Pandora's Box: Left Open Again

Andrew Burnett

Since before the days of *Roe vs. Wade* those who were in the know could see that the introduction of legalized abortion into our country would lead us down the "slippery slope" to infanticide and euthanasia. Many made predictions that eventually mass genocide would result as the conscience of America became gradually desensitized to the killing of fellow human beings.

The starvation and eventual death of Nancy Cruzan has opened the door and leads us one giant step closer to the indiscriminate "termination" of any segment of the population that is deemed to consist of non-persons.

It doesn't take very much exposure to the pro-euthanasia rhetoric to realize that many of the slogans and much of the terminology is similar if not identical to the pro-abortion arguments for killing the unborn. Words like, "choice" and "privacy", which have served the pro-abortion folks so well for many years, have been conveniently adopted by those promoting the so called "right to die."

This month *The Advocate* magazine will take you to death's door. Our coverage of the killing of Nancy Cruzan is not only eye opening, but shocking as well. Never before has the government been so bent on the destruction of a "born" human being. Not only was the order for her starvation given by a judge but virtually none of the government officials who could have intervened were willing to do anything to stop Nancy's slow but sure destruction. Even the state attorney general's office, which valiantly defended Nancy's life in the previous court battle which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, seemed to have given up and was willing to do nothing.

I thank our Heavenly Father that even though state and government officials had given up on Nancy, the pro-life community, and in particular the rescuing segment of the pro-life community, came to do what ever they could to intervene on her behalf. Rescuers from over a dozen organizations across the country (including Advocates for Life Ministries), worked relentlessly around the clock to find some way to save Nancy.

Even though Nancy did eventually succumb to her starvation those who had a part in trying to save her life need not feel that their efforts were in vain. Any life-saving measure is a success when those who are endeavoring to save the life of another are motivated by love and compassion.

Without question we have not heard the last from the pro-euthanasia crowd. even now another young woman from the same institution where Nancy Cruzan was starved is the target of another starvation attempt.

Just this past month enough signatures were gathered in the state of Washington to get an initiative on the ballot in that state which would allow for lethal injections. The state of Oregon already allows those with a durable power of attorney to withhold food and water in many cases where the patient is no longer competent to make his own medical decisions. No doubt, Oregon and Washington are not the only states forging ahead leaving the lid of Pandora's box propped wide open for even more evil practices to materialize.

Andrew Burnett
Publisher

In This Issue

Cover:

Nancy Cruzan 3

News:

Rescue Awakens Texas Community 5

Jail Notes 7

Police Abuse Boy at Rescue .. 14

Features:

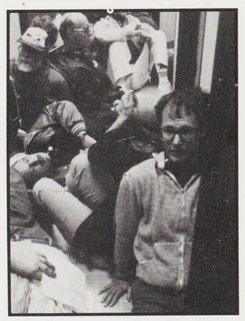
Pro-Life Legacy 16
by George Grant

Blessing of a Saved Life 20
by Gary & Linda Rickman

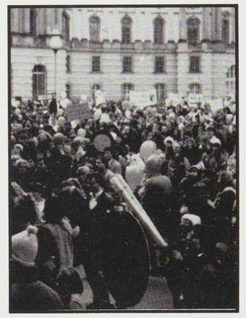
Nancy Cruzan Succumbs to Starvation 21
by Cathy Ramey

Book Review 23
by Paul deParrie

On the Cover: Joe Foreman, leader of the attempt to rescue Nancy Cruzan (inset) greets his daughter, Laural, as he is released from jail. (photo: Andrew Burnett)



Lufkin, Texas p. 5



Germany p.19

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Nancy Cruzan Killed In "Legal" Action

by Paul deParrie

On December 14, 1990 Circuit Court Judge Charles E. Teel, Jr. signed the death warrant for Nancy Cruzan. Cruzan had been convicted of no crime, was not represented by counsel, and had no witnesses testify on her behalf. Nancy Cruzan's death was ordered because she could not answer the question: Do you want to die?

Judge Teel ordered that a feeding tube be removed from Cruzan and that she be killed by thirst and starvation. So on December 15 the order was carried out on the 33-year-old woman.

