

Which of these people have FASD?



International FASD Awareness Day is September 9

Question: Which of the people in the pictures has FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)?

Answer: You can't tell. Prenatal alcohol produces facial deformities only if it happens during the few days when the baby's eyes, nose and mouth are formed. Alcohol exposure during other stages of pregnancy is associated with invisible brain and central nervous system damage, and other birth defects.

What does this mean to you as a neighbour, loved one, or fellow church member?

Sometimes the behavior of people you meet just "doesn't add up". An acquaintance or friend may repeat the same mistake over and over again, seeming to never learn. That uncontrollable child in your Sunday school class may actually have brain damage...it happens in the best of families! The adopted child who has struggled in school and in the neighbourhood may be dealing with more than just adjustments to a new setting and parents.

You can:

Be alert to the symptoms of FASD:

Senseless rages, irrational mood swings, getting "stuck" on certain notions, and the inability to tell fact from fiction are some of the tell-tale signs that the brain is not working properly.

(For more information, visit www.alcoholbabies.com)

Teach your children and grandchildren "*Alcohol and Pregnancy Don't Mix*". (They are certainly not getting this message from the glossy advertisements that come into your home.)

Share the need for an alcohol-free pregnancy with the women you know in your neighbourhood and with your circle of friends. There is a need for a wide-ranging change in our society's approach to this subject, and your input is invaluable.

This is a call to prayer. Specifically, pray for our next generation. September 9th is International FASD Awareness Day. Would you pray at 9:09 a.m. and/or at 9:09 p.m. for the innocent babies affected by prenatal drinking ... and for women to heed all the warnings? For links to referenced articles or to request a presentation to your youth/women's/topical study group, contact alcoholbabies@gmail.com.