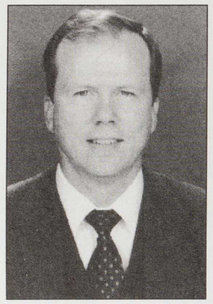
Standing in the Gap

"The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien, denying them justice. I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." Ezekiel 22:29-30



"If you say abortion is murder then act like it is murder." That was the rally cry of Operation Rescue—a movement born of vision, purpose, and a desire to move God's people to stop the slaughter of millions of innocent children in America.

I was there when, as OR leaders, we prayed for a Church who, motivated by a love for God and His children, would move from the church pew to the door of the local abortion mill. It was exciting to see the slumbering giant become aroused from her mediocrity and pietism and begin to focus her attention, if only for a brief moment, on the plight of the unborn.

But then adversity struck and the Church, though empowered by God Almighty and guided by the Holy Spirit, withdrew only to fall back to sleep. Millions more perished—and continue to do so.

Once again, this summer, I prayed with a group of Christian leaders as we sought the Lord on how to galvanize what is left of a shattered movement. Is it possible that we could again see God move in an even more powerful way? In a way that would turn the hearts of America toward the children? That was the beginning of the American Coalition of Life Activists (ACLA).

Facing the most incredible onslaught of lies, distortions, and slander, a small group went to Mississippi to formally begin its work and expose a baby-killer, Joseph Booker.

Much of the pro-life movement seemed paralyzed by its own introspection and concern for fallen abortionists, but there was a desire among this small band to move forward with the work we are all called to do. ACLA committed itself to not let the accusations of the media or the murderous abortion culture distract them from the truth or the purpose of God in saving babies' lives.

While many in the pro-life movement are marching to the beat of the abortionist's drum—stepping in cadence with the abortion enthusiasts to prove that they are not "*violent and radical extremists*"—the rest of us desire to move forward to expose the enemies of God.

This month we are featuring the first fruits of ACLA in an article covering the *No Place To Hide* campaign in Mississippi.

I trust that you will not become distracted by false accusations that come from both our enemies and regretfully from our own camp as well. I pray that we will not lose sight of what we stand for in the pro-life movement. I pray for a reconciliation of factions—not born of a desire for unity at *any* cost—but a spirit of oneness achieved when we all unify around the Truth.

We are not a people whose primary purpose is to adhere to a particular strategy of nonviolence—though most of us surely will—but our purpose is to lift up the truth about Jesus and His wonderful image that has been placed on the face of each little child. The world will not see Him until we stop our quarrels and focus the attention of the world, not on who we are or the type of tactic we embrace, but on the image of God in the babies that we are all trying to protect.

Throughout the centuries God's people have been called to speak up for and intervene on behalf of those who are being victimized by evildoers. In the day of Ezekiel, *no one* answered His call.

Judging from the amount of bloodshed that we permit in our land can we truly say that there are very many willing to stand in the gap today? I trust that you will answer God's calling to protect the weakest and most helpless from the clutches of Satan and the abortionist. Don't let the original vision of Operation Rescue, to save the children, die. God be with you.

Serving Him for Life,

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

Held hostage under FACE

Thank you very much. I enjoyed your magazine, cover to cover. Someone sent it to me [and] I guess temptation does work. I have a friend Marilyn Hatch, who is, or was, rescuing in Wisconsin. She is a prisoner or hostage while they wait for a court date. Marilyn is looking at six months in a federal prison, and I believe $10,000.00 in fines. Just to let you know, if you don't have this information already. She is trying to get back to her home in Sea-Tac, Washington, the price would be never to return to Wisconsin. Pray for her, and the others.

Vyrna Long
Federal Way, WA

Christians to be "harmless"

Because of the heinousness of abortion and the complete censoring of the unborn, I admit having a gut reaction of "That's putting it to them!" when I first learned of the slaying of Dr. Britton. My heart goes out to Paul Hill and his family, but when the word of truth is "rightly divided," I do not believe that his action can be sanctioned in any way.

"Jesus said,'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16 KJV). There is no doubt that we are among wolves, and the unborn are among wolves. Yet, our instructions are to be harmless. Clearly, Paul Hill's action fails to be harmless. Babies' lives probably were saved, and I am thankful. However, for pro-lifers who continue to argue trading the life of the abortionist for many babies' lives, consider the consequences of Michael Griffin's actions. FACE. I fear Paul Hill's action fails to be shrewd, also.

