OR Broke—But Alive

Reprint from the Washington Times

Washington, DC—Unable to attract donors because of a recent federal court ruling, the militant pro-life group, Operation Rescue, has gone underground.

"Going underground means we'll do exactly what we've been doing but do it more efficiently," Randall Terry, founder and director of the organization that blockades abortion clinics, said yesterday. "We'll be a moving target."

Terry made the announcement at a press conference on the steps of the federal courthouse in the District. He and other Operation Rescue leaders defiantly burned a copy of the court order that he said has "practically strangled our ability to raise money and pay our electric bills."

The October 4 decision by U.S. District Judge Louis Oberdorfer resulted from a lawsuit the National Organization for Women filed against Operation Rescue for blocking access to abortion clinics. Judge Oberdorfer ruled that any donors to Operation Rescue could be liable for any monetary fines assessed against Operation Rescue, including contempt sanctions or attorney's fees, left unpaid after 30 days.

"If someone called us up and said they wanted to pay our light bill, they could be responsible for paying a $5,000 contempt fine and $42,000 in attorneys' fees," Terry said. Someone who merely wanted to buy him lunch, he said, also could be held accountable under this order.

"This is unprecedented that a judge is trying to go against our donors," Terry said. "He's trying to drive us out of business. But we won't be intimidated into surrendering children to the abortionist's knife."

Asked if burning a court order on federal property was illegal, the Rev. Patrick Mahoney, a Florida minister and spokesman for Operation Rescue, replied, "I think so."

But Lt. John Hockey of the Federal Protective Service, who viewed the act, said, "I didn't see anything that was offensive."

Mahoney said last week that Operation Rescue, which a year ago had an $850,000 budget and 23 paid staffers, is bankrupt. "The feds have cleaned out our bank account."

As an underground movement, Operation Rescue "will not have an office or staff" that can be "sitting targets for these godless...lawsuits," Terry said. The courts and other law enforcement agencies, he said,"have taken it upon themselves to be hit squads for the abortion industry."

Terry said Operation Rescue defendants will go before Judge Oberdorfer next week and "ask him to retract this trash." If he refuses, the defendants will file an appeal.

Representatives of Operation Rescue also plan to take part in rescue missions at local abortion clinics November 15-17. "Despite the federal order (barring such action) we'll be here," Mr. Mahoney said.

About 770 people were arrested in such efforts here in November 1989, Terry said. ■

Members of Operation Rescue—(from left) Randall Terry, the Rev. Patrick Mahoney, Susan Odom and Michael McMonagle—burn judicial order. (Photo: Stephen Crowley)

Life Chains Across The U.S.

by Arthur J. Brew

San Francisco, CA—Life Chains in 10 states were some of the most visible and best attended events on Respect Life Sunday when Christians and Jews all across America paused to express their support and reverence for the sanctity of life.

Prayer, fasting, vigils, and other devotions marked the special October 7 observances from coast to coast.

In California, nearly 125,000 persons of all ages participated in Life Chains from Sacramento to San Diego. On the sidewalks of heavily traveled areas, pro-lifers stand about six feet apart holding large signs proclaiming "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals".

A 13-mile chain of more than 30,000 persons in Torrance, near Los Angeles, was the largest of some 22 in the state and more than 100 nationwide. Archbishop Roger M. Mahony and Auxiliary Bishop Carl Fisher took part in the Orange County demonstration.

In San Francisco where the pro-abortion agenda is strongly supported by the media and most legislators almost 10,000 persons turned out on 19th Avenue for the largest right to life demonstration in the history of that very liberal city. Not unexpectedly, a noisy and scruffy pro-abortion gathering of 300 persons received equal press coverage in spite of their small numbers. Most of the motorists along the busy route honked their support of the pro-lifers with a friendly wave or thumbs up gesture.

At Sacramento, more than 18,000 persons participated in a fine Life Chain and Pomona/Upland drew 18,000 pro-lifers.

Other California communities holding Life Chains in October include Santa Rosa, Stockton, Fremont, Fairfield, Merced, Fresno, Modesto, Bakersfield, Temecula, Hemet, Lompoc, and San Diego.

Elsewhere and around the country, Omaha drew 16,000 persons, while Fort Lauderdale and Houston each rang up totals of 9,000. Akron counted 6,100 ; Lincoln, 4,000; and Norfolk 2,100.

Royce Dunn of Yuba City, California, founder of the movement, told *The Advocate* this week that he is currently working with 140 Life Chains in 40 states and hopes to see triple the turnout next year. He said one lady in Albuquerque, Charlotte Goodwin, has organized 16 separate life chains for later this month in New Mexico. He added other demonstrations are planned next January 22, the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion on demand in 1973.

