

35 Years of *Roe*: The Killing Continues

By Marlene C. Reid

HISTORY AND LEGISLATION

January 22, 2008 begins the 36th year of living under the tyranny of *Roe v. Wade*, the infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision that, in conjunction with its companion case, *Doe V. Bolton*, legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states through all nine months of pregnancy.

Let's look back a bit prior to this unconscionable ruling. In 1967, Colorado and California legalized abortion. While the Colorado law contained many restrictions, the California law, because of a loose definition of mental health, allowed abortion-on-demand up to 20 weeks. In 1970, when the state of New York passed the first abortion-on-demand law (24 week limit), it became the sixteenth state to allow abortion. Alaska and Hawaii had liberal abortion laws. The other 11 states-Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Virginia-had very restrictive laws with "exceptions." Florida enacted abortion legislation by court order.

In November 1972, two states had referendum measures on their ballots to allow abortion-on-demand until 20 weeks. North Dakota voted 78% against legalizing abortion, while Michigan voted 63% against the measure. It is worth noting, to refute abortionists' charges, that abortion *is* a Catholic issue; only 12% of North Dakota was Catholic. Two and one-half months later the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 7-2 decision, decreed open season on the vulnerable unborn! Although the killing had begun prior to 1973, it was nowhere near the wholesale slaughter that has transpired since, in which 50,000,000 preborn babies have been killed by surgical abortion, and the lives of millions more by chemical abortions. The lives lost in all the wars Americans have fought total only 2.5% of this number.

During the late 1960s a fledgling radical organization, the National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws (N.A.R.A.L.) was working to overturn New York's 140-year-old anti-abortion law and bring about total abolition of abortion restrictions. In 1967, Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson, a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and Assistant Clinical Professor at Cornell Medical College, met Lawrence Lader, a Harvard graduate who had authored the biography of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood (PP), and had just published a book titled *Abortion*.

Lader was fixated on the Catholic Church as the enemy. He argued, "Every revolution has to have its villain ... we have to narrow the focus, identify those unjust laws with a person or group of people." Their focus was to be the Catholic Church. Lader contended that they needed to "bring the Catholic hierarchy out where we can fight them. That's the real enemy - the biggest single obstacle to peace and decency throughout all of history." (*Aborting America*, by Dr. Bernard Nathanson, 1979).

Since Lader and Nathanson needed women in the movement to give it credibility, they teamed up with Betty Friedan, radical feminist, author of *The Feminine Mystique*, and founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW). In the next few years they had amazing success in accomplishing their goals. They struck down the New York law and had a huge impact on the U.S. Supreme Court and the public at large. Nathanson later confessed that the tactics they used, unscrupulously and effectively, were: playing the Catholic card, telling out-and-out lies, fabricating mythical polls, denigrating all scientific evidence, and capturing the media, which he called a key strategy. To this day, the media, for the most part, is still captured by and sympathetic with the abortion advocates. Needless to say, their tactics worked. The killing escalated!

Of course, the development of the birth control pill, the sexual revolution of the 60's and 70's, the promotion of "free love" among the hippies, and the "scientific" fraud and deception promulgated by the Kinsey Foundation, all spurred on by so-called "family planning" and "safe sex" initiatives of

Planned Parenthood (PP) and its ilk, prepared the path for abortion-on-demand, if for no other reason than as a back-up contraceptive. This cultural upheaval played into the hands of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, the architect of *Roe v. Wade*, and his pro-abortion colleagues, who were committed to the total abolition of any anti-abortion laws by whatever rationalization it took to make it happen (the later publication of the justices' personal papers bears out this assertion). To the shock of the rest of the world, the justices found their rationale in a previously unknown "right" to "privacy" in the "penumbra" of the Constitution, even while acknowledging "the Constitution does not explicitly mention any right to privacy," and certainly not a "right" to abortion. Two justices, William Rehnquist and Byron White, dissented articulately and vehemently about this miscarriage of justice. The killing by legalized abortion became a nationwide holocaust.

The pro-life movement had already begun mobilizing in many states prior to *Roe v. Wade*. In 1967 and 1968, pro-lifers in Minnesota testified in the legislature against bills introduced to weaken Minnesota's anti-abortion law. In 1968, a pro-life pioneer, Alice Hartle, led the charge for the founding of the first Minnesota pro-life organization, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL). In 1973 she founded the National Right-to-Life News which she edited until 1976, and in 1977 she once again played a leadership role in the founding of Human Life Alliance (HLA). Efforts were being duplicated nationwide.

