More European Rescues

by J.V. Gallagher, France

France

The first rescue was held in France just before Christmas. Some fifty rescuers gathered at an abortuary in Nancy. The *abortoir* complex was situated on the grounds of a public hospital, underneath the chapel.

Since then there have been another four Rescues in France. Arrests were made at the last two. So far, charges have not been brought, but French rescuers expect that to happen very soon, as the authorities realize what is happening and try to break the movement.

French Rescuers are aware that in the field of abortion, its promoters are not concerned with truth, and that they will have all sorts of lies and calumnies spoken against them. They are determined to continue in response to the Lord's Call to Rescue His little ones.

Holland

In Holland, there are 40,000 surgical abortions committed per year. The population of the country is 14.8 million. On Friday 6th April, three of these Dutch people and one foreigner staged a small Rescue operation in Rotterdam. Three were risking arrest, the other speaking to arriving mothers. Although small in numbers this Rescue was marked by the strong prayer-presence and peacefulness which is now typical of Rescues in Holland.

As the rescuers sat down in the corridor of the day-clinic leading to the abortion room, after explaining to staff why they were there, abortion staff physically dragged them away and into another corridor. The rescuers as always did not retaliate, but kept praying in their hearts. Whenever they had the chance, they tried to crawl back towards the abortuary. This angered the abortionists who could not at first understand such a thing. The rescuers politely explained to them that the little children about to be aborted could not escape. Even if rescuers had to be like children and crawl to try and save babies, they would do so.

In a quiet moment as a couple of nurses 'guarded' two rescuers sitting in a corridor, the rescuers prayed aloud for all the mothers, children and staff in that place. One of the nurses broke down and said that she used to be a Christian but was not now. The Rescue leader told her that that was because she did not know Christ Jesus personally, but she could do so if she wanted to.

After the rescuers had been dragged finally to the front door and the abortionist had arrived and blocked the corridor with benches (!) the police arrived. They seemed surprised by the peaceful atmosphere surrounding the praying rescuers and carried them gently into their van.

The three rescuers were held in separate cells for two hours and then released after having given a statement of why they went to the abortuary. That was easy: "to save babies and mothers from abortion".

A further Rescue was held in Holland at the beginning of May in Bloemenhoven, at which eleven people were arrested, two of whom were British.

What has been obvious to British rescuers having the privilege of joining their pro-life sisters and brothers in other European rescues, is the immediate spirit of solidarity and friendship which binds rescuers together. French and Dutch rescuers have promised to pray for Rescue U.K. Let us pray also for them and for an abortion-free Europe. ■

Reprint from The Rescuer (Scotland)

Eight Arrested At Utica Doctor's Office

Operation Rescue ignores Supreme Court decision

Reprint from The Utica, NY Observer-Dispatch, 5-26-90

Utica, NY—Unfazed by a recent Supreme Court ruling, eight members of Operation Rescue yesterday chained themselves to large weights for about 12 hours, blocking the entrances of a Utica clinic where abortions are performed.

Those chained to the front and back doors of the State Street offices of Dr. William Cooley were accompanied by about 20 picketers, all protesting Cooley's medical practice, which is advertised as performing abortions.

The action was similar to other protests held this year at the doctor's office.

The eight freed themselves about 7:30 pm, and Utica police arrested them and took them to police headquarters.

Utica City Court Judge Matthew S. Ogonowki Jr. charged seven of the protesters who had been charged in the previous protests with trespassing and sent them to the Oneida County jail in lieu of $750 bail each.

The other, Karen M. Jackson of 649 Thompson Road, Watertown, was issued an appearance ticket. She had not been charged in the previous protests.

The eight are scheduled to return to Utica City Court May 29.

The arrests were made after a complaint by Joan Cooley, the doctor's wife.

This week, the Supreme Court upheld a court order that forbade Operation Rescue from blocking the entrances to abortion clinics in New York City.

Two of the protesters chained at the clinic's back entrance yesterday said they were undeterred by the ruling.

"This is a butcher shop," said John Arena, who was chained to a four-foot-tall iron weight by the neck. At police headquarters, he listed his occupation as the "Anti Abortion Act."

Mr. Kraeger said members of the group would protest "as long as it takes him (Dr. Cooley) to stop."

Deputy Police Chief Nicholas Yagey said police were called to the clinic shortly after 7 am.

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Two rescuers block rear door of NY abortuary.

Tense Twin Cities Rescue Saves Three Children

by Sam Hall

Three children were saved in an all day rescue effort spanning two cities and resulting in forty-nine arrests. More than 100 people risked arrest in the June 22, 1990 rescue including former Nevada police officer Chet Gallagher and the chief of police from a small Minnesota town.

In the week preceding the rescue, Pro-Life Action Ministries, two churches, nine pastors and the 153 individuals who were arrested a year earlier saving babies in a rescue mission were named in a lawsuit. The Midwest abortion mill, located in Minneapolis, "served" the named defendants through the mail. Subsequently, two temporary restraining orders were granted against rescuers prohibiting them from entering the premises of Midwest and Mildred Hanson's abortion mill in downtown Minneapolis (the Hanson lawsuit was filed in 1988). Both lawsuits are being spearheaded by pro-abortion attorney and activist Dan Dobson, who is campaigning for a district judge opening in St. Paul.

