

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

September–October 2008

*Good teachers do not simply help students understand,
but they equip students to become teachers themselves.*

Dear Friends,

One of the great responsibilities we have at CCBR is to teach *some* who will then go on to teach *others*. Since 2002, my colleague Jojo and I have been privileged to take alternating years speaking at the National Campus Life Network (NCLN) Symposium. There we equip university students from across Canada to persuasively defend the pro-life view and train these young adults to engage their campus communities. Feedback from this year's attendees was very encouraging:

- “So good! Very engaging, well organized, motivating, and educational.”
- “Stephanie Gray provided us with more tools to think critically and apply to everyday situations what we know to be true. Apologetics reinforce and inspire us because we become more confident in the truth of abortion and all life issues.”
- “I feel that I got the most out of [Stephanie's] sessions!”
- “It gives us all rock-solid arguments. Brilliant. 10/10.”

Other recent speaking opportunities confirm the positive fruits that flow from CCBR's presentations:

On September 10, I travelled to Ottawa to train the National Evangelization Team (NET) in pro-life apologetics. NET is an incredible ministry that sends young adults across the country to evangelize to teenagers. When NET's leadership team heard a CCBR presentation earlier this year, they were impressed with our ministry and welcomed me to give a pro-life presentation at their fall training camp.

The theme of my four-hour session was *being good pro-life ambassadors*, which means having knowledge, wisdom, and character (a concept originally established by Stand to Reason, another ministry). I first grounded the budding evangelizers in the basis of the pro-life perspective, including responses to common objections (knowledge). Then I trained them in tactics for communicating this perspective in an effective manner (wisdom). Finally, I spoke about the right attitudes we must have, such as being gracious, when reaching individuals or the culture (character). Here is some feedback from the attendees:



▲ I (front row, third from left) pose with the 2008–09 NET ministry team that I trained in pro-life apologetics.

- “I've always believed abortion to be wrong, but never had the logic to back the belief up. The presentation further cemented my view, eliminating any grey areas, and provided me with argumentative logic to back the [position] up.”
–25-year-old male
- “I have always been pro-life. I just didn't know how to express my beliefs effectively. If anything, I am more committed to protecting the unborn. I feel like I can no longer ignore this issue. It's not enough to say that you are pro-life on Sunday, and then never give it a second thought the rest of the week. We need to speak out against this injustice.”
–18-year-old male

*Please make your cheques payable to CCBR.
They can be mailed to Box 123, 5 – 8720 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 0M4*

These comments are especially encouraging knowing that these leaders will soon encounter young people all across Canada who are confused about abortion. I told them to keep in mind that while they are being trained to minister to teenagers, some of those very teenagers may be discovering that they are pregnant or that their friends are. And their unborn children may live or die as a consequence of whether or not these leaders are good pro-life ambassadors. I am now confident they will be!



▲ Dr. Nick Pavlovsky (left) and his wife, Charlotte (right), invited me to speak to the Catholic Doctors' Guild in Regina. After the talk, one of the physicians in attendance took a DVD of our graphic video to help him counsel women and men out of abortion!

- "This presentation motivated me to want to share the knowledge I have learned with others." –15-year-old female
- "I remember the video the most. It was very graphic but it taught me a lot. I am going to make a difference in a woman's life if she is thinking about having an abortion." –16-year-old female

Time and again, it is the imagery that elicits the strongest reactions. In Regina, a woman wrote the following about the graphic abortion film shown: "Very sad to see the horrific dismantling of beautiful little babies. I pray for the gift of holy sorrow for myself and others for these babies."

Her prayer for the "gift of holy sorrow" struck me. Indeed, we need to pray that people gain a deep conviction about the utter atrocity of abortion—especially that their hearts break for the victims, because it is only when we acknowledge brokenness that we are inspired to build up.

Thank you for helping us break hearts and train minds to build a Culture of Life,

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team

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

Earlier this year, we told you about our new booklet, Reforming Our Movement, Reforming Our Culture: How Canadian Pro-Lifers Can Make Abortion Unthinkable in the 21st Century. We have since revised the book and encourage you to get copies for yourselves and others so that our winning strategy can be better understood and implemented. Please call us at 403-668-0485 or e-mail orders@unmaskingchoice.ca to request a complimentary hard copy, or download a PDF copy from our website: www.unmaskingchoice.ca/reforming.html.

Three days after training the NET team, I travelled to Regina where I gave three pro-life apologetics presentations in two days. A 12-year-old girl raised her hand during a Q & A to ask what she could do to help stop abortion. As well, a 26-year-old man wrote that prior to the presentation although he was pro-life he was "unsure how to argue the point." Thanks to the talk, however, he was taught "how to argue and approach people about the topic."

Reactions like these are what Jojo encountered after he spoke to teenagers at the March for Life Youth Conference in Ottawa back in May:



▲ Also in May, Jojo (left) exhibited a CCBR promotional table at Alberta Pro-Life's annual convention. While there, he caught up with his and my mentor, Scott Klusendorf (right). Scott, a superb international presenter, wrote the book *Pro-Life 101* and, over the course of 1999–2001, trained Jojo and me in pro-life apologetics and fundraising!

Please make your cheques payable to CCBR.
They can be mailed to Box 123, 5 – 8720 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 0M4