

STOPP International's

RYAN REPORT

Behold the Lord, Jesus Christ, who tries so hard to get our attention

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Penn. finding: Abortions increase most in counties where PP has offices

In January, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released the abortion data for the year 2000. According to the data, there was an increase in the number of abortions in that state for the first time since 1990. The Health Department reported that 35,630 abortions were performed in clinics across the state—up 1,136 from 34,494 in 1999.

In analyzing the data, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation calculated that the total increase in the six counties where Planned Parenthood operates abortion facilities was 1,350—about 200 more than the net increase in all of Pennsylvania.

“All 61 counties where Planned Parenthood has no abortion facility saw a combined decrease of more than 200 abortions,” said David Bunnell, Pro-Life Federation spokesman.

Bucks County saw a tenfold increase between 1999 and 2000—60 to 685. An abortion clinic opened by Planned Parenthood in January 2000 accounted for most of the increase in the county and half of the statewide increase in abortions.

Planned Parenthood tried to explain away the abortion increase by blaming it on the

sluggish economy. Linda Hahn, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Bucks County, said that the economic downturn made people pessimistic about their future and was the reason for the increase.

STOPP supporters know the truth—when Planned Parenthood is operating in your county, with its massive abortion promotion agenda, abortions increase. The Pennsylvania data confirms this, and pro-lifers all across the country should use this knowledge to defeat PP programs.

PP distributes free condoms at Olympics

First it was a few thousand condoms circulating at the athletes' Olympic Village in Salt Lake City. Then it was reported in the *Deseret News* on February 5 that a quarter-million “safer-sex kits” would be distributed to the public at large in downtown Salt Lake City. The report indicated that some 120 Safe Games 2002 volunteers would be handing out free condoms, health information cards, glow sticks, hand warmers and lip balm. The agencies organizing the Safe Games effort include Planned Parenthood of Utah and the American Red Cross.

Certainly such foul tactics are to be expected by the likes of Planned Parenthood, but what on earth is the Red Cross doing debasing itself with such a campaign? Salt Lake City

Mayor Rocky Anderson has also climbed aboard PP's condom bandwagon. He was pleased that his city would make Olympic history with the distribution of the kits. The Safe Games 2002 coalition used a room next door to the mayor's office in the City-County Building to announce the “safer-sex kits” distribution.

But pro-lifers mobilized to oppose the effort. Brandi Swindell, director of Generation Life, said, “We have come to the 2002 Olympics to peacefully expose the horrific reality of abortion worldwide, tie in our message of chastity and expose the myth that condoms are safe. We will be on the streets of Salt Lake and Park City distributing literature showing the failure rate of condoms, the true facts of sexually transmitted diseases and that the only safe sex is chastity. My generation from across America will also be showing the world that abortion is violence against women and children.”

Bryan Kemper, of American Life League's Rock For Life division, also headed to Salt Lake City to join the protest. STOPP congratulates Generation Life and Rock For Life for opposing PP's deadly agenda at the Olympics. It's great to see youth standing up for the truth!

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More money to PP

The David and Lucille Packard Foundation has pledged another \$1 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation to compensate it for losing U.S. federal aid (IPPF, January 2, 2002). The IPPF, an international provider and promoter of abortion, is barred from receiving U.S. federal funds under the Mexico City policy, which was reintroduced by President Bush on his first working day in office.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a \$7.5 million grant to Planned Parenthood's research arm, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, for a five-year investigation in Africa to explore the behavior of young people who engage in risky sexual behaviors and why existing policies may be falling short in helping them to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS infection (AGI, January 4, 2002). (And what policies would those be? Condom campaigns? Permissive sex education? Contraceptive and abortion promotion?)

California governor attends PP event

Governor Gray Davis was among those who were on hand at The Choice Event luncheon hosted by Planned Parenthood

Los Angeles (PPLA) to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which made abortion legal. The Choice Event was held on January 22 at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel, located in downtown Los Angeles.

