

The Power of a Heartbeat

Small children new to the concept of walking soon try their hand at running. Inevitability there will come a time when the feet can't keep up with the momentum and the child tumbles to the ground. The fall causes pain, embarrassment, suffering, and scrapes.

Mothers universally recognize the resulting wails as a cry for attention. Unless there is a large amount of blood involved, mother knows what the child needs — to gather the child into a tender embrace and a snuggle next to mama's heart.

The sound of the heartbeat soothes and reassures the child that all will be right with the world, for mom is there to protect, shelter, and comfort.

When the child matures and faces the time when they will soon become a parent, the common response is fear and trepidation. Parents-to-be stress over their abilities, resources, and all the "what-ifs" that can befall a family.

The day comes when they experience the pitter-patter of their child's heart and they know that everything will be fine. The pangs of birth, the angst of watching their child grow will all be worth it. They hear new life.

Let us work together to protect every new heartbeat. Let us walk beside those who wish to silence the heartbeat. Let us offer what we can so all heartbeats continue to beat.

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