



# THE PASTOR'S VOICE

Insights from Church Leaders

## **The Pastor's Voice Podcast Season 2: Episode 15**

### **Transcript: Holding Abortion Clinics To The Law**

**Reuel Sample:** Cathie Humbarger from Reprotection.org. Welcome aboard to the podcast. I am so glad that you are with us.

**Cathie Humbarger:** Thank you so much, Reuel. It is always a pleasure to share the pro-life story and the pro-life fight and I appreciate your inviting me to be your guest today.

**Reuel Sample:** Tell us about your ministry with Reprotection.

**Cathie Humbarger:** I was drawn in to the pro-life fight when a dear friend of mine shared with me she had an abortion decision in her past. Now, this was 1985, prior to a lot of the wonderful ministries that are available now, the crisis pregnancy centers. There are many post abortion ministries available today to come alongside women who've made an abortion decision, but that was not true then. So my dear friend allowed me to walk through her healing at the foot of the cross. Which Reuel, you know, we all find healing at the foot of the cross for whatever sins we've committed. The ground is level there. So in that process, the Lord grabbed my heart for women who believe the lie that for a price, an abortionist could erase the life of a baby, only to find out later that it just made them the mother of a dead baby. So that really opened my eyes back in 1985. Abortion had already been legal, but I didn't know that I knew anyone that had made an abortion decision. So it was eye opening for me. And when I saw her grief and pain, I just knew that this is where the Lord was calling me.

**Cathie Humbarger:** But the fight has changed significantly over time. A lot of what was happening then was in front of the abortion facilities and harsh words exchanged and the women going into the abortion facility considered murderers and being shouted at as they went in with very little compassion for the women. But that's changed, and I'm so grateful for that.

So over the years since that time, I was blessed to be part of the founding board of the first Pregnancy Resource Center here in Fort Wayne. And then I was the first paid staff for what was then Allen County Right to Life. The thing that really grabbed me for what we can do as people going about our everyday lives was the whole idea of holding abortionists accountable and the abortion industry to the laws and the rules that are already on the books. And boy, was that eye opening when I began to look into what's going on with enforcement of those laws. So my office at that time was right next door to the abortion provider in Fort Wayne. I would look out my window and I would see women coming into the abortion facility, and two or 3 hours later they would come out the door with an arm around the person that brought them and an abortion facility staff member. And they would literally stumble down the steps and the people supporting her would pretty much drag her to the car where she would collapse in the back seat. And I watched this week after week after week and I thought, I wonder why the abortionist doesn't have to provide a wheelchair ramp. My church does. As I investigated further, I found out that the sex club down the street had to have an elevator so that their disabled clients could access the entertainment on both floors of their facility. So why do sex club operators have to accommodate disabled people? And my church. But the women exiting the abortion facility had to go through this.

**Reuel Sample:** And they had just had major invasive surgery.

**Cathie Humbarger:** That's right.

**Reuel Sample:** Skip the morality of that for a second is that they just had major invasive surgery and they are forced to walk down steps into a car.

**Cathie Humbarger:** Right. I began investigating. Just curious to know how that came about. And I found out that there's a complaint system. So I filed a complaint. Crickets.

Of course. This was under Kathleen Sebelius as HHS director. In any event, no response, no response, no response. But I became their best correspondence person over those weeks. Just continue to follow up. Follow up. And I finally received a letter that said, because we don't have the staff to investigate, we're not going to look into this. Please don't.

**Reuel Sample:** Oh, you're you're kidding.

**Cathie Humbarger:** No, please don't consider this a determination of guilt or innocence. We don't have time to look into it. So. Okay, so then from there, I thought, I wonder what else is going on behind the closed doors of that abortion facility? And interestingly enough, we were able to uncover a multitude of violations. Now, the abortionist that operated next door to my office was Ulrich Klopfer. Some of your listeners may remember him as the abortionist that after his death, they found over 2000 aborted babies bodies stashed in his garage and also in the trunk of his car. That was a couple of years ago, but this was the abortionist that we were dealing with. So he operated in two other cities in Indiana, South Bend and Gary, and he came to Fort Wayne on Thursdays. So we, my friends in the other cities, banded together and started looking at this as a team. And we requested public information documents which included the termination of pregnancy reports that are required by law for every abortionist to complete, for every abortion that that he does, he or she does. And we pored over those documents and filed over 2000 complaints against this abortionist.

**Cathie Humbarger:** And it was it was an amazing thing to see the disregard for all of those those complaints that we filed. So ultimately, we did get the attention of the attorney general. There were two ways that we went after him. One was for his abortion business license and the other was for his medical license. And over time, when we finally got the attention of those in charge, we were able to not only have his abortion facility licenses revoked for each of the three locations, but we were also able to get his medical license suspended. So that was the beginning of ReProtection. My goal at the beginning was to close down the abortionist next door to me. But as the Lord opened doors and we were able to accumulate more and more information and not give up and persevere against the government agencies that wanted to overlook this, we were finally able to not only close the abortion facility next to me, but the other two as well and get his license suspended.

**Reuel Sample:** What I find interesting is that this is all happening in Indiana. Indiana is not a bastion of of far left liberalism. But even in Indiana, probably the poster child for Midwestern values is that you still had a heck of a time getting the attention of government regulation facilities and then people moving on those regulations to get things done.

