

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME

ONE-TO-ONE[®]

SUMMER 2012

THE PROPHETIC JOURNEY



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from the editor

The Blessing of Life



What happens when believers come together?

Aesop is credited with first saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." Of course, he likely said it in Greek and it probably sounded something like this: *Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες έχουμε φτάσει, διαιρείται έχουμε πτώση*

Now that I have dazzled you with quoting from Aesop and my incredible knowledge of Greek and the powers of internet translation services, let's look at the real life-and-death issue of unity. The world in which we live today seems to be in a state of disintegration. That is, as relationships, structures, and cultures "dis-integrate" from God and one another, the whole world is falling apart.

I think we can agree that in these challenging times, it's more vital than ever for the people of God to be rightly related to Him and to one another ... and to our common mission. This is not simply a matter of survival for us, but for a world that is lost in darkness and despair. We are called to be salt and light. What good is salt that has lost its flavor? And how great is the darkness if the light is extinguished?

The Good News for us is that God is in the business of reconciliation and redemption. He not only calls us to Himself, but He gives His power and grace so that we can respond to His call. And in Christ, we find ourselves reconciled to God and to our brothers

and sisters.

The better related we are to Him and to each other, the more effective we become as agents of His reconciliation out in the world. Pastor Karl Strader once said, *"A broken and divided Church offers no hope for a broken and divided world."* Conversely, a body of believers that is healed and rightly related provides hope and a model to the world of what is possible in Christ Jesus.

Unity produces an enhanced ability to see the Lord and to hear His voice. The Hebrew word for peace is *"shalom"*. But *shalom* doesn't simply mean an absence of conflict; it means that everything is working together in harmony and completeness. It is where relationships and structures have integrity and work to complement one another and the purpose for which they were created.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way in his letter to the Christians in Corinth: *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many"* (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

Throughout 1 Corinthians 12, Paul outlines many diverse spiritual gifts and how they work together. He also discusses how to use spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 14, especially the gifts of tongues and prophecy. I was once asked to do a series on 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Corinthians 14, but I insisted that we must also include 1 Corinthians 13, because any discussion of how to use the gifts is incomplete without applying the love of God.

Ultimately, unity comes about through the Holy Spirit of God, and by our resolute commitment to Him and each other. David paints a picture for us in Psalm 133:

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore" (Psalm 133:1-3).

Where there is unity, the Lord commands a blessing of life! He **commands** it! Jesus is praying for our unity (see John 17). God commands blessings upon it. Therefore, we look—not at present circumstances—but at God's Sovereign purpose and promise, and find there our hope.

We will be unpacking more of this theme together at our annual CSM Leadership Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, on May 16-18. We would love to have you there as we hear *"The Power of the Prophetic Word"* from Marc Dupont, Michael Coleman, and Charles Simpson. For more information, visit us on the web at www.csmpublishing.org. 121

STEPHEN SIMPSON is the Editor of *One-to-One* and Senior Pastor of Covenant Church of Mobile.




keynote

THE PROPHETIC JOURNEY

Where are we
going and how
can we help
each other get
there?

BY CHARLES SIMPSON



Early in my ministry, I spent a lot of time studying and preaching on prophecy. Lately, I have been called back to the subject by the Holy Spirit. I am more convinced than ever that the fulfillment of prophecy is the most powerful authentication of the Bible as God's Word.

The words spoken by God not only created and sustained all that is, but creation is on a prophetic path to fulfill all that was spoken, and we do well to study the Word of God regarding the prophetic journey that we are on. The Word of God gives us both promises and warnings regarding our choices as we sojourn. Obedience will lead us to the Land of Promise. (See Acts 3:18-26; Romans 1:1-6; Luke 1:70.)

Satan's first appearance in creation was to question the Word of God. The warnings given by God came to pass. The very existence of evil testifies to God's Word. If we know and heed His promises, our journey will take us to the tree of life, the river of life, and the very throne of God (see Revelation 22). But it is a journey, and as

we study Abraham and Israel, we can better understand our journey and what God has called us to do.