Also on hand were pro-choice advocates, philanthropists and other supporters of PPLA. Tammy Ader, creator and executive producer of "Strong Medicine," one of Lifetime television's top-rated shows, was master of ceremonies for the event. The luncheon was followed by an awards ceremony honoring this year's winners of the Margaret Sanger Leadership Awards. Among those receiving awards were *Los Angeles Times* columnist Patt Morrison and local philanthropist Leonard Rose. Being honored with PPLA's Giraffe (stick-your-neck-out) Award was Assistant California Assembly Republican Leader Keith Richman. Tickets to The Choice Event were \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$1,500 for tables of ten, and individual tickets were sold for \$150 and \$75.

PP employee sues PP after PP mails suspicious package to its own clinic

Of course, when you fight Planned Parenthood you get used to seeing some

pretty strange things. But a recent story from the *Star-Telegram*, February 4, 2002, is utterly bizarre.

On November 18, 1998, a small brown package arrived at Planned Parenthood's Bedford, Tex., clinic. A note attached to the package had the word "KABOOM" written on it in orange letters. This was part of a bomb awareness drill PP's security manager, Janice Crain, was conducting.

But the drill resulted in the clinic's former director Diane Vermersch dialing 911 and evacuating the clinic because she says she didn't know it was a drill. Crain claims she sent out a memo about the drill before it occurred. In any case, police and firemen came to the scene, and the whole incident caused Vermersch to become severely depressed and to suffer high blood pressure, fainting spells, headaches, sleep disorders and extreme nervousness.

Now Vermersch is suing Planned Parenthood for at least \$1.5 million. She said medical problems forced her to quit her \$28,000-a-year job at PP in 1999. She filed a workers' compensation claim in January 2001 that has paid her \$60,000 to date. The psychiatrist who examined her at the request of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission concluded that she had post-traumatic stress disorder.

In November 2000, Vermersch filed her civil lawsuit. PP is appealing the compensation case, which the court will consider in April. The civil lawsuit is set to go to trial in June.

"My life since [the drill] has been hard," Vermersch said. "I'm getting better, but I have a hard time . . . No one said, 'We're sorry. This is a tragic mistake.'"

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STOPP INTERNATIONAL'S RYAN REPORT is named for John A. Ryan, T.O.P., who was one of the first to speak out against Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood.

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PP stops sending suspicious mail to its own supporters

On December 10, 2001, the AP reported that for two years Planned Parenthood Federation sent out fund-raising letters in envelopes without return labels and appeared to have handwritten addresses. The letter inside said, "While you probably opened the envelope without too much thought such haste could be deadly for the volunteer at a women's health center."

PP had scheduled 200,000 such letters to be sent out in November 2000, but decided against it. Ann Glazier, director of security for PPFPA, said that it would have been too easy for people to confuse Planned Parenthood's letter with a real threat.

STOPP in Colorado

From January 18-20, STOPP's national director, Ed Szymkowiak, was in Grand Junction, Col., for a series of media interviews and a keynote address at the third annual Grand Valley Pro-Life



Agnes Kieffer

Banquet. The local Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights of Columbus, Mays Concrete, Mike's Auto, and Western Slope Lutherans for Life sponsored the

banquet. Agnes Kieffer, of the Catholic Daughters, invited Ed to the event and coordinated the travel arrangements.

Once in Grand Junction, Ed was guided by Greg Merschel of the Grand Valley

Pro-Life Action Network, an inter-denominational Christian group that has been meeting for several months in an effort to revitalize pro-life efforts in the region. STOPP supporters in the area can join by attending the meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 840 North 11th St. or by calling Shirley Henkel at 970-858-9719.

The first event Ed attended was the local Republican Party lunch on January 18. He spoke to one of the county commissioners about how pro-lifers have tried to promote life issues at the county level. Later, Greg took Ed to two local television stations, KJCT8 and KKCO TV-11, for interviews on Planned Parenthood. Afterwards, Ed participated in radio interviews on KNZZ News Radio 1100 and the Christian station, KJOL AM 620.

