

Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc.

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Audrey Schiebler

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE OPPOSES RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

On November 9, 1990, the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA) released the following official policy statement from its Chicago headquarters:

Position Statement on Religious Exemptions to Child Abuse Laws

NCPCA reaffirms its position that children have a right to a healthy and nurturing environment.

When the denial of available, necessary medical care by parents due to religious beliefs is life threatening or may be disabling, then the child's rights and interests take precedence over the rights

and interests of the parents or caregivers.

Therefore, all child abuse/neglect and medical neglect statutes should be applied to provide equal protection to all children without potential or actual exemptions for the religious beliefs of their parents or caregivers.

CHILD member led drive for position statement

Audrey Schiebler, an honorary member of CHILD, spearheaded the effort to have a position statement against religious exemptions adopted. Schiebler chairs the NCPCA's Advocacy Committee and is an advocacy liaison for the Institute for Child Health Policy in Gainesville, Florida. She also holds current appointments as a member of the Governor's

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Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Group, the national Junior League board, the Florida Bar's Committee on the Legal Needs of Children, the Bar's Commission on Children, the board of the Florida Children's Coalition, and several other positions. In 1989 she received the Florida Bar's Hugh S. Glickstein Award in Child Advocacy, and in 1990 she received the Medal of Honor from the Florida Bar Foundation.

Others who worked for the position statement include Dr. Arthur Kohrman, who chairs the Bioethics Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Dr. Arthur Cherry, a Kansas pediatrician.

Iowa Chapter calls for repeal

Following the NCPCA's lead, the Iowa Chapter of the NCPCA endorsed a bill to repeal Iowa's religious exemptions from parental duties of care on January 12. The vote was 24-0 with one abstention.

END TIME PARENTS CHARGED WITH CHILD ABUSE

On December 9 two members of End Time Ministries, a church that discourages medical care, were charged with felony child abuse in Lake City, Florida.

Their son, Will Myers, 16, had a heart lesion that went untreated for seven months and made it impossible for him to hold down food. He developed liver and kidney ailments and lost one-third of his body weight. His brother told investigators that Will's feet were so infected that buckets had to be placed on the floor to catch fluid draining from them and he could not walk.

His parents, Charles and Marilee Myers, brought him to a Gainesville hospital on October 22. Doctors at first doubted that he would live. He was in critical condition and under intensive care for several weeks.

The Myerses are the parents of End Time member Gail Boehmer whose infant son, Michael David, died without medical attention March 15, 1989. The baby had a nosebleed for three days.

He died of a pulmonary hemorrhage that would have likely been treatable with a vitamin K shot. An inquest was held into his death, but no charges were filed.

In five states, from Montana to Florida, at least 12 End Time babies have died without medical attention since 1978. Deaths of End Time babies in South Dakota led to a successful drive to repeal South Dakota's religious exemptions from child health care requirements in 1990.

Joni Cooke Eddy, mother of one of the babies, has become a nationally known spokesperson for children's rights to medical care and worked on the repeal drive. Eddy lives in Mitchell, South Dakota.

The leader of End Time Ministries, Reverend Charles Meade, tells his followers that the end of the world will come in his lifetime, that Lake City is the Promised Land, and they alone will be saved. Meade has led 500 to 700 followers from 14 states to Lake City. His sect originated in Muncie, Indiana, with ties to Rev. Hobart Freeman's Faith Assembly, whose beliefs against medical care have cost the lives of more than 100 people over the past two decades. Though Freeman and Meade parted company, ex-members of End Time say both men preach positive confession theology. This belief system holds that the crucifixion of Christ redeemed mankind from sickness as well as sin and that members are chosen people who need only to claim this redemption to get a physical healing. Freeman taught that sickness was caused by the devil and that medical science was pagan. Former End Timers say Meade's teachings are similar on those points as well.

The charges against the Myerses are believed to be the first charges filed against members of End Time Ministries and the first criminal charges filed in any case of religiously-based medical neglect in which the child did not die.

