Alabama couple confronts Christian apathy

Huntsville, AL — An Alabama couple, Major and Joyce Fecteau, frustrated over the apparent apathy of the Church over abortion, took their message to fellow Christians.

"My husband and I were convicted that we somehow had to confront, in an unorthodox manner, the very apathetic church community in our geographical area," said Joyce Fecteau.

Mindful that they not actually disturb any church services, the Fecteaus made Nazi concentration camp uniforms complete with yellow stars, and posted themselves at the entrance to a church parking lot just 2 1/2 miles from a local abortuary.

They decided against using graphic photos of aborted babies in favor of signs admonishing Christians to remember the holocaust in their own backyard. Their vigil is conducted in silence and they will not enter a church even when invited.

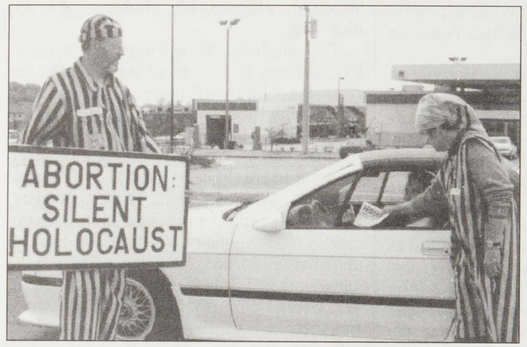
"We prefer to remain as beggars at the door," Mrs. Fecteau explained.

They have now appeared outside churches of various denominations in the area more than 15 times. Whenever possible, they hand out a specially designed tract telling of the holocaust comparison.

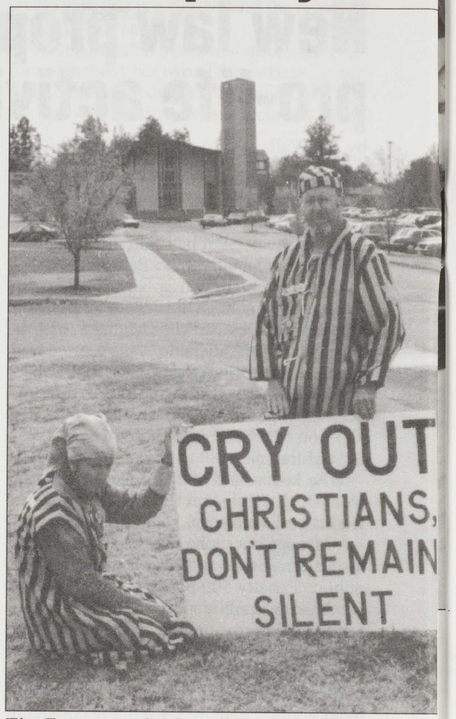
Reactions have been varied. In one case, military police ejected them from a post chapel despite the invitation to remain made by a Catholic chaplain who is a full colonel.

"On another occasion," said Mrs. Fecteau, "a Christian woman made a very sizable donation to the local crisis pregnancy center after seeing us in the uniforms, standing in a cold wind, outside her church."

Another passerby blurted, "You're hard to ignore!" ■



The Alabama couple are sometimes able to hand out special literature during their vigils.



The Fecteaus take their message to fellow believers as church services begin.

Attempted forced abortion ends in failure

Bakersfield, CA — On Monday, November 30, pro-life sidewalk counselor Rosalie Harvey talked to a teenage boy who was crying outside the Family Planning Associates (FPA) abortion chamber in Bakersfield, California.

He said that his 16-year old girlfriend was being forced by her mother to have an abortion against her—and his—will. He had contacted two lawyers with no results, and he had also contacted Child Protective Services, who said they could not do anything until the next day.

It seemed to the sidewalk counselors like an impossible situation. This FPA had only been open in this new location for about three weeks, and FPA security guards have been very strict about preventing pro-lifers from even stepping in the parking lot.

"The sidewalk counselors joined together in prayer to ask God to use them to save this child's life, and asked God for guidance," said Terri Palmquist, one of the counselors. She asked the boyfriend if she could go in with him to try to plead with the abortion chamber staff. But when they tried to go across the parking lot, the security guard prevented them from entering the building.

