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Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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# London Pro-lifers Converted by CBR Strategy Presentation

By Gregg Cunningham, CBR Executive Director

**I**n October, I spoke at an international pro-life seminar in London, England, sponsored by Christian Concern, the U.K.'s most influential pro-family organization.

The last session of the day-long program involved a question-and-answer session featuring all of the day's speakers in a panel discussion. I had carefully noted the earlier remarks of a presenter whose supposedly pro-life organization opposes the use of abortion imagery in abortion education and I tactfully turned the session into a debate with him over this issue. He replied to my challenge by asserting that his organization would never get invited into schools as guest lecturers if they used abortion photos. I proposed that his group confidentially coordinate with our CBR office and we would display abortion photos on the sidewalks in front of schools in which his staff would soon be doing classroom presentations. I explained that the word "abortion" would then mean something to the students to whom he was going to lecture. He declined.

I asked if he would at least publish his school speaking schedule so we could visit the schools he was targeting for lectures.



*CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham speaks at a general session at the Christian Concern Conference in London, England on Oct. 27.*

He again declined. I asked if he actually intended to hide his student audiences from us, and he said he feared that our presence with abortion photos on the sidewalks of any school would so antagonize teachers at that location that the school would retaliate against all pro-life organizations. I asked, "So what? The benefits of showing students the horror of abortion from the sidewalk far outweigh any disadvantages inherent in losing the opportunity to present them with incomplete lectures from the classroom. My impromptu opponent disagreed, of course, but it was clear that I had won over the large audience with my unexpected cross-examination. Hardly any of our listeners believed the way to fight abortion is to cover it up.

My presentation was extremely fruitful because two organizations invited me back to England to speak again next year, and several effective activists asked for copies of my talk and/or expressed interest in working with us.

The following day, Andrew Stephenson, CBR's U.K. regional director, and I met in London with Christian Concern's Andrew March and pro-life barristers Paul Diamond

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Gregg stands with four courageous pro-life activists from Northern Ireland. They thanked him for his London conference speech because the fact that it was well-received helped legitimize their use of abortion photos in the eyes of other activists who were skeptical.*



## LONDON (Continued from page 1)

and Michael Phillips. These attorneys are affiliated with our friends at the Alliance Defense Fund and they have been very helpful to our U.K. work in the past. I proposed the launch of a U.K. Genocide Awareness Project on British college campuses, beginning with Oxford University, and they were keen to help with the supporting legal strategy.

I had earlier proposed that we work to clarify U.K. speech law regarding the right to publicly display abortion images by first exhibiting pictures of living babies, still in the uterus, and then gradually ramping up to photos of aborted babies. Andrew Stephenson has been experimenting with this approach outside abortion clinics and the police have largely ignored him when he displays the living embryo pictures but sometimes arrest him when he shows abortion photos. Our goal is to draw the Crown into a court battle and they know it, so they refuse to file charges against Andrew and his staff when they do arrest them. That is progress in and of itself, because when the authorities decline to charge us, they are setting a precedent which will make it progressively more difficult to ever charge us. And if they do charge us, we have the court case we need to litigate expressive rights law more formally.

At the meeting concerning Oxford, however, I suggested that we display 4 x 6-foot versions of two signs, one showing a bloody photo depicting the surgical removal of a cancerous tumor and the other the bloody surgical removal of an aborted baby. The two signs would be exhibited side by side, several feet apart, outside the Oxford Union, a legendary British debating society, with as many students as we can recruit. The signs are the central elements of a press conference announcing the launch of our abortion photo project on U.K. college campuses. We would attempt to attract the press by telling them that our purpose is



*Emerson College students converged on the Sept. 16-17 GAP exhibit. Debate was so heated that Leslie Sneddon, CBR-Maine Director, prayed fervently for God to intervene. God answered her prayers; the Boston Police stepped up their patrols.*

to politely provoke our own arrest if Oxford University or city authorities attempt to hide the horror of abortion by ordering the removal of our signs. For good measure, we will also display a large sign with a photo of the Magna Carta, the document on which our Constitution is based. King John was forced to sign it in 1225 and in so doing, proclaimed such civil liberties as freedom from arbitrary dictates issued by whim of the monarchy.

We would then await the inevitable complaints from passersby which would trigger police action. When the police arrive and order the removal of the abortion photo sign, we should ask on camera if we may continue to display the cancer surgery photo sign. There is no good answer to that question from the Crown's perspective. If the police say no and order the removal of both signs, they seem foolish for censoring a totally benign (actually malignant) photo of a therapeutic thoracic procedure. If they say yes and permit the continued display of the cancer surgery photo, they stumble into the trap by which we argue that abortion is unlike other surgeries because it is manifestly, demonstrably intended to kill instead of heal. The sight of blood may make some viewers feel squeamish, but the sight of homicide makes most viewers feel horror.