Quickly on the heels of *Roe*, pro-lifers began calling for a human life amendment to the Constitution which would require passage in Congress by a two-thirds vote and ratification by three-fourths (38) of the states. Many pro-lifers also began a life of political activism as they not only lobbied for pro-life measures, but also worked diligently to fill congressional and legislative seats with like-minded lawmakers.

As early as January 30, 1973, a human life amendment was introduced by Congressman Lawrence Hogan (R-MD). Over the next 35 years, many human life amendments and personhood bills were introduced, with most bottled up in the committee of a pro-abortion chairman. A National Right-to-Life Committee (NRLC) Human Life Amendment was introduced in 1974, a Paramount Human Life Amendment in 1979, and a Unity Human Life Amendment in 1981, among others, but they went nowhere. At one point there was a very serious campaign across the country to get 218 Congressmen to sign a discharge petition requesting that a subcommittee be relieved of further jurisdiction over a human life proposal, but that too failed. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) was the chief author of two states' rights amendments, the States' Rights Federalism Amendment of 1981 and the Hatch-Eagleton Amendment of 1983.

The Hatch-Eagleton version was the only human life amendment to reach a formal floor vote. It failed by a vote of 49-50 on June 28, 1983, falling far short of the 2/3 vote needed to send the measure out to the states. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), known by friend and foe alike as uncompromisingly pro-life, refrained from voting on the Hatch-Eagleton Amendment. He couldn't justify making abortion "a matter of choice for the governing authorities" (the 50 individual states and/or Congress determining which babies would have a right to life). Helms wanted to outlaw abortion for all babies nationwide!

Frustrated with inaction by Congress in restoring protection to unborn children, a movement was started in the late 1970s to call for a constitutional convention (Con-Con) to propose a human life amendment. It was an effort to bypass Congress and take advantage of the alternate method of amending the Constitution as provided under Article V of the Constitution. If the number of states required under Article 5 request a convention, a convention would be called to propose a human life amendment. Many pro-lifers voiced their concerns about a possible run-away convention that could undo, re-write, or place our present Constitution in jeopardy. Those opposing were joined in their concerns by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), N.A.R.A.L., Planned Parenthood, and NOW, all working to

defeat this “questionable” tactic. It is often noted that, “Politics makes strange bedfellows.” By June of 1980, 19 states had called for a Con-Con, well over one-half of the required number. Then the movement fizzled out. The killing continued!

Almost annually legislation establishing personhood for the unborn child from conception/fertilization onward has been introduced in Congress by such stalwart pro-lifers as Congressmen Bob Dornan, Duncan Hunter, Henry Hyde, Chris Smith, and Senator Bob Smith. In 1982, Senator Jesse Helms moved to amend the Debt Limit Bill by adding what came to be known as the Helms’ Super Bill. It contained language declaring that according to scientific evidence “the life of each human being begins at conception,” and that the U.S. Supreme Court had “erred” in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. It would have permanently banned all federal funding of abortion services and contained other pro-life provisions. Unfortunately, it was tabled on a 46-47 vote despite full cooperation from President Reagan himself and his administration. Judie Brown, President of American Life League (ALL), said, “The White House couldn’t have done more. When the vote came, all the President’s men were there on the floor of the Senate.” But, the killing continued!

A new and all-encompassing “respect human life act” was introduced in 1983, in the Senate by Sen. Roger Jepson (R-IA), and in the U.S. House by Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL). It contained nine succinct points recognizing the humanity of the unborn child from the moment of conception and the rights that should be afforded to the child by virtue of his/her birthright. It also contained provisions prohibiting tax dollars from being used for abortions, tax dollars for abortion referrals and tax dollars for agencies which in any way are involved with abortion. The measure failed to garner the support it needed for a simple majority vote. Rep. Hyde was first elected to Congress in 1976. Very soon thereafter, he distinguished himself as a friend of vulnerable babies and a friend of taxpayers who do not want to be accomplices in the killing. After a few failed attempts, he succeeded in getting amendments adopted which severely limited federal funds for abortion. This prohibition, bearing Hyde’s name, became part of annual appropriation bills. Mr. Hyde died on November 29, 2007. May he rest in peace.

