The Word of God

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endless barrage of subpoenas and calls for injunctions to prohibit pro-life protest? These actions are designed to distract the pro-lifers' energies and drain their funds. Fortunately, I do not have any money to lose to begin with. In fact, most pro-life advocates seem to have a healthy contempt for the misuse of federal laws.

One of the reasons that the abortionists use federal RICO laws — in most cases unsuccessfully — is that it does tend to intimidate those who are not directly involved in rescues to save babies. Pro-abortion lawyers want to intimidate bishops, religious superiors and incorporated pro-life groups to the point where they begin to react against rescuers.

On occasion, pro-lifers have been banned from using parish facilities. Pro-life priests have been forbidden from using Church resources to buy pro-life literature for distribution. This is precisely the response which the abortionists want. When the Church authorities and pro-lifers begin to publicly react against the peaceful rescuing of unborn babies, they have unwittingly fallen into the trap of the abortionists' plots.

Another result of legal harassment is that bishops and religious leaders who are intimidated by the courts unwittingly begin to accept the arguments of the pro-abortionists. I have heard some religious leaders say "that it is all right to protest abortion, but you cannot infringe upon others' rights while doing so."

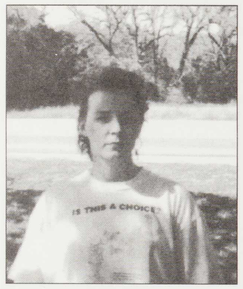
Just what does this mean? It means that you cannot block access to abortion clinics because by doing so you are infringing upon the rights of others. This is the pro-choice argument. "I'm against abortion, but a woman has the right to unimpeded access to abortion clinics."

We are blessed in Puerto Rico that the vast majority of our bishops give the pro-life movement enthusiastic encouragement. The Cardinal of San Juan, Luis Aponte Martinez, the bishop of Ponce, Juan Fremiot Torres, and others publicly stated that our rescues are acts of conscience and should be considered as morally correct actions. The bishop of Ponce in particular took great risks by participating in demonstrations and by stating that he had not ruled out the possibility of blocking access to a clinic in the future.

No federal litigation directed against the Church, because of its direct proclamation of God's word or in the defense of the rights of others, should deter us. Let us not be intimidated by the forces of darkness. For if we cloak ourselves in darkness and run from the attacks of the evil one we might not ever hope to find ourselves again. Ultimately, Christians should feel encouraged in the face of great opposition because you cannot imprison the Word of the Lord. ■

Father Welch is the founder and leader of the rescue movement in Puerto Rico.

Letters from God in a nation of murder



by Barbara Washburn

'Pro-life'. 'Pro-choice'. These are two terms that America has come to know well.

They have divided our nation and churches. They have turned our streets into battlefields. As one side exercises their "right to choose," the other exercises their right to help inform the public and stop the bloodshed. Soon these rights to inform may be no more. Sooner than we might think, if the "pro-choice" movement has its way.

But what do we do to unite our nation and churches? How can we continue waltzing down the path we are on? Where there is no unity, a nation and church will not stand.

Realistically, we cannot expect our nation to unite if we as Christians cannot unite. But why can we not unite and agree that "pro-choice" is really "pro-abortion" and that means "pro-death" for 1.5 million children each year? Do we serve different gods? Read different bibles? Or just read portions of the same Bible and ignore what doesn't fit into our own agenda?

Recently, I have seen two instances of the latter. One woman tried to justify her "pro-choice" stance on the basis of a scripture she could only remember because it talked about God giving us a choice. If one were to search for the scripture itself, he would find it in Deuteronomy 30:19. "I will call heaven and earth to witness against you that today I have set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Oh, that you would choose life; that you and your children might live!"

Yes, God gave us a choice, but He also asked us to choose life — not death.

Throughout the scriptures God speaks about and to the unborn. For example, in Jeremiah 1:5, the Lord told Jeremiah that "I knew you before you were formed within your mother's womb; before you were born I sanctified you and appointed you as my spokesperson to the world."

Do these sound like the words of a God who believes the unborn are not human beings?

In Luke 1:15, an angel of the Lord told Zacharias that his unborn son John the Baptist "...will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from before his birth!" Again, does this sound like someone who believes the womb is not full of human life?

What about Psalm 127:3 which tells us that "children are a gift from God; they are his reward." Why would God reward us with children if they are inconvenient burdens meant for the trash can they are deposited into after abortions?

Another couple who professed to be Christians and are "pro-choice," accused me and several others of "judging" those who are "pro-choice." However, that is not the case. When we stand in front of the clinics to offer help and information to those who may not get it elsewhere, we are there to love them — not to judge them. After all, we are commanded in Romans 14:10 not to judge others.

This same couple then took it upon themselves to play God and write a letter to us "from God." In this letter, the couple told us that we "must respect and act compassionately towards those which do not uphold my truth."

I would ask this couple how we act disrespectful or uncompassionate by standing on the roadside quietly? Or by asking women if we can give them information? And if these "pro-choice" people who are seeking abortions are not upholding God's truth then why are they (the couple) not seeking the truth themselves?

The letter went on to say, "Don't worry so much about things happening here." It is a shame that this couple wishes to believe that God would tell us that. It was God himself who told us in Proverbs 24:11&12 to "rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows yours, and he knows you knew! And he will reward everyone according to his deeds."

This same letter then told us to "treat others as you would like them to treat you!" It is sad that this couple could not follow that advice as the wife lay on a table while an abortionist was allowed to take the life of their third child. (They told us about this.)

We were also instructed in this letter to "...instruct others to seek me out and engage in a personal, individual relationship with me." Every woman, and man, who is willing to take our literature or talk to us hears about a loving and forgiving God.

The letter was closed by telling us that as we stand before God as our judge He will tell us that we had "...never been doing what was instructed to you; go away your deeds were wrong...those of you who hear these instructions and ignore them are foolish and will be denied my gifts and will be left out of my house to endure eternal darkness." It was then signed "GOD".

But I praise the Lord that I and the others to whom this letter was given *are* following the Lord's instructions!

As Christians, we must read God's word and take it whole — not in parts. If we seek the truth, we will find it (Matthew 7:7). Above all, we must remember that God is unchanging.

As for these people "speaking" for the Lord, He has this to say. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they claim to speak for me; I gave them no message, yet they say their words are mine. If they were mine, they would try to turn my people from their evil ways." (Jeremiah 23:21-22)

It is not the Lord's will that we sit idly while innocent blood is shed in the abortuaries. Surely, just as the Lord put an end to Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness, He will also put an end to America. Take heed of the words of the Lord as He spoke to Jerusalem, for America has become a modern-day Jerusalem.

"Son of dust, indict Jerusalem as the City of Murder. Publicly denounce her terrible deeds. City of Murder, doomed and damned — City of Idols, filthy and foul — you are guilty both of murder and idolatry. Now comes your day of doom. You have reached the limit of your years. I will make you a laughingstock and a reproach to all the nations of the world. Near and far they will mock you, a city of infamous rebels...but now I snap my fingers and call a halt to your dishonest gain and bloodshed. How strong and courageous will you be then, in my day of reckoning? For I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do all that I have said. I will scatter you throughout the world and burn out the wickedness within you. You will be dishonored among the nations and you shall know I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 22:2-5 and 13-16). ■

Barbara Washburn is an at-home mother of four who regularly sidewalk counsels and produces "Voice for the Innocent," a pro-life newsletter in the Austin, Texas area.