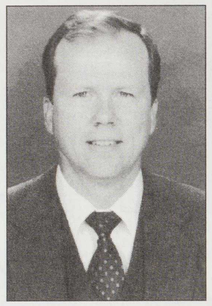
# Compromise: A strategy for failure

*"On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."* Matthew 16:18b



It has been an old axiom of the socialist movement over the last century, *"Three steps forward, two steps back."* You don't have to be a very astute student of history to realize that this strategy has worked for the political left. Go on the offensive; take your stand (even if it is for evil, as is often the case of the liberal left); make forward movement, then be willing to retreat just a little so your simple-minded enemies will think that they have won a victory.

This month I turn 41. I'm not very old but I have seen this strategy work over and over again for the enemies of God and of life. The Cairo conference, which is highlighted in this issue, is a good case in point. The Clinton administration seems to be determined to make abortion not only the law of the land but the rule of the day throughout the entire world.

If you were following the conference you no doubt noticed that at first the proposition put forward was to make *Roe v. Wade* apply globally. The position that was contained in the original draft was an extreme offense to millions of Americans and was objected to by dozens of countries as well (*Three steps forward*).

Then, Al Gore, the mouthpiece of the Clinton administration, promised that the U.S. was not saying that abortion was a "fundamental human right" (*Two steps back*).

So that, in the end, the compromise that was reached was clearly in the direction of making abortion a more broadly accepted tool of the population manipulators. While many people were claiming victory because the more radical version of the statement was not adopted, the truth of the matter is, our world is closer to global acceptance and aggressive promotion of abortion.

HR-6, a proposal to federally certify all teachers including home-schooling moms, is another example. Home-schoolers and private schools claimed a victory when, in reality, what we got was just another invasive bill with the federal government taking over more of our local education instead of a *really* lousy bill that would have reached even further (*Three steps forward, two steps back*).

Why then, realizing that the godless are making consistent progress against us, do we Christians continue to view defeats as victories? Why do we claim that, because we beat them back part way into the bushes, we've won a victory?

I believe it is because we have adopted a strategy for fighting moral evil that is fatally flawed. In fact, it is guaranteed to fail. While our enemies continue to inch and sometimes leap forward on the offensive, most of the time all we do is wait for their next move and attempt to defend our ever shrinking domain. Our strategy in most of these matters is to take a defensive posture as our foes gobble up territory that God has given us.

What is the solution? We must go on the offensive! The words of Christ in Matthew 16 make it clear that God's design for the Church is that she be on the offensive. When Jesus said that the gates of Hell would not prevail against the Church, He left no doubt that she was to be acting as a battering ram of sorts against the interests of the devil.

How do we apply this principle to the battle for life? There are many different ways, but here in Oregon where some say we have history's most aggressive "physician-assisted suicide" initiative on the ballot, one thing comes to mind. We must go on the offensive when it comes to life issues like abortion and euthanasia. If our only response to the ever increasing tide of the death peddlers is to call a truce or just slow down their forward advancement, these eugenisists will surely overtake us.

Here's an example: the typical response to the proposal for euthanasia here has *not* been to take the moral high ground and declare that the taking of blameless and vulnerable human life is wrong. Instead, the approach has been only to attack the proposition by saying that it is "flawed" and would allow for "abuses." Listening to the so called opponents of "death with dignity" you might be inclined to think that if the death people would just come up with a "better" law, a way for doctors to kill their patients without pragmatic "flaws" or "abuses," Christians would not oppose it.

Friends, we must not always be the ones on the defensive. We must stop claiming a victory only because we have only allowed an increment of evil to slip by us. We must boldly take the offensive in the battle for life. The time for *just* sitting at home or church and praying about the deaths of millions of innocent babies is over. The time for being overly concerned about what people might say if we courageously stand for what is right is behind us. Rise up, oh, Church, rise up! Jesus has promised victory, but we must be willing to do our part. God go with you as you march into battle.

Serving Him for Life,

Andrew Burnett, Publisher &
Executive Director of
Advocates for Life Ministries



## Paulsen wrong

The [Catholic] Church has always said that the intentional taking of an innocent human life is immoral. It does not teach exceptions. Perhaps the writer (see Sept. *Letters*) is referring to the principle of "double effect" in which the purpose of the act is to save the mother and the death of the unborn is unintended (e.g. removal of a cancerous uterus). Perhaps it is just semantics, but in such weighty matters as "the official teaching of the Catholic Church," and from a writer claiming that his position is the correct one, *Life Advocate* ought to give the literal and full truth.