Wanda J.W. Savage
San Antonio, TX

Weeping for who?

We weep for the aborted feti and for our nation. The many zealots like Michael Griffin and Paul Hill fail to see the immense harm done to the pro-life cause. Although the abortionists masquerade under the pro-choice banner, this choice is always death, never life. Instead of portraying life advocates positively, the media always attach the negative "anti-abortion" label to those who choose life. Christ never did promise His followers an earthly paradise.

Frank H. Corden
Lenoir, NC

No option

Because I dared to peacefully picket abortionist Jack Dym's home and leave a flyer on his doorstep, I face a $600,000.00 lawsuit. It seems Dym was greatly disturbed at being exposed as an abortionist before his family, friends and neighbors. One wonders, if he truly performs a service for women why is he so upset? Constitutionally protected rights become meaningless when they require enormous amounts of money to exercise or affirm them. Our family, that struggles to make ends meet while standing up for life, is up against the Goliath of the pro abortion forces. Yet in honor of the memory of all who sacrificed for freedom and for the sake of the future of our children, we dare not faint or fail. Long ago my relatives fled to America and liberty, hopefully by God's grace this will always remain the land of the free. There is no other option.

Sylvia Sullivan
Spring Valley, CA

Encouraged

In response to "Just One Baby" by Fiona Muldoon, I would like to say "Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you." Fiona and her story added so much inspiration in my life. My discouraged outlook towards picketing and protesting has been uplifted. I now know that God will reward me and my efforts by the million dollar sight of a mother turning her back on a "murder" mill, clutching life instead of death.

Thank-you, Fiona in more ways than you'll ever know.

Amie M. Minor
Middletown, OH

Support Christian diversity

I am one of those who cried as I marched past the abortion clinic in the march for Jesus in Pittsburgh, PA.

There are many ways to be a Christian. There are many ways to be pro-life.

I have spent time in jail for rescuing, I have helped to start a crisis pregnancy center. I am an ordained United Methodist pastor who left that denomination five years ago but now feel that I must go back to help change hearts in those churches. My son is one of the founders and leaders here in the March for Jesus. He also was ordained United Methodist, left them seven years ago, was independent, and now is called to the Presbyterian Church. This past year he and his wife adopted a biracial baby. They already had three children, so this was not an easy decision.

We can only be the church when we are united by God's Holy Spirit. Please let us support each other in our diverse ways until that day when we become one in Jesus.

Marvel Timm
Pittsburgh, PA

Activists unwanted

Thank you for your article entitled "Paralyzed" in the August issue of *Life Advocate.* It really hit home with me since I was there and one of the "activists" with another conservative group, the Oregon Citizens Alliance. We needed the help of the Christian community to enable us to get the recent initiative called "Minority Status and Child Protection Act" [opposing special rights for homosexuals] on the ballot.

We were looking forward to the March for Jesus and hoped and prayed for the cooperation of the Christians at the March in obtaining signatures. We believed we could accumulate at least a thousand, but instead we only got a handful. We were confronted by the Christian leaders of the March and security guards to "get off the Park blocks." One explanation was that they (the ministers in the area) had fasted and prayed for many weeks for this March, and they did not want it affected by our presence.

"This is not a place for your petitioning, so please leave. It is a divisive issue." As I listened, I was more and more disturbed by the pious nature of this leader. Christians need to stand up and be counted in order to get back to the morals our Lord would want for our community and state.

We were all very tired since most of us have families and work full-time. We were out every night after work and on weekends gathering signatures for months. We believed that with the help of the Christians at the March we would certainly gather enough signatures to get the initiative on the ballot. I was appalled and my heart was broken by the response of the leaders. The people at the March were very happy to sign the initiative, it was only the leaders that objected.

I'll never forget that day. Where is love, if we don't protect our society or our children? If we didn't love the homosexual, we wouldn't tell him or her that they are living in sin and we would let them go on sinning and be separated from God forever.

Sandra Lee
Boring, OR

COVER

Telemachus stands between two gladiators.
Art: Curtis Blair.

ACLA picketers follow abortionist tucker to his Gulfport killing center.
Photo: Andrew Burnett

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