Why bother with an "impossible" task?

Recently, I was doing an interview with a prominent east coast newspaper. The reporter seemed knowledgeable about our organization and had seen several issues of *Life Advocate* when the questions asked turned to matters of finance. I was asked how we could continue to publish a magazine with so many judgments against us—and why didn't we just quit (as the abortionists had hoped?). I responded that it wasn't easy but that I believed God had given us a will to continue and that we just kept putting one foot in front of another.

The questions got more specific. "Where do you get the money to produce such a professional quality magazine with only 3,000 subscribers?" The answer was simple, "God's people are very generous when it comes to efforts to save babies," I responded. Then I was asked what our annual budget was. When I gave the answer the reported exclaimed, "That's *impossible!* The salary and benefit package for just one top level executive at our paper is more than that—you must have some other source of income."

I explained that much of the work that is done is donated and that we do nearly all of the steps necessary to gather information, typeset, print and mail out the magazine in house. Even then, though, I said that it was extremely difficult, financially, to keep the monthly issues going out the door. Our subscription base is limited (probably because we don't tickle enough ears).

I bring up this matter because it is time for our subscription drive. I want to share with you some important reasons why we continue to publish our magazine, and more importantly, why we continue to need *your* participation for the magazine to continue.

So... why do we continue in an "impossible" task? I'll summarize the main reasons into just three points:

1.) **To inform.** Getting at the truth has always been our goal. You know how difficult it is sometimes to get the truth about pro-life activist events. Many times even hard working Christian media get it wrong. There are many pro-life publications that are filled with stories that wouldn't offend Molly Yard, but there is only one news magazine like *Life Advocate.*

2.) **To encourage.** I don't know how many times I have been told, "We just don't know what we would do without your magazine coming every month." Of course, not everyone is encouraged. Sometimes the truth offends; sometimes the truth hurts—especially when it points out *our* weaknesses and blind spots—but ultimately the truth is what is needed if we're to win in the fight to stop abortion.

3.) **To establish a historical record.** Since we began back in 1985, we have published over 100 issues of the magazine. In fact, in the last two years alone we have published over 1200 pages of news, features, and commentary that are on the cutting edge of the pro-life activist movement. Frank Schaeffer commented that he saves all of his *Life Advocate* issues. Some day he plans to give them to his grand-children so they will know what happened and how abortion was finally defeated.

Despite the obvious need for a publication like *Life Advocate* and the willingness of our staff to continue as long as God gives us the strength, there is one hindrance that keeps cropping up. You quessed it—lack of funds. Did you know that the $30.00 suggested donation doesn't even cover half of the production and mailing costs? In fact, the actual cost is closer to $75-$80.00 if you divide the total cost by the number of annual supporters.

Asking $75.00 from everyone on our mailing list would be a discouragement to many of our readers, so we have set the suggested donation rate at $30.00. Our hope is that many of you will be able to give even more than the actual cost to make up the difference.

I know that $75.00 dollars is a lot of money for many of you to give. But a comittment of support spread throughout the year at $5-$10.00 per month is something most really can afford. (Thankfully, a few folks on our mailing list give $75.00 or more per month. I know that not everyone can do that, but for the sake of continuing the publication I want each of our readers to consider giving to AFLM on a regular basis.)

It is true that the task ahead for ALFM and the pro-life activist movement seems impossible at times. But remember what Jesus said, "With God all things are possible."

May He bless you and your efforts on behalf of the unborn.

Serving Him for Life,

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

COVER

Canadian Christians are standing up in spite of being targeted.

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Abortion murder provokes two others?

Charlie Sykes, a talk show host here in Milwaukee, revealed on his program a significant article in the *Boston Globe* commenting on the Susan Smith case [and] the abortion she had in high school. He brought out that she mentioned the "abortion" in her confession as a strong factor in her murder of her two children.

He also mentioned that the story was never picked up by any other paper in America, and how the *Globe* may have been attacked by pro-choicers, Planned Barrenhood, etc. Even the *Globe* never mentioned it again after the Nov. 6 issue of their paper.

Brad Lescher
Princeton, WI

(Editor's note: We confirmed that the headline to the Boston Globe article was citing a quote out of Susan Smith's confession.)

Smith's "family planning"

The Susan Smith case in Union, South Carolina seems to have shocked the whole nation, and I must say that I have been among the most shocked. That a woman could murder her own children and have so little guilt about it that she could convince all of us, including her family, with her lies is almost unbelievable.

