

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

September 2006

“Before I would not care whether someone was going to have an abortion, but now I’d try to prevent the action.”

—17-year-old male, St. Marguerite d’Youville Secondary School, Brampton, Ontario

Dear Friends,

August brought with it opportunities for both Jojo and I to return to our respective home turfs, Manitoba and British Columbia, to give CCBR presentations.

Jojo spoke at a church at which he had given a pro-life talk fifteen years ago as a teenager. The week before his latest presentation, a woman in the church made a public confession that she had been sexually promiscuous and was pregnant as a result. She recalled Jojo’s talk years earlier and how he had mentioned that some Christians have abortions. It wasn’t until she was faced with an unplanned pregnancy that she realized how strong the “pull” for an abortion is. Not only that, her boyfriend and his mother wanted her to abort.

She didn’t watch the graphic abortion film “Choice Blues” that Jojo showed during his sermon, but she took a DVD copy home to watch privately. Although she had already decided not to abort, **the video strengthened her decision and compelled her to make her boyfriend promise not to talk about abortion as an option.** Please pray for this woman and her family.

On August 6 and 13, I spoke to the Adult Sunday School at the Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church (VCAC). Following the presentation, a 24-year-old female wrote, “...[The talks] helped me think of ways I could debate abortion with my friends.”

While Jojo and I were away, Brendan was blessed with a visit from one of our Ontario supporters, Fr. Terry Kraychuk of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. It is always encouraging when clergy embrace CCBR’s ministry. Fr. Terry’s enthusiasm coupled with prayer and financial support has been wonderful. And he came bearing gifts: hundreds of surveys from a high school in Brampton, Ontario where I had spoken in March. There are too many conversion stories for me to fit in this newsletter, so here is just a sampling:



▲ Introducing our new intern, Michéla! Brendan (standing) has her dedicated and enthusiastic help with administrative tasks for the next few months.

- “‘Pictures speak louder than words.’ **I heard a lot about abortion being bad but I never thought that it was until yesterday when I saw a few images of abortion.** Then I realized that abortion is a wrong thing to do.” —15-year-old male, no religion specified
- “The day before I was talking to my cousin about if I ever got raped and got pregnant I was thinking of getting one [an abortion], **but now from what I heard I would never do that if I ever got pregnant at a young age.**” —16-year-old female, no religion specified
- “**The presentation changed my views on abortion.** Before the presentation I thought abortion was harmless but this presentation opened my eyes and showed me that it is not.” —14-year-old female, Christian
- “Before if my friend told me she was pregnant the first thing I would tell her is to abort it. **Now I would force her to think about it a lot before making a decision.**” —17-year-old female, Muslim

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- “I knew it was wrong but I thought if the girl had to [have an abortion] then God would understand. Yes, it [my position] did change because of the fact that I now know that people shouldn’t take it out on the baby. **I thought that the movie had a big impact on my view on abortion.**” —16-year-old female, Pentecostal
- “[Before the presentation] I thought that if there was a good reason to have it done it should be done. Yes, my position has changed for the better. **My eyes have been opened and I now know that it is wrong and an innocent life is being destroyed.**” —19-year-old male, Catholic

Tragically, the scales do not fall from everyone’s eyes. A 16-year-old Wiccan female wrote, **“I still believe it’s a woman’s right to decide what happens to her own body.** ... Morals are unique to an individual and cannot be deemed right or wrong.” And a 15-year-old female wrote, “It’s like, say, **we can kill animals and sacrifice them to eat, and we can use abortion to sacrifice and result in a better life for the person.**”

Thankfully these students’ reactions aren’t in the majority of those to whom we present, but their views are nonetheless disturbing. Abortion **is** modern-day child sacrifice, equivalent to that denounced in the Old Testament: *“They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood”* (Psalm 106:36–38). These students’ quotes give you a glimpse of the spiritual forces we face as we bring truth to the culture. Please keep our audiences in your prayers, especially all those who will hear us speak this fall (see events schedule below).

On an encouraging note, a 14-year-old Pentecostal male wrote, “The 4-minute video was a breathtaking experience and I am unsure why I don’t see more of it on TV. **I think that video is the main reason I am against abortion.**” Without realizing it, this teenager has given the reason *why* he doesn’t see abortion on TV: the images change minds, but the media elites who support abortion do not want the status quo changed. We do. CCBR exists to expose the truth about this evil—using images supported by presentations—that will ultimately make abortion unthinkable. We can’t do this alone, though. Thank you for standing with us.

Stephanie

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



▲ Jojo gives a sermon at Living Christ Community Church in Manitoba on August 6.
▼ I speak at VCAC in Vancouver on August 13.



