Polarize . . .

(Continued from previous page)

the middle and unless we can force them out of there, the status quo will be preserved. The status quo is that any woman can kill her unborn baby through all 9 months of pregnancy, for virtually any reason at all, in all 50 states. The *University of Detroit Law Review,* Volume 67, Issue 2, 1990, page 157, note 3, said the following of *Doe vs. Bolton,* 410, U.S. 179 (1973) *Roe vs. Wade's* companion decision:

"The Supreme Court's decisions effectively invalidated abortion laws of all fifty states, id. at 221-22 (White, J., dissenting), and allowed abortion on demand throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy. (*Thornburgh v. Am. College of Obstetrics & Gynecologists,* 476 U.S. 747, 782-85 (1986) (Burger, C.J., dissenting)."

Summarizing its holdings, the court in *Roe* said that during the first trimester, "the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician"; in the second trimester, "the State, in promoting its interest in the health of the mother, may if it chooses, regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health;" after viability, "the State in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life, may, if it chooses, regulate and even proscribe, abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother." (*Roe*, 410 U.S. at 164-65.)

In the companion case of *Doe v. Bolton*, the Court defined the scope of the health exception, relying on its earlier opinion in *United States v. Vuitch*, 402 U.S. 62 (1971):

"The medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age — relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health. (*Doe*, 410 U.S. at 192.)"

We can't change this deplorable status quo unless we force many people out of the middle, which is another way of saying we must polarize them. This is an especially distasteful process because it involves confrontation, which is anathema to most pro-life Christians. We don't want to confront our spiritual leaders, our political leaders, our business leaders, our health-care leaders, or even members of our own families, because some of them are certain to become angry at us and, of course, we all love to be loved — or at least to be liked — or at least not to be attacked.

My abbreviated account of the attacks provoked by my hospital presentation is an example of what often happens on a smaller scale when you confront people with the real truth of abortion — pictures and all. Those you are trying to move out of the middle react angrily because they are more comfortable in than out of the middle. Pro-aborts react even more angrily because they are desperate to keep the uncommitted firmly in the mushy middle.

One of our seminar sponsors recently confided that his wife didn't like me because she thought me "pushy." My instinctive reaction was defensive but as I paused to reflect on her characterization, I was inspired to acknowledge that I was indeed "pushy." Upon reflection, it occurs to me that I am probably not pushy enough. I have since repented of taking so long to become pushy at all.

So here is the bind: Where appropriate, our Savior and His apostles were pushy and polarized people everywhere they went. In a gentle, loving way then, being Christ-like means being pushy where appropriate. But being pushy means you will be treated the way First Century Christians were treated: badly. You can, of course, avoid this persecution and even be liked, but babies will die whose lives could have been saved. Maybe there are worse things than being pushy. ■

Turning the other cheek

by Dawn Stover

Tim Murphy of the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago wrote an article in the March issue of the *Life Advocate* entitled "Rescuers hit Planned Parenthood near White House." The article depicting the January 23, 1993 rescue which closed the mill was encouraging and insightful. During this rescue there was a confrontation. Murphy reports:

"A small contingent of 'clinic defenders' still remained by the front door. One male pro-abort, screaming obscenities, began shoving rescuers, including a woman. A pro-lifer from Brazil, new to rescue and angered at the man pushing a woman, punched him. The two exchanged blows before being separated. The 'peacekeeper' then ordered 'clinic defenders' to give up the doors... Rescuers told the Brazilian pro-lifer that he also had to leave. The man replied that in his country that was how men who pushed women were dealt with, referring to his physical defense. He was crushed when rescuers gently explained that a 'repentant spirit is essential for rescue,' and that it 'would be best' if he left."

Through the course of my pro-life ministry there have been many times, especially during rescues, where pro-lifers have been mistreated, both verbally and physically. In the beginning, I was surprised at the anger and hatred that was aimed at pro-lifers. Many of these assaulters would be the first in line to hug a tree or save a whale. But extreme contempt and disdain was shown to anyone daring to speak out for a dying child.