Abraham

Abraham was chosen by God to be the "father of the faith", and he demonstrated numerous lessons from which we can benefit (study Romans 4). The Lord promised Abraham a son, a land, a nation; God

"The prophetic word requires movement, obedience, and a change of locations."

promised that he would bless all nations and have great name. At the time, Abraham had none of that. In the ensuing centuries, those words are still coming to pass—4000 years later!

The Word of God required Abraham to make a 400 mile journey to the West. Abraham believed God, was counted righteous, and he made the journey. All of those who have the faith of Abraham are sojourners. The prophetic word requires movement, obedience, and a change of locations. It calls us

to the land of promise: righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (see Romans 14:17).

In Genesis 15:13, the Lord told Abraham his descendants would be strangers and servants in a foreign land for 400 years, and then they would be led out. This too came to pass, as God chose Moses to continue the prophesied journey (see Exodus 3).

We must note here that Abraham sinned in the matter of Hagar, the bond woman. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael. Abraham had waited, but his wife Sarah had no son, so he attempted to fulfill the Word of God his own way. But Ishmael was not the son of promise given to Abraham and Sarah. God fulfills His own Word, His own way, and in His own time. Though Abraham sinned, he was justified by faith, and that is good news for us.

Moses

Moses, like Abraham, was not perfect. He had murdered an Egyptian who was abusing an Israelite slave, then escaped east to Midian. Forty years later, God called Moses at the burning bush to deliver Israel from slavery to the land promised to Abraham. God introduced Himself to Moses as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob", the three grandfathers to whom God had made and confirmed His covenant. Again, the Word required a journey for both Moses and Israel.

The story of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian slavery is a remarkable example of our deliverance from the culture of "slavery to the flesh".



Deliverance requires:

- A call to a preacher of the Word
- A struggle between powers
- The shedding of blood
- The eating of a covenant meal and baptism in water and Spirit.

They were instructed to dress for a journey. All of this, however, was just the *beginning*, not the end.

Israel had barely crossed the Red Sea until they were testing God with grumbling, doubt, looking back, and outright rebellion. They even reverted to idolatry. So, they wandered for 40 years before a new generation would resume the prophetic journey to enter the Land of Promises (study Psalm 105).

The Amalekites

The Amalekites are an amazing story. They were descendants of Esau, who was the oldest son of Isaac. Esau despised his spiritual

inheritance, and became bitter at his brother Jacob, who not only wanted it but got it through deception (Genesis 27-28; Hebrews 12:14-17). The bitterness of *Esau* was passed on to his descendants who continued to despise Israel, the descendants of *Jacob*.

So, when Jacob's descendants—Israel—began the journey to their inheritance (the one promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) guess who was first to attack them? The Amalekites! The Amalekites remind us that there are adversaries to God's prophetic purpose who will not sit passively while we sojourn.

Evil is a malignant force that we can defeat if we recall and declare prophetic purpose. The Lord is the "Lord of Battles" and will guide us to victory—*because* He watches over His Word to perform it. It is not simply that He prefers us to our enemies; He is no respecter of persons. It is because He has determined His will, and if we walk in it, it shall be accomplished.

Having said that, there will be instructions to obey. In this battle, the Lord told Moses to go upon a hill overlooking the battle, and take two men with him, Aaron and Hur. The Lord also instructed that Joshua should lead the battle.

Moses was instructed to hold up his staff, and as long as he did, Joshua prevailed over the Amalekites. But when his arm grew weary, and he allowed the staff to drop down, Amalek prevailed. So, Aaron and Hur held up his hands and seated Moses on a *rock* the rest of the day until evening, and Israel defeated the Amalekites.

There are numerous lessons here for us to observe:

- Listen for guidance when you are in battle
- Leaders need a strong core of support
- Leaders get weary and bad things happen
- Lifting up the leaders hands helps us all win (see Isaiah 35:3-4).
- Authority is best exercised while seated upon *the* Rock with strong supporters on either side.

