

RELIGION

Religious faith influences doctors' practice of euthanasia

Non-religious doctors more likely to favor euthanasia than those with religious principles.

On "E.R.," one of network television's highest rated shows, doctors regularly go to heroic lengths to save the lives of their dying patients. Oddly enough, many real life doctors are now taking great pains to help their patients die. In fact, a recent study from Australia - where euthanasia is illegal -- found that one fourth of all doctors took active steps to hasten patients' deaths. Furthermore, doctors who termed them-

selves atheists or agnostics were most likely to purposely bring on a patient's death at a patient's request.

Actively expediting the death of a patient -- not just withholding or stopping life-sustaining treatment--was undertaken 62% more often by physicians who said they had no religious faith in this recent survey of more than 1,200 randomly selected physicians.

"Of all medical practitioners who had been asked to do so, more than one quarter acknowledged that they

had taken steps to hasten death," the researchers from the University of New South Wales commented. "Those doctors claiming to be agnostic or atheist were more likely to favor and to practice euthanasia and those who identified with any religion were more likely to be opposed."

Agnostics and atheists were more than twice as likely to know of other doctors who practiced active euthanasia, despite the illegal status, and were more than three times more likely to think actively hastening a

patient's death was "sometimes right" than those doctors who claimed some religious affiliation.

Views of doctors from varying religions were then analyzed separately to see how their views might differ. The study found Jewish physicians "sympathetic almost to the same degree" as the agnostic and atheist doctors. Catholic doctors were most opposed, while Protestants fell midway between. Studies in the U.S. similarly found Catholics most opposed to active euthanasia.

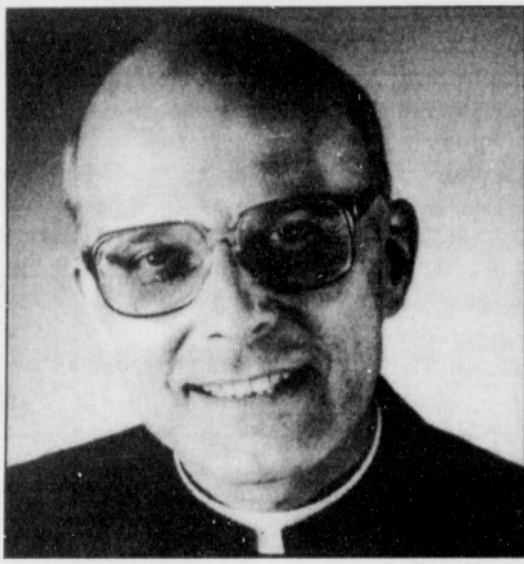
What formed the basis of the doc-

tors' decisions? Physicians who thought actively hurrying the patients' death was sometimes right based their views on non-religious ethical principals 74% of the time, the study found. Doctors who thought administering doses for death was never right based their views on religious principles 81% of the time.

Still, despite specific teachings of most established religions opposing euthanasia and suicide, almost a quarter of doctors with a religious affiliation had also engaged in it, including 18% of Catholics.

Because the study only measured religious affiliation and not strength of commitment, "views may have differed among physicians who were actively involved in their religion compared to those who were not--a question for future research," noted Dr. David Larson, president of the National Institute for Healthcare Research (NIHR).

Baume, Peter, O'Malley, Emma, and Bauman, Adrian (1995). "Professed Religious Affiliation and the Practice of Euthanasia." *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 21:49-54.



Portland Archbishop Francis George (left) begins duties this week as the archbishop of the Chicago diocese, the second largest congregation of Roman Catholics in the United States. George was named to the post by Pope John Paul II. A successor to George in Portland has not yet been named.

Creators of hope celebrated

On Friday, May 9, as part of its 85th anniversary of serving the needs of the nation's developmentally and emotionally disabled children, adolescents and adults, The Devereux Foundation will honor three Americans who have helped create "communities of hope" throughout the nation.

During Devereux's anniversary gala at the Franklin Institute, President Ronald P. Burd will present the Helena T. Devereux Memorial Award for enhancing "human potential and dignity" to Tipper Gore, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter and Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Foundation.

"Each of these honorees has worked

tirelessly to advance the cause of individuals with special needs -- especially children, just as our founder Helena Devereux did 85 years ago when she became the country's first special education teacher, here in the Philadelphia School System," said Burd. "It will be with great pleasure that I present our memorial award to these three very visible examples of how our nation's leadership can indeed help build communities of hope for people across the country who have special needs."

