## Committee urges federal funding of fetal research; opponents urge definition for life's beginning

Bethesda, MD — An advisory committee's call for federal funding of human embryo research prompted a demand that the government attempt to answer the fundamental question of when human life begins.

The committee concluded that it was in the public interest for the National Institutes of Health to fund experiments with fertilized human eggs during the very early stages of development. The report is the first step in a government process that could end a 15-year ban on federal funding for human embryo research.

Outraged opponents, in arguments reminiscent of those against abortion, said that fertilized human eggs, even if they are in laboratory test tubes, should be treated as human individuals and not as specimens for research.

Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, said her organization will demand that Congress determine, as a part of government policy, when human life begins, a definition could limit both research and abortion.

An answer to the question of life's beginning could effect both embryo research and the nation's position on the right to abortion, experts say.

In the report, the committee said such research should have restrictions because a human embryo "possesses qualities requiring moral respect."

But it also said that a human embryo "does not have the same moral status as infants and children" and could be used in research that promises "great potential benefit" in developing therapies for a variety of diseases and conditions.

"The important social debate on this issue is just beginning," Richard Doerflinger of the United States Catholic Conference said in a statement. "Now is the time for concerned taxpayers and elected representatives to say that they do not want tax dollars used to treat innocent human life with such disrespect." ■

LIFE LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION

## Legal group seeks pro-life plaintiffs

Napa, CA — Life Legal Defense Fund (LLDF) has become aware that some pro-lifers may have been unfairly denied tax-exempt status under provision 501(c)(3) of the tax code and want to be contacted by any group that believes it has. LLDF is attempting to support a lawsuit against the Clinton Administration Internal RevenueService based upon such complaints.

LLDF is an organization of lawyers providing no-fee and low-fee legal services to pro-life activists.

LLDF, PO Box 2105, Napa, CA 94558, (707) 224-7765. ■

## Jailed pro-lifer told to stop writing letters

Deer Lodge, MT — Michael Ross, who is serving a ten-year sentence in the Montana State Prison for "felony intimidation" for having sent an abortionist letters warning of the judgment of God against child-killers and asking them how they would like to be "torn limb from limb" like the babies she aborted, is now being ordered to stop sending letters to other abortionists and supporters.

Ross has been sending letters to hospital administrators in Missoula, Montana, the sheriff, and several area businesses warning of the scriptural consequences of supporting abortion. Several have complained to James M. Gamble, the prison administrator, who has sent a notice to Ross prohibiting him, under threat of disciplinary action, from "all communication with businesses, private citizens and various hospitals in the Missoula area."

When Ross refused the order saying that it violated his First Amendment rights to issue such a blanket prohibition, Gamble backed off and issued an order prohibiting communications specifically with Heather Denesen, Manager of Garden City Floral in Missoula, St. Patrick Hospital Cancer Center, Providence Center, and Missoula Medical Plaza.

"I think it would be great if people would write Michael and get the addresses of those people and flood them with dead baby postcards on his behalf," said Gary McCullough of Prisoners of Christ who first heard about the problem (Ross's address is included in the Prisoner List on p. 38.) ■

*Clinton*

## Clinton says Scripture vague on abortion

Washington, D.C. — Playing the sincere Christian, President Bill Clinton told a gathering of religion journalists that he reads the Bible and other religious books for guidance and to cope with the isolation of the presidency.

He claimed that, in his reading, scriptures on abortion and homosexuality most often cited by conservatives were "ambiguous."

Clinton holds occasional closed-door meetings and breakfasts with members of the clergy and theologians, but has not been confronted by them on his stance on important moral issues except by the Pope and Mother Teresa.

The Southern Baptist denomination, of which Clinton is a member, has a strong pro-life position but has not responded to calls for censure or excommunication of the president. ■





# Violent acts committed by godly people

by Stephanie Hunley

Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents."(Judges 5:24)

Deborah, prophetess of Israel, sang this song of praise regarding the wonderful acts Jael had committed in defense of Israel.

Who was Jael? What did she do to be called blessed?

Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, had allowed Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army to seek refuge in her tent. His troops had just been annihilated by Barak, the commander of the Israeli army. Jael greeted Sisera, gave him a glass of milk, a warm bed to lay his weary head, and agreed to stand watch as he slept. When he fell asleep, Jael drove a tent peg through his head.Judges 4:16-21)

Through this "blessed" woman, Israel rested for forty years.

