by Andrew Burnett

Joseph Booker (arrow), surrounded by federal agents and wearing a Kevlar bullet-proof helmet and vest, is escorted into the clinic for another day's abortions.

reaction on several occasions when a number of the local women brought very young children to picket the baby killer.

Protests turn "ugly"

On Tuesday, Daniel Ware, and activist from Houston, Texas spent a good deal of the morning and early afternoon reading selected passages from the Bible to the group of abortion enthusiasts who crowded around the gate leading into Booker's killing chamber. The following day, one of the local newspapers responded by saying that the "protest had turned ugly." After reading the headline Bruce Stuckey said, "If they think reading the Bible is ugly, it's no wonder they can't see the ugliness of abortion."

During the three days of picketing the Gulfport abortuary's business was way down. In fact, one woman was seen to have been ferried by pro-aborts back and forth from the site several times in what appeared to be an attempt on their part to give the impression that business was booming. At any rate, the number of actual abortion clients was considerably lower than normal.

Media hype contributes to success

Media interest in ACLA's Mississippi event was intense, and reporters descended from everywhere to interview ACLA participants and local activists. In addition to reporters for the Gulfport *Sun Herald*, and Jackson's *Clarion-Ledger*, there were correspondents and cameramen present from *USA Today*, the British Broadcasting Company, and a news team from Germany.

Though the ACLA group was relatively small, incessant inflammatory rhetoric about pro-life "violence and terrorism" being touted by pro-aborts actually played to the advantage of the babies. It drew the media to Jackson and put a spotlight on Booker and the ACLA "No Place To Hide" campaign. Booker's abortion practice received much wider public scrutiny.

"The media, by responding to the hysteria of the pro-abortion people, did more to expose the abortionists than a million dollars worth of paid advertising could have done," Foreman said. "The fact that we accomplished such broad exposure of the abortionist with so few people proves that no effort is too small to be worthwhile."

The entire week's events proved that the only danger to human life came not from the "out of town 'anti-choice' terrorists," but the true threat came from the very man that the "peace officers" had come to protect.

Several Christian families in the Gulfport area opened their homes to ACLA participants and extended "Southern Hospitality" in both meals and housing.

Protest heats up in Jackson

On Thursday the focus shifted back to Jackson where Booker kills babies at the New Woman abortuary. Again, pro-aborts, federal agents and police far outnumbered pro-lifers. With the help of Janet Reno and the Clinton administration's inflamed and inflated bombast about a "conspiracy of violence and terrorism" the atmosphere outside the mill resembled a frenzied three-ring circus.

Thursday evening there was a candlelight procession through Booker's Brookstone Circle neighborhood in Madison, with about a dozen participants. Activists went door-to-door, leaving fliers telling neighbors about Booker's abortion practice, while others led a procession with a large banner which read "Pray to End Abortion." On the street in front of Booker's house — where it appeared no one was at home, pro-lifers knelt in prayer, holding lighted candles.

On Friday morning picketing resumed at the abortuary in Jackson, and pro-abortion radicals showed up again to create an environment that would be unfriendly to any abortion-bound women. In Jackson too, the number of women coming to the abortion facility was only a trickle. One local pro-lifer surmised that perhaps the clinic was actually closed and the only women coming were those who hadn't been aware of the protests and came without phoning ahead. Another indication that women were not coming in to have their children killed was the fact that several of the regular employees were not present during the entire week .

In all, the best guess was that only about 25% of the regular number of abortions were performed during the week of the campaign. Roy McMillan reported that even the week following the event the number of women coming to the Jackson abortuary was only a fraction of the usual number of clients.

On Saturday morning ACLA joined in a picket with regular picketers who normally come to the abortion mill for protest and sidewalk counseling. On a regular basis there are about six to eight churches in the Jackson area that rotate on a weekly schedule and provide a good Christian presence at the killing center on Saturdays.

ACLA, A modest beginning—Leader's hopeful

"Hopefully the Lord can use this small beginning to accomplish great things in the future to get more abortionists to quit, and dissuade new doctors from taking their place," one activist said. "The ACLA's commitment to nonviolence and aggressive employment of First Amendment activities will continue."

Time will reveal the effects and effectiveness of the ACLA's fledgling activities in Mississippi. Organizers hope to have 50 member groups by the first of the new year. Those who attended this first event stated they were greatly encouraged and hopeful that God would continue to use the efforts of pro-life activists everywhere to impact the abortion industry.

Many pro-life leaders who didn't attend the first ACLA event have expressed great enthusiasm about the new coalition. Joseph Scheidler of the Prolife Action League and Don Treshman of Rescue America are just a couple of the leaders who have indicated an eagerness to cooperate with the future activities of ACLA.

"If the "No Place To Hide" campaign is any indication of how God can use those who will take a stand," David Crane said, "the future of ACLA looks very favorable."

Those interested in receiving more information about ACLA can write: ACLA, C/O P.O. Box 13656, Portland, OR 97213.■

Chicago-area teen accused of soliciting two murders — his pregnant girlfriend and his child

by Paul deParrie

Wilmette, IL — Kevin Schwall apparently chose the wrong people to recruit as hit-men when he attempted to find someone to kill his pregnant girlfriend.

Angry because she would not abort the child, the 19-year-old summer camp counselor looked to murder as a solution just hours after she had asked him to attend Lamaze childbirth classes with her.

His arrest on August 10 surprised friends and neighbors who described him as an "exceptional counselor."

Schwall has been charged with two counts of attempted murder because a 1986 Illinois law defined an unborn child as "any individual of the human species from fertilization until birth."

The unnamed girlfriend was about seven months pregnant at the time.

The solicitation to murder charge carries a possible sentence of 20 to 40 years and the additional charge carries a sentence of six to 30 years.

Schwall reportedly asked an unidentified man, a former classmate, to help him find a hit-man. The man notified police, who sent an undercover policeman.

"Our detectives started checking out the story, and the story was checking out," said Lt. John P. Hill of the Wilmette Police Department.

The policeman was offered an undisclosed amount by Schwall to kill the woman so he would not have to pay child support. He asked that the woman be shot in the stomach so that the child would die even if the mother survived.

After his arrest, Schwall's friends and relatives raised $50,000 for the half-million dollar bond to have him released. He was required to wear a monitoring device around his ankle and not permitted to leave his parents' home except for court appearances.

Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, where the Schwalls are members, were notified of the fund at church services.

Friends have criticized the police handling of the affair saying that the distraught young man was merely "grab[bing] at anything" to straighten out the "mess" and that the informant should have gone to the Schwall's parents rather than police. Even police, they said, should have gone to the parents rather than sending an undercover detective.

"The police blew it up out of proportion," said Monsignor Charles Meter, pastor emeritus at St. Joseph's Church and a priest noted for involvement in pro-life activities. "We admit it was wrong, but it's a thing that could have been better handled by the family."

Kevin Schwall is strapped into the police car after his arrest.

Others strongly disagreed, citing a similar case where a woman, Laurie Dann, was handled by approaching the parents and "it didn't work."

M.L. Dantzker, a criminal justice professor at Loyola University in Chicago said that it was "ludicrous" to suggest that parental involvement would be sufficient.

"We're not talking about somebody caught threatening to break a window or throw snowballs at a car," he added. "This was someone who seriously wanted to have someone killed."

"Mr. Schwall's solicitation of an acquaintance to assist him in a murder was a felony offense in and of itself," said Wilmette Police Chief George Carpenter. ■