

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

April 2009

“One teacher said that the boys were saying before the presentation that they would encourage their girlfriend to have an abortion if she became pregnant. Afterward, they had completely changed their minds.”

–Stephen Hughes, Curriculum Chair, Archbishop Denis O’Connor High School, Ajax, ON

Dear Friends,

Good fruits from CCBR’s ministry keep pouring in! We trust the following testimonies will encourage you in your conviction that your financial support to fuel our efforts truly is making a difference. See for yourselves:

Timothy Christian School, Chilliwack, BC

A 14-year-old female moved from 7 to 10 (where 0 means “support all abortion” and 10 means “against all abortion”) writing, “I knew enough about abortion before the presentation to realize it was not right. **Now that I have seen more pictures about abortion, I am even more against it.**”

A 14-year-old male went from 8 to 10, indicating that before the presentation his view was this: “People who had been raped, etc., maybe can abort and I wouldn’t care, or if the baby’s going to die anyways.” Afterwards, however, he described his view as this: **“Abortion is bad.”**

A 15-year-old male went from “either way” at 5 to “it was gross” and circled 10.

St. Marguerite d’Youville Secondary School, Brampton, ON

A 15-year-old female there went from 3 to 10 saying, **“I never knew how brutal abortion was and find it difficult to understand how the government can make it legal.”**

Not everyone changes their minds right away, though; it’s not always easy to overcome many years of pro-abortion propaganda or even simple hardness of heart. We therefore think it is significant when we are able to “just” shift views in the right direction. An example of this is a 15-year-old male went from 5 to 7, indicating

that his prior view was: “I didn’t really care at all,” but then changed to **“Before I hardly cared but now I’m just kind-of against it.”**

A 17-year-old female who said, “I was against abortion but agreed with it in certain circumstances,” went from 7 to 10. She then indicated her views as follows: **“The moving video of the aborted fetuses was extremely sad and moving. [The presentation] convinced me to persuade an individual who was planning to have an abortion.”**



▲ I (standing at rear) speak to students at Cardinal Leger Secondary in Brampton, ON. A 17-year-old female there said that her pre-presentation position on abortion was “I personally wouldn’t have an abortion, but if someone else is going to, it’s their choice.” Afterwards she wrote, “I’m more against abortion now.”

Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton, ON

A 16-year-old female shifted from 8 to 10 originally believing, “I always thought that abortion was wrong but under certain circumstances it could be done,” and then espousing, **“It’s wrong under any circumstances.”**

A 15-year-old male shifted from 5, where he said he “didn’t really think about it,” to 8: **“I noticed how it affects people’s lives and what it does to the unborn child.”**

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A 14-year-old female shifted from 6, where she wrote, "I thought that if the mother was raped or was unsuitable to be a mother, then the child shouldn't have to suffer," to 10. As for what she remembers most, she wrote, **"The video, because they [the aborted babies] were like miniature human beings and it was really sad."**

Debates

Not only have we been giving presentations, but Jojo and I have also participated in formal debates.

At the end of February, I debated a philosophy professor at the University of Ottawa. He argued that even if the unborn are human persons equal to the born, that they may be aborted because they do not have a right to use their mothers' bodies. He argued that just as a child, if dying, may not demand his mother's kidney if that is what's needed for his survival, nor can an unborn child demand his mother's uterus even if that's needed for his survival. I responded by pointing out a critical difference: the kidney exists for the health and proper functioning of the body of whomever it belongs, but each month the uterus gets ready for someone *else's* body. So, while one does not have a right to another's kidney, the unborn *do* have a right to the uterus which exists for *them*.



▲ I (left) debate Philosophy professor Dr. Andrew Sneddon (right) of the University of Ottawa.

I subsequently received this encouraging report from a pro-lifer: **"The professor told his class that week that the argument that the womb was created for the child was literally keeping him up all night!"**



▲ During his portion of the debate's opening remarks, Jojo (standing, under screen) plays our "Choice Blues" video as a submission of evidence for the audience.

Last month, Jojo went to Simon Fraser University where he debated a PhD candidate. A 24-year-old female indicated that her view before the debate was "neutral" and categorized herself as a 5. Afterwards, she circled 7 and said, **"Pro-life won and argued with conviction; pro-choice argued with empty arguments."**

Indeed, we at CCBR continue to present the truth about abortion with conviction *and* solid arguments. Thank you for enabling us to do this critical work!

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team

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

Upcoming Events (Call 403-668-0485 for more info.)

Jojo:

May 7: Saskatchewan March for Life (Regina, SK)

May 14: apologetics presentation (Calgary, AB), 7 p.m.

Stephanie:

May 28: apologetics presentation (Airdrie, AB), 7 p.m.

CCBR:

May 8: inspirational movie night (Calgary, AB), ~7:30 p.m.

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