**Cathie Humbarger:** You're exactly right. You're exactly right. I was appalled. This, of course, unfolded over the course of the administrations of three different governors. And the Republican governors were I mean, you have to educate them. They have a bubble around them. And if people know their inner circle doesn't if they don't want them to know something, they don't get the information. So you are exactly right. We're finding this happening in many states that one would think is airtight for holding abortionists and their businesses accountable. And we're not asking for new stuff. We're just saying, please enforce what's already there. So what became abundantly apparent during this whole process is we fight hard to get pro-life legislators elected, which we should. We fight hard to get pro-life legislation passed, which we should. But that is not the end of it. We can't assume that the agencies that are responsible for enforcing these laws are going to do their job. Through our review of termination of pregnancy reports, we found that on on one termination of pregnancy report, it was reported that a woman died. Now, you would think that would get the attention of somebody. We found it, but it was almost two years after the incident and when we contacted the Indiana State Department of Health to ask them about this. They said, thank you for bringing this to our attention. We'll look into it.

**Cathie Humbarger:** So when we had success here in Indiana, many of your listeners may be familiar with David Bright. He was the founder of 40 Days for Life, the prayer program that goes on every year in front of abortion facilities. Anyway, I was working with him on a national project and he said to me, I heard about what's going on in Indiana. How do you do that? And I said, I don't know. I just wanted to close the guy down next door and the Lord let us to achieve more than we ever thought. And he said, Well, he reminded me that he travels across the country. And he said, How exactly did you do that? Because I think this might be the missing piece. And he reviewed the same thing that I did a minute ago about electing pro-life elected officials and passing laws.

And then along with that is the many, many, many pregnancy resource center. So with all of that, what is the missing piece? And in his mind, it was the lack of enforcement.

**Cathie Humbarger:** And what I've come to understand about government agencies is when administrations change, usually the leadership at the top of an agency changes. But there's still the holdovers and the people who are very willing to look the other way as far as abortion enforcement is concerned. So we started I started thinking about that. How did we do that? And it came down to simply gathering information, getting a tip from somebody that's on the sidewalk in front of the abortion facility, becoming aware of a violation or a supposed violation and then requesting public information documents. I mean, this is very legal. And oftentimes they reveal things in those documents that are actionable. I could give you a whole list of examples, but the bottom line is, if we follow this protocol, we get the public information, find more clearly, define the violation that was reported to us and determine if it's actionable.

**Cathie Humbarger:** And then the thing that's different about ReProtection is that our enforcement efforts are through complaints. Now, this is different than a lawsuit in court. So it's much simpler. The bar is much lower for filing a complaint. For example, if we, one of us went into a nursing home to visit grandma and we saw a staff member abusing another resident, we could file a complaint. We don't have to know who the staff member is. We don't have to know the name of the person that was the victim. We can file a complaint which should prompt an investigation so that that was an amazing tool to me, that it's simple. There's already a procedure in place in every state for filing complaints against all medical providers or medical service providers. So we just use that tool and file complaints, but that's not the end of it, Reuel. This is what's so frustrating. You can't just file the complaint and say, okay, we're done. The agency will do what they're supposed to do. No, we have to follow up and follow up and follow up to make certain that this doesn't just drop off the radar so that some of the investigations that we've done have ended in fines being levied against the abortion provider. We've even closed down now four abortion facilities. We kept a Planned Parenthood from opening in New York, which is amazing. So in the as we go forward now, the word is getting out and we're getting more and more leads from more and more states. So that's the the process of how this all started. And I'm sorry, it probably took way too long.

**Reuel Sample:** No, I find that fascinating. I always love in a weird way, when Christians use the laws of the land to further the kingdom of God in ways that that the writers of those laws hadn't expected. You haven't passed any new laws. You haven't pushed for any new legislation. You've just used what's on the books in order to fight the evil that's around us.

**Cathie Humbarger:** Right now, we do get criticized by the pro-life community, some people in the pro-life community that all we're interested in is having abortion facilities operate in a clean environment and crossing all the T's and dotting all the I's. That's not it. We use those tools to the end that we're seeking, and that is the closure of that abortion facility or increased fines or increased costs or whatever, because then they pass that along to their their clients and abortion becomes more and more expensive. And that will keep some women from getting an abortion. And in Florida, we had a tremendous success story that took well over a year. We found that an abortionist was operating in an abortion facility. He was not only the owner, but also the abortionist. Unlicensed in Florida. And it took us forever. And you'd think in Florida it would be a slam dunk. But it took us a while to get to the right people. And once the governor found out about it, then things happened very quickly. So one of the pieces of an investigation by an agency is that the agency must notify the abortionist that they're under investigation. Well, this guy had one of the worst rap sheets that you can imagine. He had been found guilty of a lot of offenses, Medicaid fraud and a lot of things. And when he was notified that he was under investigation. He closed his doors.

**Reuel Sample:** Oh, well, and see, that works. What. What I find interesting and monstrous here is that if you're an OBGYN who is actually responsible for bringing babies into this world alive, is that every time you go into that delivery room, your credentials are probably examined ten times over. But if you're an abortionist whose job is to end the lives of babies, then nobody cares.