The Florida State's Attorney's office said a recent Florida appellate court decision upholding the conviction of Christian Scientists who withheld medical care from their diabetic daughter has made it easier for the state to file charges in such cases.

Taken in part from *The Miami Herald*, December 30.

FLORIDA APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION OF CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

On September 28, 1990, the Florida Second District Court of Appeal upheld the conviction of William and Christine Hermanson of Sarasota, Florida. As Christian Scientists, they had withheld medical care from their seven-year-old daughter Amy, who died of diabetes. A jury convicted them of felony child abuse and third-degree murder in 1989, even though Circuit Court Judge Stephen Dakan allowed them to raise a religious exemption as a defense to the crimes.

When the Hermansons appealed their convictions, the state filed a cross-appeal challenging the trial judge's dismissal of the manslaughter charge and his admission of the religious exemption law as a defense.

In a strongly worded 32-page ruling, the Appeals Court not only upheld the conviction, but also ruled that Dakan should not have dismissed the manslaughter charge or allowed a religious defense to the felony child abuse and murder charges.

The Appeals Court pointed out that the religious exemption statute was in a section of law dealing with reporting child abuse and neglect to the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services (HRS). "If a death is involved," said the Court, "different responsibilities come into play since the directives of [that section of the law] do not provide the means for handling such a situation. . . . [That] section emphasizes the legislative intent that HRS's involvement is in an effort to preclude the occurrence of such harm; when a death occurs, this ultimate harm has not been avoided and actions by other state agencies are triggered."

The Hermansons argued, said the Court, "that a parent who relies on spiritual rather than medical treatment will never know beforehand when the line is crossed where they should stop relying on spiritual treatment alone and seek medical intervention." They claimed that their due process rights were violated because the statutes defining culpable negligence "do not give them sufficient notice of what behavior

constitutes a criminal act and when that behavior occurs."

In response the Court quoted U. S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.: "The law is full of instances where a man's fate depends on his estimating rightly, that is, as the jury subsequently estimates it, some matter of degree. . . . An act causing death may be murder, manslaughter, or misadventure according to the degree of danger attending it by common experience in the circumstances known to the actor."

It further quoted the California Supreme Court's ruling on an appeal by a Christian Scientist who had let her daughter die: "The 'matter of degree' that persons relying on prayer treatment must estimate rightly is the point at which their course of conduct becomes criminally negligent. In terms of notice, due process requires no more."

After the Hermansons were convicted last year, Christian Science spokesman Nathan Talbot said members would draw no conclusions from the verdict because it would be appealed. But now that the conviction has been upheld on appeal, Talbot says the issue is still "unsettled." He said the church will just expand its efforts to make society understand Christian Science. "We'll just have to continue to let people know that there's an alternative method of healing that doesn't have a perfect track record but has been so successful that a large segment of society relies on it," he said.

"Society has to sort out. . . the record of spiritual healing," he insisted (emphasis added).

The press reports he also "predicted that the controversy" over Christian Science "will continue." One wonders if he was predicting more deaths and prosecutions.

May be first appellate ruling in U. S. history

The decision by the Florida Appeals Court is the first post-trial appellate review of four recent convictions of Christian Scientists. It may also be the first appellate review of a Christian Science conviction in United States history. To our knowledge, the only other such conviction which may have been appealed was that of Bloomfield, New Jersey, father Andrew Walker in 1920.

Walker was convicted of manslaughter for allowing his nine-year-old daughter Dorothy to die of diphtheria without medical treatment. A *New York Times* article dated May 11, 1920, said the Christian Science father would appeal the conviction, but we cannot find any record of an appellate court ruling in the case.

The Hermansons say they will appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

Taken in part from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and *Tampa Tribune* for September 29, 1990.

LOUISIANA MOM TO BE RETRIED IN SON'S DEATH

Following a mistrial in the case of a child whose mother withheld medical care on religious grounds, the Tangipahoa Parish District Attorney in Amite, Louisiana, announced that his office will retry the case.

