

# CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

## *Making Abortion Unthinkable*

Summer 2006

*“I can’t do it. After seeing this, I can’t do it.”*

Dear Friends,

In April, I flew to the west coast to help CBR Northwest, the organization’s Oregon-Washington office, do the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) display at Oregon State University. The two-day experience was incredible!

As one conversation with a student ended, another would start. One student in exasperation asked me how we could justify comparing abortion to the Holocaust. I employed the Socratic method of asking questions to communicate my point, while referencing the images behind me. This agitated young man drew a crowd to our discussion, but by the time our discussion ended, he left much calmer and pensive than when we’d started talking.



◀ My friend Steve Wagner (far left) does full-time pro-life work through Stand to Reason in California. He was in Oregon for the OSU GAP and it was a privilege to debate students with him (I’m facing the two students with backpacks).

▶ David Janus Zhang, the pro-abortion student who attacked GAP at WWU.



The most powerful testimony was from a pregnant student who was standing, in tears, with three of her friends in front of the aborted-baby signs. When one of our volunteers asked her if she was all right, one of her friends said, **“She is going to kill her baby.”** Praise God she changed her mind, as this newsletter’s headline quote reveals!

A couple weeks later CBR Northwest conducted GAP at Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham. Although my schedule did not permit me to attend *this* GAP, I encouraged several Vancouver pro-lifers to go. One of our board members, John Hof, attended, as did CCBR volunteers Rose, Erica, and Lynne.

A student e-mailed the following to his friend who had participated at that GAP:

**I just wanted to let you know that you are pretty much my hero.** You are so strong and sensible with your beliefs. Truly inspiring! I totally see God working through you to help save the nation... world, actually, one prayer/action at a time. These past few days have given me a lot to think about. It really made me wake up to realize what is meaningless and what is most important. Thanks for sounding that alarm!

Not everyone thought so highly of the pro-life students. One student jumped the barricades and attacked the exhibit, causing several thousand dollars worth of damage. Our board member John wrote a report about the incident, saying, **“At one point the student picked up one of the plastic pipes used for framework and hurled it like a spear through one of the signs.”**

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***“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11–12).***

Violent outbursts like that are not foreign to our Canadian volunteers. As mentioned, Rose, one of CCBR’s volunteers, attended that GAP. A few months ago near a Vancouver abortion clinic, Rose stood peacefully wearing a sandwich board displaying graphic abortion signs. She was attacked from behind and thrown violently to the ground. Her assailant ripped her signs from her neck and began running down the street, screaming and swearing.

One of CCBR’s core tenets is that successful social reformers need to be willing to accept persecution. And yet, when we experience that persecution, some criticize us, the messengers, as though *we’ve* done something wrong. After that incident, Rose’s husband, Joel, received a concerned e-mail from someone who, although proud of Rose (and Joel’s) convictions for their cause, cautioned them not to “incite a violent response.” Here is Joel’s reply:

Hopefully standing publicly against abortion will arouse sympathy for justice, which is God’s cause (see Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8, etc.) not ours.

I can assure you that neither Rose nor I will do anything to incite violence! We don’t think that using violence or inciting violence is an option for faithful followers of Jesus to use to end injustice. However, we recognize that **when sinful people engaged in oppression have their sin exposed in the way it needs to be that the response will sometimes involve verbal abuse and violence.** That is part of why Jesus said that his followers would be persecuted (John 15:20) and why Paul promised that “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12). Jesus was primarily persecuted because he undermined corrupt power and exposed sin. We can’t expect anything different when we do the same.

I can assure you I want a mother for my children and a wife also but not more so than I want Rose to be faithful to God’s command to speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves (e.g., Prov. 24:11–12).

May we all gain that kind of resolve that Joel and Rose have.

Last month I mentioned that Brendan has been busy with many tasks. In particular, he has put his “eagle” editorial eye to several documents on our newly revamped website. Since Michael Spielman from CBR’s office redesigned our site, we have had encouraging responses. One person e-mailed us to say: **“...I would like to congratulate you on the EXCELLENT content. It is so fantastic that there is such a resource to counter the lies of the pro-abortion propaganda.”** One of our supporters who is a teacher recently told me that she had her Grade 11 summer students review our website. They then debated abortion as a class. The students who had to represent the pro-abortion side complained that it was difficult because they had no good arguments! You can view our new site at [www.cbbrinfo.ca](http://www.cbbrinfo.ca).

On a concluding note, I am excited to announce that **I am an aunt!** My sister and brother-in-law are expecting my niece or nephew, whom I have nick-named “Em,” at the end of January. ☺

Praise God for the gift of human life,

*Stephanie*

Stephanie Gray



▲ My sister Mary and I, with Em.

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

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