

SIDEWALK COUNSELING: CHRISTIAN WITNESS SAVES BABIES !

There aren't many *missions* where you can halt the machinery of death and save a life just by showing up with a sign and some leaflets and speaking out on behalf of the victims. During the twelve years I volunteered as a *sidewalk counsellor* on a daily basis, we rescued two babies a week on the average. On December 26th 1999, three babies were born the same day to three different women we had **SIDEWALK COUNSELED** in front of the Planned Parenthood abortuary at 20th and Vine. One was a Russian-speaking immigrant. We helped her resist the demands of a bullying father-in-law. Later, I saw her joy when I attended the christening of her beautiful little girl at the Orthodox Church. Now she has another little girl.

We don't just rescue the babies by sidewalk counseling, we also rescue their mothers from the misery of that memory which haunts so many women today. They illustrate what Father Paul Marx said: *God always forgives, man sometimes forgives, nature never forgives*. I am still haunted by the memory of Krista who came and talked to me the day after the abortion while her boy friend, enjoying his **FREEDOM**, drove his truck to the mountains and went bike riding. He needed to get away because he didn't want to hear about her nightmares. So I listened. His mother paid for the abortion and Krista was pushed into it--as usual. As usual, *pro choice* was a joke--abortion industry propaganda. Of course many aborted women don't feel a thing. Like ex soldiers, they perform an emotional lobotomy on themselves and go through life as numb as the day they walked out of the *clinic*. Until the nightmares start.

Jennifer was just out of high school when we turned her away from the abortuary. I didn't know it until she showed up with her new baby a year later. She had a hard time of it but we helped her. Leo and his son got her a car. A few years after that she married a responsible man--they aren't easy to find in the age of abortion--and now they have another child. You save a whole family when you rescue a child.

Sidewalk Counseling is basic **Christian Witness**. It is bearing witness to a truth that is at the cutting edge of the truth in our time, as witnessing against racial segregation was in an earlier time. It is curious how many so called *Christians* cannot recognize real Christian Witness when they see it. They have a dozen excuses for not doing it themselves. And yet nothing is so basic to the Christian life. When you do it and refuse to run when the police show up, a strange thing happens: you discover the Spirit of Courage. Courage is the first sign of that Spirit which also teaches us Love and Truth. There wasn't any Christian Church until the Spirit of Courage came upon those cowards and caused them to throw open the doors and start witnessing. *Bearing Witness to the Truth* is something which Christians **MUST DO**. *Bearing Witness* is not one of the options of a Christian life, **IT IS THE TEST OF WHETHER YOU ARE ONE**. Christians who lack the Courage to Bear Witness hide in the pews and become shriveled in that Spirit which is the source of the Christian life. They add their names to a newspaper ad by way of witness. That loss of Courage is the **FIRST CAUSE** of abortion as of every other evil we suffer. Because of a pro abortion city government, we had more than 100 arrests while I was out there, nearly all of them for junk like *disturbing the peace* by talking too loud. But it helped us grow stronger in the Spirit while we developed a do-it-yourself free speech brief that helped us win almost all of our cases.

The woman you can turn away from abortion is the one you encounter at the local high school or elsewhere, when you wear an **ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN** badge and carry *The First Nine Months* [Spanish: *Los Primeros Nueve Meses*] to hand out **in person**. You can save a life with that 30c leaflet. That is how a Christian **VOTES**: every day, **IN PERSON**, with the Courage which the Spirit gives. Never mind **Abortion in America**. What about abortion in your own town, in your own family even? A basic reason for joining the **SIDEWALK COUNSELLORS** is that it is a necessary moral exercise which develops that Courage which is the first gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the essential and irreplaceable foundation of a Christian Life. It is not a battle of INFORMATION. A sidewalk counsellor does not save a baby just by giving the abortion customer INFORMATION. He must show her an example of the Courage she will need to stand up for her baby. He shows her that he cares about her. He sets an example of that Spirit of Love which overcomes all obstacles. He has to somehow counter the pressure of the boy friend, the parents and the false friends who are pushing her towards abortion. If she will take on the burden of that baby, we will help her.

