

ABORTION FOES CLOSE IN ON CLINICS

By **The New York Times**

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In a new twist to the battle over abortion, a group of ministers has bought houses next to two clinics and established pregnancy counseling centers in them.

"Rather than just hoping women find it in the Yellow Pages, we have an actual on-site presence," said the Rev. Michael C. Cloer, who heads the 102-member Pastors for Life organization, which operates the centers. "When they come to the abortion clinic, there is another option."

While such centers have been established close to abortion clinics for a decade or more, only the two centers in Greenville are next to clinics, said Ann Baker, founder of the National Center for the Pro-Choice Majority, a Hightstown, N.J., research group.

An anti-abortion group in Chattanooga, Tenn., bought a building next to a clinic about six months ago with the idea of establishing a memorial, she said. Fifteen to 20 pregnancy centers are in the same building as an abortion clinic.

"It's alarming," she said. "The closer these people can get, the more intimidating they can become."

Here in the hometown of Bob Jones University and more than 100 conservative Christian churches, abortion protests outside the Greenville Women's Clinic and the Palmetto State Medical Center have been a daily affair for years. Groups have also held "pray-ins" in which hundreds of people prayed outside one clinic every Saturday for two months earlier this year.

The group's purchase of the houses is likely to intensify the conflict, giving abortion opponents easy access to women who seek abortions and the opportunity to monitor clinic employees.

Members of churches led by ministers allied with Pastors for Life have also begun picketing the homes of clinic doctors, nurses and other staff members. The protesters stand outside the entrances to the staff members' subdivisions with signs that name the workers and say that they kill babies. They also have picketed outside clinic workers' churches and sent letters to their pastors. The letters detailed the gross incomes of the clinics by showing the number of abortions performed multiplied by the \$275 fee.

"We call it exposing them," said Cloer, 40, the pastor of Siloam Baptist Church in nearby Powdersville.

"Hopefully they'll be so embarrassed they'll quit."

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"They are not pleased about it, but there doesn't his country, it's easy to harass anyone."

None of the three doctors who perform abortions at the clinics or their 10 staff members could be reached for comment. Greenville Women's Clinic is owned by two gynecologists, Thomas Campbell and Terry Buffkin. About 50 percent of the practice is routine gynecological care, Hiller said. The Palmetto State Medical Center, owned by Dr. William Lynn of Beaufort, S.C., performs only abortions and is open on Fridays and Saturdays.

"They are just everyday normal people," Hiller said of his clients. "Most of them, I truly believe, hate the fact that they have to do abortions, but they believe very strongly that women have the right to choose."

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