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# The 35 Day Life of John Paul

From the Sorrow will Come a Joy

by David and Pat Banaszak

168 Stratmore

New Carlisle, OH 45344

937-849-9140(H) 937-572-9193(C)

[davebanaszak@juno.com](mailto:davebanaszak@juno.com)

# Abstract

The recent birth and survival of a 21-week, 6-day old child weighing only 10 ounces in Miami, Florida reaffirms that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. During 1987 and 1988, Pat and Dave, lost a Grandfather, age 90 and a premature son aged five weeks. John Paul was born 22 weeks after conception with a weight of 1 pound 4-1/2 ounces. His 5 week life showed the value of human life in the smallest of packages. Pat and Dave share their story to show that all life is sacred. They hope their experiences help and comfort those with similar experiences. This oral presentation, if time permits, will include video clips from the "Littlest Shoes" video showing John Paul during his 5 week battle for survival outside of Pat's Womb.

# March 5, 2007 Newsweek Article

**Medicine**

## The Baby Who's Not Supposed to Be Alive

Amillia's doctor didn't realize just how young she was.

BY PAT WINGERT

**T**HE CHANCE OF SURVIVAL OF a 21-week, 6-day-old fetus is slim. That's something Miami obstetrician Guillermo Livorno thought he knew for sure. Then he delivered Amillia Taylor, who weighed just 28 ounces, and appears to be the youngest premature baby ever to survive, beating the record by more than a week.

Livorno wasn't looking to make history when he scolded in at Baptist Children's

...vital circulation records, that they missed the trouble and its implications.

In the 1990s, premature born around 20 weeks and weighing more than three pounds often died because their lungs were too immature to sustain them. Today, thanks to improved treatments, the line of viability moves around 23 to 24 weeks (and 14 ounces) at hospitals with state-of-the-art intensive-care nurseries. But babies

delivered after her mother's water broke and she developed an infection.) Babies also tend to mature faster when they're stressed, so Amillia likely won't be as healthy as she seems. But even with all that going for the baby, experts like Dr. Paul Phillips of the University of California, San Francisco, say it's still amazing that she made it. "We don't expect any survivors of this gestational age," said Phillips.

Opponents of abortion rights see Amillia's survival as proof that second-trimester terminations should no longer be permitted. Meanwhile, doctors said they'll have to review the case as they update their guidelines on premature births. And experts like Phillips warned that Amillia would raise expectations too high. "What would be worse here is if the kid were doctors to be overly optimistic about babies who have no chance of survival," he said. "This is an ex-

Hospital in Miami last Oct. 24. In fact, he says, if he had known the baby's true age he never would have gone the extra mile and scheduled a C-section delivery. "My focus would have shifted to simply preserving the mother's health, because I know babies that small don't survive," he said. But the language of pregnancy can be confusing. On her first prenatal visit, Livorno said the mother misremembered her dates. As a result, he thought the baby was two weeks older than she actually was. (The family referred all questions to Livorno.) At almost 24 weeks, Amillia would have been right on the "cusp of viability," giving her a small chance of survival. The fact that she came out breathing on her own, and trying to cry, seemed to verify that she was close to that critical age, even though she was much smaller than ultrasonics had indicated. It wasn't until weeks later, when doctors reviewed the in-

stantly rare event, any way you look at it."

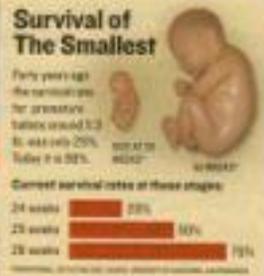
Currently, there is no way to identify the rare baby who might survive such as early birth. Livorno added that even though Amillia was released from the hospital last week, and doctors are optimistic about her future (naturally, so far, she's hitting her developmental milestones on time), it's hard to truly know what kind of physical and neurological challenges she may face later on, such as cerebral palsy or hearing disabilities. In the meantime, her parents and doctors are trying not to let the mystery overshadow their appreciation for Amillia's unexpected triumph.

"Sometimes you just can't explain these things," Livorno said. "Science only takes us so far. There are a lot of us who think God helped to get here, but this is a miracle. Somewhere, we were allowed to do something that was bigger than all of us." And so much more.