Anneta Williamson, 43, of Loranger, Louisiana, was charged with negligent homicide after her five-year-old son Don Loren Williamson died June 2, 1989, of complications from leukemia. Mrs. Williamson belongs to the Oak Grove Church of God, a fundamentalist denomination that believes in curing sickness through prayer and fasting.

She told a detective that she recognized her son was seriously ill about two weeks before his death. "He was feeling bad progressively," with bleeding gums, bruises, red blotches, fatigue, loss of appetite, swollen glands, and, during the last week, vomiting, she told the detective. She and other church members prayed and fasted for his recovery. She said he had not been taken to a doctor since his birth in a hospital.

She rejected a plea bargain that offered probation if she would take her two surviving children to doctors for treatment of serious illnesses. She said her religious beliefs prevented her from seeking medical help.

The trial opened November 27, 1990. "This case is not about religion," said Assistant District Attorney James Dukes. "This case is about criminal negligence." Dr. Sheila Moore, a specialist in

children's cancer, testified that today 60% to 70% of children who get leukemia recover. She also spoke of how the disease breaks blood vessels, thus causing the blotches, bruises, and bleeding gums observed by Mrs. Williamson.

Williamson's minister, Ed Wilson, testified that it would be a breach of faith for members to go to doctors. "Our position is that prayer is the better way," he said. The state holds "that medical treatment is superior, and the state is trying to impose that on us," he charged.

A religious exemption law passed in 1985 was allowed as a defense at the trial. It stated in part, "The providing of treatment by a parent or tutor in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religious method of healing in lieu of medical treatment, shall not, for that reason alone, be considered to be criminally negligent mistreatment or neglect of a child."

David Smith, the Christian Science Committee on Publication for Louisiana, testified for the defense. "I drafted [the exemption] to assure that prosecutions such as this one will not take place," Smith said.

The courtroom was filled with Williamson's supporters. Some came from Church of God congregations in Oklahoma.

After eight hours of deliberation the jury was still deadlocked 5-1 for conviction and Judge Bruce Bennett declared a mistrial November 29.

Smith's testimony for a Pentecostal church member marks a startling change in Christian Science strategy. In the past, the Christian Science church has taken great pains to separate itself from Fundamentalists. After five recent convictions of Christian Science parents, the Christian Science church may well have decided it will have to join forces with Fundamentalist faith healers.

In 1982, Frederick and Docia Ford of Minden, Louisiana, were convicted of negligent homicide for letting their 17-month-old granddaughter Endrika die of meningitis without medical care. They held that such care violated their beliefs as members of the Faith Temple Doctoral Church of Christ in God.

Taken in part from *The Shreveport Times*, November 30 and December 5.

CHURCH OF THE FIRST BORN BABY DIES IN CALIFORNIA

On January 31 baby Jordan Cory Northrup died of meningitis and pneumonia in Redding, California. His parents, Earl "Joe" Northrup, 36, and Catherine Northrup, 24, are third-generation members of the General Assembly of the Church of the First Born. This church has lost children in many western states because of its belief in curing all disease by prayer and refusing medical help.

Born September 13, Jordan struggled for six days against the illnesses that became fatal. Members of the Church of the First Born came from as far away as Sacramento and Washington State to pray for the baby. Mr. Northrup said, "I even prayed to the Lord that He would take me in his place, but it was not to be."

Police came to the home the afternoon of January 31 because a neighbor had called and expressed concern about the baby. But when the police got there, Jordan had already died. Eight members of the church were in the home and said Jordan had seizures in his final hours.

The Northrups' four surviving children were taken to the hospital by state authorities to be checked for meningitis.

Northrup said he called a local hospital three days before Jordan's death to seek advice, but not medical treatment. He said a hospital doctor told him the illness did not sound serious and advised changing the baby's formula. The hospital said they could not confirm that such a call was received.

The Church of the First Born in Redding consists of ten families. One member said the Northrups were good parents and that Jordan's death was not a case of child abuse.

Police said they are investigating and will turn their findings over to the district attorney.

