Philadelphia Area Rescues Continue

Philadelphia, PA—Local rescuers have continued to keep up the heat on area abortion mills. On average since the beginning of the year, rescues have taken place more than once every three weeks.

The latest rescue occurred on Thursday, September 27 at the Suburban Women's Clinic in Paoli, Pennsylvania. Sixty rescuers arrived at the mill at 10:25 a.m., before any mothers appeared on the scene. Police were slow in responding, and had only one van with which to take rescuers away. With three doors to cover, the rescuers were stretched thin, but the police removed them slowly from one door at a time. No one was allowed to enter the mill until all 60 had been arrested at about 1:20 p.m.

The nearly three hours at the doors allowed rescuers plenty of time for praying, evangelizing, and sidewalk counseling. One mother definitely turned away and decided to let her baby live.

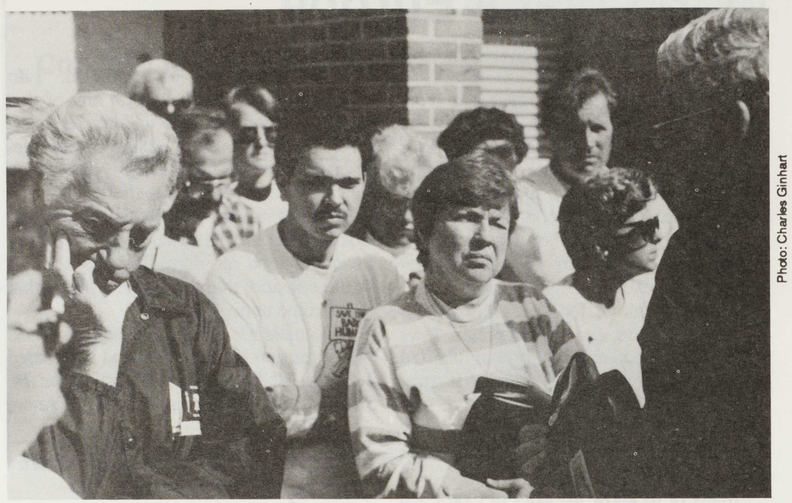

Photo: Charles Ginhart

Rev. John McFadden leads rescuers in prayer at a Paoli, PA abortuary.

Although the police were very professional, and perhaps even sympathetic, the District Attorney's office nevertheless socked the rescuers with four misdemeanor charges for their life-saving efforts: disorderly conduct, defiant trespass, failure to disperse, and conspiracy. It is unclear whether any or all of these charges will stand up in court.

Pro-lifers in the Philadelphia area also staged a rescue on September 8 at Planned Parenthood, where 84 people were arrested for obstructing a public passage. ■

Civil Disobedience

Continued from page 21

of the Reformed Church of France paid a visit and told him, "you must stop helping the refugees." Trocme responded, "Do you realize what you are asking? These people, especially the Jews, are in very great danger. If we do not shelter them or take them across the mountains to Switzerland, they may well die." The church leader replied, "What you are doing is endangering the very existence not only of this village but of the Protestant church of France! You must stop helping them."[4]

Like Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Germany, Trocme refused to stop despite the criticism from other Christian leaders. He was now not only disobeying civil authority but religious authority. In the face of danger and criticism, the members of the little church continued to do what they believed was right. As a result of their efforts over a period of about four years, "Le Chambon became the safest place for Jews in Europe."[5] They managed in that time to rescue the lives of some 2,500 Jews.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of what happened at Le Chambon is that it was a whole church, an entire spiritual community, together taking the risks of love. Together they intervened, together they violated the laws of man to obey the laws of God. This was not the effort of one individual moral superman, but the effort of plain, common, naturally frightened Christians. By the grace of God together they overcame their fears and hand in hand rescued in the name of Christ those who would otherwise have died.

Speaking of the dual commands to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself, Hallie—himself not a Christian—captures the heart and soul of the church at Le Chambon:

It was this strenuous, this extraordinary obligation that Theis and Trocme expressed to the people in the big gray church. The love they preached was not simply adoration; nor was it simply a love of moral purity, of keeping one's hands clean of evil. It was not a love of private ecstasy or a private retreat from evil. It was an active dangerous love that brought help to those who needed it most.[6] ■

Randy Alcorn is a writer and frequent conference and seminar speaker, and is deeply involved in foreign missions and pro-life work. He is the author of four books, including his latest, *Is Rescuing Right?* (See review, p.11.)Randy can be contacted at Eternal Perspective Ministries, 2229 SE Burnside #23, Gresham, Oregon 97030.

Footnotes

1. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, *The Warsaw Ghetto: A Christian's Testimony* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989).
2. Corrie ten Boom, with John and Elizabeth Sherrill, *The Hiding Place* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1971), 99.
3. Philip P. Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed* (New York: Harper & Row, 1979).
4. Hallie, 143.
5. Hallie, 129.
6. Hallie, 110-11.

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Pro-Life Medical Conference Held In Yugoslavia

A conference on "The Future of Medicine in Europe," with the theme of "Medicine and the Family-Ethical Aspects," was held in the city of Slavonski Brod, Croatia, Yugoslavia from September 7-9. The sponsors included the World Federation of Doctors Who Respect Life, Human Life International, Christian Democrats for Life-Germany, the Physicians Association of Croatia, the Slavonski Brod Family Center and other groups. The conference organizers were Marijo Zivkovic and Msgr. Marko Majstoravic, heads of the Family Centers in Zagreb and Slavonski Brod, respectively.

Lectures were given on medical ethics, abortion, natural family planning, euthanasia, the family, and feminism. Among those speaking were well-known international experts in the fields, including Fr. Werenfried van Straaten of Aid to the Church in Need, Dr. Phillippe Scheppens of Belgium, Dr. K.F. Gunning of Holland, Drs. Evelyn and John Billings of Australia, Valerie Riches and Keith Davies of Britain, Fr. Paul Marx and Dr. Eugene Diamond of the U.S., and Dr. Siegried Ernst and his son—also a doctor—from Germany. In addition to these, there were many speakers from Yugoslavia and neighboring countries. Joe Wall and Kathie O'Keefe, representing Rescue Outreach, addressed the conference on the subject of "The History, Theory, and Practice of Pro-Life Rescues;" this was the first time a European medical congress had heard the rescue message.

It is anticipated that this conference will be of great value in shaping medical ethics and policy in the emerging countries of Eastern Europe along pro-life and Christian lines.

At the end of the conference, Joe Wall was invited by Dr. Antun Lisec to attend a pro-life rally in the city of Slavonska Pozega, some 50 miles or so distant. Wall addressed a crowd of several thousand including the pro-life mayor and police chief. The rally concluded at the nearby river, where the parish priest prayed, then blessed a wreath which was tossed into the river. This was to commemorate the deceased unborn. ■