

HLA Action News

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"Inform • Inspire • Involve"

Dear Pro-life Friend,

Can a simple newsletter like this one save a life? The short answer is, "Yes it can!" But the longer answer is much more interesting.

The story I share with you today is an encouraging example of how God used a few people in the United States to make an eternal difference for one family in the United Kingdom—4,051 miles apart. It's an account of overcoming radical discrimination and defending innocent human life.

Daniel Hamu was a five-month-old baby when Joe Langfeld, HLA Executive Director, received a call from Katie Buck last summer.

"I picked up the phone with an urgent request," noted Langfeld. "It was a long-time friend and ministry partner from Iowa. She sounded stressed and concerned."

Mrs. Buck called seeking help for baby Daniel who has trisomy 18 and lives in Manchester, UK. He had been languishing in a National Health Service hospital, untreated for months.

Trisomy 18 is a condition where a baby has three copies of chromosome 18. Common physical difficulties include defects in the lungs, kidneys, and stomach. Holes in heart muscles and developmental delays are possible as well. It's the second most common type of trisomy syndrome, after trisomy 21 (Down syndrome). About 1 in every 5,000 babies is born with trisomy 18.

"When Katie first called this seemed like an insurmountable problem. Too many children die in the UK and here in the United States when care teams decide their lives aren't worth living. Alfie Evans, Charlie Gard, Israel Stinson—it has to stop," Langfeld stated.

HLA first helped Katie represent a pro-life viewpoint for the Britany Maynard assisted suicide case back in 2014. The following year in December of 2015, the Bucks welcomed their second child into the world. Katie called on HLA again when their baby, Alex, was diagnosed with trisomy 18 and the doctors recommended his parents let him die.



Daniel intubated and sedated in the hospital.

Now in 2021, Katie reached out to HLA again seeking help for the Hamu family.

“Daniel had some holes in his heart and airway difficulties. He had been intubated and on a vent for two months,” recalled Katie. “It was bad. He was shackled to a hospital bed and they kept him heavily sedated. Prior to the hospital he was a happy, smiling boy who caught a cold and needed intubation to assist his recovery.”

Katie learned the hospital wanted to let Daniel die. “They refused surgery. They kept him intubated for a total of four months. Many of his muscles atrophied. They were causing him great medical harm.”

Buck has become known as an advocate for children with trisomy 18. Most Doctors recommend parents abort a child with this diagnosis or encourage them to discontinue feeding and let them die right after birth. After her son’s birth and the family’s struggle to keep him alive, Katie decided to post their story on Facebook.



Katie and “Alexander the Great.”

“It was kind of crazy,” remarked Katie. “First I listed the page as *Alexander, the Great Trisomy 18 Story* and people began following our journey. But somehow it morphed into a nickname for our son. Now everyone calls him Alexander the Great. We’ve even got an Etsy shop called “Just Like Mine Stickers” designed to help parents modify favorite childhood books so characters can look like children with special needs.” (See etsy.me/3C4L61l)

Due to the multiplying power of social media, Alexander, the Great Trisomy 18 Story has thousands of followers. Families from around the globe reach out to Katie for help.

“That’s how I heard from Rasha, Daniel’s mother,” said Katie. “She messaged me, ‘The hospital is not helping my baby, I will even take him to America. Please help me.’”

Katie says assisting British families is difficult, “The hospitals push back on treatment for children like Alex and Daniel. These kids have nowhere to turn.”

In August, as Katie walked out to her mailbox, she pleaded with the Lord. “I didn’t know what to do, I couldn’t find any support for this family. I asked God for help. Then I opened up my mailbox and saw an HLA newsletter. I thought, why didn’t I just call HLA from the start? They helped save the life of my own child. I called Joe thinking HLA was the answer to my prayer. Somehow they will have a solution for me.”

About HLA

Human Life Alliance (HLA) is dedicated to creating a culture in which all human life—from the process of fertilization to natural death—is respected and cherished.

HLA’s pro-life materials have reached 234.6 million readers in more than 88 different countries. They include high school and college students, church members, young women on the streets, medically vulnerable individuals, and those

who care for them.

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As Joe spoke to Katie only one thought came to mind. It was a name. Paul Diamond.

Langfeld met Mr. Diamond in Rome four years earlier at a conference. “Paul and I seemed to connect, but we’ve only shared two emails since that time. I knew he was a barrister, so I sent him a message.”