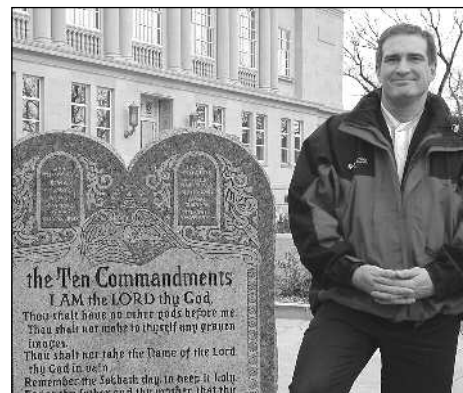


Ed and KJOL's Kirk Neuswanger

In addition to talking about Planned Parenthood, Ed composed a letter to the editor of Grand Junction's *Daily Sentinel* about the de-funding of Planned Parenthood in Colorado (see *Ryan Report*, January 2002, p. 7-8) and the effort to do the same nationwide (see *STOPP Update* 38 on the Vitter Amendment).

During the day, Greg showed Ed several monuments that he and others were able to establish on public property in the city of Grand Junction. In addition to monuments commemorating such historical

documents as the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence, there is one listing the Ten Commandments.



Greg standing next to the monument.

The next day, Greg took Ed to The Pregnancy Center at 930 Main Street in Grand Junction (hotline: 970-241-7474) run by Trula Mays. At the center, the three spoke at length about various aspects of the local pro-life movement. Although there is no Planned Parenthood clinic in Grand Junction, the city does have two facilities that are known to perform abortions. Later, George McBride took Ed to Mass at the beautiful Immaculate Heart of Mary Church where Father Jerome Rykowski gave a strong pro-life message during his homily.

At a banquet later that evening, Ken Andrews, the station manager of KJOL Radio, was the master of ceremonies. About 115 local pro-lifers attended and were treated to some excellent music by Pastor Gary and Beth Buss and children from the Messiah Lutheran School.

In his talk, Ed included information about Colorado's recent defunding of Planned Parenthood, the abortifacient effects of many contraceptives, and tactics local pro-lifers could use to oppose the two local abortion facilities. He also read Matthew 17:18-21 to remind listeners to pray and fast as well. Ed also

mentioned that Father Norman Weslin is still in jail, despite the fact that part of the buffer zone injunction he violated was found unconstitutional (*Ryan Report*, January 2002, p. 2-3). Many asked for Father Norman's address so they could write to him. If you would like to write to Fr. Weslin, write to him at: #08149-055, McKean Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 8000, Bradford, PA 16701.

STOPP wishes to thank those mentioned in this article, as well as the other pro-lifers in the Grand Junction region whose hospitality made Ed feel right at home. The entire state of Colorado is to be commended for defunding PP, and STOPP hopes pro-lifers throughout the U.S. will be motivated by their example to do the same in every state.



Shirley Henkel, Eric Szymkowiak, Trula Mays, Ed Szymkowiak

PP protests STOPP's national director in Illinois

From January 21-23, national director of STOPP, Ed Szymkowiak, was in Peoria, Ill. He was the keynote speaker at the Sanctity of Life Rally sponsored by Central Illinois Right to Life at the Sacred Heart Church. Longtime pro-lifer Sondra McEnroe, mother of eight and grandmother of 36, invited Ed to the event. He stayed at the Rosmini Retreat House as the guest

of Father William Miller, chairman of the diocesan Respect Life Board and its agency, the Family Resources Center (309-637-1713). The Family Resources Center is well known for its *Family Resources News*, an extensive pro-life newspaper that circulates well beyond the Peoria Diocese.



