



April 2010

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

www.unmaskingchoice.ca

Dear Friends,

Our 6 summer interns join our team of 5 in less than a month! Jojo, Nich, and I recently sat down to plan out their intense 3 ½ months. We're excited to not only change hearts and minds on abortion, but to equip new pro-life leaders to do the same—thanks to you. **Indeed, much will be accomplished, thanks to your support of this ministry that has grown to this level of recruitment, training, and “deployment” in the pro-life field.**



▲ Left to Right: Francisco (summer intern from Thunder Bay), Ruth (summer intern from Carleton University), Chandler (RCC Director), Ania (summer intern from UBC), Peter (summer intern from U of C), and Nich (Office & Accounting Manager) pose for a picture after the first week of the February Florida GAP tour.

Besides getting ready for their impending arrival, we continue to speak and receive positive feedback:

In March I spoke twice at Trinity Western University, which included a talk to nursing students. After hearing my presentation, a student e-mailed me the following:

“... I watched your videotaped debate at UVic and after hearing you in person today, I'm very proud to know that there is someone with your education, conviction and charisma representing pro-life.”

*“Before I came to TWU (and subsequently Christianity), I had spent 3 years pursuing a B.A. in political science at Kwantlen University. I have to say aside from the realization of God's existence and involvement in my life, the most challenging hurdles were that of the convictions from my past secular morality. **The pro-life stance was, to me, the most difficult concept to wrap my mind around.** ... Since then, despite my discomfort mingling in the pro-life camp, I've spent a considerable amount of my time researching the apologetics (to satisfy that old poli-sci part of me) and praying in hopes of coming to terms with this subject.*”

*“Over the 3 years I have been at TWU, I've had many chances to debate with the chaplain, my peers and professors over pro-choice vs. pro-life. **Jojo's visit to TWU last year was also instrumental in shifting my view, allowing me to finally genuinely consider the pro-life argument to be my own.** Looking back, I've come to realize that the more I've immersed myself in this issue, the more I find the pro-choice argument to be indefensible. My political science background had given me insight on the framing of each argument but my experience in biology and chemistry have shown me God's fingerprints in creation. Together they reinforce my new found pro-life convictions.*”

“I'm sending you this email because I want to thank you and your organization for doing what you do and for being a part of my personal journey. ...From the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

We are thankful that our ministry has been so impacting in this man's life—and grateful for your financial partnership which enables this to happen. As we see time and again, this isn't an isolated incident. Jojo had a busy January and February travelling to Saskatchewan and Ontario where he saw similar conversions. While in Saskatchewan, he spoke at Eston College and received this feedback:

Before the presentation: *“I thought it would be better to not bring a child into the world when you weren't well-*

equipped to do so than to give birth to it and give it a deprived life” (given along with a score of 4, where 0 means “support all abortion” and 10 means “against all abortion”). After the presentation, “I now think that it doesn’t matter your situation. **I would not kill a living person; so I would not kill an unborn child**” (given along with a score of 10). When asked about Jojo’s use of visual aids this 19-year-old woman wrote: “**I think that shock value is very necessary sometimes. This is what I needed to change my mind.**”

Another 19-year-old shifted her views, this time from 8 to 10, saying that before the presentation “I was against it for the most part, but thought of some exceptions.” Afterwards, however, she said, “**I realized how awful it is. There are no exceptions for abortion.**”

Both of these women self-identified as Christians, which reinforces how important it is to equip believers with our presentations just as much as unbelievers. Jojo also did that in Ontario where he spoke at Redeemer University College in Ancaster. A 20-year-old female wrote that the presentation “*Changed my opinion a bit, and I am glad I am more informed so I can state my opinion based on fact.*” Her view shifted from 9 to 10.

Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to help people embrace the pro-life view!

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray, on behalf of the CCBR team



Testimony from the Florida GAP Tour: Almost each day of GAP, I spoke at an open microphone session, answering the questions of hundreds of students as they passed by the exhibit. That’s me speaking (upper right) at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. At that same campus I spoke with a student who said he personally believes life begins at conception but that he doesn’t agree with making abortion against the law. He said it’s better to keep it legal because the woman and the baby will die if it’s illegal and unsafe. I shared our pro-life response, conveying that we do not make immoral behavior legal simply because those committing it would get harmed. He thought about everything I said and remarked, “**That makes total sense. I’d have to say I agree with you on that. I think you just changed my mind.**”



Testimony from the Florida GAP Tour: Ania (left), one of our upcoming summer interns, spoke to a male student at the University of South Florida who was very skeptical about the display. She said, “We debated back and forth for a good twenty minutes, and as the conversation started winding down, **he smiled and said that up until this point, he had thought all pro-lifers were screaming lunatics. He said that this was the first time in his life he had encountered ones who were willing to engage in a civil and calm discussion. Before he left, he acknowledged that I had given him a lot to think about, and although he was not entirely convinced, I could see that the wheels had definitely started turning.**”

Testimony from the Florida GAP Tour: Lauren (right), one of our volunteers from UVIC, was asked the following question at GAP: “**What would you say to me if I had had an abortion?**” She happened to relay that to a student, “Melissa,” she had just met at the University of Central Florida. She explained to Melissa her response to that question: “If you told me you had had an abortion, I apologize if this is a bit forward, but the first thing I would want you to know is that **I love you.**” Little did Lauren know how meaningful it was for Melissa to hear that. Lauren explains, “She looked me in the eye and told me her story: **‘I was pregnant five months ago. I looked down at her stomach; she was no longer.** Her eyes were filled with tears. She told me how she felt so forced by the ‘counselors’ at Planned Parenthood. She said, ‘They didn’t tell me I’d feel like this afterwards.’ She paused and let out a heavy sigh. This wonderful, beautiful young woman who I had only known for maybe an hour, locked eyes with me and said, **‘There isn’t a day goes by that I don’t think about what I did to my baby; you can tell people that.’**” Lauren proceeded to have a touching conversation with Melissa who conveyed she was glad they talked. This encounter was a reminder that the wounded are everywhere. We do not help them by ignoring their pain and hiding the truth. We help them by embracing them and showing them a path to new life.