Palmquist asked the guard if he could just go inside and tell the staff about the girl, but he refused.

Palmquist then called a local television station that has been somewhat fair in covering pro-life concerns, and a reporter said they would try to send someone down to report on this forced abortion. Then her husband, Tim Palmquist, saw an opportunity to run past the security guard into the waiting room, warning the abortion chamber staff that this forced abortion would be reported on the news.

There were also several women in the waiting room who heard this.

The security guard rushed Mr. Palmquist out of the building.

For the next 30 minutes or so, the prolifers continued to pray outside FPA. As they watched from outside FPA, there seemed to be an unusual amount of confusion inside. Kenneth Wright, the abortionist, came into the front office to talk to the staff, then he looked at Tim and said something Tim couldn't hear.

As some of the staff stood outside on a break, Mrs. Palmquist pleaded with them to let the girl out. She also interceded in prayer for the girl for a while down on her knees on the sidewalk in front of FPA. Also, whenever any door to FPA would open, the counselors would shout "Jenny, come out!"

Then the girl's mother came out, with a disgusted look on her face. Finally, the 16-year old girl came out, looking happy. The boyfriend told the pro-lifers that she did not have the abortion. ■

Clinic closes for expected rescue

Kentwood, MI—"The recent presence of Rescue Michigan at the Women's Health Center in Kentwood, a suburb of Grand Rapids, is evidence of what God can achieve with but a few obedient Christians." said a Michigan pro-life leader.

Fearing the arrival of Rescue, the mill shut down operations for Saturday, November 20, a regularly scheduled kill day. Sources reported that approximately twenty appointments were scheduled for Friday, and a rescue was called for Friday, November 19.

Rescue leaders were especially pleased by the commitment of two dozen activists from Michigan and Northeast Indiana in light of the fact that the FACE bill passed the House of Representatives only the day before.

At one point during the rescue, eleven Christians interposed at the mill's three doors. Four rescuers located at the front door were shoved aside by police, making it possible for a client to enter. The fact that this door opened inward made it extremely difficult to hold. After being asked to leave and warned of imminent arrest, the rescuers did so; no arrests were made.

Picketers noted that the mill guard spent most of the day looking down the road for the "no-show" clients. Only three clients entered the mill all day. According to sidewalk counselors it appears very likely that two of the women were plants.

A counselor at the crisis pregnancy center, directly across from the mill, said that the parking lot is usually overflowing on a kill day. She expressed gratitude for Rescue Michigan's presence.

Asked if he thought the rescuers made a difference considering the small number of participants, Jim Conway of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan said, "Yes, of course we did, because we obeyed God. Whenever you obey God, you can't help but make a difference. What should have been a packed parking lot had only one car in it. It's very clear to me that God used us to save babies."

Local pro-lifers hold a sign as the rescue proceeds on Friday.

Abortionist Robert Heidrick gained entry into the mill with the help of local police. It was surmised that his appearance simply enabled the mill director to say it was "business as usual."

The day concluded with a rally at Grandville Assembly of God where Wendell Brane, director of Northeast Indiana Rescue, challenged pro-life activists to resist and persist for the Kingdom of God.

Saturday morning saw a prayer service at the same clinic. Pray For Life Ministries, headed up locally by Mary Verwys, holds services every Saturday with leadership provided by area pastors and priests.

Directly afterwards, a number of Christians entered abortionist Heidrick's neighborhood to present a witness against him and to hand out copies of "The Hard Truth." Several neighbors said they were aware of Heidrick's profession and welcomed this exposure.

When asked to sum up the weekend, a Saginaw rescuer said it best, "Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

Jim Conway, a co-ordinator of Rescue Michigan, recently experienced a fire believed to have been the work of an arsonist. "It was only by the grace of God that firefighters arrived in time to save the Conway home," noted one pro-lifer.

Destroyed in the 2 A.M. blaze were his garage and van. There was $20,000 worth of damage including that to his home. ■

The Saturday prayer vigil of Pray For Life Ministries congregates across from the Kentwood abortuary