We will have another planning meeting via conference call later this month and I will return to England to further plan this project in late January. God willing, we will then launch it in early February. Please keep us in prayer.

## We are grateful for your support as we stand up for preborn children.

*"With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD;... For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save his life from those who condemn him."*

*PSALM 109:30-31*

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for God's provision for Eastern European and African pro-life leaders to implement CBR strategy
- Funding and volunteers to conduct our Corporate Accountability Project (CAP) and run our trucks

## Events

### GAP

Nov. 7-8      **University of Rhode Island**  
*Kingston, Rhode Island*

Nov. 14      **Boston, Maine**

### "CHOICE" SIGN OUTREACHES

Nov. 18      **Aberdeen High School, Maryland**

Dec. 2, Dec. 16      **Portland, Maine**

Nov. 29, Dec. 13      **Waterville, Maine**





# CBR Victory at Phoenix Area Community Colleges

**O**ur goal to “reinvent the pro-life movement” continues to be realized. A recent victory for our regional office in Phoenix offers evidence that we are succeeding.

CBR-Arizona Director Jason Walsh recognized the vast number of community college students CBR could educate with the visual truth about abortion when he discovered there are ten Maricopa Community Colleges in the greater Phoenix area. Accordingly, on April 1, 2011, Jason and a crew of three volunteers were quietly distributing pro-life

**“I have got to share this. I’ve got to do something more than just think about it.”**

*(29-year-old woman, Tucson, AZ, December 11, 2011 visitor to CBR’s AbortionNO.org)*

literature on the campus of Phoenix College when a security guard told them they had to get permission from the Dean of Students. Jason was directed to Assistant Dean of Students Ms. Genesis Toole, who took a look at our literature, saw that it was anti-abortion, and denied our team permission to be on campus. She told Jason that our message would not “benefit” the students as some students and faculty have had abortions.

Jason quickly alerted CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham, who then enlisted our attorney friend Robert Muise of the Thomas More Law Center. Mr. Muise sent the college a May 9, 2011 letter which educated the administration about the First Amendment. His letter was a virtual treatise on Constitutional law. The college realized its free speech policies were problematic but failed to give us a satisfactory reply.

Jason then set November 10, 2011 as the date to come back to Phoenix College with pro-life literature, “permission” or no. He wrote the college legal counsel about the planned visit and asked for “needed clarification regarding my organization’s desire to distribute pro-life literature on the Phoenix College campus.” Jason

added: “Please know that we will abide by every law, but cannot submit to ad hoc restrictions and content-based discrimination that infringe upon our Constitutional right to freely visit an open campus.”

Phoenix College’s legal counsel replied that the college district was still working on policy changes, but advised: “In the interim, the college has agreed that you may distribute your literature on the sidewalk without charge so long as you

coordinate your visit in advance with the campus student life office.”

Jason and the volunteers went back to Phoenix College on November 10 and distributed pro-life literature. They captured video footage of students who agreed to give feedback. One freshman male told Jason, “I have mixed feelings. I think it’s a woman’s right, but then again, seeing that picture [abortion victim] kind of opened it up to me. I’ve never seen anything like that. It made me think a little more about it.” View the video interviews here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpMR38TX37k>

**CBR has taught Constitutional law to more university administrators, faculty and security personnel than anyone**

*Protestors from Emerson College held pro-abortion signs in an attempt to cover up our Genocide Awareness Project. CBR-Maine and CBR-Maryland teamed up to conduct GAP in the Boston Common, right across the street from liberal Emerson College. This is education about abortion outside the classroom! Many students engaged in discussions and took our brochures.*



*CBR-Arizona volunteers share the truth about abortion with students at Phoenix College on Nov. 10.*

**else in America. We have developed a model legal memo that we share with other pro-life activists who conduct free speech projects.** They give it to their lawyers to assist in defending their rights. Canadian and English barristers find the memo particularly helpful because of the similarities among our legal systems. Even in countries which claim to extend expressive rights to their citizens, the law is not consistently applied from community to community and there exists a never-ending need to educate local officials and take them to court when necessary.

We plan to continue to “test” the Phoenix area Maricopa Community Colleges by bringing “Choice” signs to campuses and before long, our entire Genocide Awareness Project. More victories are anticipated as we pave the way to access these campuses and many others in Arizona.



“ We cannot fight abortion by covering it up. ”

**Gregg Cunningham, CBR Executive Director**



*At the University of Rhode Island Genocide Awareness Project, several CBR staff and volunteers served as post-abortive witnesses. In this photo, they express their love and support for Fr. Frank Pavone, whose Priests for Life ministry includes the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. CBR-Maine and CBR Southeast coordinated this Nov. 7-8 GAP.*

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