According to Burd, the honorees were chosen for their interest in and advocacy for children's issues and their work to improve the quality of life for persons who are

at-risk for emotional, behavioral and developmental difficulties.

In addition to the three honorees, a host of other civic and business leaders will serve as honorary chairpersons for Devereux's 85th anniversary celebration. They include Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell, U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, U.S. Representatives Curt Weldon and Jonathon Fox, State Senator Dennis O'Brien, and Devereux's Board of Trustees.

Founded in 1912, The Devereux Foundation is now the nation's largest private, non-profit provider of treatment services for individuals of all ages who have a wide range of emotional disorders and developmental disabilities.

Jewish group joins legal battle

A leading Jewish rights organization said Friday that it has joined the legal battle to force an Alabama judge to remove the Ten Commandments from the wall of his courtroom.

The New York-based American Jewish Congress said it was concerned about the actions of Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy Moore because both he and Alabama Gov. Fob James have vowed to defy any court order to dismantle the Ten Commandments display.

"The case has become symbolic of much more than the Ten Commandments. The judge and the governor have made this into a major test of the principle of church and state," said Marc Stern, an attorney with the group.

On Thursday the American Jewish

Congress filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Alabama state Supreme Court on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Since 1995 the ACLU has been waging a legal campaign to remove a plaque bearing the Ten Commandments from the wall behind Moore's bench in Gadsden, Alabama and to stop the jurist from opening court proceedings with prayer.

The civil rights group contends that both the display and the prayers violate the U.S. Constitutional separation of church and state.

Earlier this year a state judge ruled in the ACLU's favor by ordering the prayers stopped and the Ten Commandments taken down. But the Alabama Supreme Court later stayed the ruling, pending a hearing expected to take place over the next

two to three months.

Gov. James, a conservative Republican firebrand, has vowed to call out the National Guard to stop the Ten Commandments plaque from being taken down if the state high court were to order its removal.

Moore himself has said he would not comply with an unfavorable ruling from the state Supreme Court, claiming it is his duty under the U.S. Constitution to acknowledge the Judeo-Christian God, even to the exclusion of those of other religions.

Court rejects school vouchers

The first program in the nation to offer poor parents vouchers to send their children to religious schools was declared unconstitutional Thursday by a state appeals court.

The Ohio District Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 that the program - under way in Cleveland - advances religion in violation of the separation of church and state. The \$5.5 million program began last fall, giving low-income parents \$2,500 to help them send their children to private schools, including those religious schools.

Parents of about 2,000 public school students in kindergarten through third grade received vouchers to attend one of 53 private schools. Eighty percent

of the schools are religious.

The appeals court, ruling on a challenge by a teachers union and a taxpayer group, said the program is impermissible because it "provides direct and substantial non-neutral government aid to sectarian schools."

"The only real choice available to most parents is between sending their child to a sectarian school and having their child remain in the troubled Cleveland City School District," Judge John C. Young wrote. "Such a choice can hardly be characterized as 'genuine and independent.'"

Ohio was the first state to start a voucher program that included religious schools.

Evangelist sums up career

Ask Billy Graham his greatest surprise in life, and his reply is immediate: "The brevity of it."

He is 78; his hands are weakened and his balance sometimes shaky from Parkinson's disease. But to him and to many of his followers, it seems like only yesterday that he was the young broad-shouldered, square-jawed fiery evangelical, meeting President Truman in the Oval Office or leading a 16-week crusade at Madison Square Garden in the '50s.

However, even as he continues to lead crusades - the most recent in April in San Antonio - Graham recognizes the time has come for summing up one of the most remarkable evangelistic careers in American religious history.

Two years ago, at Graham's urging, his son Franklin was appointed his successor-in-waiting as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. And this month comes the release of his memoirs of a remarkable life in ministry.

"Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham" deals with much the same material biographer William Martin - who had the evangelist's full cooperation - covered in 1991 in "Prophet With Honor: The Billy Graham Story."

The 760-page book recounts Graham's experiences preaching to more than 230 million people in 180 countries and territories, including his groundbreaking visits to places like the Soviet Union and North Korea.

He recounts how he broke with prominent fundamentalists to build a broad evangelical alliance that would eventually welcome Roman Catholics to his crusades. He describes his own efforts at seeking racial justice, from demanding that his crusades be integrated to endorsing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

America's pastor has also been a presidential chaplain, and his experiences - from advising Dwight

Eisenhower to back school integration to encouraging Gerald Ford to grant former Richard Nixon a pardon - add the ultimate insider's perspective on the mix of religion and White House politics.