I believed that pro-aborts were simply misled and deceived people, (of course, they still are) and that somehow I could make them see the truth. Upon receiving the truth, they would be set free from their pro-death beliefs. I do praise God for those who have abandoned the child-killing business due to a Christian presence at the killing centers. If only there were more.

Sadly enough, however, pro-aborts grow in numbers and there is never a shortage of deathscorts more than willing to maintain their commitment to child-killing. I became accustomed to their hatred and abusive behavior. "Just ignore them," I would instruct pro-lifers. Which is fine when it's merely verbal.

My experiences have been many in the area of being harassed and threatened by abortionists and pro-aborts. Many times I have felt bad, especially for the men who were present when I (or others) were being harassed or hurt. The actions of this Brazilian brother have reminded me of experiences I have had. For example . . .

During a rescue at the Peter Bours abortion mill outside of Portland several years ago, I was blocking a back entrance to his killing center. He became enraged at my presence and hit me with an aluminum baseball bat. I was stationed at the back doors with mostly men, one of them a pastor. Immediately after being struck with the bat I saw two of the men going after Abortionist Bours. "No! I'm okay, stay back!" were my instructions to them. It was naturally their instinct to protect me; but I interfered with that device that God has instilled in men to protect, care for and defend women.

The experiences are too numerous and space here does not allow for me to recount the many times where a brother in the Lord has stepped in on my behalf and I have told them to "Let it go. It'll be okay," believing in my heart that we must be the "peacekeepers." After all, these people are advocates of child-killing. They have no regard for life. Especially ours.

NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League) has a yearly fund-raising dinner. Traditionally, we picket the event and have educated and shocked many. Our literature, our picket signs, and our mere presence there challenging those paying around $100 a plate to support child-killing is a presence they hate. After all, this is their night out to get all dressed up and hear speakers to inspire their commitment to child-killing. How dare a group of Christians show them pictures of what abortion does!

Dawn Stover

Shortly after our arrival one year, two pro-aborts came out to encourage people to ignore us and hurry on in. One very tall man, a pro-abortionist, started to get verbally abusive. Nothing new. What was new was when Kevin Starrett (see the February issue of *Life Advocate*, "A '90s Kind of Guy - But Unsure") stood between this pro-death person and myself and boldly stated, "You may be accustomed to treating her like this, but I'm not going to take it! Do you understand?" The statement caught me by surprise. The pro-abort backed off. I was blessed.

Recently in Royal Oak, Michigan, while working on the Stop Kevorkian Project, I was very glad to have Tim Fixx nearby. A tall man walked up to me and stated, "You'll never see the sun rise." All I needed to do was find Tim, relay the incident and he stuck nearby thereafter. I was thankful. While in and of itself this comment was not unusual; there have been many over the years like it. However, these people supporting Kevorkian were quite angry and I did not know what to expect next.

I fear that we have bent over backward so far to stay "peaceful" that we have given the opposition full reign to be abusive. We have allowed their rhetoric to dictate our behavior.

Politically, we relinquished the ultimate territory — the presidency. In terms of activism, there is definitely not enough of a Christian presence outside killing centers. We drive by the mills without regard for those dying inside. After all, we've got a movie to go see. And how about the area of prayer. How many times have we heard or said, "I can't come to the event, but I'll be praying for you?" I openly admit that I am guilty of shortcomings in all areas.

> *"Clinic violence!" they cry about any activity we do. Prayer vigils, pickets, rescues, etc. It doesn't matter as long as the evening news portrays the killers as the victims and the Christians as the ones that must be stopped.*

"Clinic violence!" they cry about any activity we do. Prayer vigils, pickets, rescues, etc. It doesn't matter as long as the evening news portrays the killers as the victims and the Christians as the ones that must be stopped.

Don't stop! Persevere. In closing, I say thank you to any who intervened not only for the babies, but for a