Sondra McEnroe

On the evening of January 21, Sondra took Ed to a dinner at the home of Dan and Dr. Jeanne Smith where Ed spoke about various pro-life issues with several leaders and organizers of pro-life efforts in Peoria. The next morning Ed attended a protest with Sondra at the Planned Parenthood clinic at 705 N.E. Jefferson Avenue. Regular protestors Rudy Watt and Don Hughes were there along with Sondra's daughter, Regina Zalazinski, and Regina's baby, Joseph.

This clinic stands in the shadow of the St. Mary's Cathedral. The picture below shows the cross and spires of the cathedral rising up behind the clinic. This particular clinic is not a surgical abortion facility, but it does distribute contraception. Ed demonstrated a pro-active picketing technique he had used for many years in front of a PP contraceptive clinic in Hancock, N.Y., which he helped to close. He revealed the abortifacient



Peoria PP clinic with St. Mary's Cathedral behind it.

effects of several common contraceptives to clients and told them they could be killing tiny humans by using such drugs and devices. He also stressed that the use of contraceptive drugs has been linked to breast cancer. (Contact One More Soul at 800-307-7685 for literature by Dr. Chris Kahlenborn about this topic). Ed's whole point to the protestors was that they needed to attack not only PP's abortion business, but also its contraception business.



Ed, Regina and baby Joseph Zalazinski, between picketers signs at PP clinic in Peoria, Ill.

The facility is on a main street and has no parking lot, so women could be approached as they left their cars and walked down the sidewalk to the clinic. Many listened to what Ed and the others were saying. The clinic director came out and claimed that the city ordinance required protestors to keep moving, a clinic worker came out to take pictures of the protestors, and soon an escort was stationed at the door. He tried to get to women before the protestors did, but some listened to the pro-lifers and took their literature.

Two police officers arrived at the scene and demanded that Ed show them some identification. He did and asked them if he was breaking any laws. The police officers said he was not. Ed pointed out that the protestors would not be blocking access to the facility and even gave one of the officers a copy of the *Ryan Report*

Special Issue 2001. The police were very professional and were most likely responding to complaints from PP, but when they got to the scene they could see for themselves that Ed and the rest of the protestors were simply exercising their right to free speech in a peaceful and legal manner.

After the invigorating protest, Sondra, Ed, and Don Hughes visited the Family Resources Center at 321 Main St. in Peoria where Ed was able to suggest some useful literature that Don could use at the PP clinic regarding abortifacient contraception and the link between birth control drugs and breast cancer.

Then it was on to City Hall, where Ed talked to the city clerks and obtained a copy of the city picketing ordinance for Sondra. Contrary to PP's claims, there was no requirement that picketers had to keep moving. He also obtained a copy of a booklet about the Illinois Freedom of Information Law (see *Ryan Report*, August 2001, p. 6) and asked questions about the budget approval process in the city and how citizens can obtain a copy of the next proposed budget and voice their opinions. All this was done to help pro-lifers in the area mount a campaign against the City of Peoria's funding of Planned Parenthood.

Family Resources News, Jan/Feb 2002, reported on page 13 that Peoria's PP has been getting funds from the city for about a decade, with the latest increment being a two-year grant of \$33,396. The Peoria City Council unanimously approved a package of grants, including the one to PP, in December 2000. Now is the time for Peoria pro-lifers to raise a cry against such funding and prepare to attend the city budget hearings in large numbers later this year. A great resource for readers facing similar situations is Jim Sedlak's "Defeating Government

Funding of Planned Parenthood," available at www.all.org/stopp/pp12.htm.

Next, Sondra took Ed to Mass at Sacred Heart Church and then to visit a 40-hour prayer vigil in progress at the National Health Care abortion clinic at 7405 N. University. Visits were also made to two other Planned Parenthood clinics in the region and to the Woman's Pregnancy Center at 4630 N. Sterling in Peoria. The pro-life center is run by Myfanwy Saunders and provides free pregnancy testing and counseling, post abortion counseling, and clothing and baby needs.