Regarding personhood legislation, we would do well to heed advice from constitutional law expert Charles E. Rice, former Professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School and a respected pro-life writer and lecturer. Back in 1983, Professor Rice stated, “The only solution is personhood” for the unborn child. He sees passage of a human life bill essential in establishing this personhood and ending legal abortion, preferring this route of action to that of pursuing a constitutional amendment which would require a 2/3 vote for passage. Rice cautioned, “We kid ourselves to think we can stop abortions in any other way than through congressional action.” It is a widely recognized fact that, if *Roe v. Wade* were to be overturned at the Supreme Court level, legislating on abortion would revert back to the states to be fought on 50 battlefields.

At a UN population conference in Mexico City in 1984, the Reagan administration adopted a pro-life policy, the Mexico City provision, which prohibits U.S. tax dollars from going to any group that performs or promotes abortion in foreign countries. It was rescinded during the Clinton administration, but President George W. Bush made restoring the Mexico City Policy his first official executive action two days after taking the oath of office. Similar legislation, the Kemp/Kasten Amendment adopted in 1985, prohibited funding of organizations which support programs of coercive abortion such as China’s one-child per family mandate. At that time the measure cut off all U.S. funding of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

SOME SIGNIFICANT COURT CASES SINCE ROE

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled over 25 times on the abortion issue since *Roe v. Wade*. Some were much more significant than others, and some were alarmingly devastating. Pro-lifers had looked at two

of those court cases in advance as possibilities for the reversal of *Roe*. They were: *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, July 3, 1989, and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, June 29, 1992. Even pro-abortion advocates had expected that *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* would be used to overturn *Roe* and were gearing up for the state-by-state abortion battles. Sadly, neither was used for this purpose, although Justice Scalia, when dissenting in *Webster*, criticized the plurality for not overruling *Roe*. Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justices White and Kennedy believed that the case did not afford an occasion to revisit *Roe*. In *Webster*, with a 5-4 decision, the court upheld a Missouri statute regulating abortion and invited further restrictions. The majority of the justices implied that the court would accept for review a case involving a state statute outlawing abortion.

A state law outlawing abortion was not enacted until South Dakota passed the Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act which was signed into law by the Governor on March 6, 2006. The law as passed would outlaw abortion in the state except to save the life of the mother. The legislation passed by overwhelming majorities but pro-abortion forces gathered enough signatures to force a referendum on the law. Sadly, the pro-life measure was defeated when it appeared on the November ballot of that year. The killing continues!

In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, a Pennsylvania law that required spousal notification prior to obtaining an abortion, was found to be invalid because it created, in the words of three controlling justices, "an undue burden" on married women seeking an abortion. A restriction would be considered an "undue burden" if its "purpose or effect is to place substantial obstacles" to abortion. Requirements for parental consent, informed consent, and 24-hour waiting periods were upheld. This was the first direct challenge of *Roe* since two very liberal justices, Brennan and Marshall, had left the court. The Pennsylvania attorney arguing the case for the state defended the act in part by urging the court to overturn *Roe* as having been wrongly decided. The plurality opinion upheld the "essential holding" of *Roe*. Far from reversing *Roe*, the infamous *Roe* became further entrenched, and the new "undue burden" standard a higher hurdle to be cleared. The killing continues!

To backtrack a bit, the "Baby Doe" case came to light in 1982. The baby, a Bloomington, Indiana child with Down syndrome was born with a connection between his food-pipe and windpipe. This prevented the child from being fed since food could not reach his stomach. A routine operation could have corrected the problem, but since the child had Down syndrome, the parents refused to give permission for the surgery and decided to starve the baby to death. A dozen families came forward wanting to adopt the baby, but he died seven days after birth. Nat Hentoff, former board member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and columnist for the liberal *Village Voice*, was the reporter who exposed the "Baby Doe" case. Hentoff was shocked by this matter-of-fact attitude about infanticide. He became a pro-life activist.

As a court decision post-script, it is important to note that the Baby Doe Regulations put into force by the Reagan Administration were struck down by the High Court on June 9, 1986, in the case of *Bowen v. American Hospital Association*. The regulations were intended to prevent discriminatory non-treatment of handicapped newborn infants. In this 5-4 decision, the court relied heavily on the right of parents to refuse treatment for their children.