- Amillia
- Born October 24, 2006
- 21-week 6 days after conception
- World's 4th smallest baby
- 284 grams (just under 10 oz)
- 9.5 inches long
- Reaffirms the Gospel of Life

## References:

- <http://www.nbc6.net/health/11056409/detail.htm>
- NEWSWEEK, March 5, 2007



# Recall the 35 Day Life of John Paul

**Gospel of Life  
Grandpa  
Transition Period  
John Paul's Birthday  
The 35 Day Life of John Paul  
A Letter to John on JULY 26  
Craig and Brian Visit  
Cheryl and Dianne Visit  
John Paul's Doctors and Nurses  
John Paul Dies  
John Paul's Funeral  
John Paul's Personhood  
Concluding Thoughts  
Bereavement Thoughts  
Evangelium Vita  
Joy and Sorrow**

# The Gospel of Life

“This Gospel -- so simple and brief when written on a page -- is great good news. It is the good news that human beings, created by God from love, are invited to a new and eternal life with God. It is the good news that God is a "living" God who calls us to "profound communion" with himself. A sharing in His very life. It is the good news that in every single person, we can glimpse the face of Christ, a "trace of his glory." (*EV* 34). That our mortal lives, being a "fundamental condition" for our eternal life, have immense worth. It is finally, the news that the path to authentic freedom and happiness lies in living as Jesus lived, loving as Jesus loved, *e.g.* making a "sincere gift of self" to God, and to others. (*EV* 2, 37-39, 51).”

Reference: *Speech by Helen Alvaré*  
*NCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities*

*January 22, 1999, St. Louis University* Published in "A Celebration of Thought of John Paul II," Greg Beabout, editor, St. Louis University Press, 1999.  
Available at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

# Grandpa

- Turned 90 on May 8, 1987
- Stroke affected right side
  - Needed walker-potty nearby
  - Someone close at all times
- Second Stroke in August
  - More severe-Bedridden on return home
  - Lost all independence
  - Needed constant care
- Looked at Pat with big blue eyes
- Died August 29, 1987 – Memorial Service
- Burial of Ashes in October

# Transition Period

- 20th Anniversary during September 1987
- February 1988- Pat confirms pregnancy-age 41
- June 14 – Drop grand slam home run
- June 16 – Pat's car accident
  - Broken ankle (cast) for Pat
  - 3 kids in car okay
  - Delayed wilderness trip – blessing
  - Baby is okay – Still hear heartbeat
- June 23 – Obstetrician examined- all OK

# John Paul's Birthday

- 102 °F on June 25 - Due date is Oct 15
- Mad Dash to hospital at 3:30 PM
- 9:20 PM Agreed to emergency C-Section
  - Baby in danger- Coming too early-In labor
- 10:00 PM Into birth room - 22 weeks pregnant
- 10:20 PM boy makes a small squeak
  - Franciscan brother baptizes John Paul
  - A nurse asks: “Viable or non-viable?” for paperwork
  - Viable another nurse declares!!!
  - 1 pound 4-1/2 ounces 570 grams
- John Paul transferred to another hospital

# Coincidences?

- Morning June 26th Look Old Sunday Missal
- June 26 Feast Saints John and Paul, Martyrs
- June 30 Feast Saint Paul the Apostle
- June 12 Feast of Saint John
- John Paul I pope for 33 days
- John is a special child

# The 35 Day Life of John Paul

- First visit - myself plus 4 children.
- Weight chart started at 570 grams
- John normal but small-eyes fused shut
- Temperature, oxygen & heart monitors
- Ventilator tube
- Surfactant to help lungs
- Broviac surgery, heart valve medication, check for brain bleeds, infection bouts, skin breakdowns

John Paul by Dad's Hand-June 26, 1988  
570 grams – less than 1 day after birth  
Second Trimester less than 24 weeks after conception



# The 35 Day Life of John Paul

- Pat fell in love with John
- Each day a miracle from God
- Great support from Hospital
  - nurses, doctors and staff
- Babies are real at 22 weeks
- Fingernails and toenails starting to grow
- Eyes opened on July 4th
- Screw up face like any other crying baby

# John Paul at Four Days After Birth



# The 35 Day Life of John Paul

- July 22-yellow mucous indicates infection
- Would not void – serious condition
- Pat prays- cheers John with yellow colors
- Pat reads “Littlest Angel” book to John
- Pat stays at hospital with John
- Plays tapes to comfort John
- July 25 is John Paul’s 1 month birthday
- We feel John must die with dignity
- John gripped my little finger
- Grandpa gripped my hand
- Grandpa and John needed constant care

# John Paul Looks at Us



# Letter to John – July 26 from Pat

- Your eyes are moving all over
- My hands - Dad's fat feet
- Kids small turned up nose
- You are so beautiful-you show us patience
- You have touched may lives
  - Many prayers for you
  - People accept you as a true baby
  - Nurses love you

# Craig and Brian Visit

- Came shyly to look at you
- Craig found you had a grip
  - started to relate
- Brian scared at first
  - Talked and joked with you as a brother
  - Looked past your deformities
- Affirms Respect for Life
  - Reference *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

# Cheryl and Dianne Visit

- We held John for first time
- Dianne Age 8 looks at you
  - Says you are going to heaven
  - Afraid to touch or come near John
- Cheryl frighten at first
  - Maternal instincts take over
- Other visitors
  - Neighbors, friends, Father John prays with us
- John's LIFE affected many people

# John Paul's Doctor's and Nurses

- First Doctor gave us no false hopes
- Second Doctor gave us hope
- Third doctor gave us comfort
- Nurses knew and cared for John
- Gotcher (2000) states
  - “But, and this is important, direct action must be done consistently with a promotion of the culture of life and civilization of love. In other words, it must be done with an eye toward the dignity of everyone involved: the child, the mother, the medical personnel, and politicians.”

