



club, she was hit and seriously injured by a drunk driver. She suffered a severe form of brain damage and could only blink her eyes to communicate. Late last week, it was revealed that after 20 years she had begun to speak! It seemed to happen accidentally. Apparently, the nursing home director was working with a group of other residents, trying to get them to talk. She had gotten one resident to reply, "OK," when suddenly from the background Sarah blurted, "OK, OK." Intensive work with a speech therapist was then begun. Doctors really don't know why Sarah began to speak. Traditional medical thinking had always been that once a brain was severely damaged, nothing could be done. I believe this case has tremendous implications for the Terri Schiavo case, the woman from Florida who some consider to be in a persistent vegetative state since her brain was deprived of oxygen in 1990. Although Terri's parents continue to seek legal recourse, it appears that eventually Terri's husband, Michael, will be granted permission to withdraw her feeding tube. But more on that in a future issue of *CBI Bioethics Update*.

### **Update on the Concordia Center for Bioethics (Abbreviated CBI)...**

Later this month Dr. Voss will be traveling to Madagascar along with Prof. John Pless of Concordia Theological Seminary and Rev. Michael Roth, Michigan District 3rd Vice President. Dr. Voss will be speaking to pastors and health care providers concerning the medical and ethical aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which is ravaging all of sub-Saharan Africa. Believe it or not, the Malagasy Lutheran Church is about the same size as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The trip offers a tremendous opportunity for the CBI to extend its mission to the world. Please keep Dr. Voss in your prayers as he travels from February 24 to March 5.

The continued existence of the CBI is due to the gracious support of an anonymous donor. However, existence is not enough. We would like to reach out and do more by turning the CBI into one of the premier Christian bioethics centers, but we are limited by cost considerations. If you would like to help support the mission of the Concordia Center for Bioethics, please contact us. We need your help!

**CBI Needs:** Prayer for Kevin Voss and for the work of the CBI; Secretarial help; Necessary office supplies; Bioethics library; *CBI Bioethics Update* video; CBI brochure; Costs for hosting annual bioethics conferences; and website maintenance. For \$120 you may become a CBI Bioethics Associate Member. Thrivent matching funds are available for donations to the CBI.

### **Update on Upcoming Events...**

April 2, 2005: Dr. Voss to speak at the State of Illinois Lutherans for Life Annual Convention held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL.

April 12, 2005: Columbia-St. Mary's/ CBI joint bioethics conference.

November 11, 2005: LCMS Sanctity of Life Committee, Lutherans for Life and the CBI co-sponsor a national bioethics conference at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St.