UPCOMING CCBR EVENTS (Call 403-668-0485 for more information.)	
Stephanie’s Schedule	Jojo’s Schedule
Sept. 23, 24: Fundraisers (Calgary, AB)	Oct. 25: Parliamentary Pro-life Caucus (Ottawa, ON)
Sept. 30: National Campus Life Network symposium (Scarborough, ON)	Oct. 26: Debate at Carleton University (Ottawa, ON)
Oct. 5–11: U.S. speaking tour (MD, VA, & Washington, DC)	TBA: Cedarview Alliance Church (Ottawa, ON)
Oct. 14: Alberta Federation of Women United for Families conference (Calgary, AB)	TBA: Filipino Community Church (Ottawa, ON)
Oct. 18–31: Maritime speaking tour (NB & NS)	TBA: Metropolitan Bible Church pastoral staff (Ottawa, ON)
Nov. 5: Fundraiser (Vancouver, BC)	Nov. 5: North York Fellowship International & Christ the Living Word Alliance Church (Toronto, ON)
Nov. 21: Miracle Channel TV interview (Lethbridge, AB)	Nov. 18: Various presentations (Cold Lake, AB)

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Fall 2006

“Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world’s estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences.”

—Susan B. Anthony, suffragist and abolitionist

Dear Friends of CCBR,

As we work towards the launch of the Reproductive “Choice” Campaign (RCC), we thank you for the financial support you give to CCBR. We continue to be moved by your generosity.

Here are five more ways you can be pivotal in helping us get this project off the ground:

1. **Promote** our website in your e-mail signature file. Here are some suggestions:
Thought-provoking. Life-changing. <http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca>
A life depends on it: <http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca>
See for yourself: <http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca>
See it. Believe it. Change it. <http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca>
2. **Connect** CCBR with your Calgary pastor or priest. Please contact us for our step-by-step process for accomplishing this and to schedule a date for October or November.
3. **Host** a coffee-party fundraiser in Calgary. This is a proven method for both introducing your pro-life family and friends to the work of CCBR and encouraging them to become involved financially as you are. Please contact us for our step-by-step process for accomplishing this and to schedule a date for October or November.
4. **Volunteer** to drive if you fit the following criteria:
 - a. You live in Calgary or surrounding communities such as Airdrie or Okotoks.
 - b. You can volunteer *at least* one day every two weeks for four hours in the morning.
 - c. You have a clean driving record.
 - d. You have experience driving large trucks. (The RCC truck is 13.5 feet tall, 8 feet wide excluding mirrors, and 33 feet long.)Please contact us for the volunteer application form.
5. **Pray**. See the intentions on the opposite page and post them on your fridge.

As we move forward with the boldest pro-life project Canada will have ever seen, we leave you with these words by Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life:

Our success will depend more on whether we are respected than liked. Respect flows not from doing what the other finds pleasing, but from what is seen as consistent with principle, courageous, and immune from the temptation to change with the wind.

Godspeed,



Stephanie Gray
Executive Director

CCBR's Reproductive Choice Campaign Prayer Requests

<i>For the general public:</i>	<i>For CCBR:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That women contemplating abortion will choose life and that their friends and family will encourage a pro-life decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That our staff and volunteers will maintain good health, be guided by wisdom, and be protected from harm; that they will be prepared for and strengthened amid spiritual attack; that they show compassion to all whom they encounter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That post-abortive men and women who are in denial will be convicted of their sin and find forgiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For adequate financial support and personnel (e.g., drivers, lawyers) on a continuing basis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That pregnancy care centres and post-abortion ministries will be flooded with requests for help and be prepared to offer that assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For wisdom in selecting daily routes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That abortion supporters will not censor the RCC and will become pro-life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For safe road conditions and good weather.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the undecided and indifferent will be convicted of the wrongness of abortion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the vehicles do not break down.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That pro-lifers will have a greater sense of urgency toward doing more to stop abortion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are no security threats (e.g., break-ins or physical attacks) to the warehouse and the vehicles.
<i>For CCBR's interaction with the community:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That civic authorities and leaders (e.g., police, city council, government, and businesses) will respect CCBR's rights to free speech and not hinder the RCC. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the media will cover the RCC fairly and comprehensively and that CCBR will develop good relations with reporters. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That churches will not stand against the RCC, but will instead be receptive to the message and implement CCBR's document "How Churches Can Help Make Abortion Unthinkable." 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That other pro-life organizations will publicly support the RCC and implement complementary activities. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That pregnancy care centres and post-abortion ministries will acknowledge the legitimacy of the RCC and work with CCBR to more effectively help women in crisis pregnancy. 	