



November-December 2009

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

www.unmaskingchoice.ca

“Pro-life activist Jose Ruba is building quite a resume. He’s been shouted down at St. Mary’s University, shut down at York, and now he’s been sung down at McGill.” - Tim Mak, *National Post*, Oct. 9, 2009

Dear friends,

It’s not exactly what I’d expect to talk about at a job interview, but I have to admit that comment from the *National Post* caught my attention.

It shows even a national columnist is noticing what is happening at Canadian universities. Pro-life groups are making waves and successfully getting our message out at their schools (despite opposition), and that is because of friends like you.

This year alone, I’ve spoken in every province in Canada except Manitoba (where I spoke last year), equipping students and other pro-lifers to defend the pro-life position. My most extensive set of talks in the fall were in Southern Ontario and (for the first time for CCBR!) in Quebec.

This fall, I spoke at the National Campus Life Network (NCLN) symposium in Toronto, a conference for Canadian university students. This year, on top of training, I gave an inspirational talk, challenging the students to be good ambassadors for life. And that’s what many said they’d be.

“Very motivational and inspiring. Jojo really conveyed his message well that the future and responsibility of pro-life work rests in our hands.” - Student Leader



“I’ve been discerning full-time pro-life work for a while and your talk definitely helped me.” - Student Leader

I also spoke at several universities in Eastern Canada:

“I was reminded of the need to share the evidence with all students/people here, not just the pro-life ones.” - Female Student, 22, University of Guelph



▲ University of Ottawa

“Originally, I was opposed to visuals but now I am more open to them now that I know how effective they are.” - Female Student, 19, University of Western Ontario

I also gave our *Echoes of the Holocaust* presentation on several campuses. For that talk, we examine why past atrocities like the Holocaust and the Cambodian Genocide were considered so evil. For example, we look at how victims were dehumanized for those past societies to justify their mass killings. We then examine how those past injustices compare to abortion:

“I was appalled at the similarities between abortion and genocide. It was a very different perspective/viewpoint that I have never heard of before.” - Female Student, 18, McMaster University

“The examples of graphic images not related to abortion really put the abortion images (which I’d seen before) into focus...The more active I am in events etc. about the pro-life movement, the more I realize I need to be more active in my daily life. These apologies will certainly help.” - Male Student, 20, Queen’s University

“The talk motivated me to join Lifeline and continue practicing in pro-life events.” - Female Student, 18, McMaster University

That’s the same talk I was to give at McGill University at the end of my speaking tour.

I already knew there was intense pressure on the pro-life students on that campus. First, they had to fight to get club status at their school. When they got it, abortion advocates accused them of “traumatizing” McGill students for inviting pro-life women who’ve had abortions to speak at their school and for displaying fetal models publicly.

That controversy ensured that there was a lot of interest (and complaints) about my talk. But not everyone cared to hear it. The student union called my talk “hate” and banned it from their property. Fortunately, the university supported the pro-life students and allowed my talk in a building not owned by the student union.

But abortion advocates, headed by supporters of the student union, didn’t give up. Just as they did in Halifax earlier this year, protesters interrupted my presentation. About 20 students and others chanted, sang and heckled for almost two hours, preventing me from speaking (check the link of the month). They even sang *Happy Birthday to Abortion* and *Amazing Grace* to ensure that I was silenced.

Though I invited them to ask questions and raise their arguments at the end of my presentation, they refused to listen and wouldn’t let me speak, even going out of their way to block the screen.



When campus security and police finally

McGill University, Montreal, QC



arrived and threatened to arrest

them, most quietened down but two protesters refused and were taken away in handcuffs. I found out later they were never charged! In fact, no one was punished for their actions. When the police left to take the two away, the rest of the protesters who had quietened down began heckling again and continued to interrupt my presentation.

As discouraging as the protest was, what it ensured was that more discussion occurred. Students debated the issue in their student media. Even the local CTV affiliate mentioned the story as did the *National Post*. More importantly, these debates were not just about free speech but what kind of free speech is acceptable on campus – is it fair to compare the victims of abortion with the victims of past genocides? That’s exactly the kind of question we want students asking.

In fact, about half a dozen pro-lifers came up to me after the talk to ask me to explain the comparison and to discuss what they can do to share the pro-life message in Quebec.

Even abortion advocates came to ask me questions after the talk. One of the more vocal hecklers approached me and looked contrite. He said that in the brief time he could hear my presentation, when he stopped heckling, he actually began to listen. **“I know you probably don’t want to talk to me but I wanted you to know that after hearing a little bit of your talk, I see where you were going and wanted to hear more.”**

This shows why it is so important for us to be on the frontlines of the abortion debate. When abortion advocates use these tactics, it is because their arguments are so weak, they cannot stand under scrutiny. Their actions betray their desperation. I even found an article that was being distributed by the protesters written by Denisse Temin. In it, she complains about how effective pro-lifers are in reopening the abortion debate on campus. She writes **“I am deeply concerned about how anti-choice youth groups are forging a battle within the grounds of educational institutions...This has grabbed the media’s attention, stirring public debate and backlash against [abortion advocates]...”**

And that should encourage us as pro-lifers. Abortion advocates are taking us seriously and are doing their best to silence us because we are so effective in making abortion a topic worth discussing again. Once again, all of this can only be done because of friends like you. Thank you for standing with us for life.

As you celebrate the new year, and for my Christian supporters, the birth of Christ, please do remember that CCBR cannot continue this life-changing work without the sacrificial support of friends like you. I’ve had some good supporters drop off over the year because of family and financial issues (many of them are pro-life and have had babies!). That means I need many of you to pick up where they left off.

If you have never given or if you think you can give more in the new year, this is the perfect time to stand with us to speak out for the unborn.

Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and Holiday Season. 🍷

Sincerely,

Link of the month: Watch the incident at McGill at: [youtube.com/watch?v=5lTXw6zIHRQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lTXw6zIHRQ)

Jojo Ruba

P.S. Please see other exciting developments in CCBR’s newsletter which is enclosed.