Another Supreme Court decision which must be referenced in this paper is *Rust v. Sullivan*, decided on May 23, 1991. In a 5-4 decision written by Justice Rehnquist, the court upheld the Reagan regulations regarding Title X. The Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) had issued regulations that federal monies could not be used for counseling and referrals for abortions. The regulations were deemed to be constitutional. This was a blow to Planned Parenthood since the organization consistently receives taxpayers' dollars to fill their coffers. PP's Title X largess was restored during the Clinton years. Approximately one-third of Planned Parenthood's annual budget comes from American taxpayer

subsidies. In the year 2007 alone, over \$300 million in Title X money was slated for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider.

Along the same vein, in the June 29, 1988 case known as *Bowen v. Kendrick*, by a 5-4 decision, the High Court upheld the constitutionality of the Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA). The court recognized that AFLA prohibited funding to programs that perform, counsel, refer for abortion, and instead required promotion of adoption as an alternative to abortion. This decision was another thorn in the side of Planned Parenthood.

At a September 13-14, 1992 meeting of the National Abortion Federation, abortionist Dr. Martin Haskell explained a new abortion method he had perfected. He called it D and X (Intact Dilation and Extraction). With this method the baby is born alive, feet and torso first, leaving only the head inside the mother's body. Then the child is killed by suctioning out the brain tissue through a hole punctured in the base of the skull. When this horrific method first came to light it was called brain-suction abortion and eventually named partial birth abortion, but it should be called infanticide. A recent law attempting to prohibit this procedure was passed by Congress and was challenged in court. The legislation from the beginning had problems since it was designed to outlaw a specific method of abortion while leaving the other methods of baby-dismemberment legal. This effort did make an impact on helping to educate legislators, congressmen and the public on the horror of abortion. The court case, *Gonzales v. Carhart*, came before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007. Though the High Court's decision, handed down on April 18, 2007, was purported to have been a pro-life victory, it was a hollow victory. Barbaric late-term abortions and barbaric early term abortions continue! In reading the decision one is shocked at the cruelty toward the babies tolerated by the law and the justices.

OTHER ABOMINATIONS

What other developments are worthy of note since *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* launched the war against our unborn population? The High Court sent us down a slippery slope on January 22, 1973, but some pro-life achievements have slowed the free-fall. It is impossible to cover all the disheartening news, interspersed with minimal pro-life advancements, that 35 years have brought, but some deserve to be noted.

Though Planned Parenthood had opened its first abortion facility on July 2, 1970, it was not until after *Roe v. Wade* that abortuaries really flourished across America. In Minnesota, a PP mill scheduled to open in St. Paul's Highland Park met with fierce opposition. In 1977, an activist group, Citizens for Community Action (CCA), was organized to try to keep "the killing fields" from spreading from the public hospital to the local neighborhood. As in so many cities across the country, the pro-life activists were unsuccessful. However, after years of unfettered expansion, the number of abortion providers began to decline in 1992. Between 1996 and 2000 the number of abortion providers performing surgical and medical abortions fell 37%. Planned Parenthood boasted of its 938 abortion mills in 1995, but by the year 2000, that number was reduced to 814. While this may sound like good news, the truth of the matter is that PP now operates hundreds of "express clinics" which offer other services and dispense abortifacient birth control pills such as Plan B, also known as the morning after pill, or emergency contraception. These chemical abortions take the lives of millions more preborn babies.

Pro-abortionists seem to be forever looking for ways to kill more babies faster and at earlier stages of development. So, it was not surprising in the first decade of the 21st century that a push for ready access to Plan B, also called emergency contraception, was also fast-tracked. While Plan B was originally obtained only with a prescription, it is presently available to women over 17 years of age on a non-prescription basis. The pills are to be taken within 72 hours of having had intercourse. The mechanism works three ways. While it may prevent ovulation or fertilization of a released ovum, it

also works as an abortifacient, causing the uterus to be hostile to implantation by the new embryo and expelling the tiny human being from the mother's womb. The killing multiplies!

1978 was heralded as a banner year in medical science and history because of the birth of the first "test tube baby," Louise Brown, in Oldham England. This ushered in a whole new era of in vitro fertilization to help infertile couples, some of whom may have contributed to the infertility themselves by long time use of birth control pills, contracting sexually transmitted diseases through promiscuous behavior, or from a previous abortion. Since infertility drugs and in vitro treatment often result in multiple babies developing in the womb, the bizarre practice of selective reduction was initiated. If the parents prefer only a single birth, the abortionist injects potassium chloride into the chest of the baby, or babies, to be killed. The heart stops and the baby dies. With 15% of couples in the U.S. receiving some type of infertility treatment, one can readily see that these questionable practices have created an ethical quagmire.

