*Emergency crews gather to extract a rescuer out of an old car blocking Tiller's gate. The top of the car has been cut and pulled back.*

# Wichita rescuers close Tiller's mill

by Denise Billings

Wichita, KS — Under cover of darkness, and under the noses of a sleeping federal marshal and hired security guard, two men quietly brought two junk vehicles to George Tiller's abortuary at 5107 E. Kellogg.

When they arrived on the morning of Saturday March 11, they flattened the tires, locked each of the cars to a gate, and then locked themselves inside the bottomless junkers and began to pray for the abortion-bound moms and their babies.

The two Missionaries to the Preborn, Chuck LaCroix and Jim Lucero, would not be rewarded by the City of Wichita for their life-saving efforts. Instead, they were to be hauled away to jail — but only after the fire department toiled for five hours to cut them out of the intricately welded locks that bound them to their vehicles.

LaCroix and Lucero had arrived with their old pick-up truck and sedan at Tiller's abortuary during the predawn hours on that Saturday morning. They had earlier prayed that they would be enabled to accomplish the entire lock-down before being discovered by the ever-present federal agent and security guard. Their prayers were answered as the paid, professional "escorts" were soundly sleeping. The rescuers' presence went undetected until well after dawn when the unpaid, volunteer "escorts" arrived.

Lucero, who was locked to the pick-up at Tiller's north gate, was removed and taken to Sedgwick County Jail within three hours. LaCroix was locked to the sedan at the main gate on Bleckly Street. His extraction baffled emergency rescue crews for over five hours.

In all, 30 law enforcement and fire fighting personnel responded. There were also two paramedics there and six U.S. marshals and FBI agents taking video.

The last murder investigation in Wichita only warranted one squad car and one ambulance on the scene.

The local media focused on the cost to taxpayers on wages and services to remove the blockaders. It was estimated that between 160 and 170 man-hours were consumed, plus the cost of towing the vehicles away which was said to have cost an additional $2,200.

Pro-life activists said they agreed that it was too bad that the city was spending their money "to ensure that children would be killed in Wichita."

They added that taxpayers shouldn't continue to tolerate the killing by George Tiller.

"The fact that this murderer of the most innocent is ever allowed to show his face in public is unbelievable," said one sidewalk counselor. "The fact that he is now tripling the size of his killing center is obscene. There are communities that, to their credit, won't allow released convicted child molesters in their neighborhoods. What Tiller does is much worse, his victims never have a chance to escape or tell anyone on earth what happened to them."

As always, sidewalk counselors were present during the rescue to offer alternatives to abortion. Fifty more people were there to pray, including Father Pavone, director of Priests for Life, and Father Frank Conley of the Wichita Neuman Center.

Though totally surprised by the two-man rescue, the other pro-lifers present were in solidarity with the rescue and offered prayers and words of encouragement to LaCroix and Lucero.

Many expressed the desire to see large-scale rescue resurrected in the city.

"These men challenge and inspire me," said local pro-life activist Raymond Sharon. "They are literally the gospel in action. They are laying down their lives so that others may live."

Sidewalk counselors report that only three women may have been allowed inside the clinic. Other customers were turned away and handed re-appointment slips.

Both men have served a total of at least two and one half years in jail for their rescue efforts since the 1991 Summer of Mercy rescues.

Both were charged with FACE on March 16 ■



# "Precious Feet People" create a symbol for the chastity movement

Snowflake, AZ—Heritage House, the people who created the Precious Feet for the pro-life movement are introducing a new symbol for the teen chastity movement that is sweeping the country. The chastity movement sprang primarily from the pro-life movement.

The symbol, a heart inside a circle which says "Worth Waiting For", embodies the spirit of the chastity movement. Hundreds of thousands of teens across the country are taking a stand for sexual purity. Even the New York Times has taken notice. "Virginity is making a comeback, along with sexual abstinence. The idea that virginity is in some sense hip is spreading through popular culture," says Judith Newman in her article, "Proud to Be a Virgin."

Dinah Monahan, designer of the Chastity medal says she knows how important it is for teenagers to have support for their decision to remain sexually pure.

"With four teenagers of my own, I know how parents' messages of sexual purity and Christianity are in competition with the sexually provocative messages of the media," says Monahan. "What better way to 'seal' a commitment to chastity than with a piece of jewelry that will serve as a constant reminder."

Focus on the Family, headed by Dr. James Dobson, agrees. They plan to promote the sterling silver version of the necklace in their magazines.

Leisha Joseph of Focus stated, "We have received many calls from parents who want a piece of jewelry to give their teenagers after they have a chastity talk. We are excited to offer this necklace."

Both the necklaces and pins come in gold plate with pink or black enamel and the neclace also comes sterling silver. Included is a commitment card that the teen signs and carries in a wallet.■


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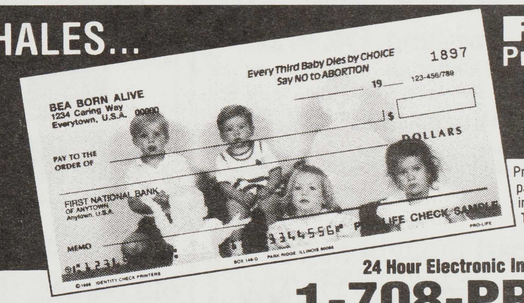


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