

But the tests, which cost the National Health Service more than £15,000 for each

WENHAM HOLT AND EASTFIELD NURSING HOMES

Catholic family owned homes established in 1978
Registered with The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) For the professional care of Dementia Patients and the terminally ill

- 24 Hour Professional Nursing Care
- Homely Surroundings
- Set in Spacious Grounds
- Double & Single Rooms
- Some with Bathroom, En-Suite
- New Purpose-Built Extension
- Day Care/Respite Care Service
- Own Mini Bus

Proprietors:

Mrs Rosemary Gorvin RGN BA (Honours)
Dr Dennis Greenwood PLD, RN

Wenham Holt Nursing Home, Hillbrow,
Liss Hampshire, GU33 7PB
Tel: Liss (01730) 895125

www.totalcatholic.com

Have you visited our website?
Get the latest Catholic news
live every day...

www.totalcatholic.com

Immigrants are the new poor



One of the leading tasks of the Augustinian Recollects is to serve them both in their own countries and here in England.

The Order of Augustinian Recollects

Were founded over 400 years ago and have been working in England since 1932. In 1997 the Order took on the largest chaplaincy in London that of the Latin Americans and we now have three priests working full time in this ministry.

As an Order we live our calling through the vows, through life in community, through personal and community prayer, through service in ministry, through seeking after justice and peace through our ongoing formation and renewal.

For an information pack write to:
Fr Denis Caddle,
18 Cheniston Gdns, Kensington,
London W8 6TQ,
or telephone: 020 7937 7681
Email: recollects@btinternet.com



Caring for a loved one and feeling helpless?

Caring for a loved one or a friend is always demanding, especially when you wish you could do more for them. We are here for both of you.

Over the last 60 years, we've helped thousands of people with illness and bereavement, often at the request of others. If you'd like us to try and help you, just get in touch.

Call 0870 3892054 x 24
Email healing@burrowslea.org.uk
Visit www.sanctuary-burrowslea.org.uk
Mall Burrows Lea, Hook Lane, Shere,
Surrey GU5 9QG

Registered Charity No.
1098712
Registered in England
and Wales No. 4731491

the sanctuary
established in 1946

ONE RACE THE HUMAN RACE carj

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

CARJ envisions a Church and a society that affirm, value, respect and celebrate the equality and dignity of all God's people.

Rooted in Gospel values, we commit to challenge racial injustice and discrimination at both individual and institutional levels. We engage with a wide range of individuals and organisations to raise awareness of racial justice issues, to build understanding, to educate the oppressor and to empower the oppressed.

To find out about supporting CARJ through membership or for further information about our work for racial justice contact:

Maureen Corsi,
Administrator,
9 Henry Road London N4 2LH
Tel: 0208 802 8080
e-mail: info@carj.co.uk
www.carj.co.uk

CARJ is a registered charity no 291601



So much to offer: The parents of this little boy, who has Down's Syndrome, say he is a normal child in every way apart from some speech difficulties

VINCENTIAN CARE PLUS...

...caring in the spirit of St Vincent De Paul



As Daughters of Charity we have a long history of caring for people in their own homes. A new provision of high quality home care in London is at the heart of our efforts to support individuals in the community, giving people the opportunity for independence, appropriate assistance and befriending... we want to make a difference!

To receive this service or to work as a part of the team contact Sr Margaret at vincentiancareplus@btinternet.com
Telephone/Fax 02078311706

Registered charity 1112473 please support us

St. Joseph's Hospice

Under the care of the Sisters of Charity

Your generous support helps us continue to care with faith, hope and love

Thank you

Mare Street, Hackney,
London E8 4SA,
Tel: 020 8525 6000
www.sjh.org.uk

Registered charity no. 231323