As early as 1974, Dr. Bernard Nathanson wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, "I am deeply troubled by my own increasing certainty that I had in fact presided over 60,000 deaths." In the early 1980s he became a pro-life activist. Originally, he thought that if he just set the record straight about the lies and fabrications his organization had promulgated regarding abortion the media would apprise the public of the truth. Not surprisingly, the media turned a deaf ear when the truth was revealed.

In 1985, Dr. Nathanson narrated and distributed the powerful video, *The Silent Scream*, which, through ultrasound technology, showed a 12-week baby being aborted. In his narration, Dr. Nathanson describes, "the child's limbs torn from its body, its body from its head, and the head floating around in the uterus, at the mercy of the abortionist's crushing instrument." Thousands of these videos were circulated and shown, even among members of Congress. It generated a tremendous amount of media attention including talk show appearances, but the media's efforts were mostly attempts to destroy the video's credibility. No legislation was enacted to protect the tiny victims, and the public outcry was not thunderous. This showed how callous our society had become in 12 years. The killing continues!

By the late 80s, many other former abortion providers such as Carol Everett, Dr. Beverly McMillan, Joan Appleton, Dr. Joseph Randall, and Dr. Anthony Levatino had joined Dr. Nathanson in leaving the gruesome abortion business and converting to the pro-life cause. They began revealing what was going on behind closed doors in the abortuaries. For example, Carol Everett spoke of how the staff was directed to "sell" abortions at a fee per head even though the young woman had asked only for a pregnancy test, and the pregnancy test may even have been negative. She testified that the smaller babies were being stuffed down the garbage disposal. Since then, many others have joined the ranks of abortionist-turned-pro-lifer. Pro-lifers had hoped that these testimonies, with so much documentation, would motivate the silent majority into action, but the news fell on deaf ears and the killing continues.

Bodies of aborted babies started showing up when least expected. Bodies of 16,433 aborted babies were found in a storage cabinet in Los Angeles in 1982. They were buried at an ecumenical religious service. In Milwaukee in 1984, residents discovered that children had opened 23 containers found in a dumpster and had been playing with "the little people" inside. In 1985, St Paul citizens were outraged to learn that Planned Parenthood was putting the aborted babies' bodies in the sewer. A garbage bag of aborted babies' bodies showed up in Dallas. And in Robbinsdale, Minnesota in 1987, pro-lifers found the bodies of 13 aborted babies in a dumpster behind an abortion mill. This triggered the passage of a bill in the Minnesota legislature sponsored by CCA and HLA to require the dignified and sanitary disposal of the bodies of aborted babies. Similar legislation was passed in other states.

In 1987, President Reagan appointed Judge Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Bork is one of our most distinguished constitutional scholars. This was the first time a litmus test - in this case the litmus test was the abortion issue - was used to reject a qualified appointee. Bork had said of *Roe*, "I am convinced, as I think almost all scholars are, that *Roe v. Wade* is an unconstitutional decision, a serious and wholly unjustifiable judicial usurpation of state legislative authority." Because Judge Bork was clear about where he stood on abortion, the U.S. Senate, to their shame, refused to confirm the appointment. Former Chief Justice Warren Burger, speaking at a press conference at the American Bar Association in San Francisco, said, "I don't think in more than 50 years since I was in law school there has ever been a nomination of a man or woman any better qualified than Judge Bork ... He has the experience and training. He has got it all." The Senate refused to confirm his appointment. Because we couldn't have the likes of Judge Bork on our U.S. Supreme Court, *Roe v. Wade* stands entrenched.

Anencephaly came to the forefront of concern and news in 1988 when a California couple was told that their preborn baby was anencephalic and would die soon after birth. The couple agreed to carry the baby to term and deliver the baby for the purpose of being a source of organs for transplant operations. Anencephaly occurs when the entire head end of the neural tube remains open. The babies have a brain stem but have very little brain tissue. While we pro-lifers applauded the fact that the baby would not be killed by abortion, we were appalled at the couple's disregard for the dignity and rights of the tiny human being. This was the beginning of the public's knowledge of the utilization of our infants. The killing continues, and the sacrificed babies have become an in-demand commodity!

