

Family discovered living in barn, Children's Aid Services seize child!

**Carpenter from the Town of Nazareth being held on charges
involving underage mother**

BETHLEHEM, JUDEA

Authorities were today alerted by a concerned citizen who noticed a family seeking shelter in a barn. Upon arrival, Children's Aid Services personnel, accompanied by police, broke down the barn door with a battering ram and took into protective care an infant child, who had been wrapped in strips of cloth and placed in a feeding trough by his 14-year old mother, Mary of Nazareth.

Although the baby was found laughing at mom and dad and appeared to be healthy when authorities broke down the door, children's aid services workers stated that the place was not clean enough and the parents did not have enough money to meet the personal standards of workers.

The health of the child and the wishes of friends and other family supporters at the time of apprehension had no bearing on their decision to remove the child. Being poor was definitely a reason why authorities could take the child into care. According to current vague legislation which can be interpreted in many ways, almost any child can be taken by children's aid workers, if workers feel personally that the child is at risk of harm.

During the confrontation, a man identified as Joseph, also of Nazareth, attempted to stop the Children's Aid Services workers. Joseph, aided by several local shepherds and some unidentified foreigners, tried to forestall efforts to take the child, but were restrained and arrested by the police. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the police may have beaten and tortured the men after they were taken away

from the scene in handcuffs. The men were found in possession of long sticks which the men claimed were for herding the sheep, but under the Government's new billion dollar national weapons registry, law abiding citizens are banned from possessing such weapons.

Children's Aid Services workers indicated that their files will be marked to show that the mother and father were "uncooperative". According to one worker, "Because the parents did not indicate their willingness to have Children's Aid Services workers take their child, that obviously they do not understand what is the best interest of their child. Thank God that the State has Children's Aid Services workers protecting this child!"

Also being held in custody for questioning are three foreigners who allege to be wise men from an eastern country. Government officials are seeking information about these wise guys who may be in the country illegally. A source with the government states that they had no passports, but were in possession of gold and other possibly illegal substances. They resisted arrest saying that they had been warned by God to avoid officials in Jerusalem and to return quickly to their own country. The chemical substances in their possession will be tested.

The owner of the barn is also being held for questioning. The manager of the Bethlehem Inn faces possible revocation of his license for violating health and safety regulations by allowing people to stay in the stable. Civil authorities are also investigating the zoning violations involved in maintaining livestock in a

commercially-zoned district.

The location of the minor child will not be released, and the prospect for a quick resolution to this case is doubtful. Asked about when the child would be returned to his mother, an unlicensed Children's Aid Services spokesperson said, "The father is middle-aged and the mother definitely underage. We are checking with officials in Nazareth to determine what their legal relationship is. Irregardless of who the mother and father are, the child is much better in our care than in the care of parents and chances are we will be placing this child up for adoption. Our Children's Aid Services workers know better than most parents how to raise kids."

Joseph has admitted taking Mary from her home in Nazareth because of a census requirement. However, because she was obviously pregnant when they left, investigators are looking into other reasons for their departure. Joseph is being held without bond on charges of molestation, kidnapping, child endangerment, and statutory rape. Children's Aid Services workers have stated that the father should never be allowed to see the mother again and neither of them should be allowed to see the child again. A restraining order was obtained by the Children's Aid Services which would prevent either parent from seeing each other again.

Mary was taken to the Bethlehem General Hospital where she is being examined by doctors. Charges may also be filed against her for endangerment. She will also undergo psychiatric evaluation for the next several months because of her claim that she is a virgin and that the child is from God.

Children's Aid Services workers and police have indicated that because of the government's zero tolerance laws on domestic violence, the father cannot go unpunished for his crime against this innocent young woman victim.

The director of the psychiatric wing said, "I don't profess to have the right to tell people

what to believe, but when their beliefs adversely effect the safety and well-being of others - in this case her child - we just consider her a danger to others. The unidentified drugs at the scene didn't help her case, but I'm confident that with the proper long term therapy regimen we can get her back on her feet." Thanks to funding programs from our government, health care professionals will be able to monitor this girl's progress over the next couple of years.

The government funded children's lawyer's office has also been hired to represent the child but their office refused to comment on the record. According to the head of the Children's Lawyer's Office, Ms. Clear Berns, their office has determined that recording devices are not good for children and that it is better that the protection of children be done in secret away from the prying eyes of the public who have placed their absolute faith in the government to care for children in care.

A spokesperson for the premier's office said, "Who knows what was going through the heads of these parents? But regardless, their treatment of the child was inexcusable, and the involvement of these others frightening. There is much we don't know about this case, but for the sake of the child and the public, you can be assured that we will pursue this matter to the end. Unfortunately, I cannot give you any more information as child protection laws require any information about this matter to be kept private and away from the public's attention"

The spokesperson for the Premier's office said that Children's Aid Services agencies have indicated that their resources are stretched to the limit. Workers have been complaining about having to work during their lunch and coffee breaks and that this is very stressful on them and that they need more personal time while on the job. The Premier's office said that the government will likely give even more money to the children's aid services agencies in the upcoming new year so that these government funded agencies will have the resources to protect even more children at risk.