Northrup, an unemployed logger, predicted, "We're going to be persecuted."

Taken from *The Sacramento Bee*, February 5, 1991.

FAITH ASSEMBLY PARENTS PLEAD GUILTY IN SON'S DEATH

On January 2, Michael and Diane Ricks of Kimmel, Indiana, pled guilty to neglect of a dependent. Noble County Prosecutor David Laur had charged them with reckless homicide and child neglect in the death of their five-month-old son, John David Ricks.

Michael Ricks had completed four years of medical school before dropping out to join Faith Assembly, a charismatic sect that rejects medical care as pagan.

The baby died April 8, 1990, of untreated bacterial meningitis. The Rickses told the coroner their son developed a fever April 3. According to the coroner's affidavit, they "rebuked the fever, and he wasn't hot anymore." On April 7 he stopped breathing three times. Each time the father "rebuked the spirit of death in Jesus' name" and the baby "perked right back up and started breathing." The next day he died despite the father's prayers.

Sentencing has been set for February 21. Mrs. Ricks is pregnant again. Laur expects the judge to order prenatal care for her as well as medical care for their children.

NEW TRIAL ORDERED IN QUACKERY CASE

On December 20 the Ontario Court of Appeal ordered a new trial for a couple convicted in the starvation death of their 17-month-old daughter, Lorie.

Sonia and Khachadour Atikian of Toronto were convicted in June of failure to provide the necessities of life. They let their daughter starve on the advice of an unlicensed herbalist. (See the CHILD newsletter 1990, #2.)

The appellate court ruled that the trial court judge, John O'Driscoll, erred in not giving to the jury direct and circumstantial evidence supporting the parents' claim that they had made only "an honest mistake," in not giving proper weight to evidence of the defendants' good character, and

in allowing evidence from the defendants' teenage daughter that was obtained unfairly.

No charges have been filed against the herbalist.

Taken in part from *The Toronto Star*, December 21, 1990.

NEGLIGENCE CONVICTION IN CANADIAN GIRL'S DEATH AFTER 40-DAY FAST

On January 18, a Hearst, Ontario, woman was sentenced to six months in prison for putting her 9-year-old granddaughter on an extended fast that contributed to her death.

Melissa Larochelle died March 15, 1990, of meningitis. Her parents, Denis and Marie-Josée Larochelle, entrusted her to her grandmother's care when she was suffering from an ear infection.

The grandmother, Rollande Turgeon, operated a fasting clinic in her home. She had taken courses and was accredited as an assistant in fasting by the American Hygiene Association.

She put Melissa on a diet of mineral water and fruit juice for 40 days.

The little girl was admitted to the hospital after Turgeon's cleaning woman became concerned about her health and contacted police.

Turgeon pleaded guilty in November to negligence causing bodily harm. Criminal charges were dropped against Melissa's parents.

Judge Richard Lajoie said Turgeon made a grave error in judgment by not contacting doctors when Melissa's condition deteriorated. "She was blinded by the principles of fasting and didn't believe in medical intervention," he said.

In addition to the jail term, he placed Turgeon on three years probation and ordered her not to associate with any natural hygiene clinic or program.

Taken from *The Toronto Star*, January 20, 1991.

SECT WOMEN ARRESTED IN CHILD BEATING

On December 28 two women were arrested in Los Angeles for allegedly abusing their children as part of an obscure religious sect's ritual designed to "beat the devil" out of disobedient youngsters, police said.

At least ten children, ages 4 to 14, some bruised and scarred with welts, were removed from their homes last week and placed in protective custody as detectives continue to investigate the alleged child abuse.

Police said the two women, Valerie Okongu and Deloris Porter, belong to a religious group known as Jesus Cathedral, which met in a rented conference room at an airport motel. The group's services included whipping children as young as four years old with telephone cords and belts.

An officer who interviewed the children said they were led to believe the beatings were the "will of God." If "they were being selfish or mischievous or angry, the parents would write these words on a piece of paper--'Demon anger, be out of me!'--and beat the children until they screamed the phrase," the officer said. When one child was beaten, "all the other kids were [apparently] brought into the room and made to watch," he added.

