

Family

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Research Council

Gary L. Bauer, President

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Dear Friend:

The Bauer family had a close call last month. An unusually strong summer thunderstorm ripped through the Washington area, bringing with it 150-mile-per-hour winds. To make matters worse, a tornado touched down on our street, knocking down trees and sending limbs flying through walls and onto rooftops. Fortunately, our house was largely spared, but a neighbor's home was badly damaged.

My daughter, Elyse, and I were driving home through the storm when the tornado hit. I'll never forget the sight as we turned down our street and saw how the severe weather had rearranged the familiar objects of our daily lives. The storm was gone in a little more than an hour, but it was incredible how quickly so much raw destruction was wreaked on our community. Human beings are no match for the forces of God's Creation. We were struck with a sense of awe—and our hearts were filled with thanks that the destruction was not worse and that no one was injured or killed.

That twister wasn't the only storm I encountered last month. Throughout the month of June, I found myself caught up in a whirlwind over the Republican Party Platform and the sanctity of human life. Debate over the GOP's pro-life plank has been going on for years, but this new storm kicked up suddenly and unexpectedly. It came about when Sen. Robert Dole, the certain GOP presidential nominee, called for the addition of a "declaration of tolerance" to the platform, and suggested that it be applied *only* to the abortion language. That current language in the existing platform says that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life that cannot be infringed, and calls for a human life amendment to the Constitution.

Let me say right up front that Sen. Bob Dole and I have known each other for years. I consulted with him last fall, at his request, before he delivered his speech in Hollywood calling on the entertainment industry to reverse its tide of sex-and-violence for profit. We have collaborated over the years on many other issues. A few weeks ago, Jim Dobson and I prayed together with Bob in his Capitol Hill office. I consider him a friend, and I believe he would say the same about me.