Paul responded in less than 24-hours, “I will reach out if you can give me the contact details for Rasha. There’s a stronger argument for treatment in an EU country such as Italy (because of the principle of freedom to receive services) ...”

As it turns out, Paul handles some of the most controversial cases in the British courts; from freedom of religion to abortion to gendercide. He represented the parents of Alfie Evans in an important case on the question of parental rights.

“God made it clear we were supposed to use Paul’s help,” declared Katie, “but we were fearful the courts wouldn’t back us and rule it was in the best interest for Daniel to die, just like in the Alfie Evans case. Under Paul’s direction we assembled evidence from American doctors who had very different opinions about Daniel getting treatment.”

With advice from a British barrister Katie proceeded to build a case that could save a life.

Mrs. Buck continued, “As we assembled compelling information for the courts, the care team would say things like ‘Giving Daily medical care would not save his life.’ It seemed hopeless. Often in cases like this, care systems are set up to just let children like Alex or Daniel die. Doctors think parents are in denial and pressure families to stop treatment. No one was looking at Daniel as a person.”

Through it all Daniel’s family worked tirelessly to save him. His older siblings, Abdullah and Jumana, helped their mother by translating discussions and boldly advocating for their brother.

“Family involvement is key to saving lives. As we presented more evidence and the family continued to advocate for Daniel, the doctors began to change their tune. Finally, they referred the entire matter to an ethics committee,” explained Katie.



The Hamu Family



Barrister Paul Diamond.

“When we presented the preliminary evidence to the ethics committee, they ruled for the family! The committee ruled that it was unethical to deny care based on Daniel’s chromosomes. That’s huge! Now we hope this will set precedent in the UK for all NHS hospitals.”

Baby Daniel was two months old when admitted. His family’s request for surgery was granted at seven months. Today he is rebuilding his breathing strength. He is not home yet, but fully wake and conscious. His mom, Rasha, can hold him and he can play with toys, but will need home care and additional nursing to continue his recovery.

“It could take a couple more months,” said Katie. “They told us it was a waste of medical resources to help Daniel. If they had done it right away, he could have been home months ago. I’ve never had to fight this hard. It almost broke me. Families cannot do this alone. We need to figure out how to use this precedent to save all children with special needs.”

Thanks to Rasha and her family, Katie, Paul, and even you—through your continued support—this one precious life was saved. Please pray Daniel’s life and experience will set a new standard in the UK and around the globe—one that recognizes the dignity of all children.



Daniel awake and comfortably recovering with mother, Rasha

For Life
Melanie A. Freimuth
Melanie A. Freimuth
Board President

P.S. After the miraculous results in Daniel’s case, Katie joined “Be Not Afraid” to provide case management services to parents who carry their babies to term following a complex prenatal diagnosis. Be Not Afraid offers a training program which supports families. Check them out at benotafraid.net.

Memorials & Celebration

Honor a loved one or donate in someone else’s name to advance the cause of life. Your gift to HLA as an honorarium or memorial will encourage pro-life efforts and help share compelling, comprehensive information in your own community and across the nation.

HLA will send an acknowledgment card to the honored person or family of the deceased and confirm receipt of the gift to you. By acknowledging these gifts in the quarterly newsletter, your contributions encourage other pro-lifers to see the value of this life-saving work—you may remain anonymous. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law and sincerely appreciated. THANK YOU!

In Honor of Father Joseph Barron, P.E.S.
by Kenny & Mary Barron

In Honor of Meghan Bryum – Koosman
by Becky Byrum

In Honor of Sofia Cole
by Sarah Cole

In Honor of Kimberly Herrera
by Qhianna Herrera

In Honor of Tad Jude
by Joe and Caroline Langfeld

In Honor of Eleanor Staler
by Brenna MacMillin

In Memory of Rev. William. J. Bleiler
by Mr. & Mrs. George Harry, Jr.

In Memory of J.H. Foegen
by Randy and Margaret Karsten

In Memory of Edith Ireland
by Joe and Caroline Langfeld

In Memory of Dan Moffett
by Mary Moffett

In Memory of Arthur James Perkins, Jr.
by Mrs. Carmen Decker

In Memory of Kathleen Dohan Flesche
by Kristen Kurtz

In Memory of Margaret Langfeld
by Walter & Claire Matthews

In Memory of Vonnie Howard
by John Howard

In Honor and Memory of Pro-Life Apostles who have recently left us for eternal life
by William Macfarlane, Sr.