There are other lessons here, but we should observe a prophetic word that the Lord gave to Moses after the victory: "I will have war with Amalek from generation to generation." Bear in mind that the Amalekites were descendants of Esau, the bitter one. And, as the prophecy said, they kept turning up in history in an effort to defy the Word of the Lord.

The war was not only a war between Israel and the Amalekites; it was a war against the prophetic Word of God, a war to prevent His people from completing their journey. The battles are incidental; the *journey* is everything! Genesis 12, Exodus 17, Psalm 83, and all the words of the prophets are yet with us and will be fulfilled (see Acts 3:21). We need to know and declare those words!

One of the classic debates in history and the present is the debate between God's Sovereign will and man's free will. Both are realities, but how these two wills interact is crucial. There is a fork in our path. We can choose our will or we can choose His. History is filled with consequences of either choice.

Esau and Amalek chose their own way; Abraham, Moses, and others sought and discovered God's

prophetic purpose. They took the path to His prophetic promises and began the journey (see Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 53:6). Psalm 23 gives us a clear picture of the “path of the righteous.” And it tells us where that path leads. But those who choose their own way choose peril over promise.

While we may be born again by faith in Jesus Christ and the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, we are faced with choices daily—our way or His. These choices have consequences, even if we are forgiven. Wrong choices and detours can be painful.

Our Journey

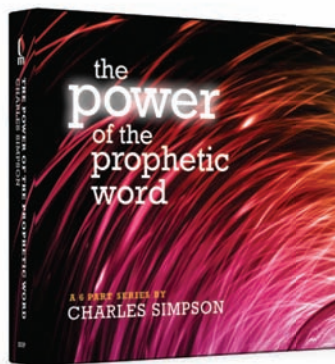
All kinds of leaders would do well to study the prophets (see 2 Timothy 3:15-16). Attempting to get the “land of promise” without God’s guidance is futile. A study of Nietzsche, Marx, or Hitler, and a host of others should be ample evidence that to ignore God and pursue some Utopian or atheistic philosophy is indeed foolish.

But what about you and me? Is it not equally foolish to simply go to church and participate in its good programs, yet ignore His Divine purpose for our lives? Yes, it is. Religion is no substitute for obedience and becoming a sojourner in the plan God has for our lives (see 1 Samuel 15:22).

My challenge to you is simply this: study the prophets and apostles to discover God’s eternal purpose, then seek the Lord for your calling and begin the journey. There is a land of promise for all of us, and we need not perish in some wilderness, coming short of the great possibilities.

Why not gather a small group of friends around the question: where are we going and can we help each other get there? Godspeed as you travel together in faith. **121**

CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of *One-to-One* Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.



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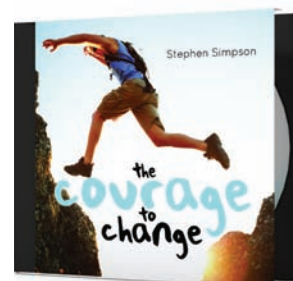
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EVERY LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

OCTOBERBABY is a powerful film about how mercy triumphs over judgment

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

One of the most moving and significant films I've ever seen hit theaters across the United States this Spring, sparking deep emotions and conversations, and in many cases, changing lives. This film, *October Baby*, is produced by The Erwin Brothers, and stars John Schneider, Jasmine Guy, Jason Burkey, Chris Sligh, and luminous newcomer Rachel Hendrix.

In its first weekend, this small indie film, opening on less than 400 screens, finished in the top ten of overall box-office leaders. And it was an astounding number three for average per-screen receipts. A strong word-of-mouth buzz overcame the attempts of certain negative film critics, who reacted against the film's clear pro-life and pro-faith presentation. And while the message of the film is indeed clear and unmistakable, it is never preachy. In fact, it offers a refreshing in its open and honest approach to discovering truth, forgiveness, and redemption.

October Baby tells the story of Hannah Lawson (Rachel Hendrix), a 19-year-old college student whose life is turned upside down when she discovers that she is adopted, and that she is the survivor of an attempted abortion.



She begins a quest to discover who she is and who her biological mother is ... and to know why she is still alive.

