

2021 CMA Book Award Essay

The Life and Dignity of a Human Person, born and unborn, is at the heart of this research conducted at Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan during the early 1990s. It is a scientific clinical study comparing abortion-distressed, abortion-non-distressed, and no-abortion groups.

The Pine Rest Study was presented at the American Psychological Association's annual conference, New York, 1995. The research itself was not published; however, a related book chapter was published in 1995.

David C. Hanley, my late husband, and I viewed the endeavor as an apostolic failure. However, this changed at Mr. Hanley's wake in 2018 when all of his Pine Rest colleagues paid their respects. It was surprising because Mr. Hanley had not been in contact with most of them since he had left Pine Rest for a private practice in 1996.

Women helped by this research also attended the wake. Some continue to help other women deal with their abortions. One said she would do this work for the rest of her life.

I realized that the research was not a wasted effort.

So, I searched for all authors or their living spouses to obtain permission to publish the research († D. C. Hanley, R. L. Anderson, †D. B. Larson, †H. L. Piersma, †D. S. King and R. C. Sider), and the book chapter.

In February 1988, Mr. Hanley completed a proposal for an inpatient clinical-research unit for the treatment of persons highly stressed by abortion. It was agreed that this project would be much more appropriately undertaken in an outpatient setting. He presented an outpatient version of the proposal to the Director of Outpatient Services with a request to transfer to Outpatient Service.

Mr. Hanley received permission to present this outpatient proposal to David B. Larson, an epidemiological researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health, who spoke at Pine Rest on "Research as Ministry." Dr. Larson offered to help Mr. Hanley and Harry L Piersma, PhD, Pine Rest Director of Research, conduct the research. It was the beginning of the Pine Rest Study.

Researchers and clinicians from both sides of the abortion issue united to complete the study. The women each had their own therapist outside the research protocol. Dr. Piersma assured that an unbiased scientific balance was maintained. Mr. Hanley conducted an hour-and-a-half semi-structured interview with all abortion-distressed and abortion-non-distressed women. Dr. D. Stephen King administered the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) to all the women. As a doctoral student, Rachel L. Anderson re-ran the statistics from the original data after some data shown up missing. Dr. Roger C. Sider, who was on the study from the beginning, verified the data. Dr. Larson offered his research expertise throughout and, most importantly, religion as a factor.

I respectfully request that you consider this work for the 2021 CMA Book Award.

Mrs. David C. Hanley