



October 2009

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

www.unmaskingchoice.ca

Dear Friends,

This past month CCBR staff and volunteers were all over the continent bringing a life-saving message to those who need it.

As you read about CCBR's hard work and results, we hope you'll express your commitment with donations that make this work possible.

We're working overtime to get the pro-life message out but we need your financial backing to keep it going.

National Campus Life Network (NCLN) Symposium

NCLN is the national organization for pro-life university and college students. CCBR staff have been privileged to speak at their annual symposium on a regular basis—and we can see the fruit of this great partnership.

This year, Jojo returned to speak and was met with encouraging results, including this note:

A 21-year-old female wrote that the visuals he showed “were very disturbing. **[I] probably won't ever get them out of my head; however, that is good/needed!**” When asked if his talk motivated her she said, **“Yes! I want to make pro-life a part of my life, in how I live and act.”**

Genocide Awareness Project Displays

That symposium came on the heels of the University of Calgary Campus Pro-Life (CPL) Club displaying GAP for the eighth time.

One club member shared how he encountered a young man who passed the exhibit and snapped, **‘I owe my life to pro-choice’** because his father and then-girlfriend had an abortion, enabling his father to go to school and later build a family in which he could support his next child: this young man. A good conversation ensued and the GAP volunteer told me this:

“We spoke briefly about the resources and support services available for men in the aftermath of abortion, though he told me that his father had healed. We ended on a positive note, with him agreeing to come back if there was anything else to talk about or if he changed his mind about post-abortion resources for his father.

“I would suspect that he had not spoken about this incident in his family to many people and that getting it off of his chest, taking some time to think, then returning to the images and discussion with me was a form of healing. **When he first came by he seemed hurt and closed about the matter but seemed far more understanding by the end.**”

I had a similar experience when doing GAP at Penn State University last month. A young woman, “Sarah,” came up to the exhibit and began debating me on abortion. **At one point in the conversation she actually told me that rape wouldn't be wrong if it was legal!**

I was shocked but quickly found out why she said what she did. **She blurted out that she'd had an abortion 10 months ago.** Suddenly, it all made sense. She didn't really think legality made rape acceptable, but she was doing everything she could to justify the abortion she had, which was legal. Her woundedness came through as she spoke about the two people she confided in about her pregnancy. They told her to abort. Furthermore, friends have called her horrible names. And she said she cries herself to sleep each night. What started as a debate about abortion, however, turned into a very beautiful ministering opportunity.

Myself and the other volunteers had the chance to tell Sarah, who said she was Catholic, that Jesus loved her. We explained that while we condemn abortion, we do *not* condemn people. We told her about a local post-abortion ministry and she eagerly took their contact information. Before she left, she welcomed my offer of a hug. When she first approached us she had been angry, but later she said, **“You guys have treated me nicer than anyone who knows I had an abortion.”**

St. John Brebeuf College

While these GAPs were going on, Jojo was on a speaking tour in Eastern Canada. He spoke at an all-boys high school in Toronto, where many students admitted they changed their minds:

- Before the presentation: “I was neutral and hadn’t ever really thought about it” (given along with a score of 5 where 0 means “support all abortion” and 10 means “against all abortion”). After the presentation: **“The evidence shown has turned me against (given along with a score of 10).** –16-year-old male
- Before the presentation: “I did not know that abortion was so cruel and disgusting (given along with a score of 5). After the presentation: **“The presentation’s effective methods changed my views on abortion” (given along with a score of 10).** –16-year-old male

McGill University

Part of Jojo’s speaking tour involved presenting “Echoes of the Holocaust,” which examines the parallels between abortion and historical atrocities.

He was met with resistance again (just like earlier in the year when he was shouted down at St. Mary’s University in Halifax). A mob of 20 protesters interrupted his presentation less than a minute into it and chanted, sang, and yelled for more than 2 hours.

In terms of intervention, security personnel were outnumbered so they called police who arrested two of the protesters. The rest took seats but continued to interrupt Jojo so that he couldn’t give his presentation.



▲ Protesters at McGill show complete intolerance, censorship, and disrespect as they block Jojo’s screen and shout over him.

Youtube footage of this disturbing event can be viewed here:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lTXw6zIHRQ

Interestingly enough, several students who support legal abortion, came up to Jojo after the talk. Though they expressed disagreement with his views, they said they wished they could have heard the rest of the talk.

While we are grateful that McGill University did not shut down the pro-life talk, the appalling behaviour of the protesters must not be tolerated.

That is why CCBR will never give into mob rule. We will continue to present our message and the parallels between abortion and the Holocaust.

On that note, Jojo recently received this e-mail which echoes that sentiment:

“This word of encouragement comes from a daughter of two holocaust survivors. **My dad survived Auschwitz and my mom survived Ravensbruck. You are quite right to compare the killing of unborn babies to the killing of millions.** When I, as a 15-year-old student, toured Auschwitz in 1978, I walked through the gas chamber and observed the fingernail scratch marks on the walls of those murdered there. Humans made that extermination chamber. Whereas, G-d never ever intended for a woman’s womb to be abused for the purposes of exterminating human life! Jose, G-d bless you many times over for your courageous public witness of the Truth!

“I participated in GAP at U of T a couple of years ago, holding the sign of holocaust victims. Some challenged me and were outraged as well. I challenged them to speak out against today’s holocaust-abortion. **Had they not learned anything from that horrific historical period...I can only applaud your efforts and I believe G-d must be very pleased.**”

We are emboldened by her encouragement and the ongoing evidence of changed minds. **Please continue to financially support us so that we may continue to work on the front lines.** ❖

Happy (Canadian) Thanksgiving,

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team

P.S., If you haven’t already, please join our Facebook Fanpage. We regularly report on upcoming events there.

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