The women were arrested on suspicion of willful cruelty to children, a felony.

Taken from *The San Francisco Chronicle*, December 31, 1990.

MASSACHUSETTS HIGH COURT SUPPORTS TRANSFUSION ORDER FOR CHILD

On January 15 the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued a ruling upholding the state's right to order a transfusion in the case of Elisha McCauley, age 8. She was initially diagnosed as having leukemia. To make a

certain diagnosis the physicians wanted to do a bone marrow aspiration, but were unwilling to do it without raising her hematocrit to a safe clinical range. The only treatment available to do that was administration of red blood cells through a blood transfusion.

Her parents, Michael and Zelia McCauley, refused to consent to the transfusion because they are Jehovah's Witnesses, but the courts ordered both the initial transfusion for the diagnosis and subsequent ones as part of treatment for leukemia.

The SJC concluded that the interests of Elisha and the Commonwealth outweighed her parents' religious rights. Courts have recognized, they said, that the relationship between parents and their children is constitutionally protected, and, therefore, that the private realm of family life must be protected from unwarranted state interference. But the SJC also cited earlier rulings that parental rights "do not clothe parents with life and death authority over their children."

The state, said the SJC, has "three interests in having a dangerously sick child receive medical treatment over her parents' religious objections. First, the State has an interest in protecting the welfare of children within its borders. . . . Second, the State has an interest in the preservation of life, especially when the affliction is curable. . . . Finally, the medical profession is trained to preserve life, and to care for those under its control. The State has an interest in maintaining the ethical integrity of the medical profession."

The SJC concluded that these interests outweighed the parents' right to practice religion. "We do not," they said, "doubt the sincerity of the McCauleys' religious beliefs or their love for Elisha. Nor do we retrench from our prior holdings that freedom of religion occupies a "preferred position. . . in the pantheon of constitutional rights." See *Madsen v. Erwin*, 395 Mass. 715, 724 (1985).

REFUSAL OF MEDICAL TREATMENT BY "MATURE MINORS" PROMOTED

The fall 1990 issue of *The American Bar Association Barrister* carries an article by Mark Curriden entitled "Blood, the Bible and the Law." It deals with the refusal of medical treatment on religious grounds.

The following paragraph is particularly worthy of attention: "In an unlikely political grouping, Christian Scientists and Jehovah's Witnesses have been setting up camp philosophically with pro-choice abortion-rights activists. 'As the pro-abortionists make inroads for the rights of mature minors to have abortions, our position is strongly strengthened as well,' says [James McCabe, an attorney for the Witnesses]. 'If a 14-year-old has the constitutional right to choose if she's going to have a baby or not, then she ought to be able to choose if she can submit to a medical operation or blood transfusion.'"

State legislatures are currently quite active on the issue of teenagers' rights to abortions and parental notification. While the Jehovah's Witnesses church is officially opposed to abortion, it apparently intends to use teenagers' rights to have abortions as a basis for gaining rights for them to choose or refuse medical procedures that could save their lives.

CHILD Inc. holds that children are a protected class until the age of 18. We do not believe anyone under that age has a right to decide to die a preventable death.

JAMA ARTICLES PROBE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CLAIMS AND LOBBYING

The September 12 and 19, 1990, issues of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* include three articles by Associate News Editor Andrew Skolnick on religious exemption laws and Christian Science healing claims.

The first article is entitled "Religious Exemptions to Child Neglect Laws Still Being Passed Despite Convictions of Parents." It

describes the difficult nationwide struggles of CHILD Inc. and other advocacy groups for equal rights of children to health care.

An episode that illustrates the short memories of legislators is California's religious exemption from tuberculosis testing of public school teachers. In 1954, Cora Sutherland, a schoolteacher in Van Nuys, California, died of tuberculosis after exposing hundreds of children to the disease for two years. In lieu of a required chest x-ray, California allowed her to submit an affidavit swearing she was free of infectious disease. She submitted such an affidavit even though she was simultaneously paying \$65 a month for a Christian Science practitioner to give her spiritual treatment for "living congestion and overactivity."

