

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

October 2006

“I promise to never be silent again.”

–19-year-old female, Johns Hopkins University

Dear Friends,

I just returned from a two-week speaking tour where I gave 28 presentations in Ontario, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. **Over 2000 people saw the graphic reality of abortion. Over 2000 people heard CCBR’s scientific and philosophical case for why abortion is wrong.** While I was away, Jojo, Brendan, and Michéla worked with U of Calgary’s Campus Pro-Life club to prepare for the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP). We spent the past two days doing it there—to a campus with **over 26,000 students**. Tomorrow I leave to speak in the Maritimes and on Thursday Jojo leaves to speak in Ontario. Thank *you* for making this possible!

As with all our monthly reports, there are more conversion stories than will fit in one newsletter:

- What was your view on abortion before the presentation? **“The legalization of abortion is necessary for the protection of women in a crisis pregnancy.”** Did your position change? **“Yes.”** Did the presentation motivate you to stop abortion? **“Yes.”** Further comments? **“GREAT.”** –18-year-old male, University of Maryland Baltimore County



▲ Here I am with Cathy McLeod (left), a recent graduate of the University of Maryland College Park. She now does full-time pro-life work.

- “Before I was pro-choice because a person should be able to choose if they wanted.” Did your position change? “Yes, because **you shouldn’t kill a baby just because it’s not born yet because it still exists.**” Other comments: **“The video was eye-opening.”** –19-year-old female, University of Maryland Baltimore County
- **“I was one of those closet pro-lifers, but now I really want to get the message across.** The visuals were disturbing, but at the same time necessary.” –18-year-old male, Johns Hopkins University
- **“I was very skeptical of graphic pictures until your lecture. I am much more open to the idea now.”** –20-year-old female, Johns Hopkins University

- What was your view on abortion before the presentation? **“I was on the fence** about the issue because I never really took the time to explore it. I came out of curiosity.” Did your view change following the presentation? **“Yes. I now see that pro-life is about human rights** and not just a bunch of whiney, conservative, religious people trying to preach their opinions.” –20-year-old female, Johns Hopkins University

Sometimes conversions take time. Not everyone will instantly profess pro-life convictions, but everyone will be thinking. It is when we ponder and reflect that the Holy Spirit works on our hearts. Please pray for an 18-year-old female at Johns Hopkins University who’s going through this kind of internal examination. Prior to the presentation, her position on abortion was, “Not really sure what I think—pro-choice for the most part.” When asked if her view changed she wrote, **“I’m still debating.”**

Besides giving lectures in the East, I had the opportunity to do two debates. One was against Elizabeth Cavendish of the National Abortion Rights Action League, held at the University of Maryland College Park. The other was

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against Dr. Cynthia Harrison, a Women's Studies professor, held at George Washington University. Here is what two audience members said about these debates:

- Before: "I believe abortion is murder under any circumstances; however, given current social temperature, if abortion is made illegal, I see it doing more harm by way of unlicensed illegal abortions. The U.S. government should take action to decrease dependency on the operation." After: "**My position against abortion has been strengthened and Ms. Gray alleviated my original concerns with regard to illegal abortions.**" –18-year-old female, University of Maryland College Park
- What was your view before the debate? "Pro-choice." Did your position change? "Slightly. **Ms. Gray convinced me to think that abortion is morally reprehensible which I was not so sure of before.** However, I disagree with the extent she claims this is immoral and 'killing' and still feel that the decision should be ultimately left up to the woman." Other comments: "Stephanie Gray won by a landslide. She was much more articulate and 'to the point.'" –18-year-old female, George Washington University



▲ Over 200 student attended the debate at GWU.
▼ I discuss the Genocide Awareness Project with Ontario pro-life students.



Our aims at CCBR are to *neutralize* abortion advocates, *convert* neutrals to our view, *activate* converts, and *train* the active to work more effectively. The aforementioned young woman has started down that path; please pray she continues in the pro-life direction.

Prior to heading south, I spoke to Canadian pro-life university students at the National Campus Life Network symposium at St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough, Ontario.

I implored these young pro-life leaders to look to the example of Hans and Sophie Scholl, a brother and sister who lived in Germany during WWII and, with their friends, formed a resistance movement to the Nazis via a leafleting campaign called "The White Rose." They spread the truth about the Nazis around their university and other public places. Eventually they were arrested and killed. During her trial, Sophie said, "What we said and wrote is what many people are thinking. Only they don't dare to say it."¹ Like Hans and Sophie, we must *dare* to stand up for the truth.

Around midnight on Saturday at the symposium, I slipped into the seminary church. Shortly thereafter, a group of the attendees walked to the front pews to pray. Then another group of young people came in. Then a third. I was moved by their prayerfulness and devotion to God as they broke into song: "Holy God, we praise thy Name; Lord of all, we bow before thee!"

To *Him* be all glory, honour, and praise,

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray

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

Attention British Columbians in the Lower Mainland:

Nov. 2 @ 11am: Abortion debate at Simon Fraser University, Academic Quadtrain, Room 3005

Nov. 5 @ 5:30pm: Fundraiser for CCBR at Fraserlands Church. We encourage you to buy tickets and bring your pro-life friends to learn more about how they can help CCBR make abortion unthinkable. There will be a silent auction which includes a signed & framed Team Canada jersey by Joe Sakic and a Rangers Jersey signed by Wayne Gretzky. There is also a resort stay, massage, restaurant gift certificates, and much more. The event includes a performance by Vanier Trio! For more information, please visit www.eveningforlife.org

¹ I highly recommend the book about Hans and Sophie, "The White Rose: Munich 1942–1943," by their sister Inge Scholl.

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