

# CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

## *Making Abortion Unthinkable*

July–August 2008

*A baby in Halifax, Nova Scotia, will live because his or her mother saw CCBR's abortion images!*

Dear Friends,

On June 27, our U.S. parent affiliate, CBR, received this message: "I am pregnant with my 3rd child and in my circumstances I was considering an abortion. I can't believe I even considered it after looking at this [\[abortionNO.org\]](http://abortionNO.org). The years will pass and my child will be a contribution to the world, no matter how tough it is to get there."

We are always uplifted when we hear of people choosing to love their unborn children amidst difficult life circumstances. We are encouraged—but not surprised. One of the great privileges in this work, where we deal with such a horrible reality, is that we catch glimpses—all the time—of the profound impact the truth has in transforming people's lives.

In past newsletters we haven't had the room to share with you all the positive feedback we receive. We still don't! And even if we did, for every person who returns to tell us how their lives were changed, many more never inform us. Having said that, here is *some* feedback from CCBR presentations given between March and May that you have yet to hear about:

### St. Patrick's High School (Thunder Bay, ON)

"Before the presentation I wasn't as aware of what abortion involved, and now I believe that it's wrong from the moment of fertilization... I think that the video of abortion was helpful because a lot of people try not to think about the actual killing of the fetus, when the reality is that you are." –17-year-old female

Opinion before presentation: "I thought that abortion was okay any time before the heartbeat was seen." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, now I believe that abortion is not okay anytime during the pregnancy."  
–17-year-old female



▲ CCBR's Jojo Ruba (in front of screen) engages a class at one of his six sessions at St. Patrick's High School.

Opinion before presentation: "My view on abortion was that if a woman doesn't want her child, abortion is an option to take." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, it changed drastically because I didn't realize before the presentation that what abortion really looks like after an abortion. [*sic*]" Did this presentation motivate you to want to do something to stop abortion? If so please explain. "Yes, speak to friends who are pregnant and encourage them to keep the baby because it has an equal right to be alive like us." –16-year-old male

### Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (Smithers, BC)

Opinion before presentation: "I was about as neutral as any person could get. I leaned a bit more towards the pro-life view because that was how I was raised." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes... I fully realized that the pre-born are children. They deserve respect just like any other member of society." –15-year-old female

"Graphic images stand longer in my mind than words, so that [graphic video] was very effective, I thought." –17-year-old female

### 20's [*sic*] Worship at Centre Street Church (Calgary, AB)

"The presentation was extremely powerful. I would love to give my time to make a difference for this cause." –female, age undisclosed

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"The video was very good. I am a visual person so it really hit me; very good job." –female, age undisclosed

"I was at Centre Street Church [CSC] tonight and need to thank you for your willingness and passion for getting this message out to the generations. It is so very important. It's neat how I have not gone to CSC for a few months, yet tonight I felt like I should be there and heard you speak." –female, age undisclosed

Grand Valley State University (Grand Valley, MI)

Opinion before debate: "I was pro-life because I felt like it was wrong to kill babies; however, I sort of felt like if someone wanted to go through with that, it was their choice." Did your position change? "Yes, I am now very strongly against abortion and believe that it is wrong in every way possible." –18-year-old female, Nursing

While Jojo and I are privileged to make these presentations, Brendan handles the many administrative and technical tasks that our speaking and other projects generate. Together with our volunteers, interns, and your financial backing, we are able to influence the culture. And this month, we had a unique opportunity in that regard:

July is when Calgaryans celebrate "the greatest outdoor show on earth." Each year, tourists from all over the world descend on our city to attend the Calgary Stampede. We had our Reproductive "Choice" Campaign (RCC) truck on the road, exposing the reality of "choice" for seven days out of the ten-day event, as well as on days both preceding and following it.



▲ Transit users are often targeted by advertising and education campaigns. Here, Stampede patrons awaiting the C-Train are about to be visited by CCBR's human-rights public-education initiative.

The RCC is an ongoing project, and its continual nature is especially important at this time given that the Calgary Sexual Health Centre reports that they see a rise in clients coming for pregnancy tests about 4–6 weeks after the Stampede—meaning more people will be contemplating abortion. Therefore, just as a lighthouse warns ships of danger by illuminating rocks and land, we will continue to warn our culture, such as that woman in Nova Scotia, by illuminating the danger of abortion. Thank you for helping us reach—and *change*—minds.

*Stephanie*

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team



In our February 2006 newsletter, I told you about a book by Matthew Kelly that changed my life: The Rhythm of Life. One of the "tasks" for its readers is to make a list of one's dreams. My fifth dream was to spend time with orphaned children in Eastern Europe. Since June is a slow speaking season, I decided to fulfill that dream by taking a volunteer vacation in Romania last month! I spent three weeks doing what I love: holding babies. My mom also came to volunteer and we both fell in love with the two children we were the primary caregivers for.



On my way to Romania, I couldn't resist the opportunity to do some CCBR work, so I stopped over in England. Andy Stephenson (above, fourth from left), the director of CCBR's new UK office, arranged for me to do a small debate at the University of Sussex and to give a couple of church presentations! One woman who attended my talk said that prior to the presentation she would allow abortions "only" in cases of rape; after the presentation, however, she said that abortion is totally unacceptable! Another person wrote, "The video was VERY hard to watch but sometimes the truth is difficult to confront."

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

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