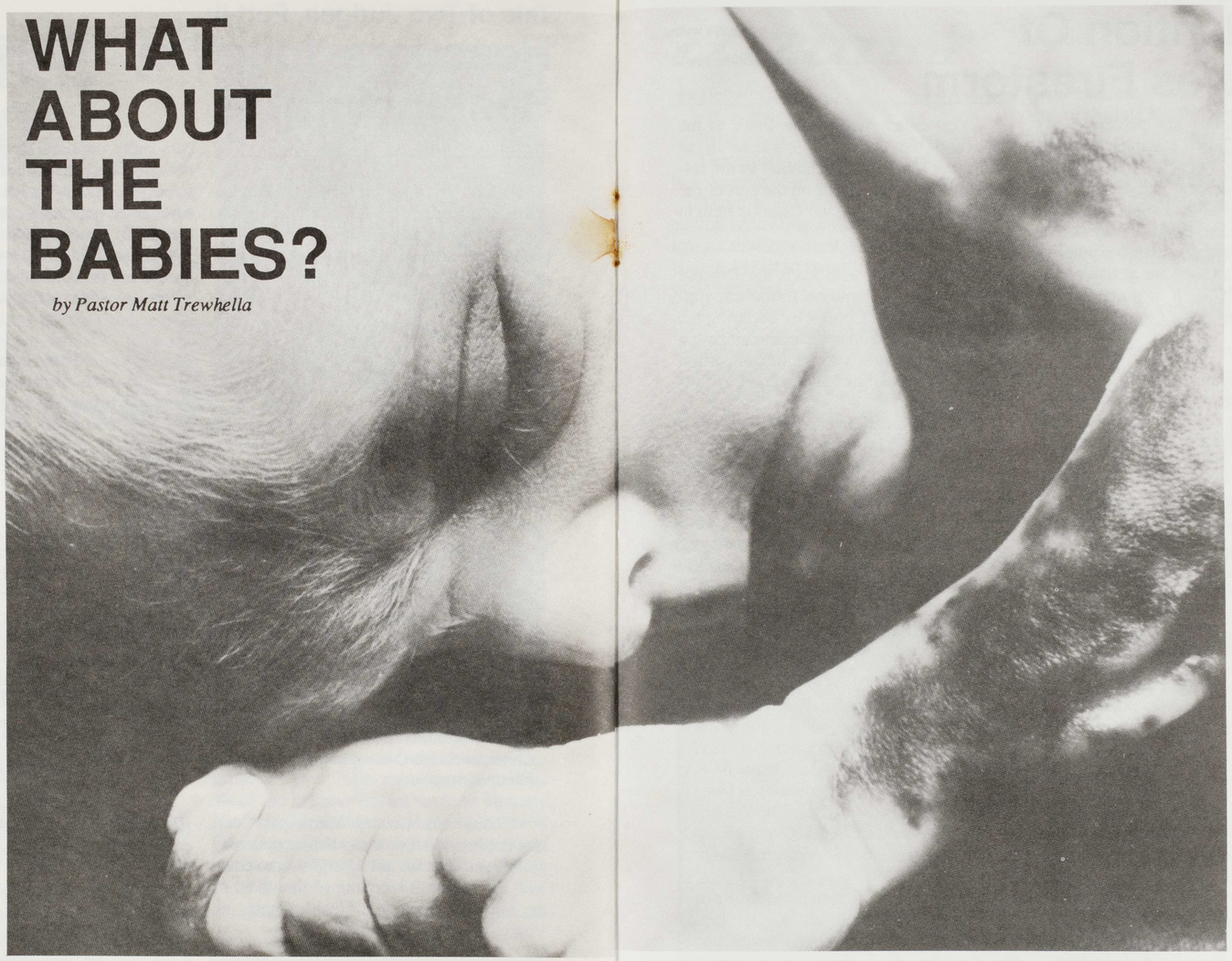
# WHAT ABOUT THE BABIES?

*by Pastor Matt Trewhella*



Credit: Courtesy Americans Against Abortion

During March of this year, a bill was making its way through the Wisconsin Legislature called AB 590. In short, this bill would have caused increased government control of churches and religious organizations ( I say "increased", because there already is government control), thus threatening the rights and lifestyle of the Church by forcing them to show no so-called prejudice against homosexuals. For example, this bill would have made it a crime not to allow a homosexual to work in your church's day care center if any child or employee received welfare.

