

# The Eye on Abortion

June 2007



## THE CHURCH: – APATHY AND ACTION DURING THE WITCHING HOUR OF THE UNBORN

Dear Friends for Life,

**How have we, as Christians, handled the past three plus decades of legal killing of unborn babies?** Have we stood and fought against the killing, or have we done little about the problem? How will we deal with the demise of masses of unborn babies as long as abortion continues in the U.S?

Each individual Christian has handled this issue one way or another, whether they realize it or not. Some have fought against it on an ongoing basis, some have entered the battle from time to time, and some have turned a blind eye to it. It is clear that abortion will remain legal for some time to come, so what will we do about it?

The following is an excerpt from an article entitled "Sing a Little Louder," written by Penny Lea, a pro-life activist. After speaking to a large church on the East coast, an old man approached her and told her his tragic story.

"I lived in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. I attended a church since I was a small boy. We had heard the stories of what was happening to the Jews; but like most people today in this country, we tried to distance ourselves from the reality of what was really taking place. What could anyone do to stop it?

A railroad track ran behind our small church, and each Sunday morning we would hear the whistle from a distance and then the clacking of the wheels moving over the track. We became disturbed when one Sunday we noticed cries coming from the train as it passed by. We grimly realized that the train was carrying Jews. **They were on their way to the death camps** (Emphasis added).



Jewish women from Thessalonika, Greece, in the railcars on the way to Treblinka death camp

Week after week that train whistle would blow. We would dread to hear the sound of those old wheels because we knew that the Jews would begin to cry out to us as they passed our church. It was so terribly disturbing! We could do nothing to help these poor, miserable people; yet their screams tormented us. We knew exactly at what time that whistle would blow, and we decided the only way to keep from being so disturbed by the cries was to start singing our hymns. By the time that train came rumbling past the churchyard, we were singing at the top of our voices. **If some of the screams reached our ears, we'd just sing a little louder until we could hear them no more** (Emphasis added).

Years have passed and no one talks about it much anymore, but I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. I can still hear them crying out for help. God forgive me. God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians, yet did nothing to intervene.

Now, so many years later, I see it happening all over again in America. God forgive you as Americans for you have **blocked out the screams of millions of your own children** (Emphasis added). The Holocaust is here. The response is the same as it was in my country ----- SILENCE!"

Have you ever wondered HOW people could have stood by and let the holocaust just happen? Do you wonder why the Christians in this story chose to just sing their praise to God a little louder to drown out the victim's cries?

The old man's story is in the past. The past cannot be changed. It is easy to think we would act differently now. But the old man's last words are haunting: "It's happening all over again in America with abortion. The Holocaust is here..."

Babies are being aborted UP UNTIL THE DAY OF BIRTH in this country. Their organs and brains are "harvested" for use in medical experimentation. **In Wichita, Kansas, the smoke stack from the furnace of Dr. Tiller's abortion clinic belches out black smoke and the sickening smell of burning flesh** (Emphasis added). These are the bodies of 7th, 8th and 9th month old babies being "disposed of."

If the Christians in the old man's church had done something, they would have probably been killed. That is not the case with us. We don't even have that as an excuse for our silence.

The old man's story is a powerful, insightful, revealing parallel of the way, unfortunately, much of the church has treated the abortion issue. Although there are many within the church who care enough about the unborn to take action to defend them, there are even more who simply look the other way.



## WHAT DOES THE LORD ASK OF US?

What does the Bible have to say about this? In Luke 10:25-37 we find clear guidance as to whether or not we should help those in need in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus paints a vivid picture of apathy versus love in action in this great story.

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead." (v. 30)

Jesus described how a priest and a Levite, "holy" men of their day, simply looked at this unfortunate victim and walked by. Then a Samaritan, the one *least* likely to help, saw the man, felt compassion for him, and stopped to help him in every way he could.

"So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'" (v. 34-35)

Notice that the Samaritan spent extensive time with this man in order to make sure he would be all right. It wasn't simply a quick stop to help someone change a tire on his car. He spent at least part of the day and an entire night with him. He saved his *life*! That is Christian love in action!

**Then Jesus commands us, "Go and do likewise."** (v. 37) The meaning is crystal clear. *Care* for the helpless. *Help* those in need...they are your neighbors. Unborn babies faced with the horrifying reality of being painfully dismembered qualify. We *must* intervene! This is the way of the Lord and His followers.