But helping the individual faced with abortion is only the beginning of the challenge. There is an urgent necessity to establish abortion free and family friendly societies. The first priority is to save the baby. The second is to help the mother. The third is to work towards a new society built upon values which are contrary to the basic values of modern society. The early Christians were committed to building a society which lived by a set of moral values fundamentally opposed to those which prevailed in the larger society of the Roman empire. It never occurred to them to attempt to establish Christian society by persuading the majority of Romans to change Roman law. It is just as absurd to try and establish Christian society by reforming the laws of the American empire. A real Christian society can only survive by declaring and maintaining its *independence* of the empire and by being faithful and true to moral values which are rejected by the majority.

Real Christians can never be a **MORAL MAJORITY**. There is no such thing ! They must be the courageous minority which follows the narrow path, not that broad road which the crowd follows. The basic **FALSE FAITH** of the Secular Christians is that they can stick with the crowd instead of joining that unpopular minority which is persecuted for opposing the crowd. These false Christians believe that **Morality can be Popularity** and that you can **VOTE FOR VIRTUE**. You can establish morality by flipping a lever in the anonymous safety of the voting booth. You don't have to stick your neck out. You don't need the Courage to Bear Christian Witness to the Truth. They believe that **the powers of this world** are really on our side, or soon will be, despite temporary aberrations like *Roe v. Wade*. The Senators, the Judges, the Army and the Police are on our side. If they aren't, we will stay on their side until we can persuade them to switch. That attitude defines the Secular Christian: *I will live the Christian life if--and only if--everyone else does. I am not getting out there by myself. I will live the Christian life to the degree that the police officer permits. Meanwhile, I will sign petitions. I will slip behind the curtain and vote. I'll pray ! What more can you ask ?* And their pastors know better than to ask more. When morality has to be popular, we can only have as much morality as the majority agrees with. But the morality we need is the morality which the **COURAGEOUS MINORITY** will stand up for, will work for, will live and die for, in opposition to the cowardly and immoral majority. When Christians were a courageous minority the cowardly mob was afraid of them. When they joined that mob, when they let that mob join them, they ceased to be real Christians. Going along with the crowd, waiting for the crowd to go along with you--is the mark of the Secular Christian.

Trying to raise a Christian family is a doomed enterprise while you continue in an American life style marked by that *love of money* which is **the root of all evil**. *Roe v. Wade* **IS NOT** the cause of abortion in America. The real cause is that luxury-loving American life style, of which Secular Christians give such a conspicuous example, and which is firmly tied to contraception and abortion. **MORE MONEY, FEWER CHILDREN** is their implicit faith. They eagerly follow that broad road which leads to the American Dream. **Careers for Women** doubles family income--in the short run. In the long run, doubling the labor force cuts wages in half. So now it takes two incomes to support a family and women have to work all of their lives. Women working long hours have no time and energy left for babies, and can't give them the attention they need. Americans can now afford every luxury except the luxury of a family. Women must wait until age 35 to have the one baby they are allowed. Which means they must rely upon contraception and abortion from 15 to 35, all pretences aside. **Careers for Women** effectively **abolishes the family**, just as the radical feminists originally intended. As Gandhi predicted, contraception has produced a *hideous promiscuity*. It degrades women into **sex objects** and teaches young men to be *as responsible as a baby's rear end*.

Secular Christians have been taught to buy their way out of a moral obligation with a small donation and the flip of a voting lever. They devoutly believe it is up to the government to establish Christian morality, because it cannot be up to them. They have to believe it, because they do not have the Spirit of Courage which is required for Christian Witness in opposition to the Powers of this world. Real Christians must live a Christian life which is founded upon **bearing personal witness** to the truth. **Sidewalk Counseling** is a good place to begin. It is the front line of the battle for a Christian society.

Terry Sullivan