"Always there" for Hannah is her childhood friend, Jason Bradley

(Jason Burkey), who convinces Hannah to join him and his merry band of cohorts on a Spring Break trip to New Orleans. Along for the ride are Jason's self-absorbed girlfriend, Alanna (Colleen Trusler) and Danielle (Joy Brunson), along with B-Mac (Chris Sligh) and Truman (Austin Johnson). The road trip takes many unexpected detours and Hannah discovers a lot more than she planned.

Her worried parents, Jacob (John Schneider) and Grace (Jennifer Price), face a painful, confusing, and seemingly impossible dilemma: how to protect their daughter while telling her the truth about her birth. God-sent allies arrive along the way in the form of Police Officer Mitchell (Tracy Miller), Nurse Mary Rutledge (Jasmine Guy), and a wise Priest (Rodney Clark).

Another unforgettable character is Cindy Hastings (Shari Rigby), who is hiding a secret that is about to break her heart.

The film is inspired in part by the true, real-life story of Gianna Jessen who was born prematurely in 1977 after surviving a saline abortion procedure. The horrific experience left Jessen with cerebral palsy. She not only survived, but became an inspiring pro-life activist. In a recent article from the National Catholic Register online written by Tim Drake, Co-Director Andrew Erwin says, "We were so moved by her story." Jon Erwin, the other Co-Director continues, "Her life is beautiful and a testament to the beauty of life in general — and a testament to what the world would have lost if she had never been given the right to exist."¹

Some critics have attempted to dismiss the storyline as implausible, suggesting that babies never survive abortion attempts. Not only does Jessen's story prove these critics to be woefully uninformed, but will certainly bring this reality to light to a broader number of people. It also reminds us that certain politicians (including President Barack Obama) have, in the past, opposed efforts to protect infants born alive following abortion attempts.²

The focus of the film is not political however, and it's not even primarily about abortion. The grand, over-arching message here is one of forgiveness and redemption. This message was deeply personal to everyone who participated in making this movie, but none more than Shari Rigby, who was cast as Hannah's birth mother, Cindy Hastings. In the film, Cindy has become a very successful lawyer, with a beautiful family ... and many secrets.

According to the Erwin Brothers, Rigby was cast because she is a tremendous actress with whom they

had worked before, and she bore a striking resemblance to Rachel Hendrix. What the Erwin Brothers didn't know, and what Rigby herself didn't know before she read the script, was how her own life and the life of the character were about to intersect in a miraculous way.

Jon Erwin describes getting Rigby's phone call after she read the script: "She called us, weeping, asking me, 'How did you know?' We said, 'What are you talking about?' She said, 'Twenty years ago, I was working at a law firm, in a relationship, and found out I was pregnant.' She decided to have an abortion." Rigby continues, "So many times, as young women, we carry that burden that we're going to look like a failure, that it's shameful. You know, you can hide a secret about an abortion for a long time." She told the Erwins, "Nobody knows except my husband and my therapist."

"We were blown away by that," says Jon Erwin. "She said, 'I feel like this is God telling me that it's time for me to share my story.'" Andrew Erwin says, "For the post-abortive mothers, it was very important to be sensitive to them and for this to be a healing movie, and so having Shari's voice and having her play the role was just phenomenal."

"As we went forward and filmed her scene, it wasn't acting," Jon says. "It was as real as you could get, it was one of the more moving things I've ever seen." According to Shari, "We went into it, and right as the cameras were rolling, I just knew that the Lord was with me and that it was complete healing in that moment ... that wasn't acting."

That was my moment with God and Him with me, saying, 'It's OK, it's over, and you've been forgiven.'"

Scenes of raw and honest emotion and intensity such as Rigby's and also Jasmine Guy's breathtaking tour-de-force moment as the nurse who saved Hannah's life have connected deeply with audiences. Hendrix shines in her role, and makes the audience feel both Hannah's pain and her healing. She and Burkey have a natural ease together onscreen that make the audience forget that these are fictional characters in a

movie. Her scenes with John Schneider crackle with the tension between anger and love.



continued on page 15

marketplace exchange

Finding the Bottom Line

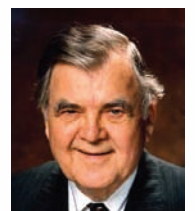
Making the life in your business...your business

> JONATHAN SIMPSON

Everything proceeds out of relationship. Before anything else, there was the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in relationship as One. Following the Lord's own framework, the underpinnings of our advancement are relationships.

