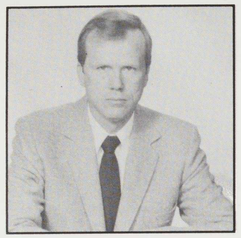
"Men have no right to interfere!"



Andrew Burnett

For anyone who has spent a significant amount of time at the task of protecting the unborn, the phrase has become all too familiar. It is usually an expression of frustration on the part of a pro-abortion activist whose arsenal of rhetoric has failed in making sense out of the continued destruction of human life through abortion.

This past week, I heard of another incident when the wife of one of our better known rescuers in Portland was speaking to another woman on jury duty. The conversation turned to the subject of rescues and lengthy incarceration for trying to save unborn children. The woman said that she—along with many of her friends—felt that because the rescuer in question was a man, he had no business or right to be involved in the abortion debate.

Aside from a dozen other reasons (i.e., everyone has the right and an obligation to care for and protect others) such a claim is sexist. It disenfranchises the male members of society not only from their rights but also from their responsibilities.

Several of the leading proponents of abortion in the Portland area are men. Yet, in the six years that I have been involved in the abortion debate, I have never heard a single peep out of any of the abortion-minded that they are concerned that these men should not be involved in the abortion debate when they are advocating the "right" to kill the unborn. It is only when men speak out against the killing that we hear the pro-abortionists cry foul!

This issue of *The Advocate* (see cover photo) vividly portrays another reason why men have a stake in the abortion decision. Michael Higgins is a young man who attempted to rescue an unborn child in Los Gatos on December 19, 1990. Michael became part of a growing number of men who have rescued because of a particular relationship to those babies scheduled to die. That's right—Michael Higgins was the father of one of the babies that were scheduled to be "terminated" in December, 1990.

The Scriptures make it clear that we all, male, female, young, and old are called to love our neighbor as ourself. God grant us all the courage of Michael Higgins to continue to rescue the innocent, and to do our part to provide for their mothers who are in need.

(Written from the Washington County jail, where Andrew Burnett is serving a 30 day sentence for taking part in a rescue at the Bours Abortion Clinic in Forest Grove, OR in the summer of 1990.)

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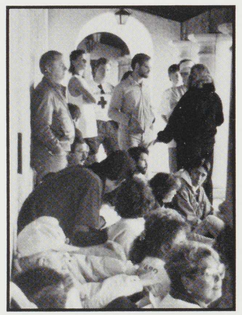
On the Cover: Michael Higgins being led out after attempt to save his baby. Note T-shirt says, "Teri—Don't...Don't Kill My Baby."



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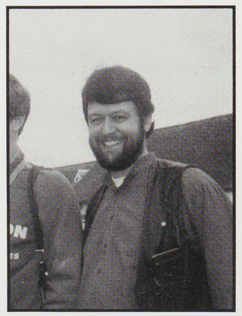

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Father Attempts to Rescue His Own Child

The Northern California office of Operation Rescue reported the following story.

Steve Pruner is removed from Choice Medical Clinic. (Photo: Lisa Butler)

On December 18, 1990 the Northern California office of Operation Rescue received a call from a father who was desperate to save his child. He said that his girlfriend was going to abort their 18-week child the following day. The saints sprang into action. There was a Minuteman rescue planned for December, but as the director of Northern California OR had just recently reported to custody to serve a two-week jail term for an earlier rescue, planning was interrupted.

After determining the most probable abortion mill that was to kill this child, the Minuteman team was called to assemble at a local church at 6:30 a.m. the next morning. The father was notified and 10 faithful rescuers and support persons met him the next morning.

The father, Michael Higgins from Manteca, California wanted to risk arrest in order to attempt the salvation of his own child. Only two others were able to risk arrest, the Minuteman leader and one woman. It was decided that the Kryptonite locks were to be used because of the size of the team.

After arriving on site, the rescue team discovered that the Choice Medical Clinic had too many doors to block and the locks would be useless on the doors. Just then one of the prayer support persons was opening the blinds from inside the mill and waving us to come in. The providence of God was with them that morning as construction workers were adding additional office space to the mill and a set of double doors was wide open. The Minuteman leader, with locks in hand, led all the rest inside. A construction worker said, "Wait just a minute," and then went on to move some sawhorses out of the way so that the rescuers and prayer support team could pass more easily.

Steve Pruner said, "The surgery room was dark and eerie like something out of a horror movie."

The mill seemed empty. The rescuers found the killing room after opening several examining room doors. One of the rescuers, Steve Pruner, said, "The surgery room was dark and eerie like something out of a horror movie." One of the sidewalk counselors said that he heard someone in the waiting room and went to investigate. It wasn't a woman waiting for an abortion, it was a clinic worker who was sleeping on the couch.

The three rescuers were frantic to get locked before more clinic workers arrived. After a few frantic, nervous moments the locks were on. The father and two other rescuers had intertwined their locks and locked themselves to the anesthesia machine.

Just then the death mill manager arrived screaming that the rescuers were trespassing and that the police had been called. She then closed the surgery room door on one of the rescuers's legs and pushed a chair up against the door and sat in it.

The police arrived and couldn't believe what they saw, and kept repeating that the rescuers were trespassing and would be arrested if they didn't unlock themselves and leave. It became apparent that the rescuers were there to stay.

The father, after talking to the police and being promised that he would be only cited and released, decided to unlock and walk out in order to return and be outside when the mother of his child came. The police kept their promise and in just under an hour he was back at the mill waiting for his girlfriend to arrive.

Back in the mill, with bolt cutters in hand, the sergeant moved in to cut the locks—or so he thought. The bicycle locks were Kryptonite locks, hardened to prevent cutting. After some huffing and puffing the police decided to call the fire department to remove the locks. Two firemen appeared with bigger bolt cutters. They didn't even make a dent in the locks. In a final attempt a locksmith was called out.

As the locksmith was cutting and drilling the locks, Maria Beck, a 55-year school teacher, was sharing her faith with the police. In her thick German accent, she shared the parallels between the Nazi holocaust and the abortion holocaust. The police and firemen were silent, but were listening. One of the other rescuers said that he asked the police to look around and remember the scene this way; when their grandchildren asked them what they were doing when they were killing babies in their town, that this is what they would remember...they were cutting locks from the necks of pro-life rescuers.

The locks were eventually cut off and Maria went limp and was dragged out to the waiting police car.

The locks were eventually cut off and Beck went limp and was dragged out to the waiting police car. The remaining rescuer, with a lock still around his neck, was cuffed and face down. Just then the sergeant said that they would have to remove the lock

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