

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

April 2007

“I am now more sure than ever that abortion is philosophically, scientifically, and biblically wrong.” –18-year-old male

Dear Friends,

Over the past month we have been busy speaking in and around Calgary. On March 27, I spoke to the College and Career Group from Varsity Bible Church. The feedback was very positive! The aforementioned quote is from a young adult who said that prior to the presentation, “I wasn’t sure how to define ‘human;’ therefore, I was mostly sure abortion was wrong, but not totally sure.” With regard to the graphic visuals used in the presentation, he said, “I must admit they were **effective and acceptable.**” He also shared this insight:

“Christians would benefit a lot from hearing about the revolutionary Jesus who challenged conformity in the name of justice. His vivid demonstrations of hell and his arguments with the Pharisees are examples of what it means to take a righteous stand against sin.”

A 24-year-old attendee wrote that his views prior to the presentation were the following: “Depending on the circumstance I was pro-choice as to whether the situation for the child to grow up in was looking to be undesirable.” When asked if his views changed, he responded, “Yes. **The visuals of the fetuses being in such human form was really moving.**”

A 22-year-old was motivated to act on her pro-life convictions: “I was pro-life. I believe abortion to be wrong, but I am ashamed to admit that in [my academic environment] I have become confused by ‘legitimate’ examples and arguments. I can see that now. **I was afraid to stand up. I have confidence now.** If I logically think it through and apply the principles that I believe to be true, there really is no denying it.” This young woman also said that she was motivated to enter into discussions with her friends about abortion.

A few days later, on March 30, I spoke at Calvin Christian School in Monarch, Alberta. Here is a sampling of feedback from the more than 75 surveys:

- *“I always was against abortion; however, I was not sure about exceptions like rape/disability.” Did your position on abortion change in any way due to the presentation? “Yes, **I now understand why also those exceptions can never justify abortion.**” –16-year-old*
- *“It makes more of an impression—a lasting one—that really is an **eye-opener.**” –16-year-old female, commenting on the graphic visuals used in the presentation*
- *“It’s wrong. I knew that abortion was wrong, but I had told myself that if it was from rape or something I couldn’t help, then it’s debatable.” Did your position on abortion change in any way due to the presentation? “Yes. **Stephanie Gray showed extremely clearly how we cannot kill an innocent child for its father’s sins.**”*



▲ Myself with Fr. Frank Pavone (left), national director of Priests for Life and board member of our American affiliate, CBR. Last month Fr. Pavone invited me to Staten Island, New York, for meetings at the Priests for Life headquarters.



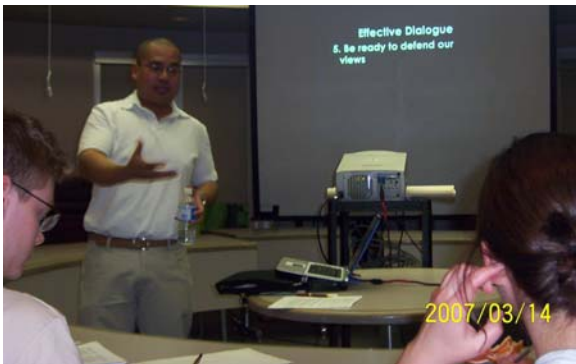
▲ CCBR staffer Brendan (left) with Fr. Terry Kraychuk, a Ukrainian Catholic priest and strong CCBR supporter, who blessed us in January with a personal visit and his spiritual guidance.

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This student also remarked on the visuals used, saying, ***“The short film was extremely moving. It showed perfectly what horror words cannot describe.”*** The student concluded, ***“Well done—it should be in all schools because of its extreme impact.”*** –17-year-old female

- ***“I already was against abortion but I did not have real arguments to oppose those who supported abortion. This presentation was important in providing these arguments.”*** –16-year-old female
- ***“I did not believe it was right, but I thought in certain cases it should be okay.”*** Did your position on abortion change in any way due to the presentation? ***“Yes, I realized it is always wrong, no matter what the circumstances.”*** –15-year-old female



▲ Jojo trains U of C students in pro-life apologetics. One of the volunteers later expressed gratitude for her training, saying that it allowed her to turn someone’s obscure philosophical question into a debate about the status of the unborn.

In February and March, Jojo conducted a series of five pro-life apologetics sessions at the University of Calgary, training students how to dialogue about abortion in preparation for the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) display March 19 and 20. Next month we’ll be sharing about the many good fruits that were born at GAP.

Not only do our presentations and GAP displays have a profound impact on how people think about abortion, but so does the Reproductive “Choice” Campaign (RCC), the “truck project”. In fact, last week I spoke with my colleague Paul who shared the following anecdote, which was told to his regional office in Ohio by a local pregnancy care centre:

A post-abortive woman in Columbus was considering having a second abortion and saw an RCC truck while riding the bus. When she got off at her stop and began walking, she saw the truck again.

The truck solidified in her mind that she could not go ahead with the abortion! Paul added that this woman was a Christian and that she had prayed to God to give her a sign if He didn’t want her to have that second abortion.

The graphic abortion photos on the RCC trucks not only convince women *not* to abort, but they also move women from denial regarding past abortions to healing. On March 21, our U.S. office received this moving e-mail:

“I had a first-trimester abortion at Planned Parenthood in July 2003. I tried to tell myself that what I did was legal and therefore nothing was wrong. But my nagging conscience always knew differently. About six months ago, I saw one of your trucks patrolling the streets in Waikiki, Honolulu’s tourist district. What an appalling and distasteful display of the pro-life message, I thought at first.

*“Only now in the last month has God softened my heart to the point where I can admit that I killed a baby to suit my own lifestyle. Now I can grieve and find God’s forgiveness. **Your trucks, however graphic, were the ONLY arrow to pierce my icy heart.** When I found more graphic pictures on the Internet I cried for the first time about my abortion. People think abortion is okay because they don’t understand how grotesque and inhumane ripping a little baby out of a woman’s womb really is. Your trucks illuminate the barbaric nature of abortion.*

“... I was thinking about getting a sign printed that says ‘I regret my abortion’ and standing in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic on King Street. ...”

Praise God for this woman’s newfound conviction and for her willingness to save *other* women’s babies. We thank God for your conviction, too, and for your support of our endeavors.

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray

N.B.: Quotations may have been edited for grammar, punctuation, syntax, spelling, and/or length.

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