The late Dr. Ted Engstrom, president emeritus of World Vision International said in his book ***The Essential Engstrom: Proven Principles of Leadership***:

“Organizations are outward manifestations of a shared purpose. Any time two or more people agree to work together toward a common goal, an organization exists. All organizations are basically relationships. An organization chart is an attempt to describe these relationships, usually in terms of authority and responsibility. How these relationships are structured and how people view them will determine the character of that organization.”





The scriptures tell us in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

Strength in Relationships

In 1903, *The New York Times* said that in order to build a flying machine, mathematicians and mechanics would have to continuously work together for the next one million to ten million years. But just two months later, two brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright flew.

And the list of relationship-based achievement goes on: Friends who spurred one another on, sold their possessions, started in garages and something was born out of their relationships and passion for their ideas.

Life from relationships is a self-evident creation principle. You don't have to be a Christian to see that life comes out of relationships, only mildly observant.

The challenge is ensuring that the relational vitality goes forward. When the relational meaning of an "organization" becomes clouded or replaced with bureaucracy, buildings, politics, and the bottom line, company life is diminished. Fragmentation over time brings about a slow death as relationships are gently snuffed out and the foundation crumbles.

"Life" in the Organization

Attitudes of service, passionate employees and discussion, open

doors, vision, laughter and fellowship are good life indicators. Where there's life, others are drawn. Who wants to hang around a mortuary? Meetings, policies, paychecks, titles, computer software, or other "good things" don't substitute for real relationship. You need those things, but don't look for them to hold an organization together in the storms. Knowledge and diligence are increasingly commodity attributes in the workforce. The exceptions are those who are passionate about their work. How can we foster that passion?

"Friends spurred on another on, sold their possessions, started in garages and something was born out of their relationships and passion for their ideas."

Here are a couple of thoughts on how we can spur on life in our organizations.

- Be intentional about building the relationship. View relationships as the goal, not a means to achieve a goal. Sometimes we have to drop the agenda, in order to move forward with one another. Look for "*koinonia*" (communion and communication) opportunities. It's hard to resolve conflict without a relationship.
- Disengage self-preservation mode. Self-preservation is a self-inflicted siege. It is tough to see in ourselves but easily recognized by others. It's not

attractive. Fiefdoms, "look what I did", holding on and getting all you can; these come from an attitude of self-preservation. If we can free ourselves from it, we are better able to move from a scarcity to an abundant mentality.



Life in the organization is contagious. So is gloom. As believers we have newness of life from the Holy Spirit and the hope of eternal life. We are being transformed. That transformation sustains and fuels the life we share. Commitment is the byproduct of shared life. It can't be conscripted. God is all about relationships and He is the giver of life. Our success will be an overflow of the relationships we build. God help us to build relationships and share life through the organizations we touch.

For more on this theme relating to the church check out the book *Ants, Vines and Churches* by Charles Simpson, available through CSM at csmpublishing.org.

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mercy and justice

Out of Darkness

Breaking the curse of human trafficking

> VICTORIA GRACE SIMPSON

Mother Teresa once said, “I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.” Considering the amount of pain that exists in the world, I’ve been wondering lately if we’re loving enough. There is a great darkness that is moving in the

“Witch doctors placed a curse on them so that they would be too frightened to run away from their abusers.”

world causing untold amounts of pain—sexual trafficking and slavery.

According to the book *Girls Like Us* by Rachel Lloyd, the average “prostitute” in America is brought into the business from 12–14, and there are possibly 600,000 girls being trafficked in the USA.

