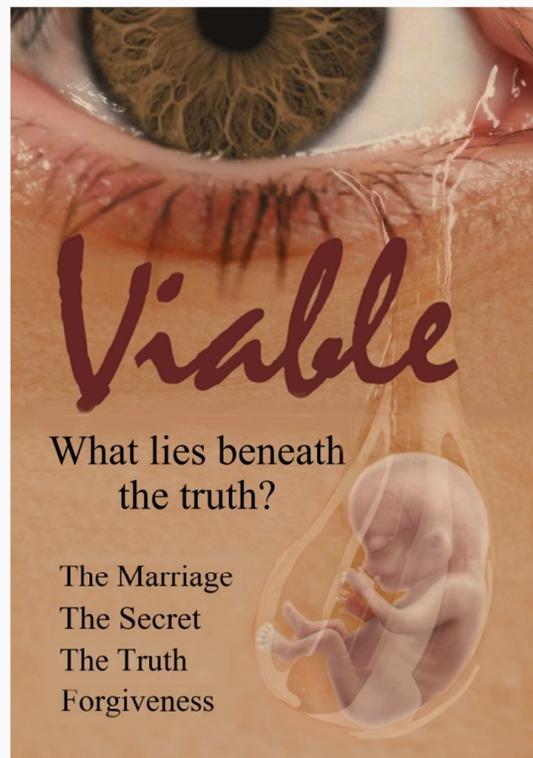


## Proudly Pro-Life Gala in Columbia, SC Boldly Breaks New Ground with the One-Act Play *Viable*

South Carolina Citizens for Life made history Friday evening, January 10, 2020 at their Proudly Pro-Life Gala. Attendance for the annual event reached an all-time high. The room was a complete sell out. SCCL also creatively broke new ground by replacing the customary keynote speaker with a new one-act play, *Viable*. It was a risk. But, SCCL President, Lisa Van Riper, and Executive Director, Holly Gatling, took it and broke free of the traditional mold. The results were spectacular and the state of South Carolina is still buzzing about it. See video highlights from the Proudly Pro-Life Gala performance and performances at North Greenville University and First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, SC as well as audience reactions by clicking the video link below:

<https://vimeo.com/385738101/12f7f6afbe>





*Viable* is a 60-minute play about a wound that time won't heal. Decades of post-abortion anger and self-condemnation filled her with rage toward herself and those she loved - until she found the healing love of Jesus Christ in a most unusual and unexpected way. For more information, visit [viableplay.org](http://viableplay.org), write to [info@ChristianCreativeMedia.org](mailto:info@ChristianCreativeMedia.org), or call 615-268-3507. You can also visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/viabletheplay/>

**"Wow. If that doesn't move you, nothing will."  
-Attorney General Alan Wilson**



Elegant tables were crafted by the staff members of Carolina Pregnancy Center in Spartanburg, SC.



South Carolina Citizens for Life Office Director, Sally Zaleski, coordinates her volunteers who helped make the gala a success.



South Carolina Governor and First Lady, Henry and Peggy McMaster, focus on the *Viable* performance.



Governor Henry McMaster delivers words of support for South Carolina Citizens for Life.



President of South Carolina Citizens for Life, Lisa Van Riper, delivers an impassioned President's report.



*Carolina Pregnancy Center Director, Alexia Newman, appeals for support.*



Proudly Pro-Life Gala Sponsor and Chairwoman of the *Christian Creative Media* Board of Directors, Karen Iacovelli, introduces the 60-minute play, *Viable*, on January 10, 2020 In Columbia, South Carolina.

## ***Viable* – South Carolina Annual Pro-life Dinner Offers Nourishment to Pro-Lifers**

By Gene Zaleski

1 Corinthians 12:24-26 God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it: if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

The apostle Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth uses the familiar yet insightful analogy of the human body to compare the interconnectedness of human relationships. The apostle lays out the importance of each of the body's members and their reliance of each on one another for wholeness, completeness and viability.

Paul's letter to the church came about during a time of divisions and factions within the church. In many ways there was a spirit of radical autonomy from the authority as it was being handed down through the apostles. You see, the city of Corinth was a commercial crossroads and a melting pot full of various pagan cults and moral depravity that had not left the church immune from this cultural context.

There were divisions among church members that could we say ... was making the fledgling Christian message less viable and effective for the transformation of the surrounding culture. So, how does this all relate to this year's South Carolina Citizens for Life annual prolife dinner?

I would suggest everything.

Most years the annual gathering of pro-lifers at the SCCL dinner includes an update on the various pro-life pieces of legislation currently under consideration in the South Carolina General Assembly. There is typically a keynote speaker – an energized, nationally known pro-life stalwart – who helps to inspire hope and enthusiasm among attendees to continue to live and advocate for the good news that all life is precious and has value.

This year's SCCL dinner was different: it was a red carpet dinner/theatre affair with the showing of "*Viable* – The Truth of Christ's Love Presented in One Act."

The play tells the story of Judy and her husband, George. It is a story of a troubled relationship, a troubled marriage, a troubled family, a troubled domestic church. Resentment, anger, bitterness, accusations, and hatred were among festering wounds that had opened up between Judy and George. The couple take their pains and grievances to their pastor and for the next hour the play magnificently lays out the deep-seated source of the couple's pain and suffering.

Judy had undergone an abortion of her first child and the pain and guilt from that first abortion not only impacted her and her child, but it also impacted her relationship with her husband, causing him much suffering as well. And so we come back to Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth. Like the members of the body, when one suffers all suffer.

There is the much often used lie among those proponents of abortion that it is a woman's body and that she has the right to do what she wants with her body. A radical autonomy severed from all human bonds. The lie is that an abortion is solely a private and individual act which only impacts the woman, but as members of the human family, when one member of the body suffers, others suffer as well. The play, *Viable*, reveals abortion not only kills an innocent child, but that it also hurts and scars women who have to come to terms with the guilt and shame of killing their own child.

The play shows abortion also harms men and damages the interpersonal relationship

Judy has with her husband George. The bond between mother and child and, further extended, between wife and husband are so intimate that Paul recalls in marriage, the 'two become one flesh' or one body. Abortion is a direct attack on the human family and the interpersonal family relationships. It is far from an autonomous act.

But "Viable" does not end there.

In a God-willed and inspired dream sequence, Judy is visited by her first child and comes to reconcile and receive forgiveness for her past sin of abortion. Her aborted child is used by God to bring peace and love to Judy's shame filled heart. Her reconciliation with her past results in reconciliation with her husband, George, demonstrating the unifying nature of God's love in Jesus, who is love, mercy and forgiveness incarnate.

Judy and George both experience a deeper personal relationship with God and each other and truly become 'one body' healed of all division. In St. Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus, he writes that Jesus Christ gave His life for the Church, His Body and His Bride.

Yes, Jesus Christ died for each one of us as individuals, but He gave His life for all members of the Body, His Church. Let us as members of His Body reach out to those women who are suffering from a past abortion and for those families who are broken due a past abortion.

May these suffering members of the Body of Christ experience the life saving grace of Jesus Christ through us as members of His Body... because if one member suffers all suffer, if one member is healed (honored) the Body rejoices. Let us offer mercy, instead of judgment, forgiveness instead of revenge and hatred. So that as members of the Body healed of division and suffering the Christian message of God's love can become more viable to an unbelieving world.

Gene Zaleski is a 20-year veteran journalist and Chapter  
Secretary for Orangeburg County Citizens of Life