

Changing Hearts Key to Abortion Fight

by
Raymond E. Muth

Valley News Dispatch 7/30/96 Community Columnist

Twenty years ago, I was flipping through the television channels when I came across an image of a little Catholic Sister almost hidden by the front of a podium. I stopped to listen for a second as she stated the greatest threat to world peace was abortion. I thought this was about as nonsensical and sadly out of touch as anything I had ever heard from the Catholic church. The correlation seemed ludicrous. I was expecting the Sister to then say we should work to overthrow Roe vs Wade or we should protest in front of abortion clinics. But instead I heard something unanticipated. She said, "don't destroy the child. I will take the child. We will take any unwanted child." Something inside me moved. She didn't change my mind that day. But she did change my heart. Her name of course was Mother Teresa and while the world was beginning to learn of her extraordinary life, I was beginning to learn she was right.

Twenty years later, Steve Forbes, a political unknown decided to run for President as a Republican. Forbes was attacked and smeared by the Christian Coalition most notably in the Iowa caucus for his stance on abortion. Forbes' came into disfavor because his belief was the country had to first transform morally before it could effectively transform legislatively. The Christian Coalition would have none of it. They instead threw their support to others who said the magic words.

I doubt the majority of Christian Coalition members ever took the time to read Forbes Magazine. Inside they would find a weekly column by Forbes, Editor-in-Chief that constantly hammers on societal evils especially abortion. Woven within his astute observations about the economy and international diplomacy is Forbes' unapologetic views on the sacredness of marriage and the sanctity of life.

It might seem unusual a magazine promoting free enterprise should have anything to say about moral issues particularly abortion. I'm sure many readers cringe when the issue is brought up. But perhaps some realize a healthy free enterprise system is totally dependent on a healthy moral society. History tells us moral decadence contributed mightily to the downfall of Rome. But something larger than history motivates Forbes. His conscience calls him to speak out against injustice and his columns on abortion are compelling. Forbes finds nothing more abhorrent than abortion and unlike many, he doesn't believe one should separate personal belief from political action. The irony is that Forbes' personal beliefs may have presented the most faith-filled, politically active strategy for pro-life.

While it is important to work toward legislative solutions for moral good, the Christian Coalition took its eye off the ball. Bob Doles' recent waffling on the abortion issue is the distressing result that occurs when emphasis is placed on form over substance.

Reality is most Americans feel that women should be allowed to choose abortion. Candidate Forbes realized he couldn't make a promise he knew was impossible to deliver. Instead, he offered the choice of hope and compassion which would move a nation. It is either a faith-filled notion or naive nonsense. But Christianity is precisely that choice. If our collective faith is genuine, the transformation of others from pro-abortion to pro-life is inevitable. That doesn't mean we don't fight for justice but it does mean we lead by example.

The way we go about change is as important as what we are attempting to change. Mother Teresa says "it isn't what we do but the love we put in the doing." Those of us serious about ending abortion in this country need to live the message of Mother Teresa by showing everyone we will take care of any unwanted child no strings attached. If enough of us do that, hearts will change, minds will follow and meaningful legislation can be overwhelming enacted. Right now the Christian Coalition has its tail leading the way and their short-sighted tactics are harming the long-run cause.



[E-Mail Ray](#)

[Home](#) | [About Me](#) | [Family](#) | [Critters](#) | [Work](#) | [Articles](#) | [Archives](#)