The Heartbreak of Potter’s Syndrome

BY RACHEL POOL
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Heather Nelson, age 23, had a very strenuous pregnancy, chasing after her two-year-old daughter and worrying about being healthy as possible. Worse yet, she wasn’t able to have the fun of pregnancy—buying new baby clothes, visiting her unborn child’s future. In the fifth month of her pregnancy, Nelson was told that her baby was going to be born without kidneys—a rare and fatal condition known as Potter’s Syndrome. ‘Every time I hear about another baby being diagnosed with Potter’s Syndrome it just breaks my heart. But I know that God chose each one of us—mothers, we are the Earth’s angels, chosen to carry these special babies to the arms of Jesus,” Nelson tells SciJournal.

Fetuses afflicted with Potter’s Syndrome lack one or both kidneys before birth, according to portrayingsyndromes.org and information from the Medical Encyclopedia. “If the baby is born with no kidneys, they don’t, according to Nelson. ‘It’s a very lonely place to be living.’

Most babies with Potter’s Syndrome die within the first few years of life. They can have a very difficult time breathing, according to emedicine.medscape.com, a medical reference site run by WebMD.com. Potter’s Syndrome is not a single problem. There are four different types of the syndrome now recognized, with different causes, according to portrayingsyndromes.org. There is not much known about the cause of the syndrome. Scientists suspect that it may be linked to the formation of the gonads—in males and ovaries in females. The tissue that gives rise to the gonads and the kidneys is the same for females and males. In females, the ovaries and kidneys form at the same time but the ovaries form after the kidneys, according to portrayingsyndromes.org.

The physical features of babies that are diagnosed with Potter’s Syndrome are distinctive, according to muestra.org. Microcephalic, low-set ears, Eagle-Barrett Syndrome, slim and thin and sometimes anomalies, says emedicine.medscape.com.

“Let’s keep it light,” Nelson says. “I would be broke to my heart. That could’ve been me, I could’ve had children. I would’ve taken Rhinoceros out on a maternity and son date for Valentine’s Day. I may never get to make my son out for Valentine’s Day, but I do have the privilege of saying my Valentine this year is an angel.”

The quake was felt in Puerto-Príncipe and its suburbs. In addition, it was felt in several surrounding countries and regions, including Guatamala, Carto, Kingston, Ja-

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BY ADEOLA ADEWALE
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In January, 2010, an earthquake hit Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, killing thousands and devastating millions. What caused this 7.0 magnitude earthquake happened inland, about 16 miles from Port-au-Prince and 8,119 miles away from the En-

nues, which is a staggering 659 miles away.

According to estimates from the U.S. Geological Survey, a federal such a synthesis of the Earth’s tectonic plates. The Caribbean tectonic plate is thinner and more buoyant than normal oceanic crust, which behaves as a continental plate—floating on top of the thicker plate and moving along. The location of the fault system in the region has two branches in Haiti, the Septentrional in the north and the Enriquillo-Plaintain-Garden fault system in the south.

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“Hunting is necessary to keep the deer herd at a healthy balance,” said the Department of Conservation wildlife biologist John Vogel relating to hunting. “Without hunting, you could see a surplus of officers ranging from a largely diseased herd due to deer running all over the road and hitting by vehicles.”

Experts say that deer are a vital part of the ecosystem. However, their vitality is balanced by their destruc- tive force. As Vogel explains, “If a deer herd becomes too vastly populated, the chance for spreading diseases increases dramatically. Along with the increased deer herd that would come with no hunting, deer diseases would be more common. ”

The most prevalent diseases in Missouri are the “Blaze Tongue disease” and “Black Tongue disease. Disease, both of which are fatal,” comments Vogel. “The in- fectious diseases that spread through deer would have more horn worms.”

“A good density of deer is 125 deer per square mile,” explains St. Louis Wildlife Super- visor Joel Porath explains. “About 800,000 deer are killed annually by hunters in Missouri. If hunting was eliminated, you would have about 300,000 more deer crowding the roads making the chances for a [car] hit- ting a deer go up dramati- cally.”

Deer hunting also repre- sents a large amount of money that goes into the economy each year. As Vogel describes, “It is estimated that there is more than $1,000,000 that hunters spend in Missouri. That ranges in everything from equipment, to cloth- ing, to food, and even lodging.”

In the central United States, he continues, “In fact, adults spend their total amount in the billions. And, in many communities wouldn’t see a consumer spending from about the middle of October on.”

Another positive impact that hunting has on the economy is through Shawneetown Harvest. It is a program through which hunters do- nate their deer to food pantries. The most processors that participate in Shawneetown Harvest are U.S. Depart- ment of Agriculture inspected, ensuring the meat is properly handled. In 2007, $200,000 pounds of venison were donated in Missouri alone,” John Vogel explains. “That is nearly 800,000 meals for needy families.”

“If hunting was banned, several million to the deer population would be the demise of the deer herd.”

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