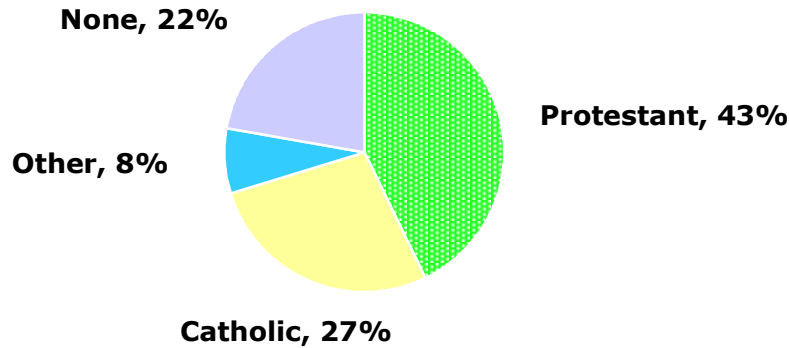


But I have another concern aside from the apathy that pervades much of the church concerning the unborn, who are being slaughtered daily. Some of us are not only turning our heads, **we are even fueling the abortion industry by receiving abortions.**

## PARTICIPATING IN DARKNESS

The Bible says in Ephesians 5:11, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them.**" However, Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health and The Guttmacher Institute report that **70 percent of those receiving abortions claim to be Protestant or Catholic!**

### Who Has Abortions: Religious Identification



These shocking statistics indicate a sickness within the body of Christ that needs to be addressed! We cannot be sure if the females polled were *true* believers in Christ, but it is disturbing nonetheless.

I have personally heard a variety of reasons why girls/women in the church are aborting. Some want to finish college without the "burden" of a child on their hands. Others don't want to face their parents, or their church, with the truth of their immorality, fearing the repercussions that may follow. Some pastors actually condone abortion, leading their congregations astray. Other pastors won't touch this topic with a ten-foot pole, for fear of their congregations' responses!

It is high time we work to awaken our churches to the reality of abortion. We need to make them aware that abortion is going on within our "four walls," and that we *must* take action against it. Pastors need to speak the truth about the horror of abortion to their congregations. They need to stir them up to *choose* life, and to *defend* life!

**The SET Display Kits we offer are meant to be used in churches as well as among the secular culture.** You can see from the chart above how necessary it is that we reach out within our own churches! I encourage you to get a SET Display Kit and use it as a tool in your church lobby in order to help your brothers and sisters in Christ understand the facts about abortion. To order your kit, visit [www.selfevidenttruth.org](http://www.selfevidenttruth.org) and look under "Products."

## EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW

We have focused on the negative so far, but now I would like to point out some individuals (who do not work for pro-life organizations) who have been pro-life powerhouses. By their efforts, they have motivated many (including me) toward compassionate action in defense of the unborn.

Pastors hold a lot of sway over their congregations when it comes to this issue! When they open their mouths to speak justice for the unborn, their "flocks" hear them! If you are a pastor, I hope you take that to heart!

**Pastor John Piper** has preached (and written) consistently against abortion for decades. When I lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, my husband and I began attending his church, Bethlehem Baptist. We were there only *two weeks* before we heard a powerful sermon about abortion! I became passively pro-life shortly after I gave my life to the Lord, but never really *did* much about it until I heard that sermon.

When Pastor Piper preaches about abortion, he always encourages his congregation to *take action!* So after that sermon, I did. I joined the pro-life group at our church, and through the Lord's leading, I eventually founded Self-Evident Truth! I never would have guessed that my small step would lead to such big steps, but that is the way the Lord works. We take a tiny step and He leads the way from there! **But that small step wouldn't have come had I not heard the truth about abortion from our pastor!** I thank God for the spark He placed in my heart through the words of Pastor Piper (and for the way the other Bethlehem pastors helped "fan the flame" by encouraging me to press on in pro-life work)! May He raise up many others like him who are bold enough to tell their congregations the *truth* about abortion.

Another pastor, who has made a big impact on two of my nephews, is **Pastor Boyd Brooks**, head pastor of People's Church in Arnold, Missouri. He, like Piper, consistently brings up the topic of abortion in his sermons. Not long ago, he spoke about abortion at the Christian school my nephews attend.

He tackled the subject with "no holds barred" when he addressed the entire student body, kindergarten through high school. My nephews, ages 9 and 11, were so moved by the talk that they could not stop talking about it! It is not easy to speak on behalf of the unborn, especially to children whose parents may disagree, but he did it anyway because it was the *right* thing to do! Praise God for the boldness and passion He has given such leaders!

## **EVERY LOVING ACTION TOWARD THE UNBORN MATTERS**

I am also thankful that there are many great pro-life organizations in America that, as Penny Lea has said, **"do daily battle with the spirit of murder."** Not everyone is called to such intense, full-time work on behalf of the unborn, but every Christian can, and should, do *something!*

*Every* loving action you make to help the unborn matters! You can volunteer, pray, give financially, speak to others, vote, or a myriad of other things – it *all* helps defend life. We just need to *care* enough to make it a priority so that more babies can be saved. Will we do more than sympathize with the unborn in their plight, or will we take action and *help* them? I would like to close with a strong exhortation from Penny Lea:

Years from now will you be like that old man trying to explain your apathy as millions were led away to slaughter in abortion clinics? Or will you raise your voice and cry out in protest for those who have no voice! The choice is YOURS.

Working together, with the help of the Lord, we can, and are, making a difference! **Thank you for supporting Self-Evident Truth through your prayers, volunteer efforts, finances, and encouraging words!** It is a constant source of strength for me as you help forward our life-saving work! I thank God for you!

Working with you to protect the unborn,

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**Unborn baby yawning**