The utilization of our infants took on a whole new dimension when, in 1999, Life Dynamics of Denton, Texas, exposed the macabre practice of dissecting and selling off the newly aborted babies' body parts to researchers for financial gain. Intact fetal bodies and organs are lucrative commodities. Late term abortions helped satisfy this demand. The body or body parts (eyes, hearts, livers, limbs etc.) are packed in ice and sent out by UPS, FedEx, or special courier. One procurer, who later left the business, said that there was always a list of organs on order which the abortionist would try to fill with perfect specimens. She said, "Sometimes the fetus appeared to be dead, but when we opened up the chest cavity, the heart was still beating." She told of 24-week twins still alive after the abortion. The abortionist drowned them so they could be shipped as specimens. The killing continues in the most horrific set of circumstances we could ever have imagined. Nazi Germany had nothing on us!

Amniocentesis was hailed as a pro-life breakthrough when it was first developed by Sir A.W. Liley, research professor of perinatal physiology in New Zealand. Many preborn infants identified through prenatal screening (including other techniques) as being affected with RH factor and other life-threatening conditions have been successfully treated, often through surgery or blood transfusions, because of an early diagnosis. Who can forget the image of baby Samuel reaching out of the womb to grasp the finger of his surgeon at Vanderbilt University, almost as if in gratitude? But, abuses in the use of prenatal screening have been widely documented. In many cases, this screening has become a "search and destroy" mission carried out by abortion-minded doctors. Approximately one in every 1,000 children conceived has Down syndrome. It is estimated that 85-90% of these babies are now put to death through abortion, as well as babies exhibiting other defects. According to Dr. Hylton Meire, with frequent use of prenatal testing, as many as 3,200 healthy babies per year will likely die as a result of miscarriage caused by the procedure.

On September 28, 2000, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave approval for the chemical abortion pill RU486 to be sold in the U.S. This action constituted the first time the FDA had approved a drug for the sole purpose of killing innocent human beings. RU486 works by blocking the action of progesterone, a nutrient hormone critical for maintaining pregnancy. Without progesterone the lining of the womb becomes very thin and begins to disintegrate, thereby making it almost impossible for the

newly formed individual to implant and grow. Because of the failure rate of RU486 when used alone, the prostaglandin drug Cytotec, or misoprostol, is administered to bring about strong uterine contractions that expel the baby. RU486 was not given the timely scrutiny and study afforded most drugs by the FDA (exceptions for those with potential for curing life-threatening illnesses) before it was unleashed on the American public. It was placed on the fast-track approval process at the urging of the Clinton administration. Thirteen women have died after taking RU486, with 5 of these being confirmed U.S. deaths. Infections, profuse bleeding, and other complications are prevalent with this method.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Maher v. Roe* and *Beal v. Doe* in 1977 and in *Harris v. McRay* in 1980, that it was not required that taxpayer money, neither at the federal nor state levels, be used to pay for abortions for women on Medicaid. In *McRae* the High Court ruled that there is nothing unconstitutional about the Hyde Amendment.

In the 90s, a pro-abortion legal organization, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP), based in New York City decided to challenge some state laws which prohibited public funds from being used for abortion. Minnesota was one of the states. Minnesota had passed legislation in 1978 that Medicaid women were not entitled to state funded abortions unless the pregnancy was a result of rape or incest or the mother's life was at stake. CRLP alleged that these limitations violated the Minnesota Constitution and challenged the law in the case known as *Doe v. Gomez*. Because of a biased pro-abortion Hennepin County judge, collusion by the Minnesota Attorney General with pro-abortionists, and a majority of Minnesota Supreme Court judges being pro-abortion, a ruling was handed down by Minnesota's High Court in 1995, siding with CRLP, and mandating that the taxpayers become accomplices in the killing of innocent preborn babies. The Attorney General's office even followed up with letters to Medicaid women who had been denied abortion funding to offer them reimbursement. This ruling still stands despite a legal challenge, and attempts to get a referendum on the ballot to amend Minnesota's Constitution have thus far been unsuccessful. The killing continues, only now Minnesota taxpayers are unwilling accomplices!

