

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

February 2008

“Seeing what an abortion does to the fetus changed my mind completely.”

Dear Friends,

This headline quote is from a 14-year-old who became pro-life on January 25 when I spoke to approximately 100 teenagers and young adults at the Evangelical Chinese Bible Church in Burnaby, B.C. Here is more of what this young lady wrote:

Opinion before presentation: **“I ...was undecided on the subject.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Definitely. Stephanie answered all possible questions in a very graphic, convincing presentation. I am against abortion.”**

By supporting CCBR, you help make these changes of heart and mind possible, so we wish to express our appreciation with more encouraging responses:

- Opinion before presentation: **“I was against [abortion], but ... [in] certain situations I wasn’t 100% against it.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Yes. I now know specific reasons [as] to why abortion is the wrong thing to do even under hard circumstances.”**
–15-year-old female
- Opinion before presentation: **“I wasn’t sure what was right.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Yes, I learned more about what abortion actually is, and I realized that it was wrong.”** –14-year-old female
- **“I feel motivated to tell my friends more about this because I know they have different beliefs than me.”** –13-year-old female
- **“I will express my views with more confidence when the conversation of abortion comes up.”**
–20-year-old male
- Opinion before presentation: **“I didn’t really care.”** Did your position change due to the presentation? **“Yes, I’m against it.”** –18-year-old female



▲ From February 6–10, our Canadian CBR team travelled to California to meet with our American and European counterparts. It was an encouraging time for all! Above: Jojo (left) is sitting next to Steve Wagner of Stand to Reason. Steve attended a pro-life seminar with Jojo and me in 2001 when we founded CCBR. Our intern Hannah (right) was able to seek in-person advice from more experienced U.S. staff about building GAP frames, as one of her current tasks is to construct a whole new GAP display!

At the beginning of this month, Jojo returned to Manitoba where he spoke at a “Couples for Christ” event, a Winnipeg League for Life luncheon, as well as at a youth conference.

The head of Winnipeg League for Life, Lisa, said that prior to Jojo’s presentation she was discouraged about what was happening with abortion; **afterwards, however, she was encouraged** to realize that the battle is not in the courts and in the legal system, but instead is about reaching people’s hearts and minds—and it is there where we are winning.

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At the end of one of his presentations, a woman approached Jojo and shared that prior to becoming Christian, she was forced by her boyfriend and her mother to have an abortion. **She said that even though it was painful for her to see the images, she knows they can save lives. That's why she wants other people to see the pictures.** In fact, she insisted that Jojo tell her story to others as proof that pictures are worth showing, even if it the truth is uncomfortable for people like her.

We're grateful that she recognizes the need for pictures, but we're saddened when our message doesn't reach people soon enough. As I write this, a 21-year-old woman sent a message to our parent affiliate, CBR, saying that their abortionNO.org website influenced her thinking concerning abortion:

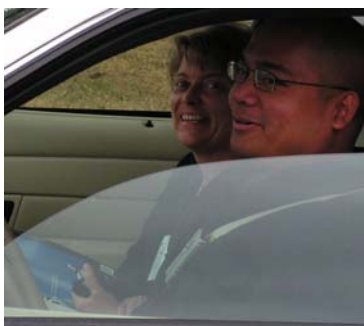
I have had [an abortion] (three weeks ago) and I can't stop browsing through the Internet. Looking at pictures of unborn healthy embryos and killed ones. These last three weeks have been a living hell. That baby is on my mind 24/7. I want to help with whatever I can.

Notice that she's not angry at CBR for showing the images. Instead, she's hurt because she made a wrong choice; yet, because of her new understanding of abortion she is convicted to make a positive difference. We know that people like her do find healing, and we know that proclaiming the truth helps others avoid her kind of mistake to begin with. And so we press forward, affirming her commitment, and yours, to help with whatever we can.

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team

Upcoming Events (Please call our office at (403) 668-0485 for more information.)	
<p>Stephanie's Schedule: March 8-9: Presentations at Sacred Heart Church (Golden, BC) March 19: Debate at Carleton University (Ottawa, ON) March 26: Presentation at Centre Street Church (Calgary, AB) April 2: Debate at Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids, MI, USA) April 7-8: Parent and high school presentations (Lloydminster, AB)</p> <p>Genocide Awareness Project (GAP): We plan to help the Campus Pro-Life Club display GAP at the University of Calgary again this spring. Dates TBD.</p>	<p>Jojo's Schedule: February 27: Debate at the University of Waterloo (Waterloo, ON) February 28: Debate at York University (Toronto, ON) March 4: Debate at Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, ON) April 9-14: Various presentations (Northern B.C.)</p> <p>Reproductive Choice Campaign (RCC): Our intern Josh continues to ensure the RCC truck gets on the road and he has been recruiting new volunteers, including U of C students who have previously helped with GAP. Heads continue to turn, and one woman was even seen using her cell phone to take a picture of the truck!</p>



Last month here in Calgary, we hosted an appreciation dinner for our volunteers. Jojo and Hannah put their event-hosting and cooking skills, respectively, to work while Brendan and I were their helpers. As we expressed gratitude to our *dedicated* volunteers who drive the RCC vehicles, fold and mail CCBR's newsletters, make airport runs, and provide legal advice (to name just a few tasks), we shared this quote which reflects the perspective their actions show: **"You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth"** (Evan Esar).

One of our volunteers, Donna (pictured on the left in the RCC car with Jojo), has been doing much about the width and depth of *her* life. She has been compassionately and courageously confronting pedestrians in downtown Calgary by handing out our Unmasking "Choice" pamphlets and Silent No More cards (which provide help for people suffering from an abortion decision). This has resulted in many conversations. One man initially resisted taking a pamphlet but when Donna showed him a fetal model that's the same age as the baby in the pamphlet, his face turned pale as he saw the little hands and feet. Donna reported that it was a powerful conversation and that the man listened to her and took a pamphlet after all.

Note: Quotations may have been edited for grammar, syntax, punctuation, spelling, and/or length. Boldface font represents added emphasis unless specified as being in original text.

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