

February 2009

Dear Friend of CLA,

Four years ago, Terri Schiavo died. After thirteen days without food and water, Terri, a woman who was not sick and was not dying, drew her final breath on March 31, 2005.

Despite the heroic efforts of Terri's family, her attorney, and many elected leaders including the President of the United States, Terri's feeding was stopped by a court order until she was dead. In fact, Terri was the first American ever who was not a criminal convicted of murder ordered to die by a court.

The moral outrage that arose when Terri died was shared by millions around the world who had prayed for her and supported the many efforts to save her life. This moral outrage was completely ignored by a court system that saw no value in Terri's life. Terri's death has been called "the longest public execution in American history."

As Christians, Jesus commands us to care for "the least of these," those who can give nothing back. Included among "the least of these" are not only the physically and mentally disabled, but also the elderly who can no longer care for themselves, as well as those who can no longer speak for themselves whether they are in the womb at the beginning of life, in a nursing home toward the end, or in a hospital or home anywhere in the middle.

As we think about Terri's legacy on March 31, we must remember that the Bible is clear on these issues. God is the Giver of all life; God is the Allower of any disability; and God alone should decide when life ends. My prayer is that God's people develop the heart of God in caring for "the least of these" and that our society will stop playing "god" with other peoples' lives.

Your legal missionary,



David C. Gibbs, Jr.

P.S. Your prayers and support of the Christian Law Association are deeply appreciated. We are honored to serve "the least of these" across our nation!