Isolation of the first stem cells from humans happened in 1998 by Dr. James Thompson of the University of Wisconsin. Scientists claimed that the stem cells taken by killing one-week old embryos, in the blastocyst stage, would be ideal for curing countless diseases and human conditions. Scientists with private funding proceeded to do massive embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), yet failed to come up with even one cure. Pro-lifers became very involved in the fight over the move to lift the ban of federal funding to carry out this research. After much debate, President George W. Bush on August 9, 2001, announced that he would support taxpayer funding for research on existing lines of embryonic cells, but ruled out funding new lines. Though not the complete ban pro-lifers had hoped for, we had to fight to even retain this prohibition. President Bush had drawn his line in the sand and, in 2006 and 2007, vetoed bills that would have expanded the funding.

SOME PRO-LIFE EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1974, the year after abortion was legalized, an insightful nun, Sister Jeanne Therese, opened the first walk-in, pro-life clinic (the North End Health Center) in St. Paul to help and counsel girls and young women dealing with the issues of sexual activity and pregnancy. Due to the success of this one providential idea put into action, other clinics, under her guidance, opened and flourished and became lifesavers for countless women. Though Sister Jeanne Therese is now deceased, today that group of clinics, Total Life Care Centers, has expanded to 22 in Minnesota. Other crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) bring the total number of clinics offering help for women in crisis pregnancies in this state to 79. They are part of over 3,000 national crisis pregnancy centers intervening, counseling, and saving lives. In one Planned Parenthood publication, the CPCs are referred to as the nemesis of reproductive rights advocates. In George Orwell's Newspeak language "reproductive rights" means abortion-on-demand.

There are many pro-life organizations, all serving different needs in the pro-life efforts. Some deal mostly with legislation. Others represent women who lived through the trauma of having undergone an abortion, and are trying to alert the American public to the grief, guilt and suffering that results. They hope to save other women and families from enduring the same regrettable experience. Project Rachel, Vineyard, Silent No More, and the American Rights Coalition are among these organizations.

It soon became apparent early in the pro-life movement that picketing and protesting in front of abortion mills wasn't sufficient to offer help and alternatives to the women who are seeking abortions. Sidewalk counseling became a ministry for dedicated pro-lifers who wanted to intervene and offer life-saving alternatives to women entering abortion mills. It is a sacrificial ministry and takes a dedicated soul to keep this vigil despite inclement weather and sometimes verbal abuse from women and/or escorts. If the abortion-minded woman will listen, or a spouse, boyfriend, or parent will listen and engage in conversation, the sidewalk counselor is often successful with pro-life literature in steering the pregnant woman to one of the crisis pregnancy centers or in convincing the mother to carry her baby to term. In Minnesota, the sidewalk counseling vigil is conscientiously maintained. Pro-Life Action Ministries, the organization that schedules counselors and tries to keep the bases covered, estimates that over 70% of the time when Minnesota abortuaries are open, and the killing is in force, sidewalk counselors are present.

In addition to the counseling, many faithful Christians pray in front of the abortion mills. They pray that God will spare lives, touch hardened hearts, and change minds. Joined with the prayers and petitions in our homes and churches for an end to abortion, this is a mighty force storming Heaven for deliverance from this holocaust. God works in mysterious ways, but as mere humans who have been in the trenches for 35 years, we can't help but ask, "How much longer, O Lord?"

Human Life Alliance (HLA), founded in 1977, has zeroed in on educational efforts. With our informative and professional publications we have been quietly raising public awareness regarding the humanity of the preborn child and the stark realities of abortion, in addition to promoting abstinence. Our main audience has been the youth. HLA has distributed over 30 million copies of our educational pro-life publications, with the majority blanketing college and high school campuses nationwide, since 1991. We find that massive numbers of young people are embracing the pro-life message. We believe that HLA can take a great deal of credit for this encouraging trend. Perhaps our prayers are being answered after all, but much more needs to be done!

In 1984, the delegates to the National Republican Convention adopted a principled pro-life plank in the platform which stated: "We believe the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed." Subsequent Republican National Platforms to date have contained planks with almost identical language. By contrast the Democratic Platform has consistently endorsed abortion. For example, language used in the Democrat National Platform in 2004 read, in part, "...we stand proudly for a woman's right to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, and regardless of her ability to pay. We stand firmly against Republican efforts to undermine that right ... Abortion should be safe, legal and rare."

