FAITHFUL BIOETHICS VIDEO SERIES

- V001: The Moral Life of Medicine, Nigel Cameron, Ph.D., with a response by David Schiedermayer, M.D.
- V002: The Church’s Challenge, John Kilner, Ph.D.
- V003: Is Religion a Health Hazard? Examining the Data, David Larson, M.D.
- V004: The Ethical Price, Scott Rie, Ph.D.
- V005: The Ethical Price, Scott Rie, Ph.D.

DYING WITH DIGNITY VIDEO SERIES

- V010: The Good Death, John Dunlop, M.D.
- V012: Euthanasia: The Dutch Experience, Henk Jochemsen, Ph.D.
- V013: The Experience of Dying, Geoffrey Wayerski, Ph.D., Arlette Miller, Ph.D., and David Schiedermayer, M.D.
- V014: Faithful Death, Allen Verhey, Ph.D.
- V015: Forgiving Treatment, John Kilner, Ph.D.
- V016: Medical Fatality, C. Christopher Hook, M.D.
- V018: Hospice, Martin Teweddle, Ph.D.

DYEING DIGNITY VIDEO SERIES

- V102: A Biblical Clinical Approach to Treating Dying Patients, John Dunlop, M.D.
- V103: Dying Patients, John Dunlop, M.D.
- V104: The Experience of Dying, Geoffrey Wayerski, Ph.D., Arlette Miller, Ph.D., and David Schiedermayer, M.D.
- V105: Faithful Death, Allen Verhey, Ph.D.
- V106: Medical Fatality, C. Christopher Hook, M.D.
- V107: Medical Fatality, C. Christopher Hook, M.D.
- V108: The Church’s Challenge, John Kilner, Ph.D.
- V109: Long Term Care, James Thobaben, M.D.

Please mark any boxes below that apply:

- I would like to receive registration information on "The Christian State in Genetics" Conference (July 18-20, 1996).
- I would like to receive registration information on the two Intensive Bioethics Institutes (July 15-20, 1996).
- I would like to receive registration information on the Brussels, Belgium Ethiasmas Confereice (November 24-25, 1995).
- I would like to receive registration information on the Bratislava, Slovakia Bioethics Conference (August 29-31, 1996).

Please fill in all blanks that apply and calculate the total:

- Yes, I want to receive all the benefits of becoming a Center member, plus receive a free audio tape (circle its title on the previous page).
  I understand that I am eligible to purchase tapes at the member rates noted below. (Membership fee: $40)

- Yes, I want to support the important work of the Center with a tax-deductible gift. (For every $50 you can receive a free audio tape circle its title on the previous page. For every $100—you can substitute a free video circle its title above.)

- Yes, I want to purchase audio tapes (members $6 per tape, non-members $7)
  (complete set of Bioethics in Christian Perspectives audio tapes: members $169; non-members $199 AED 01)

- Yes, I want to purchase video tapes (members $10 per tape, non-members $14)
  (complete set of Bioethics in Christian Perspectives video tapes: members $105, non-members $135 VED 01)

- Yes, I want to purchase copies of The Center’s book Bioethics and the Future of Medicine
  (members $10, non-members $15 BD 01)

SHIPPING: Free shipping is given on any order in the continental U.S. for $50 or more; all other orders are billed actual shipping costs.

TOTAL: (Tapes, books, donations and membership fees): $...

CHARGE: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover [ ] American Express

Signature: ________________________________

Exp. Date: ________________________________

If you are unable to pay for your order using a credit card, please contact The Center for alternative payment methods.

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

(OFFERS AND PRICES VALID UNTIL MARCH 31, 1996)

Please include the names and addresses of others who might be interested in reading The Center News.

(C) 1996 The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, Inc., 2505 Half Day Road, Bannockburn, IL 60015, USA. All rights reserved. For more information, please contact: 708-317-8180.

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

REBECCA D. PENTZ, PH.D.

Genesis Chapters One and Nine provide a broad guideline for making ethical decisions. We are the stewards over God's creation; we are the decision makers and cannot avoid responsibility by crying, "It's in God's hands." As frightening as it seems, God has chosen to delegate those difficult decisions about using medical technology to us.

When we see ourselves as stewards over medical technology, it becomes obvious that we need not always use it. Good stewards pick and choose among the available resources and use them only as needed to further God's plan. We need to ask ourselves, "Will those three extra days of life on a respirator in an intensive care unit further God's plan for our loved one's life?" If not, it is perfectly reasonable for a good steward to forgo the respirator. I do not mean to make light of these decisions; we can never know when enough is when the decision must be made. Our greatest resource remains prayer. But I do contend that a technological possibility is not a mandate for the steward.

On the other hand, there are limits to what we can decide. In Genesis 9:6, God explicitly defines one limit: we are not to kill one another, for each human is in the image of God. If there are exceptions to this limit, they must be well guarded. Our starting assumption is otherwise.

When I talk with people about making end of life treatment decisions, I find it helpful to ask the three "S" questions: Is this a case of stewardship? Is this suicide? Is this sacrifice? If a decision is good stewardship, we can embrace it. If it entails suicide, we must reject it as inconsistent with the Christian story. If it involves sacrifice, it warrants further consideration. Jesus' sacrificial death was justified because, in giving up his temporal life, he secured eternal life for us. We must honestly assess what our deaths will accomplish and be careful not to give up our lives unless the ends in view are more significant biblically than the preciousness of a human life.

* Clinical Ethicist and Associate Professor of Clinical Ethics at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, Texas). This presentation expresses her personal beliefs and no University of Texas resources were used in its preparation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING IN BUDAPEST

What began as an international conference on bioethics to be co-sponsored by The Center in Budapest, Hungary June 22-24, 1994 turned out to be more much. The conference itself, entitled Pluralism, Public Policy, and the Hippocratic Tradition, featured invited plenary speakers such as Gyula Gazler of the Hungarian Bioethics Society, Teresa Iglesias of University College (Dublin, Ireland), and The Center's Nigel Cameron and John Kilner. The conference also attracted paper submissions/presentations by such leading bioethicists as Daniel Callahan of The Hastings Center (Briarcliff Manor, NY, USA) and Johan Holmhold of the Swedish National Council of Medical Ethics. During three days of meetings, many important insights into how to approach bioethical issues in this pluralistic age emerged—some of which will be discussed in upcoming articles in The Center's journal, Ethics and Medicine.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Center Board Chair Nigel Cameron and Center Director John Kilner to participate in a pre-conference consultation with directors of bioethics projects from such countries as Slovakia, the Netherlands, England, and Ireland. Among the strategic plans to emerge from this consultation are a computer-based information network and a major, jointly-sponsored international bioethics training institute and conference to be held during August, 1996 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

CENTER MEETS GRANT CHALLENGE, RECEIVES NEW GRANT

Due to the generous giving of many people, The Center has met the terms of the 1 for 1 matching grant of $125,000 from the Macallan Foundation. These funds are being used to continue the development of Center conferences, books, tapes, periodicals, and new initiatives. For instance, these gifts have made it possible for The Center to launch the first stage of a computer-based international bioethics information service. The Center is also pleased to announce that the Macallan Foundation has awarded The Center another matching grant for $75,000. This challenge again presents a special opportunity for those interested in supporting the work of The Center financially. During these formative years of The Center, every gift makes a particularly significant impact. Donations may be multiplied by the Foundation, and free educational resources are still available for Center donors (see order form).