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Standing in the GAP

August 2015

Vol. 16, No. 4

Director's Corner
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CBR Southeast Director



Dear Partners and Friends,

This month we continue our coverage of our most recent record-setting GAP tour, featuring our first GAP trip ever to Grand Valley State University. Ruth Rawlins of London writes about her first PLTA/GAP experience. (London is in England, for all you people in Rio Linda.)

More recently, we've been following the story about the Planned Parenthood videos. They are changing the national debate, for sure, but they are also changing our own movement ... for the better. This story has given us great energy, but how can we keep that momentum going? I have a few thoughts (below).

Fletcher

Planned Parenthood videos are changing the pro-life movement

Yes, the Planned Parenthood (PP) videos are having an important influence on public opinion, at least in the short term. But perhaps the more important long-term impact of this story is how it is changing us, those of us who are fighting the battle.

First, we are more unified now than ever before. In the past, yes, we have disagreed on strategy. That's OK; we will again. But frankly, we haven't supported each other like we should. We haven't collaborated. We haven't shared resources. Sometimes we worked so hard fighting each other, we had little time left for fighting the enemy. Satan likes it that way.

Perhaps these videos are galvanizing and unifying us, in the same way that the photos of Emmett Till galvanized and unified a generation of civil rights activists some 60 years ago.

Second, we are unifying behind the only strategy that can work, which is to expose the evil for all the world to see. For decades, we tried to win the argument without proving the facts. We kept our best evidence hidden. We hogtied ourselves. We failed to make people see that abortion decapitates and dismembers little human beings. We may have talked about it with our words, but we did not force people to see it with their eyes. We allowed abortion to hide behind its own horror.

But that's all changing. All over the country, pro-lifers have unified behind the distribution of these videos, including the graphic images they contain. Bobby Jindal, governor of

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Pro-abort Lakers all wet at Grand Valley State University

This was our first trip to Grand Valley State University (GVSU). The GVSU Students for Life did an awesome job of hosting both GAP and our Pro-Life Training Academy (PLTA).

Seeing is seeing! A professor from the nursing program immediately saw the power of GAP and told us, "These kids have to *see* if they are ever to *understand*."

You saved my baby. One of the students who actually came out to protest against GAP: "You saved my future children. I would have aborted them. Now I won't because I know what it looks like." (For more about this encounter, read Ruth Rawlins' essay on Page 2.)

Everyone has a story. A teary-eyed student pointed to the 24-week sign, "I was that baby. I was born at 24½ weeks and spent 11 months in the hospital. I have a raspy voice from the trachea tube, but otherwise I'm healthy. That picture hits home. Thank you for sharing my story."

Still a market for the truth. Many employees and even parents on a college tour thanked us for sharing the truth about abortion through the GAP display.

Ripples on a pond. A group of young men took many copies of our *How Can You Compare Abortion to Genocide?* brochure. They wanted to share it with their friends. More hearts and minds changed, like ripples on a pond.



Patti Shanley of Raleigh, North Carolina traveled with us to Michigan for a week of GAP.

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Louisiana and a serious candidate for President, even played the Planned Parenthood videos on the governor's mansion lawn.

Think of that, a governor put abortion victim images on the lawn in front of the governor's mansion, for all the world to see.

Even CareNet appears to support the videos. Although they acknowledge that the videos can be painful for post-abortive women to see, CareNet has not suggested that they shouldn't be shown (*6 Things Post-Abortive Women Should Know Following the Planned Parenthood Viral Video*, Abundant Life Blog, 7/21/2015). This is quite a departure from 15 years ago, when CareNet believed that showing pictures of abortion was unnecessary, manipulative, coercive, uncompassionate, etc.

Videos of PP's barbarity are changing the national debate, and nobody in the movement is suggesting that these videos should go away. Pro-life leaders are beginning to understand that we must not cover up the truth any longer, even if that truth hurts. Now, they are beginning to say, "Let's expose the truth and deal with the consequences." Amen.

For more on this topic, check out this piece by Jonathon van Maren of CBR Canada: www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/the-planned-parenthood-videos-have-ended-the-debate-over-graphic-abortion-i

It's not about the media, it's about us

More than 50% of Americans have not seen any of the Planned Parenthood videos. According to another report, 70% have heard very little or nothing about them. As you might expect, the story is being covered up by the media. They've distracted the low-information crowd with story after story about some dentist who shot a lion in Africa. They know that eventually the videos will play out and, they hope, will be forgotten. And they are just waiting.

But it does no good to complain about them. We don't control what they do; we only control what we do.

The game won't change until we force-feed the ugly facts into the hearts and minds of that other 70% who haven't seen them yet.

But that will take hard work. They don't see our Facebook posts. They don't click on our videos. Too many of them get their news from the Comedy Channel ... or maybe MSNBC, which is just a dumbed down version of the Comedy Channel. They don't come to us; we have to go to them. That will take a long-term commitment on our part.

What can you do? Commit to a **regular** program of giving your time, your treasure, or both. To paraphrase Mother Teresa, "Live differently, so that others might live."

Ultimately, this fight won't be decided in Washington or in the pro-abortion media. The decision is, and always has been, in the hands of God's people.



Ruth Rawlins of London traveled all the way to Michigan to show this professor how genocide perpetrators always claim they are making society better.

Saving lives across the world

by Ruth Rawlins, CBR United Kingdom

I lead the CBR UK team in London, and I was thrilled to take part in GAP at Grand Valley State University.

CBR's Pro Life Training Academy (PLTA) was extremely helpful, even though we had attended similar training before. I learned new ways to answer the tough questions.

The huge GAP display, the many CBR staff and volunteers, the pro-life students, the truth truck, and even the pro-abortion protesters created a real buzz on campus. Students told us it was "the talk" all around the campus.

The most significant encounter for me was with a young woman protesting against GAP. This polite young lady came over to see what we had to say, asking all the questions she had, possibly trying to catch me out. She also disclosed some personal situations from her past. I sensed that she, like so many, didn't have great self-worth. If these students do not see their own lives as worth much, then what worth can they attribute to a so-called "bunch of cells" or a hidden being?

Pointing to the images, I answered her questions. I also posed the question that "Shouldn't all human beings have worth?" She agreed that they do. She thanked me for the discussion, we hugged, and she walked away. First thing the next morning, before the other pro-abortion protesters had come out, she walked over to speak. She told me that she was still pro-choice, but wanted me to know that I had saved any of her future children, in that she would never have an abortion herself.

She was deeply moved, although she did continue to the bitter end to stand in protest with her pro-choice friends with her new banner "pro-choice doesn't mean pro-abortion". I, too, was deeply moved at her humility to share that change of heart with me. And I believe that the good work God has started in her will continue until she can proudly stand in defense of all pre-born children.

Ruth Rawlins is on staff at CBR UK. Read her entire story at fletcherarmstrongblog.com/saving-lives-across-the-world/