Wisconsin Rescue Saves Lives

by Michael Schedgick

Appleton, WI—On October 30 the longest area rescue took place at the Fox Valley Reproductive Health Care Center. The abortion mill is located in the town of Grand Chute, near Appleton, Wisconsin. It is the only freestanding abortion mill in all of northeastern Wisconsin, where about 60 abortions have been performed each week since opening in the late 1970s. This mill has been the focus of much attention from its inception. The community did not want an abortion mill in their area. The owner of the mill, Maggie Cage, sued the town of Grand Chute for denying her the right to kill babies and won. Many protests took place over the years. Then, in 1983, the first rescue took place with a local pastor, Norman Stone and his assistant Jerry Horn. In May of 1988, again a rescue took place and several more followed with about 100 arrests to date.

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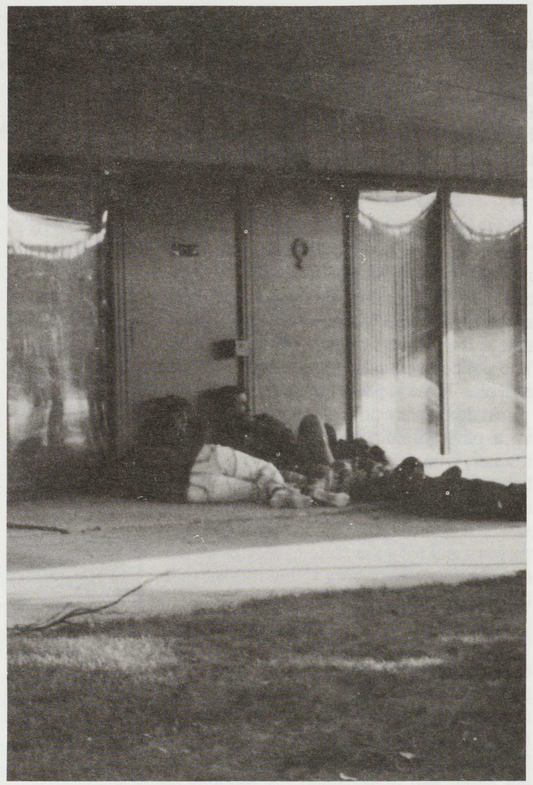
On October 30, 17 rescuers placed their bodies between the abortionist and those seeking her services. They held their positions for 13 hours pleading with the women entering the clinic,"Please mom, don't kill your baby." Four women responded and turned away. One woman talked with local pro-life crisis pregnancy counselors participating in the rescue. Judy Massey, a sidewalk counselor, stated, "She changed her mind because of the efforts of the Victim Souls for the Unborn Christ Child. These people are willing to suffer in order to save unborn babies and women from exploitation." The "Victim Souls" also called the "Lambs of Christ," were led by Father Norman Weslin and joined by six local rescuers.

The rescuers sat in front of four of the five doors locked together with Kryptonite bicycle locks. Unfortunately they were unable to secure all the doors. Dave Brandt, a local rescuer, stated, "We wanted to enter the building, but our doorman was overpowered and beaten by a male nurse. So we resorted to Plan B, placing ourselves in front of those doors. We just did not have enough bodies and left a side entrance unguarded. Thirteen women entered the abortion mill, considerably less than the usual 30 to 35."

After 13 hours, due to lack of water, food, and the cold weather, the rescuers could not remain locked any longer. As they unlocked themselves the police arrested each one, charging them with "trespassing" and "resisting arrest." The rescuers went limp, were carried to a bus and transported to jail.

The next day Judge Forelich offered local rescuers the option of a signature bond, but the Victim Souls were required to post a cash bond. The Victim Souls, along with three local rescuers, refused to give their names and continued to identify with the unborn. The names given were Baby John Doe and Baby Jane Doe. Judge Forelich found them in contempt of court and sentenced them to six months in jail and further imposed a $50 a day fine until they would reveal their names.



Rescuers locked together to save babies. (photo: Michael Schedgick)

Prayer vigils were held each night outside the jail. "These people have identified with the unborn children killed each day by abortion. Babies cannot walk, babies have no name, babies cannot defend themselves. Unlike our unborn brothers and sisters these people are not as easily disposed of. The system will have to deal with full grown Baby Does," stated Chuck, a spokesperson for the Victim Souls. A local rescue leader and director of the Beth-birei Maternity Home stated, "This is a boost to out local rescue community. The commitment of the Lambs and Father Weslin is an example and encouragement to us all. This is a spiritual battle. When people are willing to lay down their lives it releases the power of God. Our hearts must be broken over the senseless killing of God's little babies. Then, when they are, we will act."

After three days the Lambs were moved to jails in several different counties. Prayer vigils took place at five jails instead of just one. One jailer turned to Father Vandenburgh, who was able to give communion to the Jane Does, and said with tears in his eyes "These people don't belong here, Father." Father Weslin stated, "Many jailers were moved by our devotion and commitment. Several officers wanted to know what they could do to start a branch of 'Officers for Life' in their area to secure a conscience clause for police so they would not be penalized for refusing to arrest rescuers in the future." Finally after nine days and the District Attorney requesting a new judge, they were released. Judge Dyer released them with time served. No money was paid to the system. Father Weslin was asked, "Where are you going now?" He replied, "Youngstown, Ohio. God's 'little ones' need us there, too." ■

Rescuers Choose Jail Over Fines

Reprinted from the Catholic Register, 10-27-90

Toronto, Canada—If she had her way, Ita Venner, 69, would rather have been at home in Ajax either taking care of her grandchildren or putting out ads on the perils of abortion. But a court order handed down October 3 sent her, along with four others, to serve sentences in jail until their release October 12.

Venner, along with 20 other pro-life demonstrators had been convicted of obstructing a peace officer after being dragged away from a demonstration before the Morgentaler clinic last March 9. Justice Samuel Darragh, in the general division of the Ontario Court of Justice, ordered first-time offenders to pay $300 fines or spend a week in jail and told repeat offenders to pay $600 or spend 15 days in jail. They were also ordered to perform 100 to 150 hours of community service.

Adelle Scammell goes limp in courtroom after being sentenced. Guards (inset) drag her down the hall.

Venner refused to pay the fine of $600. So did Adele Scammell, Brian Austin, Vera Stothers, and first-time offender, Jeanie Arcand.

"I've been fighting for the unborn for the past 20 years," Venner said in a telephone interview from the Toronto West Detention Centre October 5. "To pay a fine would mean that I am admitting that it is wrong and that I'd even be putting money into their coffers."

A retired nurse, Venner said she first witnessed the horrors of abortion while working in the hospitals in London during the Second World War. "I was district nurse in Coventry. I remember seeing babies being aborted. It was dreadful what they did to the little things."

She met and married Gordon Venner, who was then with the Royal Canadian Air Force, during the war. In 1946, she came to Canada as a war bride. After doing obstetrics nursing at St. Michael's Hospital, Venner worked for 18 years with hospitals in Ajax and Pickering.

It was while working in Ajax and Pickering, she said, "when I learned women were not given enough information about abortion." ■

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Cornell University Said to House Abortuary

During a rescue at 1339 22nd Street N.W. in Washington, D.C., a Cornell student, and resident of the building that housed the abortion clinic, said that he believed the trustees of the university were unaware of the clinic's presence in the building.

The resident claimed that the university either owned or leased the entire building for student residences and some classrooms. He said that the trustees would be "very upset" to learn that one of their buildings held an abortuary.

The building address is 2140 O Street N.W.

Those wishing to contact the Cornell University trustees may write or call: 451 Day Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 255-5127. ■