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Youth for Truth and Life Student Essay Contest 2018 Winners



Youth for Truth and Life Student Essay Contest 2018 Winners, Muskegon County, Michigan: 7th and 8th grade, 1st place, Miah Martineau, 7th-Homeschool; 2nd place, Graeson Lawrence, 7th-Calvary Christian School. 9th through 12th grade, 1st place, Isaac Kitchen, 12th-Homeschool; 2nd place, Adrianna Dreyer, 11th-Montague High School; 3rd place, Grace Parsekian, 12th-Mona Shores Public School. Guest Essays, Ottawa County, Michigan: 7th through 12th Grade, 1st place, Jaela Norkoli, 12th-Homeschool; 2nd place, Elizabeth Prins, 12th-Spring Lake School. Far left: YFTAL Coordinator Arline Helms. Center: Dr. Alveda King. Far right: Deb Null, executive director MPS.

On October 4, 2018, Youth for Truth and Life, a collaboration of Reviving the Foundations with Arline Helms and Muskegon Pregnancy Services, honored the students whose essays won their 2018 essay contest. The students addressed the question: "With reference to the original intent of the Declaration of Independence, what is your understanding of the meaning of 'these TRUTHS' and the importance of LIFE in 'Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness?' Why are these concepts relevant today? How does Dr. Alveda King's civil rights work relate to truth and life?" The two top winners read their essays to an audience of over 700 at the Frauenthal.

The students received cash prizes, as well as a signed copy of Dr. King's book, KING TRUTHS: 21 KEYS TO UNLOCKING YOUR SPIRITUAL

Undeniable.
by Isaac Kitchen
Youth for Truth and Life Student Essay Contest Winner 12th Grade

In the Declaration of Independence, our founding fathers stated that they held to certain truths that were already self evident. They stated that certain rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were rights given to us by the Creator, therefore cannot be taken away by any human or government. Have we taken it upon ourselves to define and grant these rights as we please?

What is life? Is it simply a word to define the time we walk on this earth? Or could it be something deeper? The biblical account of creation explains how mankind was first formed, mostly found in the first two chapters of Genesis. Genesis 1:28 says "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." From the very beginning, we were crafted in the very image of God; therefore, life is a perfect handiwork of God Himself. The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle defined life as what is between conception and death. He believed that the soul was born at conception and lived on past death. The fact is, life was designed by God to start at conception and end in death. Even in an ancient scholar's opinion, life began before birth. The fact is so undeniable and so scientifically and morally true, two opposing religious documents written thousands of years ago agree upon it! Even so, statistics tell us that over 3,000 unborn lives are aborted every single day around the world. That's 3,000 lives that had already begun that will never get to experience liberty, because they could not speak. If life is defined as an undeniable right, is it in the government's power to grant us permission to take away the right to live from babies who haven't even had the chance to live yet?

The *Websters 1828 Dictionary* defines liberty as "Freedom from restraint, in a general sense, and applicable to the body, or to the will or mind." *Websters* also goes farther and defines the difference between natural liberty to be free of restraint, and civil liberty to use your freedom as

POTENTIAL. Thank you to our sponsors for offering generous cash prizes, and to our judges from Michigan, Virginia, and Kentucky.

A booklet, THE FRUIT OF DR. ALVEDA KING'S LABOR, was created to honor Dr. King with the winning essays and was signed by the students. The students are now published! Congratulations!

Inspired by Dr. Alveda King, Reviving the Foundations with Arline Helms and Muskegon Pregnancy Services formed YFTAL. We provide student essay contests, workshops, and events to equip the next generation to preserve the principles of liberty given to us by our Creator.

To follow and support YFTAL go to: www.youthfortruthandlife.org

long as you do not restrict the rights of others or the break the laws that your government has put in place unless those laws are unjust. For instance, in the 60's here were laws that were restricting the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness of people of different nationality, so America rose up against the laws using civil liberty to once again be free of restraint. Now, we face yet another battle of civil liberty. The fight is for the civil rights of the unborn children that die every single day without having the chance to pursue their happiness. The laws that were in place in the past and the laws that are in place now have something in common, and it isn't a good thing. The civil battles of the 1960's for the rights of the African American citizens to live and pursue happiness was all about being able to live free, a civil right. The civil battle for the rights of the unborn children is all about the being free to live, which is most definitely a civil and a natural right! There are people alive today that will tell you the declaration of independence is rendered irrelevant because of it's age, but our right to live freely has been with us since the beginning! Our founding fathers did not create these truths, they held them to be self evident! Life and liberty are not only founding moral ideas to our nation, but basic moral absolutes to our existence as the human race! When our founding fathers drafted this document, it was not a proposal and was not up for discussion. It was their declaration that life and liberty in America will never be restrained again. Throughout our history as a nation, we have faced difficult decisions. Yet through it all we have faced them based upon the foundational principles that our founding fathers laid out as basic and unchangeable truths.

Today, we face yet another hard question that we must answer using the truths laid out in our foundational documents. This hard question is whether or not we will give the freedom to live or die to these unborn children who are killed every day. There are many great men and women fighting for this cause to end, among them is Dr. Alveda King. Dr. King lived through the civil rights movement of the 60's and see's today's