



September 2009

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

www.unmaskingchoice.ca

“I cried after watching the video, just because of the horror of the reality of abortion.” –16-year-old female, “Street Invaders” Youth Conference in Surrey, BC

Dear friends,

Summer is considered the slow season for most pro-life organizations. But as you know, we’re not like the average pro-life organization.

This summer, I spoke in Alberta and BC at several Christian youth and young adult events; I helped produce our new Reproductive Choice Campaign promotional video and I helped write and create new pro-life training videos that I think will revolutionize the movement – more on them in upcoming newsletters.

But one of the highlights of my year was the opportunity to speak in Regina, Saskatchewan. I was invited to speak at the annual March for Life at the Saskatchewan Legislature and then at the pro-life evening banquet. Over 250 pro-lifers from all over their province attended one or both of those events.



Marchers from Estevan, Saskatchewan

Just before I spoke at the March, I met pro-life women who are part of Silent No More Awareness, a group of women who’ve had abortions in the past. But as their name suggests, they not only have realized the horror of abortion, they are now speaking out against it.

What was so encouraging about meeting them was that many of them had heard about CCBR and were supportive

of our work. Often some, including those who are pro-life, accuse us of being insensitive to post-abortive women.

But the women I spoke to understood that we need to challenge how people think about abortion. And sometimes that means the truth will make them uncomfortable.

One of the speakers in fact, had come to the University of Calgary twice to share her testimony. She did so in support of pro-life students who organized the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) on their campus.

And, the head of that club, Leah Hallman, was also invited



Leah from U of Calgary's, Campus Pro-life

to speak at the Regina March. She was asked to explain why the pro-life students in her club were willing to risk their university careers to share the pro-life message on their campus.

She shared that the U of C pro-life students realized that they had an opportunity to not just stand up for free speech on Canadian universities, but that they had a chance to draw attention to what was

happening to the unborn.

Leah said they realized that no matter how important their future career plans were, it was worth sacrificing if they could help save the lives of the unborn. That’s why they were willing to put up a pro-life display, even when they were threatened with trespassing on their own campus, facing the risk of being kicked out of school.

It was so encouraging for her to be there because she embodied the message I shared with the Saskatchewan pro-lifers. I told them that if we want to win the abortion debate, we need to act as if abortion truly is the taking of innocent life. We need to, as past successful social reform movements

have done, peacefully and effectively take a stand against injustice. Leah and her peers have certainly done that. I couldn't help but be proud of these pro-life students, many of whom we've mentored and trained to defend the pro-life view. These students are ones who've heard our message and taken it seriously.

That's what your support allows us to do. Not only does it mean CCBR can travel all across the country to speak on behalf of life, but it means others are catching the vision and realizing that they can do great things for life too.



Speaking at Regina Pro-life's Annual Banquet

And what was great was many at that dinner caught the vision as well. Some members of their leadership are so excited about our work that they bought their own graphic signs and will use them on Saskatchewan streets.

Thank you for standing with us as we stand for the unborn.



Jojo Ruba

Upcoming Schedule:

Wed, Sept 23 - U of Guelph (Guelph) 5:30 pm - 7 pm
Thur, Sept 24 - McMaster (Hamilton) 4 pm and 7 pm
Fri, Sept 25 - Brebeuf College School (AM) (Toronto)
Fri, Sept 25 - National Campus Life Network (NCLN) (PM) (Scarborough)
Sat, Sept 26 - NCLN (Scarborough)
Sun, Sept 27 - NLCN (Scarborough)
Tue, Sept 29 - UWO, (London, ON)
Wed, Sept 30 - Queen's (Kingston) 4 pm and 7 pm
Thur, Oct 1 - U of Ottawa (Ottawa)
Mon, Oct 5 -7- Montreal and area, including McGill University

Link of the month: CCBR is now on Facebook. If you want to reach us fast, we're often on our new Fan Page: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Canadian-Centre-for-Bio-Ethical-Reform/217971845050

Earlier this summer, I went to BC, to train about 35 students from Western Canada before they went off to do mission work all over the world. They are part of a team called "Street Invaders", youth who go to neighbourhoods across the world and speak to people on the streets.



Training students at "Street Invaders" in Surrey BC

I challenged them to think about the injustice that's happening in their own country and to think of ways they can stop abortion.



Though many of these Christian youth were already pro-life, many told me that they had no idea how bad abortion was.

One young woman told me that she was adopted and was saddened to know that so many other people aren't choosing that option.

Another 16-year-old young woman said, "The presentation really opened my eyes to see the extent of the effect that abortion has on babies, mothers, families, etc. It's heartbreaking."

One student even e-mailed me after the event to find out how she can make abortion unthinkable in her community. I quickly sent her some information and told her to keep connected with us.

It is conversations and questions like these that give me hope. When abortion advocates claim the debate is over and that pro-lifers should just give up, I am reminded of these young women. When presented with the truth and challenged to do what is right, not only are they honest enough to look at the evidence but are willing to accept it, even if it makes them unpopular.

And that is how we will win this battle of ideas: one heart and mind at a time.