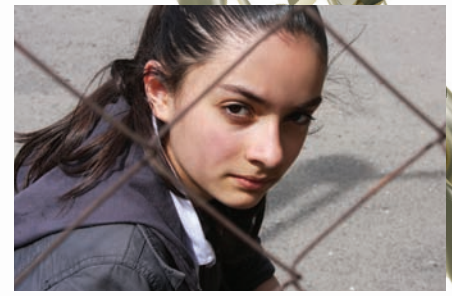
Nigerian women have been found who were brought to local witch doctors before they were shipped like cattle to Italy and other

parts of Europe. The witch doctors placed a curse on them so that they would be too frightened to run away from their abusers.

Last year, I was studying in Italy for a few months. During my stay, I did mission work at a women’s shelter operated by the nuns of Mother Teresa’s order, the Missionaries of Charity. The women and girls there were from all walks of life—some were Italian, some were not; some were sane, some were not; and some were abused, only a few were not. Since my mission time there, I’ve been inspired to act. I’ve realized that as Christians—as human beings—we have a responsibility to stop these atrocities.

And remember, it’s not just girls who are trafficked. In Afghanistan, they have what’s known as “dancing boys”. The crimes committed against these little boys are also very horrific. Often, the boys who are abused grow up to become abusers. However, information without action is pointless.

One thing you can do that can radically change our culture is to stop using the word “prostitute”. While there are some women who get into the life of their own volition, there are many who do not; and even for the ones who do make the choice, many times there are difficult circumstances surrounding



that choice. But for any girl under the age of 18, the word “prostitute” is not an acceptable description. They are **slaves**.

The word “prostitute” can seem to take the actual victimhood away from these girls. This is not some silly *Pretty Woman* film scenario. There are so many preconceived notions concerning women and

sex crimes that we have to change the language for some people to even recognize that a crime has been committed. It's the sad truth.

Another thing you can do is research who's making your clothing, your shoes, and your household products. There are many places in the world where slave labor is still used in factories. Many times in the factories, women are sexually abused and no one reports it. In fact, when inspectors come into the factories from the companies that have outsourced their labor, the workers are told how to lie about their treatment.

Finally, you can learn about organizations that are out in the field and support them with prayer, donations, or volunteering. CSM and International Outreach Ministries have extensive connections with organizations that are on the front lines across the world. We have more extensive links and information at csmpublishing.org and internationaloutreachministries.org. Another amazing and effective ministry is Born2Fly International. Visit their website at born2fly.org.

I am currently in prayer as to what my next step should be personally. Everyone has a cause that burdens their heart—this is mine. I am here to love and serve until it hurts, so that they won't hurt, and instead know love. I think that principle can be applied to everyone's life, though, even if this isn't the cause that weighs on your heart. Love isn't just something that you feel. It's something that you do—Christ showed us that. **121**

VICTORIA GRACE SIMPSON recently earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in International Studies with a Minor in Professional Writing from Spring Hill College, and will be working on her certification to teach English as a Second Language in Italy.

FAMILYGRAM *Continued from page 11*

It should also be noted that the intense themes in the movie are lightened with a great deal of grace and humor in the form of two colorful characters, the world-weary wise-cracker Truman and his hilarious cousin, B-Mac the driver of a vintage VW Van. Sligh (*American Idol*) revels in his role as B-Mac with gusto, and also provides excellent music for the film. Cousin B-Mac, the driver of a vintage VW van.

Aside from the relevant message, as a work of art, the film stands strong. It looks gorgeous, with rich cinematography, stellar directing, the aforementioned brilliant acting, and an altogether gripping story. The music is used very effectively throughout as well.

This film is not for all ages. Rated PG-13, it contains some very intense thematic dialogue. But it would be exceptionally valuable for parents to see with their teens, followed up by family conversation about the issues presented. The movie doesn't preach, so parents should follow the lead of the film; see it together, then give your kids room to talk about it and express how they feel. Ask questions, and listen.

You can learn more about the film at octoberbabymovie.net, including theater locations nationwide.

1 "Pro-Life Movie Opens Nationwide" by Tim Drake, March 5, 2012, NCRegister.com
2 LifeSiteNews.com, Monday August 11, 2008

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