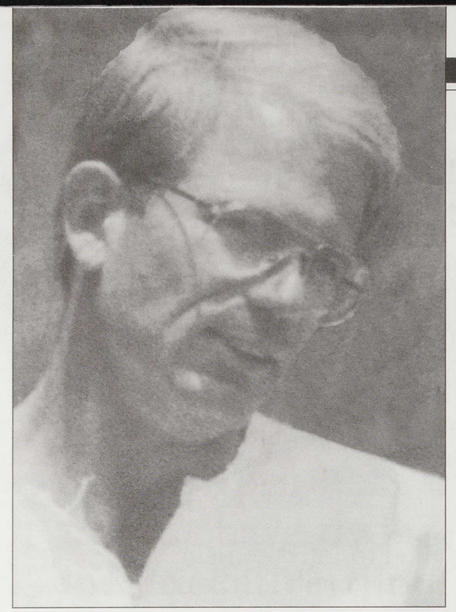

An Interview with Paul Hill...

On July 29, 1994, an uneasy peace between America's pro-life movement and her nemesis the abortion industry was shattered by the blast of a 12-gauge shotgun. Sentenced to die in Florida's electric chair, Paul Hill answers questions from nearly a dozen individuals about the shooting of abortionist John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett.

"THIS HAS HEAVY RAMIFICATIONS FOR HIS FAMILY."

—*Timmi M.*

Lilly R. (10 years old): What made you want to shoot those people?
Paul: The reason I did that was to keep John Britton from killing the 30 people that he was going to be paid to kill on July 29. So that at the end of that day, those 30 people would still be alive.

Lilly: What were you thinking when you did it?
Paul: I was definitely reviewing in my mind what I was planning on doing, if and when John Britton pulled into the parking lot. There was a young couple that pulled into the parking lot prior to the arrival of John Britton, and I remember thinking that I wanted to rush out and try to persuade them from pulling in, but then I realized I had been doing that many months before to no avail. The overriding thing in my mind was to keep John Britton from getting through the door of the clinic, or the abortion mill, so that he would not be able to kill the 30 people that he was getting paid to kill that day.

Micah A. (13 years old): Do you feel bad about having killed two people, or would you have felt worse if you didn't kill them?
Paul: Before God I can honestly say that if I had not acted to protect those 30 people that were going to be killed that day, that I could not have lived with myself. The idea of killing people wasn't very appealing and I didn't relish the idea of killing anyone, but the truth is, I would have felt extremely, very guilty, and I could never ever look myself in the mirror again if I had not acted to protect those innocent people.

Dan A. (14 years old): Was it years of watching people do abortions, or was it a spur of the moment decision to go out and shoot the (abortionist)?

Paul: My decision was definitely a deliberate decision. The idea for me to go ahead and take some sort of forceful action first occurred to me eight days prior to my actually doing so. I was at work one day and thinking on the issue of abortion when the idea of actually carrying out what I had been justifying occurred to me and it never left me. A couple of days from then, I was certain I would carry it out and as each day passed I became more certain. I felt so strongly that that was the thing for me to do, that there was no question for me not to do it. It would have been a sin for me not to do it.

Jeannie H. (50 years old): Isn't this like "an eye for an eye"; by taking judgments into our own hands, we're kind of playing God aren't we?
Paul: Well, you have three parts to that question; "eye for eye", "taking judgments into our own hands", and then, "playing God." First let's take the "eye for eye." God says the punishment must fit the crime. It can't be either too much punishment; nor can it be too little. [God] says that "if man sheds man's blood, then by man his blood shall be shed." Certainly my response to John Britton's intention to kill 30 innocent people was not out of line with what he was about to do.
Next, she asked about "taking judgments" upon ourselves and therefore "playing God." For me the issue was obedience rather than "playing God." I defended the unborn in the same way in which any of us would want to be defended.

