



March 2011

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

www.unmaskingchoice.ca

Dear Friends,

As I spend a snowy morning working from home sipping a warm cup of tea with my laptop on my lap, I'm in awe of what God has accomplished in the 4 weeks since I last wrote you. A break after our intense 2-week Florida GAP trip would have been nice but we had too much to do for that! So what have we been up to?

March 8: International Women's Day:

- Francisco lead our team in doing **"Choice" Chain in Calgary.**
- Jonathon, our current intern, and Ania, our former summer intern, lead **"Choice" Chain in Vancouver.**
- Nich and Ruth, former interns, and James, our Pro-Life Crash Course attendee (and all 3 are upcoming staffers), lead **"Choice" Chain in Ottawa.**
- I **debated** philosophy professor Dr. Mark Mercer at **Dalhousie University in Halifax.**

Yes, we took the country by storm—all in one day! You could say that our efforts to employ **ethical cloning** by raising up new leaders is working!



▲ Ania was one of our summer interns last year who took her UBC campus by storm this semester. Not only did she lead her club in doing "Choice" Chain on campus, but they made history by exhibiting eight 4x8-foot GAP signs uncensored.



◀ Minerva (right) is a Capillano College student who helped us do GAP in Florida in February and who did "Choice" Chain at SFU in March. She wrote, "Despite 'Choice' Chain being just over an hour and a half in length, **there have been many fruits from that short time.** A couple of students signed up for the pro-life club [and] existing members of the SFU pro-life club expressed their interest in receiving weekly updates of events and news."

March 10:

- Francisco and Jonathan were joined by U of C profilers Cristina, Cam, and Alanna, to help Ania and her fellow UBC students do GAP at UBC. **That day, they made history!** Since I was a student at UBC back in 1999, UBC has placed unjust restrictions on the GAP display. But thanks to the intervention of **amazing lawyer John Carpay, of the Justice Centre,** UBC dropped its unjust restrictions and Ania and her team displayed 8 signs uncensored by UBC and the pro-abortion students!

March 11:

- The same team above did **"Choice" Chain near a Vancouver abortion clinic.**
- I did our **"Echoes of the Holocaust" presentation at Brock University** in St. Catharines, Ontario. A "pro-choice" student approached me afterwards, saying

(to paraphrase), “I want to commend you for your presentation. **It really challenged me to reconsider my views now. I don’t know what to think**—I need to seriously look at the issue. Your presentation was so logical, so scientific, and philosophical—I didn’t expect that. Thank you.”

I sent him a follow-up e-mail, quoting from Viktor Frankl, author of Man’s Search for Meaning:

“...being human always points, and is directed, to something, or someone, other than oneself—be it a meaning to fulfill or another human being to encounter. The more one forgets himself—by giving himself to a cause to serve or another person to love—the more human he is...”

In his reply he wrote, “While I contemplate on how to deal with this issue, I’ll read through the literature you’ve offered me here. **Thank you for the links, and for touching back with me.** I’m an enormous fan of Viktor Frankl’s and just finished reading the book you’re citing from, leading me to suspect that **the serendipitous nature of this email is a testament that our intellectual points of view overlap more than we know.** If you’re ever in the region again, I’d love to talk to you about these things in person again.”

March 14:

- I debated philosophy professor Dr. Donald Ainslie at U of T. **A first-year med student approached me and said she had been in the middle on the abortion issue but after the debate, it seems that abortion is something she should not be involved with as a physician.** I gave her Scott Klusendorf’s book Pro-Life 101 and introduced her to two of my pro-life med-student friends who attended the debate!

March 15:

- Francisco lead another “Choice” Chain in Calgary
- I was interviewed by Teresa Tomeo on EWTN’s radio program, Catholic Connection.

March 16:

- I presented “Echoes of the Holocaust,” at Queen’s University in Kingston. Zuza, the club president wrote, “I

got an e-mail from a pro-choice student that attended, and he said **the talk exceeded his expectations.** He anticipated a discussion full of theological premises, and was pleasantly surprised about how articulate and logical your arguments were. He said he looks forward to future talks!”

And while we were doing all that, our **impact was rippling across the world!** Allison, who was trained by Francisco in South Africa and then further by us in Florida on the GAP tour, held a pro-life apologetics and strategy session on March 19 in South Africa. She wrote,



▲ Some of our amazing team doing “Choice” Chain in Calgary on March 19. Cristina (far left) will be one of our summer interns starting in May. Asia (third from left) is a former U of C student who did GAP on campus. She is a first-time mom who is due to give birth in May—she’s saving babies while with a baby!

“We had an amazing day of training on Saturday. **It exceeded all my expectations, owing in no small part to CCBR whose ‘Pro-Life Strategy’ section on the website I basically memorized and presented verbatim.**”

And while I’m writing this, Jojo is taking Northern Ontario by storm with his Truth Tour, giving over 14 talks in 5 cities! Being in

Thunder Bay is particularly meaningful for Jojo given the recent message from someone who heard him speak there a few years ago:

“I told you the story of my mom and sister **watching the ‘Choice Blues’ [abortion] video you gave me, and they became pro-life instantly...** Anyways, I thought you should know, about a year and a half later, **my sister became pregnant, and my niece would have definitely been aborted had she not seen the video.**”

That’s why we’re doing this work. Because it saves lives and changes minds. We couldn’t do it without you, so on behalf of the *incredible* team I am privileged to work with, THANK YOU for supporting us!

What’s next? **Our summer internship program starts in May and we need to fundraise \$30,000 (that’s \$5,000 per intern).** Would you consider sponsoring an intern, or a portion thereof? Please consider a donation today—as you can see, your gift bears much fruit.

Stephanie

With gratitude, Stephanie Gray