

Photos depicting abortion can change mindset

By Chris Newton

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Seventy-one years ago tomorrow, at least 91 Jews were murdered, perhaps more than 30,000 men were arrested, and 200 synagogues and many thousands of stores were damaged or destroyed. This pogrom is known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) and is believed by some to represent the beginning of the Holocaust.

Although perpetrated by the secret police and Hitler Youth, neighbors, co-workers and so-called friends were complicit in this act. Few came to aid the Jews. One has to wonder how a cultural mindset could be created to foster this atrocity in the first place. How does one commit to instigate the genocide of an entire, distinct set of people?

First of all, what is genocide? The United Nations defines it as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. ..." The term "group" can be arbitrary, and some countries have defined it as political condition, gender, age, etc. The key, of course, is that this specific group has been defined as undesirable by the perpetrators.

Throughout history, genocidal acts shared certain similarities repeated by the disparate parties involved. Personhood is redefined to exclude the victim.

The philosophical conditions for genocide are termed as a matter of choice. The victims of genocide generally are people who have something one wants or who stand in one's way to obtain it. National resources are inadequate to care for victims should they be allowed to live.

The reality of these lessons came crashing down upon me over the last few months right here in the Bearden section of Knoxville. Planned Parenthood announced its intention of opening a branch there, and several pro-life groups banded together to defeat this intent.

Protests were organized, signs were hoisted, and controversy was stirred.

It was the pictures, of course, causing most of the concern and numerous letters to this paper. Pictures of aborted children destroyed and dismembered. Pictures of clearly developing and developed children torn from their protective womb. Pictures showing that abortion in America is nothing short of full genocide.

In 1973, the Supreme Court found that "the word 'person,' as used in the 'Constitution', does not include the unborn." Unwanted children are dehumanized with words such as "nonviable tissue mass," "embryo," and "fetus." The philosophical basis of abortionists is simple: Do not get one if you do not want one. It is a matter of choice.

It is argued abortions are legitimate to further careers, acquire wealth, maintain freedom, etc. And it is stipulated that, if all babies were to live, we would run out of resources to care for all.

The pictures shown by the Center for Bioethical Reform were intense and disturbing. But they had the intensity of the photos from the Civil Rights Era that allowed everybody to see a nonviolent black man being bitten by a police dog or soaked with water cannons. They had the same disturbing nature as the abolitionist's cartoons depicting slavery cruelty or photos of a lynched sharecropper.

Once people can see and in that way experience the actions taking place in the name of choice and reproductive rights, the outrage should be overwhelming. In fact, I would challenge anyone to visit CBR's Web site and see for themselves the atrocities of this American genocide. It is not for the weak, of course, unless you are a defenseless, preborn child.

The pictures and the message were enough for the people of Knoxville. Planned Parenthood retracted its intention to further its deadly pursuits here.

As people commemorate the anniversary of Kristallnacht, there is a shred of hope in our own 36-year genocidal effort. The pictures and message transmitted across the world 71 years ago turned the tide of opinion against Nazism and their war against the Jews.

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