Despite these attempts to intimidate rescuers, the action began on Friday morning when more than 200 Christians arrived at the Midwest abortion mill at 7:30 am. Minneapolis police, complete with paddy wagons and dogs swarmed around the 12-story office building. Police, supplemented with security guards, questioned everyone entering the building. Security guards would then unlock the doors and allow those approved to pass. Pro-abortion attorney, Dan Dobson, and the mill director Jeri Rasmussen video-taped the peaceful Christians walking up and down the sidewalk. No one attempted to enter the building. Several times, the pro-lifers marched around the building, praying. Abortion enthusiasts were visibly upset by the action. This scene continued throughout the day. As a result, two women were turned away and sidewalk counselors believe that the mill was not killing children that day.

Meanwhile at 8:30 am. forty-two rescuers blocked the entrances to the Planned Parenthood abortion mill in St. Paul. The police began their arrests forty-five minutes later. Brian Gibson, Executive Director of Pro-Life Action Ministries, attempted to present Lt. Steve Roscoe with a citizen's arrest form (alleging felonies being committed at Planned Parenthood under a Minnesota informed consent statute). He was immediately arrested and spent the rest of the day in jail. Gibson, while absent from the rescue site, directed rescue efforts from his jail cell utilizing a telephone hook-up.

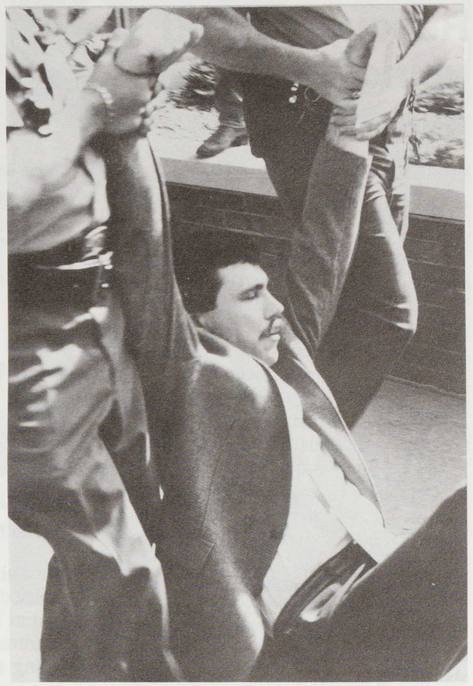
By 10:00 am the remaining rescuers were arrested and carried to a waiting bus. They were booked, released on their own recognizance and transported back to the Midwest abortion mill in Minneapolis.

After the rescuers were removed, several women were ushered into the mill behind a large plastic curtain which the deathscorts strung across the front of the building. However, not all appointments were kept. One Planned Parenthood "client" was intercepted and driven to a crisis pregnancy center.

At 12:30 pm a second wave of fifty fresh rescuers blocked the entrance of abortionist Romil Valgamae. Pro-Life Action Ministries' Program Director, Tim Wilkinson, was immediately arrested and charged with "interfering with the legal process" when he gave some directions to the rescuers while he stood on the public sidewalk. The police strategy of immediately arresting the people in charge forced the remaining leadership to take a low-key approach throughout the remainder of the rescue. Just as the police were about to begin the arrest of the second wave of rescuers, the leadership directed rescuers back onto the public sidewalk. This momentarily confused the police and added to the growing tension at the rescue site. Rescuers and police alike waited nervously for the killers' arrival, which finally occurred at 2:00 pm. The rescue team moved into position in front of the doors. Lt. Roscoe consulted with a group of officers and then walked to the back of the building effectively leaving the scene. Apparently he did not want to view the abuse that he had just ordered. Roscoe considers himself a good Catholic sympathetic to the pro-life cause.

The abortionist sat in his car for ten minutes waiting for his police "bodyguard unit." Finally, the police charged the doors throwing rescuers to the ground, applying torture holds and manhandling rescuers in order to clear a path for the child-killer. Once the killer was inside, the rescuers attempted to return to the public sidewalk. Six of the rescuers were nabbed by police and violently dragged into a police vehicle. They were given extra charges and held at the jail with Tim Wilkinson and Brian Gibson.

After the rescue was over, more than 150 Christians went to the jail to protest and to pray for the release of the eight being held. Meanwhile, a flood of calls were made by supportive pro-lifers to both the mayor's office and the police station demanding the release of these rescuers. All eight were released between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Guards at the jail were overheard saying that the rescuers were being released early because of the pressure brought by the picket and the hundreds of phone calls. ■



Brian Gibson, Executive Director of Pro-Life Action Ministries, is arrested. He later directed rescue efforts from jail.

8 Arrested in NY

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Yagey said police would not attempt to cut the protesters out of the chains but instead would "wait them out." Several officers were stationed at the clinic throughout the day.

Maria Tyksinski, one of those who picketed, said carrying a sign was not enough. "I watch the girls go in and out and it really tears me up," she said. She denied that the protesters were harassing Cooley's patients. They were counseling them on the alternatives to abortion, she said. ■