Information about Life Chains may be obtained by writing or calling Royce Dunn c/o Please Let Me Live, 3209 Colusa Highway, Yuba City, CA 95993 (916) 671-5500. ■

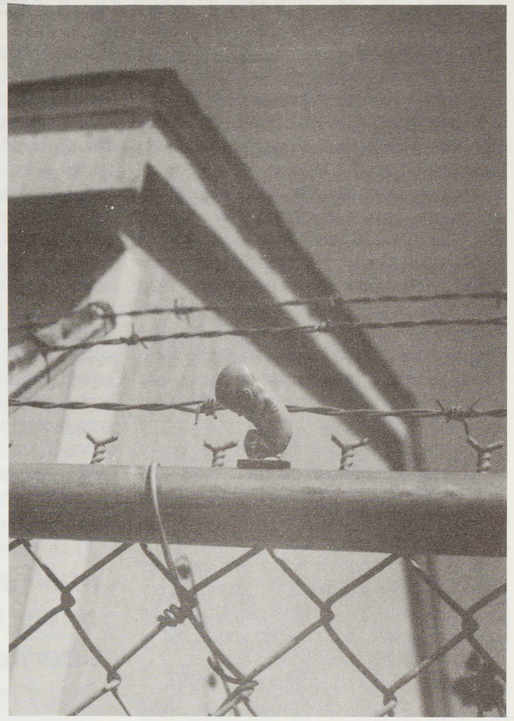
Rescuers Held in the Tredyffrin Township Concentration Camp

by Joseph O'Hara

Paoli, PA—On September 27, 60 people participated in a rescue at the Suburban Women's Center in Paoli. This rescue started in mid-morning with the last rescuer being taken away at about noon. When they had completed their pre-arrest, zoning arrangements the Tredyffrin Township police started the arrests with the help of the Chester County Sheriff's Department. They had a casual attitude. This attitude upset one rescuer who had just served 10 days for the Lord in the Binghamton/Broome County Barracks for refusing to pay $27.50 in court costs for a rescue in July of 1989.

As the arrests started, this same rescuer spoke out in the approximate following way: "Officers, do you think that your actions today are any different than the actions of the Gestapo when they came to take the Jews in Germany, or the Poles in Poland or the Slavs in Slovakia or the Gypsies of Europe? Do you think that there is any difference between burying us rescuers in your jails and putting the others in the Auschwitzes of Europe? Yes, you can bury the truth in your jails but there is one place you cannot hide from it and that is in your conscience. You cannot run from it or hide from it there. What will you say to your wives, to your mothers tonight? God help you!" There was a marked change in their sobriety and the arrest procedures became more attentive and deliberate.

The van took the rescuers to an outdoor storage area about 40 yards away from the Boro building. This area was cyclone-fenced and topped with barbed wire, three strands full. The rescuer who spoke with police noted the awesome reality of his words at the door of the killing center. They had taken the rescuers to what was dubbed the Tredyffrin Township Concentration Camp. After some prayer with the others he took a model of a 10-week baby and placed her on the top of the fence and took her picture. The rescuer developed the angle to show fence, barbed wire and blue sky noting, "In Hitler's America the unborn and voiceless child is the hostage of *Roe v. Wade* and its pal, *Doe v. Bolton*. God help America and its judicial, justice, custodial and legislative systems." After a hearing the rescuers were released on their own recognizance with four misdemeanors. ■



Baby model on barbed wire fence at Tredyffrin Township Concentration Camp. (credit: Joseph O'Hara)

17 Rescuers Convicted of Trespassing

3 fined for blocking abortions at clinic

Reprint from Gazette Telegraph, 8-23-90

Colorado Springs, CO—Seventeen anti-abortion protesters arrested in March after blocking the doors of a west side Planned Parenthood clinic were found guilty of trespassing Wednesday, August 22, in the longest Colorado Springs Municipal Court trial in recent memory.

Three protesters, Vicki Lynn Atencio, Wendy Lou Fraustin and John Vincent Fried, were ordered to pay $108 in fines and court costs.

If any of them are found on the property of a Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs, or convicted of any similar offense in the next year, they will be fined an additional $400 and jailed for 90 days, Judge Robert Warren ruled.

The remainder of the protesters chose to be sentenced September 11.

The protesters who were arrested March 31. Colorado Ave. were part of Operation Rescue. The non-violent demonstration halted business for three hours.

The jury of two men and four women took three hours and 35 minutes to reach a decision in the three-day trial. The jurors declined to comment after the verdict.

Defense attorneys Terry Jackson and Ken Gray said they had not discussed whether the group would file an appeal with the 4th Judicial District Court. An appeal must be filed within 30 days.

"Our clients told us that they had been on the property," Gray said. "We tried to explain to the jury that they had good reason to be on that property, and we tried to explain to the jury what that reason was." ■

God's Editorial Corner:

A Rebuke To Unjust Judges and Magistrates

God stands up to open heaven's court. He pronounces judgment on the judges. How long will you judges refuse to listen to the evidence? How long will you shower special favors on the wicked? Give fair judgment to the poor man, the afflicted, the fatherless, the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless from the grasp of evil men. But you are so foolish and so ignorant! Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core. I have called you all "gods" and "sons of the Most High." But in death you are mere men. You will fall as any prince—for all must die.

Stand up, O God, and judge the earth. For all of it belongs to you. All nations are in your hands. ■

Psalm 82 (Living Bible)