Norma McCorvey, the anonymous Roe of *Roe v. Wade*, went public with her identity in the early 1980s. She testified as to how she had been *used* by ambitious feminist attorneys in Texas who were looking for a case to challenge the Texas abortion law. Norma never had an abortion. The daughter she was carrying at the time was relinquished for adoption and is now 37 years old. (It took time for the case to make its way through the courts). Norma is now a pro-life activist. Likewise, Sandra Cano, the Doe in the *Doe v. Bolton* case (the test case used to challenge the Georgia law), had never wanted, nor underwent, an abortion. She is also now deeply committed to the pro-life cause.

In 1988 and 1989, a new kind of pro-life activism was tried by a few. Operation Rescue came into prominence. The organization believed in civil disobedience, encouraging pro-lifers to trespass, to enter abortuaries and try to rescue vulnerable babies by convincing the mothers to leave. Other pro-lifers did sit-ins in front of the abortion mills until they were arrested by police. Most pro-lifers were not comfortable with this strategy. They feared the negative publicity would alienate the public and cause them to sympathize with the law enforcement personnel who were called in to bring order. In addition, pro-lifers in jail couldn't put forth any positive efforts on behalf of saving lives. It did get media attention, but it is conceivable that this attention was counter productive. The killing continues!

Much of the legislation over the past 20 years has been incremental legislation such as enacting restrictions on when and how an abortion is to be performed. Parental notification laws and 24 hour waiting periods would fall into this category. Some pro-lifers believe that this route has been counter productive, that it has distracted pro-lifers and law makers from the major priority effort of getting a human life amendment or a personhood act passed. This is a matter of opinion and contention in the pro-life movement.

Ultrasound imaging, both 3-D and 4-D, though unfortunately used as part of a pro-abortion "search and destroy" mission, has become a widely used and effective tool for saving lives at crisis pregnancy centers. An abortion-minded woman, after seeing her baby in 3-D and watching her baby's antics, such as sucking her thumb, would be hard pressed to opt for abortion. A Fletcher and Evans study in the early 80's revealed that not one woman in their study who was given an ultrasound before a planned abortion went through with the abortion. A mysterious, instant bonding occurs. Several years ago, GE did the pro-life movement a favor when they advertised their new 4-D ultrasound machine on TV, with a view of the unborn baby filling the TV screen. After abortion advocates complained, the ad was pulled. Miraculously, through modern medical technology, some vulnerable babies escape their executioner!

Innumerable cures have come about with the use of stem cells from adults, cord blood, and placentas. Adult stem cells are found throughout the human body from birth onward. According to a recent report by the Family Research Council, as of 2007, there are 1,400 FDA-approved trials in the United States for 73 different conditions in humans where patient health has been improved through adult stem cell therapy. A scientific breakthrough, reported in November 2007, may make the whole debate over embryonic stem cell research moot. Allegedly, human skin cells have effectively been turned into pluripotent (iPS) cells, substituting for embryonic cells. Although it has been reported that these cells were taken from aborted fetuses, the process itself could be ethical if adult cells were utilized.

Sometimes good news springs out of the strangest circumstances. Snowflake babies (babies who were frozen embryos) have been rescued from in vitro clinics and adopted into loving homes. In an ironic twist of fate in our crazy culture, some lives are aided and abetted, other tiny lives are snuffed out, while still others are salvaged, welcomed, nourished, and loved.

There is a ray of hope for cutting off Planned Parenthood's Title X funding again! In late summer of 2007, Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN) introduced an amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services Bill that would do just that. The measure failed by only 20 votes. Let's let Rep. Pence know that we are willing to go to work to help change eleven of those votes and put a dent in Planned Parenthood's massive killing machine. (*Population Research Institute Review*, Nov. – Dec. 2007)

In a recent December 2007 victory, pro-abortion advocates failed to weaken the Mexico City language when the congressional vote was taken on the Omnibus Spending Bill.

Now is not the time to retreat or lose hope! Now is an exciting time to seize the current momentum! **Congressman Paul Broun has introduced a personhood bill, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, H.R. 4157. Broun has 39 cosponsors. All pro-lifers should be soliciting an author in the Senate for a companion bill and finding additional cosponsors in both houses. Then we need to make a Herculean effort to get it passed. Could 2008 be the year to end the legalized killing of unborn children in the United States?**