That evening Ed met with hundreds of pro-lifers at the Peoria County Courthouse for a rally and Walk for Life to Sacred Heart Church where about 40 pro-aborts were gathered to protest. The *Peoria Journal Star* ran an article the next day (January 23) about the event, which included the following on page B5:

Diane Brown, vice president of education and counseling for Planned Parenthood in Peoria, said many abortion rights advocates showed up because the rally featured a speaker, Ed Szymaowiak, (sic) who wants to shut down Planned Parenthood.

"We have a lot of friends here who responded to that in outrage that there is an organization to stop Planned Parenthood, which helps women's health," Brown said.

Inside the church, Szymaowiak (sic) rattled off statistics from Planned Parenthood's annual report for 2000: more than 197,000 abortions, 30 percent of its income from taxes, profit of \$38.9 million. He also said that Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger favored using birth control to create a superior race.



Eric Szymkowiak and Rudy Watt at Peoria abortion mill.

Ed also stressed that prayer and fasting were essential elements of the battle against Planned Parenthood, and he spent a lot of time showing the close links between contraception and abortion and urging listeners to oppose not only PP's surgical abortion clinics, but also those non-surgical abortion facilities that are distributing sometimes abortifacient contraception.

The next morning, Sondra took Ed back to the National Health Care abortion clinic where they arrived in time to



Don Hughes

witness Don Hughes counsel a Chinese couple into keeping their baby that they had intended to abort. Don used some literature that first pictured the developed tiny feet of a young unborn baby and then pictured the gruesome aftermath of what abortion would do to the couple's unborn child. The woman was so grateful that she returned to the picketers on the sidewalk later to thank them for helping save her baby.

This was a great ending to an excellent trip. Faithful picketer Rudy Watt has documented 12 saves and 6 turn-arounds (unconfirmed saves) at this abortion mill in 2001. Praise God! STOPP wishes to thank Sondra and all the other pro-lifers

that Ed met in Peoria. He is especially thankful for the opportunity that they gave him to get back on the street in front of the PP clinic and the abortion mill. Readers can learn more about what's going on in the Peoria pro-life movement by visiting Central Illinois Right to Life's web site at www.cirtl.org.



Eric, Sister Mary Jo Yutt, Pat Snell at the killing center.

Online resource for municipal codes

As the story about STOPP's recent trip to Illinois illustrates, picketers should be aware of any local ordinances that regulate their activity. On one hand, one wouldn't want to break a legitimate law, and on the other hand, one wouldn't want to avoid an effective and legal picketing technique based upon a rumor or false claim regarding what the local law actually requires.

One can obtain a copy of any such ordinance, if it exists, simply by requesting it directly from the village, town, or city where one pickets. Another means of obtaining such ordinances for many municipalities is by visiting the web site www.municode.com. Click on the link "Online Codes" on the left side of the page under the heading "Free Resources." Then choose your state, the municipality, and then the "no frames"

version. Use the search engine to search for "picketing." If you don't find anything under that keyword, try "parade." STOPP knows of at least one city that classifies picketing under that heading. It is useful to search the code for the definition of a "sidewalk" as well.

Some states are not yet fully represented on municode.com, so if you can't find your municipality listed there, you'll have to contact them directly. Once you get a copy of the code, you may find some strange or excessive requirements that don't seem to be reasonable. Some ordinances are, in fact, unconstitutional, because they place an undue burden upon free speech. If you suspect that parts of your local ordinance may be unconstitutional, send a copy to the Thomas More Center, 3475 Plymouth Road, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2550, tel.: 734-827-2001, fax: 734-998-4778, info@thomasmore.org. Their attorneys are experts in this field and have been racking up several victories (see next story) in favor of the free speech rights of pro-lifers. Visit their web site at www.thomasmore.org for more information.