At the time, there was sensational media coverage of Sutherland's death and California later repealed its religious exemption to tuberculosis screening of school employees. But in 1980 California passed a new law allowing school boards to exempt any employee from medical examination "who files an affidavit stating that he or she adheres to" the teachings of a "well-recognized" religion that "depends for healing upon prayer. . . and that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief he or she is free from active tuberculosis," if the school board decides that the health of pupils would not be jeopardized.

How the school board, says Skolnick, "can determine this without medically examining the employee is not spelled out." And "how a Christian Scientist, who is taught that there is no such thing as disease, can tell whether or not he or she is free of active tuberculosis is also not explained by the statute."

A second article in the September 12th issue is "New York Law Requires Treatment of Some But Not all Hepatitis B-Exposed Newborns." Skolnick reports that a law passed in 1990 makes New York the first state to require screening of all pregnant women for the hepatitis B virus and the treatment of all babies born to HBV-positive women.

However, the New York legislators also voted to exempt babies from the immunizations used to treat hepatitis B if their parents object out of "genuine and sincere religious beliefs."

Such immunizations are more like a rabies vaccine for a child who has been bitten by a rabid animal than a vaccine to prevent the comparatively remote risk of polio. According to Dr. Reed Tuckson, Senior Vice-president for Programs for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, White Plains, New York, up to 50% of babies of mothers infected with hepatitis B will also become infected at birth without the HBV immunization. He said that "85% to 90% of [the untreated babies] may become chronic carriers and at least 25% of them will eventually die of cirrhosis or primary liver cancer."

Dr. Gus Birkhead, Medical Director of the New York State Health Department's Immunization Program, said that babies born to HBV-infected mothers are in such grave danger "that even people with fairly strong religious beliefs could be convinced to willingly comply with treatment."

Perhaps the legislature shared his assumption. But it begs the question of why the Christian Science church lobbied for the exemption if it did not intend to use it.

Skolnick's third article, "Christian Scientists Claim Healing Efficacy Equal if not Superior to that of Medicine," appears in the September 19th *JAMA*. It focuses on church claims that its methods are twice as effective as medicine at healing diseases of children and on the lack of accountability and documentation in its self-proclaimed "system of health care."

ARTICLE STUDIES PRAYER FOR HEALING

The winter 1991 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* carries an article by Jeff Witmer and Michael Zimmerman entitled "Intercessory Prayer as Medical Treatment?"

The writers report their efforts to find controlled, randomized studies of the therapeutic effects of prayer. They found only three. Two of them showed no statistically significant benefit to intercessory prayer for physical healing. Witmer and Zimmerman criticized the methodology of

the third study.

They also contacted editors of 38 medical journals and asked if they had received articles on healing diseases by prayer. Those who responded said they had not received articles on the topic.

Witmer and Zimmerman concluded that there is presently no scientific evidence to support the claim that intercessory prayer heals disease.

RADICAL CHIC FOR CHILDREN NEEDED

by Scott Sokol, MD

A "radical chic" animal rights activist admonishes a woman on the streets of New York for wearing a fur coat. A group of animal rights "terrorists" storms a legitimate medical research facility and disrupts perhaps a life-saving medical breakthrough.

Somewhere in the heartland of America, an innocent child cries out in pain, pleading for help, as his Christian Science parents pray for his recovery from some serious but curable illness, while perhaps several miles away, a group of dedicated physicians are unaware of his plight.

Christian Science purports to be both religion and science. In ways that relate to making money, the Christian Science church has a health care system. But it lacks the accountability and responsibility that go with a state-licensed health care system. It also lacks the empirical foundation of science. It "treats" all diseases by denying their existence and does not change its methods in response to information.