# Only Family Picture with John Paul

Back L-R Pat, Brian, Craig, David, John, Cheryl Front Dianne



# John Paul Dies

- We finally get to hold John as desired
- All held John Paul on his last day
- A new life is near for John
- Pat's brother Michael & Wife Joyce join us
- I hold John a couple hours
  - like a feather to hold
- Pat sat in rocker with John
- John peeks at Pat with big blue eyes
- John's heart rate drops to zero at 6:10 AM.
- A baby teaches parents the Sanctity of Life

# John Paul's Funeral

- We wrap John in a blanket
- Drive him to funeral home
- Pat holds John his first and only ride with us
- Open casket viewing before Mass
  - People amazed at size and perfection of body
  - John touched many lives
    - KofC brother's quote "I hate to admit it but the little fellow looks like you."
- God gave us the songs to sing
- Cheryl read from Jeremiah and John
- John buried besides Pat's mother

# John Paul in His Casket



# John Paul's Personhood

- John Paul lives 35 days
- 1973 Supreme Court
  - May not consider John a person - Franz(2003)
- Inside/Outside womb - John is a person
  - residence change from womb to neonatal nursery
- John accomplished many feats
  - Taught sadness of men and women who lose a child
    - Especially miscarriage, stillborn, abortion, infant death
  - Showed dedication of doctors & nurses
  - Reaffirmed respect for life

# John Paul's Personhood

- John Paul left a worldly trail
  - Renal failure similar to adult renal failure
  - Received Life Insurance Settlement-> 15days
  - Birth and death certificate
  - Baptized a Catholic
  - Dependent on income tax
  - US citizen by birth
  - Lots of bills paid by insurance
  - Blood type A+ like Mom
  - Mail delivered to John at hospital
  - Obituary in the newspaper
  - Funeral and burial
  - John resembled me

# John Paul's Personhood

- John stirred every Human emotion
  - John Paul caused love and stress
  - John made people laugh and cry
  - Nurses and doctors bonded to John
  - People at work showed concern for John
  - Parents and siblings bonded to John

# John Paul's Personhood

- Sounds like a person
  - Showed need to protect life and preciousness of life
  - How many viable/non viable killed by abortion?
  - Weep for moms and dads who never feel their unborn
  - Endured beginning and end of life decisions
- Spoke in many ways
  - Hand grip on my little finger
  - Hand and feet wave when excited
  - Face screwed up, got red and grimace when mad
  - Joy to parents, caregivers and all who prayed for him
- Read UFL papers that discuss early personhood

# Concluding Thoughts

- Pat: When John was alive, almost everyone knew of someone who had a baby as small. When he died, even more people came up and said they had a stillborn, miscarriage or little one that died.
- David: Grandpa and John Paul were both helpless, but Pat and I did all we could. We tried and had few regrets that we didn't do all we could. We were stunned by the similarities between John's and grandpa's last days.

# Concluding Thoughts

- PAT: John moves his eyes yet his vision is to heaven and not here. He is a child of God. God called him home and he is going. We must believe he was here for a reason.
- DAVID: I may be the only person to see John Paul every day of his born life. It bonded me to John and helped me to accept his death. Even ten minutes a day helped me feel pride in my son. When kidney failure progressed, I did not realize John looked so sick.
- PAT: Hearing is the last function to go before dying. Talk all the time before death. In Grandpa's case, we talked, played his ball games on radio, sat in his room and talked to him or to others around him. He was listening. John Paul did not like noise. His monitor's alarms would sound when there was noise around him, so the nurses put him in an isolette. Even when we would stand on either side of the isolette and talk over it, he would cringe up to let us know he did not like it. He did like his music. His favorite was Vivaldi, Bach and soothing mood music. Harps and flutes, he loved.

