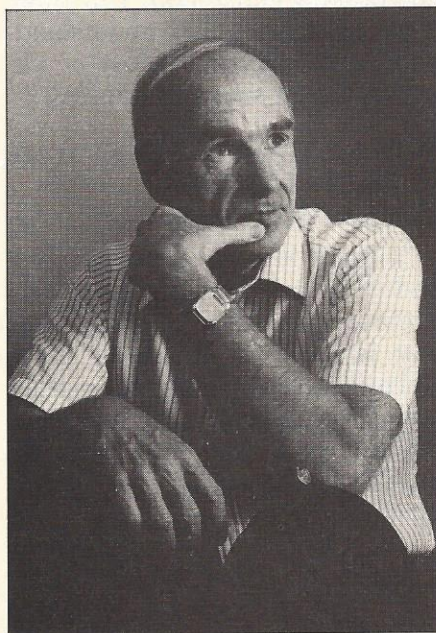


OPERATION RESCUE



Randy Ostrander is my "son in the faith." Back in the late '60s, when I founded the Tabernacle Church in Melbourne, Florida, Randy joined us as our first full-time staff member. He and his wife, Marsha, and three small children lived in a cottage in our backyard until he became pastor of the fledgling New Covenant Fellowship—a daughter church of the Tabernacle. In 10 years NFC has grown to about 800 members and is thriving under his leadership.

The weekend of January 15, Randy, Marsha and the children flew to New York City to take part in an Operation Rescue demonstration. Along with 500 other Christians, Randy was arrested for sitting on the curb in front of a New York abortion clinic. He spent a couple of frightful days in a New York jail—registered under the name of an unborn but murdered child, Baby John Doe.



I'm proud of Randy.

I'm also struggling with the concept of civil disobedience, or as Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry calls it, spiritual obedience.

Charles Stanley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, issued—along with his deacons—a strong rebuttal against Operation Rescue. Stanley quotes Romans 13:2 to justify *Roe vs. Wade* as the "law of the land." He seems to say Christians should not object when unborn babies are murdered. If civil disobedience is

allowed, Stanley says, "anarchy and chaos will ultimately result, and then it will be very difficult to preach the gospel."

Yet I recognize that as the same argument used to justify slavery, segregation and the Holocaust.

In this issue we've taken an objective look at Operation Rescue. I'm impressed with the arguments used by Earl Paulk as to why Chapel Hill Harvester Church didn't get involved in the Atlanta demonstration. At the same time, is it not possible to provide for unborn and homeless children as well as speak out against a national evil—as attorney Guy Strayhorn writes about in his article?

The subject raises as many questions as it does answers. I can almost argue it from either side. Almost—until I consider what I would do if it were my about-to-be-born grandchild who was being murdered.

I hope you'll read the articles—and respond. We'll print as many sensible opinions as we can in the next issue, but we need to hear from you no later than March 20.

Jamie Buckingham
Editor-in-Chief

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COMMUNICATIONS

190 N. Westmonte Dr.
 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
 (407) 869-5005