Cruzan became brain damaged due to an automobile accident in January of 1983. The case to remove her feeding tube was carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that a feeding tube may be removed only if there is "clear and convincing evidence" that this would conform with the patient's wishes. The issue was again brought to the state courts with "new evidence" of Nancy's desires based on casual conversations. Judge Teel agreed to the death-dealing order on December 14.

Lester "Joe" Cruzan, Nancy's father, stated that the gastronomy tube would be left in place so that anticonvulsant drugs could be given to reduce seizures that take place when someone is starved to death.

Across the country a disturbance was felt. Joseph Foreman of Prisoners of Christ, an Atlanta, Georgia based pro-life rescue organization, felt compelled to travel to Mt. Vernon, Missouri to do what he could to preserve Nancy Cruzan's life. "She's going to be dead soon if someone doesn't intervene," Foreman said.

Nancy Cruzan before the 1983 accident.

Andrew Burnett, director of Advocates for Life Ministries (AFLM), flew to Missouri to coordinate activities for rescuers who came from everywhere in the country. Burnett immediately rented space, brought in phone and fax lines, and established a national media communications center. AFLM Projects Coordinator Cathy Ramey helped in the communications center and called local churches asking pastors to have congregations pray that Nancy's parents would change their minds. Two area Assembly of God church pastors said that they felt it would not be appropriate to pray specifically for that change of heart. A Lutheran pastor commented, "Maybe it is better if she does 'go.'" But the Free Methodist and the Fundamental Methodist pastors approved heartily of the intervention.

Over the week, between 70 and 80 activists drove or flew to Mt. Vernon to assist in the life-saving effort. Representatives from as far as Florida, California, and Oregon joined in the work.

On the night of December 17, Foreman gathered with two or three dozen pro-lifers for a candlelight vigil in sub-zero tempera-

Continued on page 4

74 Arrested in Rescue at Clinic—Defy Court Order

Reprinted from the Philadelphia Inquirer, 12-8-90

Philadelphia, PA—Seventy-four anti-abortion demonstrators were arrested for trespassing outside a Northeast Philadelphia abortion clinic on December 7, and a lawyer for the clinic said stiff federal penalties could also await the protesters.

The mass arrests at the Northeast Women's Center (NEWC), 2751 Comly Rd., were the first there since July, when police took 256 adults and children into custody over a two-day span.

It was also the first mass protest at the site since a federal judge ordered a permanent halt to large demonstrations there. On August 27, U.S. District Judge Lowell A. Reed Jr. issued an injunction that prohibited, among other things, blocking access to the clinic, singing or chanting outside the clinic on days abortions are performed, and having more than six demonstrators at a time within 500 feet of the building.

It looked as if all of those provisions were broken yesterday.

The four-hour demonstration began around 7:30 a.m., as protesters blocked the entrance to the clinic before employees arrived. There they stayed throughout the morning, singing, praying and waving placards despite police warnings that they faced arrest.

Federal marshals also warned the demonstrators they were violating the injunction. They videotaped the warning and planned to submit a report to Reed on Monday, said Dennis Matulewicz, chief deputy for the U.S. Marshal's Office in Philadelphia.

Reed has said he would impose sentences of up to 45 days and fines of up to $5,000 on anyone violating the injunction, according to Edmond Tiryak, an attorney for the clinic.

"We intend to pursue those remedies against each and every one who was there today," Tiryak said. He said he would file a contempt motion with the court.

Three anti-abortion activists who held an earlier protest outside the home of an abortion clinic physician are serving 45-day sentences for contempt. The three have rejected Tiryak's offer to seek their release in return for 400 hours of community service spent caring for "abandoned, drug-addicted or AIDS-infected babies."

While demonstrators said yesterday's protest wasn't intended to test Reed's order, they added they didn't fear the consequences.

"We're more afraid of coming before a holy God who says, 'You didn't do what I asked you to do,' than we are of any judge who says something else," said Susan Odom, a spokeswoman for the group.

About 10:30 a.m., police began arresting protesters who lay in the path of approaching Sheriff's Department buses. Once the buses were in place, police began carrying demonstrators from the clinic entrance onto the buses.

Continued on page 5