Thomas More Law Center wins fight for PP picketer

Michigan law enforcement officials will no longer be able to use a provision of Michigan's Penal Code to prevent pro-lifer Ann Norton from displaying her graphic photos in front of abortion facilities. This provision made it a crime to publicly display pictures of murder or personal violence and was being used against Ann Norton, a 57-year-old grandmother who had been demonstrating

outside of a Planned Parenthood facility in Kalamazoo, Mich., with a sign displaying the image of an aborted child.

The controversy arose on October 11, 2001, when Ann and her friend were peacefully protesting outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Kalamazoo with an anti-abortion sign displaying a graphic color photo of an aborted child's head being held by surgical equipment. Inscribed on the sign were the words "choice is" and "abortion." A passerby tore the sign from its backing. Norton's friend called police on her cell phone for help, and an officer was dispatched to the scene. Days later, Ann was charged for displaying her graphic sign.

Police eventually dropped the charges because they failed to confiscate the sign, but they warned Ann to put away her signs or risk future prosecution. Rather than risk arrest, she called the Thomas More Law Center, which promptly filed a federal civil rights lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Michigan law as it applied to her sign and seeking damages against the police officers for violating her First Amendment rights. Ann also sought and received a restraining order temporarily preventing the enforcement of this statute against her while the case proceeded.

On February 9, Ann received the good news that Judge McKeague permanently prohibited the enforcement of this statute against her. His order stated that the enforcement of this law against Ann for her pro-life demonstrations on October 11, 2001, violated her First Amendment rights. He enjoined law enforcement officials from enforcing this law against Ann "when she is engaged in peaceful expressive conduct on the public sidewalks or other public access areas of the state of Michigan with signs depicting images of aborted children, fetuses, or

human embryos." He also ordered the Attorney General to pay Norton her reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

Norton's attorney, Thomas More Law Center's Robert Muise, said, "This is a tremendous victory for Mrs. Norton and the pro-life cause in Michigan. And while some are critical of these signs, they have proven effective for Mrs. Norton, who has been told by several young mothers outside of the Planned Parenthood facility that they chose life for their unborn children because of these signs. This order will now allow Mrs. Norton and other pro-life demonstrators across this state to exercise their rights free from unlawful police interference." According to Muise, Mrs. Norton wants nothing short of the complete vindication of her constitutional rights, so she intends to pursue the case against the police department and its officers.

STOPP expresses its deep gratitude to Ann Norton for her heroic efforts to save lives at the PP clinic in her neighborhood. She is an excellent example for us all. In addition, STOPP is grateful to the Thomas More Center for protecting the legal rights of protestors at PP clinics. The Center does not charge for its services. See the previous story for contact information and please get out in front of your local PP clinic on a regular basis to picket.

PP abortion clinic boarded up—Monrovians keeping PP at bay

In the May 2001 issue of the *Ryan Report* (p. 7-8), we told you how a group called MAPP (Monrovians Against

Planned Parenthood) had mobilized earlier that year to fight a new Planned Parenthood abortion facility scheduled to open that spring in Monrovia, Cal. MAPP, under the leadership of John O'Neill, has managed to keep Planned Parenthood's doors closed since then. In fact, as the picture below shows, PP has boarded up the clinic and removed the PP logo that had been above the door.



Planned Parenthood facility in Monrovia, Calif.

In the December 2001 issue of the *Ryan Report* (p. 2), MAPP told us about four hispanic residents of the city who filed a lawsuit against the city of Monrovia for giving PP special zoning treatment. Since that update, the city has decided to harass its own citizens even more by filing a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) against them. Here's MAPP's latest press release from John, which tells what happened with SLAPP:

In the latest news regarding the battle of four Monrovians suing Pasadena Planned Parenthood and the City of Monrovia, Judge Dzintra I. Janavs, of Los Angeles Superior Court, dismissed charges by the city and Planned Parenthood that the four Monrovians were abusing the judicial process for political and retaliatory purposes. On February 1st, 2002, Judge Janavs stated, "This is not a case for a SLAPP."