What surprised me about the whole affair was that anyone would care. Women murdering their own children is an everyday event.

That a baby is not human until it has emerged from the birth canal is a specious technicality that is not supportable by science, theology, common sense, or morality. But if it is true, then simply delaying the time at which a person becomes human would be a technicality with which our social planners could fiddle to achieve optimum results. For example, a woman could possibly wait a few years to determine which of her children she doesn't like and then kill them. In Susan Smith's case she chose to kill them both, evidently because they were an impediment to her future.

Alan Craig
St. Louis, MO

Abolish abortion despite Democrats

I am a right-to-life Democrat. I would like to hear more pro-life Democrats speak on TV, including the one that Clinton didn't want to speak during election time. I vote straight Democrat because I believe we can still get rid of abortion even if Democrats are in office. Democrats are for the poor and working class. Republicans are for the rich, and that's the bottom line.

It's time for both parties to speak out against abortion. The right-to-life Democrats should have their day in court. This is what America is all about.

Antonio Cassone
Roseville, MI

Repent!

Please remove us from your mailing list. We can no longer support *Life Advocate* because of your support of [justifiable homicide]. Condoning Paul Hill's act and Shelley Shannon's is against all that God's word teaches. "Thou shalt not kill" doesn't mean, go ahead and kill if someone murders preborn babies. "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord" doesn't mean, "I'm not able to control all things, you help me out." God is in control and is fully capable to chastise as He wills.

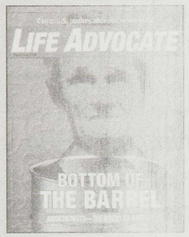
I pray that you and your staff will change your attitudes and repent. Murder is murder, whether it's preborn babies or abortionists. We will continue to be "pro-life" and trust God will open your eyes to the truth of His word.

Please print this in the "Letters" section of your magazine, if you dare.

Kay & Bob Stover
Federal Way, WA

Gone too far

Instead of simply reporting on pro-life activism, *Life Advocate* seems to have become the pulpit for those who feel that [killing] abortionists is a "pro-life" act. The cover of the November issue, "Bottom of the Barrel . . . Abortionists-the Dregs of Society" only reinforced that view.



Christ calls us to love, even when it seems impossible to love. He calls us to pray and intercede for those whom we find it almost impossible to pray for. Praying for the conversion of an abortionist each day, asking the Holy Spirit to convict and convert a hardened heart is not easy, but it is God's will.

It saddens me to see the [killing] of abortionists even being discussed by some in the pro-life movement. For the sake of the children we all strive to protect and for the sake of our souls, this "discussion" must cease. His ways are not our ways, and God, in His infinite mercy and wisdom, is the ultimate judge. It may be difficult to love those who brutally destroy children, but it is our commandment from the Lord.

I'm not renewing my subscription to *Life Advocate*. The cover of the November issue revealed that you have gone too far.

Greg Chesmore
Des Moines, IA

Leaders responsible in execution

I am very concerned about the blunders of mainstream pro-life leadership; to the criminal nature of abortion; and its contribution to the death sentence that was given to Rev. Paul Hill by blindly making its own condemnation of him. I am personally going to start speaking against every pro-life leader who does not help put Rev. Hill's act into perspective, and who fails to demand clemency from Florida's court and governor.

We do not have to endorse what he did, or otherwise open ourselves up to lawsuits or other recrimination, but we do have to state unequivocally that violence begets violence. [Hill's] act was not in essence criminal, but an act against something criminal.

To me, if [Hill] is executed, it is very clear that our pro-life leaders contributed to it.

Mark Goodell
Richmond, VA

Keep focus on the fight

Although I am not formally associated with the anti-abortion movement, I wish to express my support and respect for Paul Hill. I would also like to comment on a matter which readers may find relevant.

I am in my eleventh year of imprisonment for acts of conscience relating to nuclear weapons and pollution, so I have had much experience with the response of supporters after the court has had its say. Many well intentioned people tend to shift their focus from the issues the action addressed to personal concern for the prisoner and the family left behind. And while this support is important and always appreciated, it should never be allowed to overshadow the cause.

Paul Hill fought for the unborn, and those who want to honor him can best do so by continuing the fight in their own actions. Seeing him and his family simply as victims of the legal system will only weaken the movement. Seeing him as a champion and martyr will strengthen the resolve of others.

My hope is that all of us, in prison and out, will always focus on the fight for survival, from the moment of conception through a long and healthy life in a safe and peaceful environment.

Helen Woods
Marianna, FL