Ginny D. (57 years old): Why didn't you try to defend yourself [in court]?
Paul: The court refused to allow me to say why I did

what I did, that is by giving a justifiable homicide defense. Therefore, I did what I thought most appropriate. It seemed to me that by participating in the trial it would give an appearance that I had been able to argue my case; the more I participated in the trial, the more it would seem as though I got a fair trial. I concluded that the less I said, the more it would be apparent that they [the court] had gagged me. Why give the appearance of a fair fight when the rules are virtually making it impossible for you to win?

Ginny: Are you fearful of what is ahead, of dying in the electric chair?
Paul: No, I'm definitely not fearful. Fear of the future is something that God forbids us to have, and therefore, I face the future with great confidence, knowing the One who controls the future will work all things together for my good.

Brian D. (34 years old): Deep inside, do you think you accomplished what you set out to do in your trial?
Paul: Yes, I do. I was trying to respond appropriately to the circumstances in which I found myself. I believe that my conduct in the trial was appropriate for a number of reasons, one of which was the manifest injustice of the trial, the manifest corruption of any court that would legitimize the killing of unborn human beings. Given the injustice and illegitimacy of what our courts uphold, it seemed to me that it would render the appearance of legitimacy to the court to act as though the court were legitimate by making an effort to defend myself, especially after they had disallowed the only reasonable defense available. So, considering those things, I felt that the most appropriate thing to do would be to participate as little as possible.

"YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME HUGE CALLING TO DO THAT!"

—*Sara K.*

Stephen M. (34 years old): How did you feel before you did it; didn't God say something to you emotionally or physically; didn't He try to slow you down or stop you; didn't He say "No, this isn't My will"?
Paul: No, He didn't say that to me. As a matter of fact, one of the dominant Scriptures that was in my mind as I anticipated defending the unborn that day were the words of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Lord if it's possible that this cup would pass from me, let it pass from me, but not my will but Thine."

Stephen: How close on a scale of one to ten were you to God the day you did this?
Paul: I was definitely doing my best to obey Him and to please Him on the day that I shot John Britton.

Stephen: What did you have coming from God; did you have peace from God before you did it?
Paul: Definitely, before and after.

Timmi J. (42 years old): Do you wish that you'd done anything different the day of the shooting?
Paul: Not really. Nothing is coming to mind. Instead of looking back with regret, I look back with amazement and awe that the Lord superintended things as He did. All the details involved, the particulars — the shooting, prior to the shooting, and after the shooting — I believe were superintended by God in a very special way.

Timmi: What's going to happen to your family?
Paul: One thing is for sure, my children are not going to face a fate that is nearly as horrible as the fate of the 30 people that I tried to save that day. The point I'm trying to make is that my children were and are in no danger of being dismembered where the 30 people that I tried to save were. There's no question but that every one of those 30 people were alive at the end of that day when they would have been dead otherwise. So, as to what's going to happen [to my children], I'm sure that the same One who cares for the men who have fought to defend the oppressed in previous years will also protect my family.

Mary T. (42 years old): What do you think of other people's opinions of what you did?
Paul: The most important thing is the Lord's opinion of me, and I definitely believe that I pleased Him in my actions. He's the one that I'm most concerned about.

Mary: Are you worried that you might have been wrong; does that thought ever come into your mind, and how have you dealt with it?
Paul: I'm at an extremely high state of certainty that my actions were proper and biblical. Any doubts that I might have about that are immediately outweighed by the high degree of certainty that I have that my actions were appropriate.

Mary: Do you know you're going to heaven Paul, and what makes you sure of that?
Paul: Yes, I have no question at all that I'm going to heaven. My certainty is based on the word of God and

"OUR COURTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE [SET UP] SO THAT WE CAN TELL PEOPLE WHAT THE PURPOSE WAS IN DOING WHAT WE DID. ALL KINDS OF OFF-THE-WALL DEFENSES ARE GIVEN. TO NOT ALLOW A PERSON TO GIVE A REASON OF THEIR OWN FOR WHY THEY COMMITTED AN ACT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I'VE EVER BEEN TAUGHT ABOUT OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM."

—*Brian D.*