

Religious and scientific leaders issue manifesto on cloning

MANY OF THE NATION'S top religious and scientific leaders have issued a new "manifesto on biotechnology" calling for the banning of any and all human cloning. The document, called "The Sanctity of Life in a Brave New World: A Manifesto on Biotechnology," also demands legislation that will prevent discrimination based on genetic information.

Over 25 signatures appear on the manifesto, including those of Prison Fellowship founder **Chuck Colson**, Focus on the Family president **James Dobson** and physicians **Ben Carlson** and **C. Everett Koop**. The document was released by the Council for Biotechnology Policy, which is an initiative of the Wilberforce Forum, a division of Colson's ministry.

"We are thankful for the hope that biotechnology offers of new treatments for some of the most dreaded diseases," says the document. "But the same technology can be used for good or ill."

Nigel Cameron, the director of the

biotechnology council said, "We come together as those who hold dear the sanctity of human life and who sound an alarm as we see fresh and horrific assaults on the dignity of our own kind." Cameron encouraged all Americans to join in signing and backing the manifesto.

The declaration points to the use, and eventual destruction, of human embryos as well as recent developments by the Human Genome Projects as causes for concern. The manifesto also addresses concerns about scientific progress in treating genetic diseases.

Quadriplegic **Joni Eareckson Tada**, president of Joni and Friends, has also signed the document. Joni and Friends is a ministry to the disabled, and the organization supports adult stem cell research rather than the use of human embryo stem cells.

"The search for a cure should never compromise the security of human dignity and respect for human life," Eareckson said. "The elderly, infirm,

and disabled are exposed and threatened in a society which thinks nothing of creating a class of human beings for the explicit purpose of exploitation."

The document's signatories make clear that they demand action. One paragraph of the manifesto reads, "We seek a wide-ranging review of patent law to protect human dignity from the commercial use of human genes, cells, and other tissues. We believe such public policy initiatives will help ensure the progress of ethical biotechnology while protecting the sanctity of human life."

The manifesto was revealed as several senators introduced the "Human Cloning Ban and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2003."

Crosswalk.com reported that groups such as the Christian Legal Society and the Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have criticized the bill saying that "its support of embryonic stem cell research does not respect human life."
—*Evangelical Press News Service*

The Lookout's 2003 Senior Adult Writing Contest

THE LOOKOUT is sponsoring a writing contest for senior adults age 70 and over. The three winning articles will appear in our July 27, 2003 issue, along with the names of other writers who earn honorable mention. If you are 70 or older, we invite you to participate. Please follow these rules closely.

Contest Rules

To be eligible, writers must be no younger than 70 years old. Employees of Standard Publishing Company and Berean Christian Stores, and their relatives, are ineligible. Past contest winners are ineligible.

2. Only one article may be submitted by any author.
3. The article must be nonfiction prose (no poetry) dealing with some aspect of

the theme, "The Church Then and Now."

4. The article should contain 500-800 words, neatly typed, double-spaced, on one side of plain white 8 1/2 x 11" paper.

5. Along with the article, the author should send: a self-addressed stamped #10 business envelope (SASE); a recent color photo; current address, phone number, and Social Security number (necessary for us to issue checks to the winners).

6. Manuscripts will not be returned. Please keep a copy for your records.

7. A panel of experienced authors and editors will examine all entries and make final decisions.

8. Deadline: Entries must be post-marked by April 15, 2003 to be eligible.

9. Send entries to: THE LOOKOUT Senior Adult Writing Contest, 8121 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231.

Prizes

Three Winners:

- Article published in the July 27, 2003 issue of THE LOOKOUT.
- \$100 cash.
- Free book from Standard Publishing.

Honorable Mention:

- Author's name printed in the July 27, 2003 issue of THE LOOKOUT.
- \$20 cash.
- Free book from Standard Publishing.

Every Person Who Enters:

- \$10.00 gift certificate for a Standard Publishing product.