As a physician who is fortunate to practice medicine and be associated with a state of the art children's hospital, one which requires its physicians to keep their knowledge at the cutting edge of new medical technology, I find it unconscionable not only that the church allows children to suffer without relief, but that the enormity of this injustice remains largely ignored.

It does not take a great deal of imagination to see why groups such as Greenpeace, animal rights organizations, and the like, make good press and keep a high public profile. Only when

all injuries to children because of Christian Science become imprinted in the public consciousness will we have succeeded in our task.

Sokol, a pediatrician in private practice in Floral Park, New York, serves on CHILD Inc.'s Board of Directors and is a regular contributor to the CHILD newsletter.

"THIS TOO IS CHILD ABUSE" PUBLISHED BY CHILD MEMBER

Peg McLaughlin, Guidance Coordinator in the Raytown, Missouri, school system, has published an article entitled "This Too is Child Abuse: Medical Treatment Denied for Religious Reasons," which appears in the fall 1990 issue of *The Counselling Interviewer*. It describes her experiences growing up in a Christian Science household and offers helpful suggestions for counsellors dealing with children associated with faith-healing sects. McLaughlin is a member of CHILD Inc.

AWARDS GIVEN FOR SOUTH DAKOTA REPEAL WORK

On September 14, the South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics presented its annual service awards for child advocacy to Dr. Rita Swan, Rev. Geri Smith, and Joni Cooke Eddy. Handsome plaques were given for the three women's work in getting religious exemptions repealed in South Dakota in 1990.

Swan is president of CHILD. Smith is a United Church of Christ minister, who has donated thousands of hours through the years in counselling relatives of End Time Ministries and ex-members. She now directs the Wellness Center at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Eddy lost her daughter in an unattended home delivery when she belonged to End Time Ministries. She is completing a degree in social work.



ART PRINT TO BENEFIT CHILD

Today there are still children who are injured, who suffer and die because of ritual healing methods that exclude medical care. These are children who would otherwise be able to live and explore the wonders in the world around us.

We at **CHILD, Inc.** want to help by repealing religious exemption laws and publicizing abuses of innocent children.

This fine-art illustration, by artist Peter J. Ochs II, will be made available for a short time as a limited edition print. The picture is 14" x 20" and printed on a fine stock. Ochs is the art director for an international publishing corporation.

Proceeds from the sale of the print will go to help **CHILD, Inc.** in the fight to give children their birthright to live and learn and grow.

The print is available for \$24.95 unframed or \$59.95 framed. Please include \$4.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to:

ART GUYS PRODUCTIONS
Box 1447
Back Bay Annex
Boston MA 02117

A BILL OF DUTIES

The year 1991 marks the two hundredth anniversary of ratification of the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the U. S. Constitution. Many publications and conferences will be exploring the meaning of the Bill of Rights today.

The February, 1991, *Harper's* has a thoughtful article entitled "Who owes what to whom? Drafting a Constitutional Bill of Duties." Below are a few quotes from this roundtable discussion of scholars.

Harvard Law Professor Mary Ann Glendon: "In [our] founding documents and throughout the nineteenth century there is very little rhetoric about duty. . . . In the legal system duties and rights are just two sides of the same coin. But for most of our history and even now. . . , we have not had a well-developed public language of responsibility to match our language of rights.

Rutgers' Benjamin Barber: "America's rights language was invented and deployed in a period of dissent. It's a language that does allow you to rebel against an illegitimate authority in order to create freedom and equality. [But] we continue to speak this eighteenth-century language when there is no longer an obviously *illegitimate* authority to oppose."

Glendon: "One of the striking differences between the American Constitution and the constitutions of other modern democracies is that ours has no mention of the family. Our eighteenth-century statesmen probably thought they could take families for granted, whereas the constitutions of most other liberal democracies were written in the rubble of World War II, when families had been devastated.

UPCOMING ARTICLES ABOUT CHILD

The March issue of *Savvy* magazine and the April issue of *Marie Claire* magazine will carry articles about Rita Swan and **CHILD Inc.** *Marie Claire* is published in London.