

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

January 2009

Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

We're starting out the year on a very encouraging note: our staff has grown to 6 members! This is the most we've ever had on board full-time to help with the ministry! More people means more work can be accomplished, which means more fruits are sure to be borne, fruits like these from recent CCBR presentations:

- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: "Honestly, I didn't have a view or side on abortion." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, now I'm pro-life and against abortion; seeing all the [aborted] babies and the process [of abortion] really helped me understand." –15-year-old female, Holy Spirit High School (HSHS), Absecon, NJ
- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: "I was leaning more towards pro-choice." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, I'm now for pro-life." –16-year-old female, HSHS
- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: "I really didn't think about it much. I saw a video last year about it; now I understand. It was also scary. Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, seeing all the scary stuff, blood, and sadness changed my view." –16-year-old male, HSHS
- "The presentation motivated me to discontinue support of abortion." –17-year-old male, Marian Catholic High School, Woodstock, IL
- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: "I never liked abortion, but was never completely against it." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes. Seeing pictures of what aborted babies look like changed my mind completely. I couldn't imagine being that helpless being." –16-year-old male, Bethlehem Catholic High School (BCHS), Bethlehem, PA
- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: "I thought it was wrong and that it was killing a living being, but it is sometimes necessary." Did your position change due to the presentation? "Yes, I now think it is never appropriate to kill a life, even if they are not as developed." –16-year-old female, BCHS
- "FANTASTIC! It was a very practical talk where we learn how to talk to others about our position and to politely challenge them on their position." –Attendee at the Canadian Physicians for Life Medical Student Conference, Ontario



▲ Ever since the launch of the Reproductive "Choice" Campaign (RCC), Jojo (right) has overseen the project along with its various volunteers and part-time intern. He is now transitioning this responsibility to Chandler (left), who will apply his skills from his former job, driving for Calgary Transit, to not only drive the RCC truck but also to manage and develop the project, freeing Jojo to do more public speaking.

It's not just presentations and pictures which prompt encouraging feedback. Sometimes it's as simple as a bumper sticker. In November, we received an unexpected and touching e-mail from a woman who wrote the following:

I had seen a bumper sticker on a vehicle in our neighbourhood all summer, but kept forgetting to check out the website it had on it (unmaskingchoice.ca). I thought I had a good idea what it meant, but wasn't sure until I finally remembered today.

At the age of 19, I had an abortion. I really didn't want to go through with this decision, but was afraid of losing this "wonderful" relationship [my boyfriend of 1½ years], and he wouldn't consider a) keeping the baby, or b) adoption... I had

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gone to the pregnancy clinic for the test, and when they asked what I wanted to do, I told them that the only choice I felt I had was abortion. Before I could blink, I had forms given to me to sign, an appointment with a doctor a few days later, and was hurried through the system faster than I could get my head around it. Even the doctor told me not to let religion dictate what I was going to do; that it was just a "blob of tissue" at this point. (I was, in fact, a Christian at the time, but a struggling, confused one dealing with a lot of hang-ups.) I knew better, deep down, but steeled myself to just do it.

For a few years afterwards, I was completely emotionally numb. I didn't laugh...but neither did I cry. The relationship ended around the time the baby would have been born, oddly enough. At that time I got plugged back into my church and my Lord, and a couple years later I went through post-abortion counselling, which tremendously helped with my healing...

I was wondering how I would go about getting a bumper sticker, or other "witnesses" you have available? I would gladly sport one on my car. Thanks for your time, and I will be praying for your outreach.

This testimony is powerful on several levels: it shows the power of forgiveness; it gives hope that healing can be achieved; it reminds us that Christians have abortions and therefore that there is pro-life work to be done "in our own backyard"; it reveals that *healed* post-abortive women, far from being angry about a truth ministry like ours, are encouraged by it; and, finally, it shows that when we put bumper stickers on our cars, people really do notice them!

And if people pay attention to a sticker on a bumper, how much more will they to a graphic billboard on a truck or one displayed at a campus? And so, our work this year will continue to bring the truth about abortion to city streets, university campuses, and to high school and church venues. Stay tuned for our reports where we share more uplifting feedback!

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team

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

Upcoming Speaking Events (Please call our office at 403-668-0485 for more information.)

Jojo's Schedule

Jan. 26: Langley Pro-Life AGM (Langley, BC)
Jan. 27–Feb. 2: Various presentations (Lower Mainland, BC)
Feb. 3: Axis, Centre Street Church (Calgary, AB)
Feb. 4–18: Various presentations (Maritimes)

Stephanie's Schedule

Jan. 26–27, Feb. 2–4: Various presentations (Lower Mainland, BC)
Feb. 3: University of the Fraser Valley (Abbotsford, BC)
Feb. 13–15: Pro-life retreat (Shawnigan Lake, BC)
Feb. 17–25: Various high schools (Toronto, ON)
Feb. 27: University of Ottawa (Ottawa, ON)



Nicholas McLeod (right) is a third-year Commerce student at Carleton University in Ottawa. He is working as our accounting and finance co-op intern, under the direction of Brendan (left). Nicholas writes the following about his involvement with the pro-life movement:

I first became pro-life in grade 11, when I attended a conference put on by Halton Pro-Life. I went to get a couple days off of school with my friends. What changed me there was when they showed a graphic video exposing the truth of what abortion was. Seeing the truth blew away my apathetic nature and lit a fire in me to stop this grave injustice. I went on to help plan the next conference and founded a pro-life group at my high school. When I arrived at university, a small group of us founded Carleton Lifeline.

I first met CCBR at a National Campus Life Network conference and immediately was amazed by the great work they were doing. When I returned to school, our club decided to do a debate with Jojo and we were not disappointed by the results.

I truly feel that being pro-life is more than just understanding the humanity of the unborn; it is the diligent working to ensure that the rest of the world understands this truth as well. This is why I feel so called to full-time pro-life work at CCBR. I was converted through the power of seeing the truth and I know that it is my responsibility to enable others to see that truth as well. So I am here to do my part in making abortion unthinkable.

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