Months before McCorvey's conversion, she and Flip Benham had become friendly. Here they are at Operation Rescue/National headquarters next door to the abortuary where McCorvey worked.

"Roe" overturned

Dallas, TX — No, the *Roe v. Wade* case has not been overturned. But the woman, Roe herself, has.

Norma McCorvey, the true name behind the "Jane Roe" of *Roe v. Wade* fame, a former drug user, alcoholic, drug dealer, thief, lesbian, pro-abort spokesman, and abortion clinic staff member, has taken the plunge. The plunge into baptismal waters, that is.

On August 8, McCorvey, 47, was baptized by her arch-nemesis, Flip Benham, director of Operation Rescue/National (ORN).

In recent months, ORN had relocated its office next door to A Choice for Women abortuary, located at 9222 Markville Drive in Dallas. McCorvey had met Benham years earlier during protests at another abortuary where she worked, but this time they struck up a strange friendship.

McCorvey was initially hostile, saying that ORN's move next door was like "a pack of vultures circling the carcass," but Benham would not give up and continued to talk to McCorvey.

Over time, McCorvey realized that Benham and his friends were concerned about her and were not interested in exploiting her as the pro-abortion side had.

"I felt they only cared about what I could do for them," she said, "not what they could do for me."

Many of the top pro-abortion leaders shunned McCorvey since she revealed her identity in 1984 and, while having her on the platform at major pro-abortion rallies, would not allow her to speak.

"I didn't fit their Vasser crowd. I'm a street kid," she said.

Eventually, she showed up at a local church with ORNs office manger, Ronda Mackey, in July where she went forward at an invitation to those who needed prayer. By now the guilt for what she had done was overwhelming.

"Once you know the realities of abortion and what goes along with it, it stays with you," she said. "I've seen the clinic's freezer full of fetuses."

She repented of her part in the U.S. Supreme Court decision — to her, it was her worst sin.

"I'm grateful she is proclaiming not to be pro-death," said Dawn Stover, associate director of Advocates for Life Ministries. "But her legacy has meant the death of many Americans."

McCorvey, however, says she will devote herself to "helping women save their babies." She is currently helping at the ORN offices.

"I will hold a pro-life position for the rest of my life." she says.

When it came time to be baptized, McCorvey said, "What better person to baptize me than Flip [Benham]?"

McCorvey, though, is still in transition and believes in the availability of first trimester abortions — particularly in cases of a deformed child — but her support for even those appeared tenuous. Immediately upon leaving the baptismal waters, she was embraced by her long-time lesbian partner, Connie Gonzalez. Gonzalez still works at A Choice for Women.

Of her new friends, she says, "They are my friends. They accept me for who I am, not what I've done or what I can do for them. They genuinely love me."

The conversion took the pro-abortion world by surprise. Shocked spokesmen for the abortion enthusiasts complained that the "anti-choicers" would "use" McCorvey.

"It would be unfortunate if the anti-choice movement exploits Norma McCorvey's personal decision in an effort to deprive other women of their right to exercise reproductive choices," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARRAL).

But Benham said he had no intentions of parading McCorvey around as a trophy.

"My plan, my purpose," Benham said, "is to encourage Norma to keep her eyes fixed on Jesus, to follow hard after him."

"The anti-abortion movement is desperate," said another pro-abortion leader. "This is the sort of thing they have had to turn to."

But the desperation seemed more apparent on the other side as the A Choice for Women abortuary told its staff and volunteers not to talk with any Operation Rescue member — or even wave at them.

"What are they afraid of?" asked one pro-life leader. "They used to be afraid of 'violence,' now they are afraid of the Gospel. 'Jane Roe,' in their eyes, has gone from being a 'freedom fighter' to being a 'terrorist.'" ■

Abortionist refuses to stop abortion on customer; locks her in procedure room

by Paul deParrie

Austin, TX — Kristine Hopkins might have imagined that there would be nothing unusual about her sidewalk counseling stint on the morning of July 29.

But late in the morning, seated in the motor home that serves as the sidewalk counselor's refuge, she saw a woman exit the Reproductive Services abortuary looking very upset.

"My first thoughts were that she had undergone an abortion, and was terribly upset about it," says Hopkins.

She hurried to intercept the woman — followed by clinic "escorts" carrying a video camera. At first the woman, Lisa Bailey, rebuffed her offers of help. Hopkins pressed on telling Bailey that she could help whatever the circumstances.

When Bailey finally accepted Hopkins' phone number, the dam broke. The young mother of two began to tell Hopkins how the clinic staff had attempted to hold her down for the abortion even after she had changed her mind.

Kristine Hopkins tells an Austin policeman of Lisa Bailey's kidnapping. Police refused to file a report.

The abortionist, Fred Hanson, had told her to hold still as he was using sharp instruments. Bailey had heard nothing about "sharp instruments" from the abortion "counselor" — nor about the pain she was already feeling. They had told her it would not hurt.

She said she wanted out. At this point, according to what Bailey told Hopkins, the staff tried first to hold her down, then left her alone in the room locking the door behind them.

Bailey felt trapped and climbed up on the sink and began trying to kick out the window. The noise must have gotten the staff's attention because the abortionist returned and took her down from the sink. At this point, Bailey left the building.

After the crew of "escorts" dropped behind, a cream-colored Cadillac being driven by abortionist Hanson approached.

"Lisa, get in the car," he called out.

"Get away from us. Leave us alone, you scum," Hopkins replied.

Bailey added, "I told you, you are a cold man. Get away from me and leave me alone."

After several more tries, the abortionist gave up and returned to the clinic.

At the bus stop, Bailey gave Hopkins all the details of her harrowing experience — including an allegation that he fondled her breasts.

"She said she had never been treated so badly by any doctor," Hopkins said.

When Hopkins had asked, Bailey said that the clinic still had her $325 that she had paid for the abortion. She also explained that she and her husband could not afford another child. They currently have two sons, three years old and 10 months old.

Hopkins told her that she would find help for her both regarding the new baby and getting her money back from the abortion clinic.

Both called authorities to try to file charges against Hanson, but police refused to take a complaint. American Rights Coalition, a non-profit, pro-life group specializing in finding legal representation for women against abortionists, was contacted.

"Lisa is going to pursue filing charges against [abortionist] Fred Hanson for false imprisonment or second degree kidnapping and assault," said Hopkins.

Meanwhile, Bailey has decided against aborting her child. ■

An escort follows and videotapes escaped abortion customer, Lisa Bailey, and sidewalk counselor, Kristine Hopkins.