On September 5, 2001, four families filed a lawsuit against the City

of Monrovia and Pasadena Planned Parenthood. According to Gregory Weiler, attorney for the plaintiff's, (sic) city staff interpreted code in such a way that allowed Planned Parenthood to avoid public notice and hearings, and basically let Planned Parenthood side step applying for and obtaining a conditional use permit. "My clients' civil rights were violated by the city of Monrovia," said Weiler.

After they sued the city, the city, in a strange legal strategy, filed a legal document called a SLAPP motion, arguing that the four plaintiffs were engaged in preventing the city from participating in the political process. At the February 1st hearing, Judge Janavs said, "If I were the government I would refrain from the SLAPP." She went on to ask, "What is to prevent a city from using the SLAPP every time its citizens challenge a building permit?"

According to Weiler, his clients were vindicated in court on Friday. All along, the city and Planned Parenthood have made the claim that this lawsuit was about abortion since the building in question is intended to be an abortion facility. "Abortion politics," contends Weiler, "has nothing to do with my clients claims. The plaintiffs take no position for or against the use of the facility. They merely seek the assistance of the court to protect their civil rights."

The lawsuit centers on the issue of load factor. "If the load factor or number of occupants, for the Planned Parenthood facility, is less than 30, then the city does not

need to give notice or give a hearing. If it is 30 or more, then they do," Weiler said. And according to an expert witness, the load factor is clearly more than 30, and in fact should be 47. At the February 1st hearing, attorneys for the city and Planned Parenthood, Levin and Pancake, stated that the municipal code was ambiguous but that it was applied correctly. After hearing the two attorneys poorly explain the code, Judge Janavs stated that the court would decide if the code was applied correctly.

According to Weiler, attorney for the four Hispanic plaintiffs, the city of Monrovia was given two opportunities to drop their SLAPP motion. Instead the city council voted in closed session to go forward with the SLAPP with the intention of intimidating his clients. "That decision by the city council," Weiler says, "has, unfortunately, cost Monrovia taxpayers valuable time and money and was ultimately defeated in court on Friday."

This is another great victory for MAPP! Praise God! The City of Monrovia got exactly what it deserved for using the SLAPP against MAPP. SLAPP suits are filed to silence political opponents who are simply exercising their free speech rights protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. While most SLAPPs are legally groundless, they often achieve their main objective to chill public debate on a particular issue because they require the defendant to invest money and time into defending against the SLAPP, thereby diverting attention away from the original public issue.

Why is the City of Monrovia so shamelessly promoting Planned Parenthood? John has pointed out that the mayor, Lara Blakely, is a friend of Beth Calleton, the executive director of Pasadena Planned Parenthood. The next phase in the battle will be to see if the judge declares that Monrovia is required to issue a conditional use permit to Planned Parenthood and thus hold a public hearing. If that happens, John O'Neill says MAPP will bring hundreds of supporters to the hearing! May God bless MAPP and its efforts to keep PP's child-killing center out of their city. Please keep this matter in your prayers and visit MAPP's web site at www.mappconnect.org for more information.

PA students protest PP abortion clinic in Bucks County

More than 50 students from Archbishop Wood High School protested a PP abortion clinic a mile from their school located in Bucks County, Penn., where abortions increased over 1,000 percent in one year thanks to the PP clinic (see story on page 1). On February 7, the students and school officials stood along the street praying the Rosary and heralding a message of chastity. "They're killing people in there, and we're against it," said Courtney Morris, 17. "We just wanted to come out here because that's our faith" (*The Intelligencer*, February 8, 2002).

This month's action items

- ✓ Picket your local PP regularly.
- ✓ Find out if your town, city or county is funding PP and start a campaign to stop it.
- ✓ Pray that MAPP will continue to keep PP from opening its abortion center in Monrovia, Calif.
- ✓ To schedule a talk in your community by Jim or Ed, call 540-659-4171.
- ✓ Send a tax-deductible donation today to help us keep fighting PP and sex education.
- ✓ Pray that God will lead us in our work and that we will always have the courage to do His will.