*Vincent F. Heuser, Jr.*
*Louisville, KY*

## "In error"

In September letters, Ken Paulsen (not really Catholic) is in serious error when he states that the "official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church is that abortion is allowed only in cases where the mother's life is in danger."

The Roman Catholic Church opposes abortion at any time and for any reason. This position is supported by automatic excommunication of anyone who commits an abortion, has an abortion or helps someone obtain an abortion.

*Robert E. Mangieri*
*Richardson, TX*

*Editor's note: Mr. Mangieri was gracious enough to send us an article explaining the exception from the Catholic perspective. See "Exception: To Save The Life Of The Mother, page 38."*





## Story brings tears

I just read a story about Connie and Luis Arvizu in *Life Advocate*. It was so well put together, all I could do was cry, for you see Connie is my daughter. I want to thank-you so much. We pray that this will reach many people for Jesus. I would like to order 30 copies, to give to friends and family, and I'm also willing to pay for them. I also want to thank Larry and Patty Salazar of Kearney, AZ, for putting it together. God bless them.

*Smoky Norton*
*Kearney, AZ*

## Protection applies to unborn

I appreciate how *Life Advocate* is open to print different views of the pro-life people. It is good that people hear the side of those who believe that the same means of protection and rescue for the born are applicable to the unborn. I do not own a gun anymore myself and one reason is because I believe if one will use a gun to save his own life, he will use it to save someone else's life if he loves others as much as he loves himself.

Keep up the good reporting.

*Daniel Phillips*
*Phoenix, AZ*

## Holding herself accountable

I have received the crisis letter and I intend to send [a donation] within the next few days — after the holiday weekend. I hope that it will help and that other people will realize that now, more than ever, pro-life people must maintain and, if possible, increase their support of pro-life organizations and ministries. Lives can be and are being saved.

Of course, here in Oregon we have some important measures on the ballot this election year. There is the physician-assisted suicide measure, the OCA Measure 13 about homosexuality, and the measure to stop child pornography.

Our trust must be in God not earthly leaders. But I feel that He will hold me accountable for speaking out, putting my money where my mouth is, and doing what I can.

Keep up the good work; you are in my prayers.

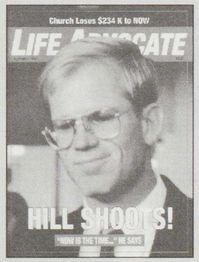
*Angie Bell*
*Portland, OR*

## Pro-lifers not pacifists

Everyone should understand that both the pro-choice and pro-life labels are misleading. Pro-choice means only pro-abortion. It does not stand for pro-choice on anything else. Also the pro-life movement is strictly an anti-abortion movement. No more, no less. It specifically is not a pacifist movement. It is not a movement against capital punishment; it is not a movement against personal defense with violence if necessary and it is not a movement against a third-party defense of innocent persons. Again, it is only against abortions. Those that use their pro-life position as an argument against all violence, i.e. pacifists, do not speak for the anti-abortion movement.

Some pro-lifers have succumbed to the

## Churches dead to sin




In defense of Paul Hill and Michael Griffin—Abortion is the Goliath of our nation. Recall God sent David (Paul?) out to slay Goliath. Perhaps . . .Who are we to judge what God would do since our churches are dead to the sin of abortion?

*Alyce VanWie*
*Moorhead, MN*

## Ill-use of "honored spot"?

Giving the man who murdered an abortionist the honored spot of front cover exposure on your magazine makes it impossible for us to further consider your publication.

*Henry and Nada Jackson*
*Sandy, OR*

## Killing "in the act" justifiable

*Life Advocate* is an outstanding news magazine.

Tragically your condoning the murder of an abortionist belies your stand on the sacredness of life.

Had he killed him in the act of an abortion the ethics would be quite different.

I, for one, am not renewing my subscription as I told you months ago.

I'll miss the news.

*Betsy Mullins*
*St. Louis, MO*

## COVER

*John Britton, the late abortionist from Florida, was one of the "moral deformities" before Paul Hill ended his career as a child-killer.*

*Cover Graphics: Brian Davis*

**LIFE ADVOCATE**

**Publisher:** *Andrew Burnett*
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*A special thank you to all of the staff for your voluntary efforts to make this publication possible.* Life Advocate *is a monthly publication from Advocates for Life Ministries. Subscriptions are available on a donation basis ($30 per year is suggested). We are in need of news and editorial items. The deadline for news is the second Monday of the month.*

*Send to:* Life Advocate
*P.O. Box 13656*
*Portland, OR 97213*

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