# Bereavement Thoughts

Helpful points-Services for those who died in the hospital during July/August 88

- Don't refuse to talk. Put your chaotic feelings into words.
- Don't indulge in self condemnation. No human being is infallible.
  - We only can do what we have the physical and emotional power to do.
  - We can only make decisions on what we know at the time, not what we find out after.
- Don't stay inactive. No idleness. Engage in new activities.
  - Redo your environment.
  - Help someone else who may seem to need help more than you.
- Don't suppress emotion.
  - Acknowledge them and let people know your experiences.
  - Let people comfort you in good times and bad.
- Don't undervalue the healing power of time.
  - Don't feel bad if you cry at times and don't feel ashamed.
  - If you see someone like that reach out and touch them.
  - They will know you understand without a word.
- Don't deny the need for help.

# John Paul's Grave



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

"Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young."

But the LORD answered me, Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:5-8 NAB

# Evangelium Vita

“44. Human life finds itself most vulnerable when it enters the world and when it leaves the realm of time to embark upon eternity. The word of God frequently repeats the call to show care and respect, above all where life is undermined by sickness and old age. Although there are no direct and explicit calls to protect human life at its very beginning, specifically life not yet born, and life nearing its end, this can easily be explained by the fact that the mere possibility of harming, attacking, or actually denying life in these circumstances is completely foreign to the religious and cultural way of thinking of the People of God.” (John Paul II, March 25, 1995)

# Evangelium Vita

“85. In celebrating the Gospel of life we also need to appreciate and make good use of the wealth of gestures and symbols present in the traditions and customs of different cultures and peoples. There are special times and ways in which the peoples of different nations and cultures express joy for a newborn life, respect for and protection of individual human lives, care for the suffering or needy, closeness to the elderly and the dying, participation in the sorrow of those who mourn, and hope and desire for immortality.” (John Paul II, March 25, 1995)

# From the Sorrow Will Come a Joy

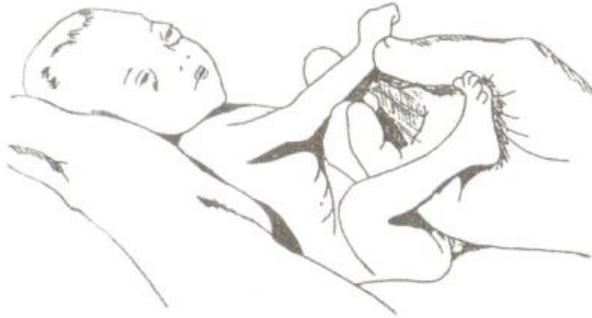
- EST 9:22 NAB
- JER 31:13 NAB
- 2 Cor 2:3. NAB
- Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope)
  - Second Vatican Council (1965)
- Video If Time Permits

# References

- See Word File
- Birth and Death Certificate

# Littlest Shoes Video

The Handiwork of God



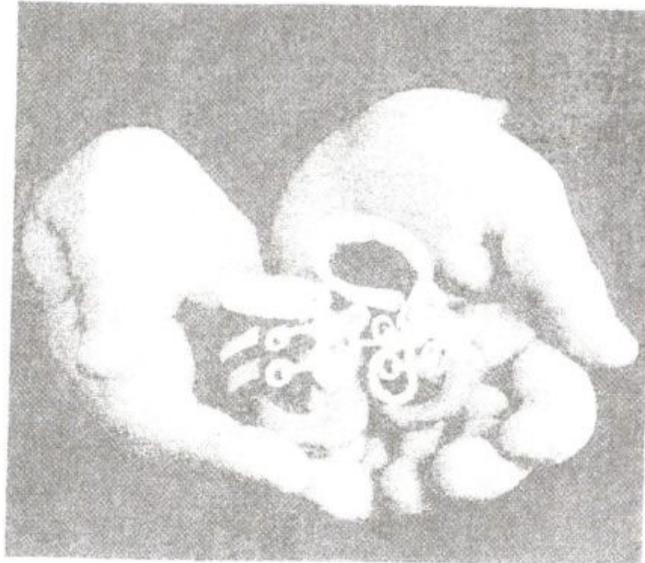
Our Miracle

THE LITTLEST SHOES WILL MAKE YOU FEEL  
HAPPY -- THAT GOD COULD CREATE SOMEONE  
SO PERFECT YET SO SMALL  
JOYFUL -- THAT JOHN PAUL EXHIBITS A PERSONALITY  
HIS OWN  
HOPEFUL -- THAT PEOPLE WILL SOON REALIZE THE UNBORN  
ARE PRECIOUS TOO  
POWERFUL -- THAT THE JOHN PAULS OF THE WORLD WILL  
ALL BE SAVED

TRI COUNTY RTL  
815 WEST MAIN ST.  
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

"THE LITTLEST SHOES"

## THE LITTLEST SHOES



John's little shoes, much too big for him,  
were just right for 11" doll baby.

*... John visited us for 35 days  
And touched our hearts in many ways  
We think John visited us as a special message  
That all Human Life is very precious ...  
John's parents*