Granted, most of us in Evangelical circles have never heard this story from the pulpit. Or if we did it was attributed to "The Angry God of the Old Testament." (But praise God we are now Free from the Law of God.) God forbid! Jesus said, "Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets, I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17) "For all scripture is given by inspiration of God. . . ." (2 Timothy 3:16).

*"When you read about these violent acts in Scripture, what is your response?"*

David, "A man after God's own heart" said, "Do I not hate them, O Lord who hate you? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with perfect hatred, I count them my enemies." (Psalms 139:21-22)

As a young man, David slew the Philistine giant Goliath. In fact his death was quite gruesome. Having a rock embedded in your forehead, then being decapitated, doesn't sound like an act of Christian charity (After all David could have just led Goliath in the "Sinner's Prayer").

Did God reprimand David for committing such an atrocious act? Quite the contrary! He made him king. David hated God's enemies.

David was full of mercy, yet he prayed Imprecatory Psalms (7,35,55,58, 59,69,79,109,137,139). The seemingly paradoxical life of David is an example for all who desire mercy and justice.

Joshua and Caleb were instructed by the Lord to enter Jericho, and "destroy all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, the oxen, sheep, and donkey with the edge of the sword" (Judges 6:21) Everything was destroyed except "the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron they put into the treasury of the Lord." (Judges 6:24)

The Lord could have rained fire from heaven, opened up the earth and swallow up the inhabitants, or sent a plague to destroy Jericho. Yet He required physical intervention from his people.

Then we have Phineas, son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron who turned back the plague of the Lord. The children of Israel had committed harlotry with the Moabites. God's anger arose and He commanded Moses to put the offenders to death. Phineas then went after Zimri an Israelite, who had an adulterous relationship with Cozbi, a Midianite (an enemy of God). When found, Phineas didn't say, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." He thrust a javelin through both of them. The plague which had killed twenty-four thousand was stopped.

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, Phineas the son of Aaron the priest has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.' Therefore say, Behold I give him my covenant of peace.' " (Numbers 25:10-12)

Phineas' righteous act turned back the anger of the Lord.

When you read about these violent acts in Scripture, what is your response? Do you become squeamish? Do you dismiss these acts as purely historical, past-tense, not applicable for today (after all that was another dispensation, surely God would never want his New Testament Church to take the Old Testament literally) Or do you see God (Yahweh), the Holy One of Israel, as an unchangeable Holy God, One who is "a just Judge, and angry with the wicked everyday."? (Psalms 7:11)

For several years now, individuals in the pro-life movement have been praying Imprecatory Psalms (prayers). An imprecatory prayer invokes God's judgment on the wicked; namely the abortionists. The Lord in His mercy has saved a few abortionists/providers. Others have died by His hand through cancer, strokes, disease, etc. (By doing this God has shown mercy on the children.) Now the Lord has begun to execute His judgments through man. (There are plenty of Biblical examples of God using the Godly as well as the ungodly to execute His judgments.) A more recent example of this is the death of abortionist George W. Patterson of Mobile, Alabama on August 21, 1993. George died at the hands of a gunman, during an apparent robbery attempt after exiting an adult theater. Was George at the wrong place at the wrong time? Was his death purely coincidental? Or could it just be possible that God in His infinite wisdom*allowed* George to die? (After all, George planned to replace Gunn.)

In regards to Michael Griffin and Paul Hill only God knows their hearts. Only they know for certain whether they heard a voice from heaven, directing them to take the lives of Gunn, Britton and Barrett.

What has been so troublesome since the shootings is that the vast majority of the pro-life movement has spent more time denouncing the killing of the abortionists than the slaughter of the babies. Comments are made like, "the same spirit of murder in the clinics, is the same spirit of murder that would kill an abortionist." (Read your Bibles, there is a stark contrast between the innocent blood of babies and a God-hater.)

If a man convicted by the state of raping, mutilating, and killing little boys was sentenced to death, would his executioner be guilty of shedding innocent blood? Of course not, you would say. But when God executes His judgment through another man, we categorically state that, "God would never tell someone to kill an abortionist." We need to stand back and evaluate some of our theology. There are many questions that we need to ask God. The debate on the use of force will continue (as it has in past generations). We that are Christians must stay open to "the whole counsel of God." And as we see God's judgments being poured out on this nation (plagues worse than AIDS, fire from heaven, or the earth opening up and swallowing up this nation whole) just don't be surprised if God has man execute His judgments for Him. ■

*Stephanie Hunley currently resides in Dayton, Ohio with her husband and two daughters. She is a full-time homemaker and home school mom. She has been involved in rescue and prophetic witnessing since 1989.*