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On October 30th, 160 parents, family and friends gathered together at Advocate Bromenn Medical Center to go on a “Walk to Remember” the children who had died before or soon after they were born. I was asked to give a short message to encourage hope for the future. I would like to share this talk with you:

As an OB GYN physician, I find myself taking care of people who have lost a baby either before birth or shortly after the baby was born. You may be among a number of women and men who have planned, prepared and prayed for a baby, but the baby was stillborn. Perhaps your baby lived a short time after birth and died a few hours, days or weeks after birth. Or maybe you are a parent of a child lost to abortion (planned or unplanned) and the pain of the decision runs deep. Finally, you may belong to a group that carried the baby without any problems for the first few months and suddenly something went wrong and the baby was lost to miscarriage.

Most of you here today have suffered through this great crisis and at some point after the loss you have asked yourself, why has this happened? Why did God allow this to happen to me? To us? Did I do something terrible to deserve this? Is there something wrong with me or my husband that caused this to happen? How can I possibly try for another baby when the pain of this loss is unbearable? I don't want to go through this pain again. Some or most of you may be searching for the answer to these and other questions

that rage within you. You turn to your doctor, your family, your pastor or your friends to help you find these answers, but sometimes the answers don't come and you find yourself feeling numb and hopeless begging God to know why this has happened and is there hope for the future. A hope that you can somehow bear the pain. A hope that you will someday conceive and have a healthy child to love and nurture. If you feel this way, realize that you are not alone.

The parents of the stillborn or the newly born who die, the miscarrying mother and the maternal victim of abortion are all parents of children who were designed for a lifetime of purpose but whose lives were cut short.

In God's initial plan these children were not intended to die because of the disease, deformity, death or destruction that took their lives.

But because of sin, this perfect plan was altered and now has resulted in tears, bitterness and questions for those of us left to pick up the broken lives of those suffering through the loss. However, we have a God who does love us and I assure you

He is our HOPE when we go through these trials in our

lives. So let's search God's Word to find the hope that we are looking for:

Genesis 2:7 tells us that the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a human being. A human with a soul, God breathed it into man at the very beginning and He told man and women to be fruitful and multiply. So at conception when both egg and sperm come together, life begins and the developing fetus has a soul, which is just as precious as our own souls.

Psalms 139:13 says that God created our inmost being [our soul]; that HE knit us together in our mothers womb. That we were fearfully and wonderfully made and that His works are wonderful. Our frame was not hidden from Him when we were made in that secret place and His eyes saw our unformed bodies for what they were.

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(Continued from front)

It goes on to say that all the days ordained for us were written in God's book before one of them came to be. God sees every fetus that is forming and He knows exactly how long each of us are going to live, whether it is in our mother's womb or here on earth outside the womb. He loves us and has a plan for each of us designed by His Sovereign wisdom. So I can assure you that your child was a human being, created in the image of God and had a soul. Who was and is loved by our creator God.

An aborted baby does not cease to exist because it was removed from the mother's womb and a miscarried, stillborn or child who dies in their parent's arms shortly after birth doesn't just become forgotten by our heavenly Creator. They are carried up to God's presence as a precious eternal being.

Some parents ask if their child will recognize them and what will they look like. The Bible reveals that in heaven we will be

given new bodies and that we will recognize each other. Your child will also receive a new whole body devoid of any disease, deformity or destructed part. They will be like each of us when we receive our new bodies.

For those who fear their child will hate them for aborting them – don't. They will love you more than you will ever know. God is the only judge. He is full of grace and love and will welcome you with open arms as He has forgiven all your sins and will not hold them against you – if you have asked for forgiveness and have accepted His son Jesus as your only Savior.

Some of us after a loss may withdraw from others, feeling lonely and forgotten, but God has not forgotten you. Jeremiah tells us that God knows the plan He has for each of us, a plan to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. All HE asks is that we seek Him with all of our heart and pray to Him and He will listen to us. God wants to bless His children and He is our only hope

for a future where we will join up again with our children and live forever with Jesus our Lord and Savior. I have dealt with hundreds of people over the years I have been practicing medicine who have lost a child. I go through the pain of that loss each time. It is the hardest part of my job and yet I know God has given me a purpose here on earth to comfort and provide spiritual healing to those who are going through it. The only way I know to find peace and hope is through the promises of our Lord and Savior who loves us and cares for us. We are not lost and abandoned. We have a Shepherd who watches over us and will carry us in His arms to His heavenly Father who will love us for eternity.

We have a lot to be thankful for and we need to continually give thanks to the God who gives abundantly.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

Dr. Harold



The grandkids are ready for trick or treating: (From Left to Right)

Bobby the Giraffe, Ruthie the LadyBug, Axel Stan-the-Man Musial, Dr. Carson, Honest Abe Ernie, Cannon the Brave Lion, and Rae Rae the Littlest LadyBug.