"IT TAKES A RARE CONVICTION TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WHO WOULD GIVE THEIR LIFE? I MEAN, IT'S HARD FOR US TO GIVE OUR LIVES FOR ANYTHING, LET ALONE A CHILD WE DON'T EVEN KNOW. IT'S DEFINITELY GOD'S CALLING."

—Kathy S.

the promises that I see that He has enabled me to appropriate by faith.

Judy L. (43 years old): How are you explaining this to your children?
Paul: My wife explained it to them that sometimes when men go off to fight for the innocent, sometimes they are taken captive. My wife sometimes puts my circumstances as though I was a prisoner-of-war.

Judy: What kind of legacy does this leave for your children?
Paul: There are so many things you could say. I guess that the legacy I've left for my children is similar to the legacy that many other people have left to their children when they have been willing to fight and possibly die in the defense of the innocent.
I certainly think — to be brutally frank — I think my son can be proud of my actions because I did put my beliefs into action.
I've heard people say they wish they could help their children to realize the possible sacrifices they might have to make, possible sacrifices that come with being a Christian. The legacy that I want to leave my children is the same legacy the Church has left to all its children down through the ages, that 'all who live godly in Christ Jesus are going to suffer persecution.' They're going to need to stand. To act on your convictions can be a very costly thing. It can even cost you your life. I guess those truths were sort of implicit in my actions, so in some sense that legacy is left for my children.

Judy: What do you foresee happening in our country over abortion?
Paul: I'll start with a disclaimer and say that I don't make any pretense of knowing what will happen tomorrow. There are things I would like to see, or things I think may happen. I hope that people will be forced, through my actions and through other people's actions, to think more consistently about the abortion issue. People will be forced to see the logical consequences of either being pro-life or pro-abortion, and that there will be greater polarization between both sides, and that people who believe abortion is murder will hopefully begin to act like it. [I hope] they will treat the born and the unborn more equally.
I guess I'm hoping the pro-lifers will realize how inconsistent our rhetoric has been with our action, and even how inconsistent our rhetoric has been. Much of our rhetoric has omitted the idea that we should defend the unborn in the same ways we defend the born. We have not been talking or acting as though abortion really is murder. Hopefully in the future we'll see more people seeing the propriety of both thinking and acting as though abortion really is murder.

Michael C. (40 years old): Where did you ever get the courage to do what you did?
Paul: I got the strength to do what I did the same place I get the strength to do everything good that I do, and that's from the Lord.

Michael: Do you feel that if you die in the electric chair for what you did, that it'll be worth it?
Paul: The short answer is "Yes." The long answer is, obeying the Lord Jesus Christ regardless of the consequences always has been and always will be worth it in that Christ has said in John 12:24, "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life shall keep it to life eternal."

Gertrude L. (87 years old): Is your conscience clear?
Paul: My conscience is definitely affirming me for having defended those unborn children. There's no question that my conscience would be condemning me if I had not done so.

Gertrude: What do you really want to be remembered for?
Paul: I guess the first thing that comes to mind is, standing for the truth that born and unborn children should be treated equally.

Gertrude: Is your sacrifice worth it, in terms of the results?
Paul: Thirty people were alive at the end of the day and who knows how many more might be saved. The results of obedience are always their own reward. There's no question that Jesus said "whoever leaves father or mother or child or farm shall receive ten times more in eternal life." Based on God's word, it's worth it. But the real bottom line is we just obey, and we find that if we do so, the results are overwhelming. That's certainly the case in this particular instance I'm sure. The earthly and the eternal results have been and will be overwhelming.

Tim B. (24 years old): Do you think that your actions really helped the cause to stop abortions on a national scale?
Paul: I definitely think it helped because my actions demonstrated the truth that born and unborn children are to be defended equally. That truth is the foundation upon which the anti-abortion movement is supposed to be built. Standing for the truth is the best way to promote our cause.

Tim: Could your actions have a backlash on the pro-life movement?
Paul: They definitely could, just as proclaiming the truth in a church that has neglected it can have an immediate, short-term backlash. In the long run though, we stand for the truth simply because it is the truth. And we realize that the truth is what works best in the long run although it may not appear to work the best in the short run.

Tim: What thought went through your mind just before you pulled the trigger?
Paul: My dominant overriding purpose and thought was to keep John Britton from getting inside that clinic where he could safely kill 30 innocent human beings that day.

Tim: Do you want to see more people do what you did?
Paul: Yes, yes I do.

Tim: Why didn't you wait until other Christians were behind you?
Paul: John Britton wasn't waiting to kill those children; those children were going to be killed that day and I had an opportunity to prevent the killing that day. It seemed appropriate. I guess the bottom line is that if I'd waited, those 30 people would have been killed. To delay obedience is disobedience. God in His providence led me to believe that was the time to obey, and if I had delayed in my obedience, I would have been disobedient.

Tim: How do you feel other Christians have responded to you; how have you been treated by them?
Paul: Obviously I've gotten mixed responses, all the way from being reviled to being lauded and encouraged. I guess I feel differently depending upon the different responses. I feel encouraged when people encourage me, and when they vilify me I feel that that's an occasion for rejoicing and being exceedingly glad for so they persecuted the prophets who were before me. ■

God speaks on . . .

ABORTION

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