The Christian response to such a proposal was tremendous. With less than 24 hours notice, more than 120 pastors gathered to be informed and marshal their forces to oppose this bill. Christians by the hundreds called their legislators to voice their opposition to AB 590. One Christian radio station preempted its regular programming in order to devote itself entirely to the exposure and quashing of AB 590.

In the end, AB 590 was quashed, and Christians throughout Wisconsin heralded it as a great victory. In reality, though it was good to see Christians begin to act, the quashing of AB 590 was a sad indictment of the Church.

### The Confessing Church

During World War II, the Confessing Church—that part of the Church which opposed Hitler—continually fought for its rights and the preservation of its lifestyle.

One decree of Hitler's stated that churches could not baptize any non-Aryans. Basically, he didn't want any Jews being baptized who might convert to Christianity. The Confessing Church ardently opposed Hitler, fighting for its right to baptize whomever they desired.

In the end, Hitler acquiesced and the Confessing Church won its right to baptize anyone. Though this seemed like a victory, in reality, it was a sad indictment of the Church. Why? Because there were no Jews left in Germany to baptize! While the Confessing Church was busy fighting for its rights, it largely did nothing to act against the unjust killing of the Jews. In essence, the Church had lost its identity because it failed to act against the gross injustice its neighbors were suffering.

### Martin Luther

When are Christians to oppose injustice? Martin Luther taught that Christians are to oppose injustice when it is happening to others, and not resist it when it is happening to themselves (unless if the injustice they are suffering is the outgrowth of fighting against the injustice others are suffering). This is Biblically correct.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in much of 20th century Christianity. Today, instead of Christians opposing injustice to others and enduring injustice to themselves, we see Christians opposing injustice to themselves and doing little to oppose injustice to others.

We have erred just as the Confessing Church erred during WW II. The Confessing Church fought for its rights and largely did nothing for the Jews being unjustly killed in its midst. Today, the American Church increasingly is fighting for its rights and is largely doing nothing for the preborn babies being unjustly killed in its midst.

If this continues, the end result will be Christianity reduced to just another special lobbying group and the Church having lost its identity.

### Servants and Sacrifice

How can we be so crass as to ardently fight for our rights while all we do for the preborn is have a yearly march for them and think we've done enough? Why aren't hundreds and even thousands of Christians calling their legislators on behalf of the preborn? Why aren't Christian radio stations preempting their regular schedules to quash child-killing? Why can you promo something for months to stop child-killing and get only 20 pastors, but over 120 pastors come together in less than 24 hours when their lifestyle is being threatened? How can we expect our rights to be upheld when the preborn babies don't even have a right to life and we do nothing for them? This is a sad indictment against the Church. To ardently fight for our rights, in light of what is happening to the preborn babies, is pure hypocrisy.

Rather than trumpeting our cause, we must learn to become the servants Jesus calls us to be. Why does the Church in America find itself confronted with AB 590s? We're not willing to serve. We like to curse the darkness, but then we're not willing to serve and sacrifice to see things change.

Why is pro-abort David Clarenbach in a position of influence? He is willing to serve. Why is Planned Parenthood in a position of influence? It is willing to serve. Most Christians are not willing to serve, rather they are more concerned about furthering their own self-interests.

Rescuer Tim Stafford has aptly summed things up by saying, "Christians must be willing to pay the price of sacrifice. Writing position papers and rating candidates will be inadequate. When was evil ever confronted by a position paper alone? The Confessing Church in Germany did some fine theologizing. Few, however, would give their lives to implement it. Sacrifice is not the same as working hard for your cause. Sacrifice means working hard for people other than yourself—people who can never repay you."

Perhaps what the Church needs is the passing of several AB 590s. The only thing that seems to arouse it, is something that threatens its lifestyle. Persecution has done wonders for the Church in the past.

God does not call us to defend our rights; rather, He calls us to defend "the rights of those who cannot speak up for themselves." No one epitomizes that more than the preborn child—locked into what God intended to be the safest place on earth, with no means to speak. God help us to repent of our self-centeredness, and to begin to follow the teachings of Jesus in deed and not just mere ideology. ■

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