In fact, if he could live his life over again, Graham writes in his autobiography, he would avoid any semblance of involvement in partisan politics. The presidential staffs of Nixon and Lyndon Johnson used him to some degree to further their re-election goals, he said in a recent telephone interview.

What readers may find most striking about the autobiography is not the oft-told tales of public events, but the glimpses into the private life of the man who has consistently over the past four decades made the list of America's 10 most admired men.

He takes you to the side of his wife, Ruth, as he prays with her before an operation for spinal meningitis.

The Bible text Graham shares as he holds his wife's hand is not one promising the best possible temporal outcome, but the passage in the first chapter of 1 Peter that speaks of the "lively hope" of eternal life brought about by the Resurrection of Jesus.

"Those words reminded us of the hope we have in Christ, assuring us that whether Ruth survived the operation or not, God would always keep her in his loving care," Graham writes.

And he speaks candidly of one of his greatest regrets: leaving his children during their growing up years for months at a time.

Once, during the summer of 1960, he said it took him several minutes to realize "that the beautiful little child wandering out to greet us" after a long trip was his youngest son, Ned. Both Franklin and Ned Graham would go through rebellious periods during which they used drugs, Graham said.

"Every day I was absent from my family is gone forever," Graham

writes, regretting the time spent in meetings and engagements that seem less important with the passage of time.

In his remaining years, Graham said he wants to help the Clintons with their agenda of meeting the needs of the nation's children. Children's meetings have become a part of his crusades, and Graham urges churches to focus their attention on children in need.

"I want to do far more than I have in the past in helping these children," Graham said.

Today, his sons are now leading international ministries, and Franklin is becoming a successful evangelist on his own. And the father must face something he never thought much about: old age.

In the 1950s, Graham said he thought he would not live a long life because the pace of his ministry was sure to kill him. As he approached his 60s, he thought he would end up like his father, who had the first in a series of strokes at that age.

Today, because of Parkinson's, he has some weakness in his hands that make him unable to write letters. He has symptoms of vertigo, and falls once in a while. Also, the doctors ask him to nap twice a day.

But growing older is not so bad, Graham is finding out. For one thing, eternity is right around the corner.

"I know that soon my life will be over. I thank God for it, and for all He has given me in his life," Graham writes. "But I look forward to heaven."

When he gets there, Graham said, the second thing he plans to do with God is engage in a little Bible study, to ask about some of the seeming contradictions in biblical figures, and to find out the answers to such mysteries as how God can have no beginning and no end.

But first he has another question.

Safely Home

Alice (Cole) Muldrew, 1915 - 1997

Sister Alcie Muldrew the 8th of eleven children was a native of Simms, Texas. She was born to the parentage of Dave and Mattie (Griffin) Cole on April 5, 1915.

Alcie Muldrew was married to Willie Ed Muldrew, Sr., and to this union was born five sons. Her parents and husband preceded her in death.

She was a member of Walker Chapel CME Church and believed strongly in the Power, Grace and Love of God and Jesus Christ. Her long life struggle was to provide for her boys and raise her sons to be God fearing, God believing men. As with all mothers, Alcie's love for children was everlasting.



The angel of silence entered into her life on the morning of April 17, 1997.

Alice was the sister of Birdie Lee (Cole) Taylor of Portland, OR whom preceded her in death, in December 1994.

She leaves to cherish her beloved memory:

Five sons--Willie M. Muldrew, Jr. (wife Pamela), Edward Muldrew, John Muldrew (wife Wilma), Tom Muldrew (wife Gloria), Curtis Muldrew (wife Etta), One sister: Dorothy (Cole) Gaddis of Los Angeles, CA.

Twelve grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Obituary

Virginia Byrd of NE Portland

November 3, 1902 - April 25, 1997

Place of death was Foster Care Home. Cause of death was age related. Virginia was born in Allenville, Alabama and was married to Arthur Byrd whom pass away in 1990. Services were held Tuesday, April 29, 1997 at Rose City Cemetery.

Internment will be at Rose City Cemetery.

The Parent Mentor project

The Parent Mentor Project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is seeking volunteer mentors to work with mothers who are completing drug and alcohol treatment and raising young children. A mentor helps a mother learn parenting and other skills and stands by her as she establishes a new home for their family. Mentors are good listeners who understand issues related to parenting, recovery from addiction, low incomes, and domestic violence. To learn more about becoming a mentor, call Sylvia Hart-Landsberg, parent mentor project Coordinator, at 235-3546.

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