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*Dear Partners and Friends,*

This month, we update you on our recent participation in the annual March for Life in Washington DC. This event is hugely important, not because of any impact on the DC power structure, but because of the opportunities to influence future leaders of the pro-life movement. We thank God so much for your generous support for the lives of children and their parents.

*Fletcher, Jane, and John*

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**So That's Why We March!**

(This story is from Paul Simoneau.)

I direct the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Knoxville. Each year, we take hundreds of high school students to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. I want to share with you the transformation that took place among our students as a result of the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP).

It wasn't the gathering of 25,000 young people for the Mass at the Verizon Center that had the greatest impact on our students. It wasn't the sheer magnitude of 225,000 people marching down Constitution Avenue. It wasn't the many speeches and moving testimonies. *It was the truth – the reality – of abortion that stirred their souls and transformed their hearts.*

As we walked along the March route, the students were talking and horsing around. The seriousness of it all was lost on these young folks, who were more focused on social relationships and music. As the GAP pictures came into view, one of the more talkative girls in the group gasped and fell silent. The others, curious as to what had suddenly silenced their chattering friend, turned and caught sight of the pictures. They, too, fell silent. *The transformation was immediate and sobering. Their complacency was shattered by images that astounded and horrified the mind.* Speeches and moving testimonies had not done what several pictures accomplished in only a few seconds. What had been a social and fun "field trip" suddenly became focused and serious. A respectful silence fell upon the students and lasted well after the pictures were out of view.

The silence was finally broken when one student said, "So that's why we march!" Their collective thoughts were summarized by the same girl who had been so distracted before seeing the pictures: "*Whatever I thought abortion was, before now, is no longer the case. This is a war in the womb. Why aren't more people outraged at this?*"

Speeches, testimonies, masses of people protesting abortion, etc. — *none of these changed our students in the same way as just a brief exposure to the GAP pictures.*

Well done, CBR team, well done!



*We place the GAP signs right alongside the March route. Tens of thousands of young people learn more about abortion from seeing these pictures than from their Christians schools, from their "pro-life" churches, or from anything they hear at the March.*

**CBR Exposes Truth of Abortion at the Annual March for Life**

Each January 22, the anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision of the US Supreme Court, tens of thousands of pro-life activists and students converge on Washington for the annual March for Life. They assemble on the Mall to hear speeches for an hour or so; then they march down Constitution Avenue toward the Capitol.

A large segment of the crowd are students bussed in from all over the US. They go to private Christian schools, but most of them know very little about abortion. Many are not even pro-life. *Unfortunately, they learn very little about abortion at their Christian schools, at their pro-life churches, or from the speeches at the March.* But when they walk down Constitution Avenue, they go right past our GAP display. The pictures of abortion make it clear to them what this March is all about.

# Standing in the GAP

## Influencing the Future Leadership

In January, Fletcher spoke at the annual conference of the Students for Life of America (SFLA). To a standing-room-only crowd, he explained how social reformers have always used pictures to communicate both (1) the humanity of the victims of injustice and (2) the inhumanity of the injustice itself. The historical facts are compelling. After we finished, one student was overheard saying to her friend, ***“When I came here, I did not support the use of graphic abortion images. After hearing this presentation, I support their use entirely.”***

As a result of this presentation, Fletcher was invited to address the Students for Life of Kentucky (SFLKy) in February. Again, his presentation was well-received, and we expect to get many GAP invitations from students all over Kentucky.

We are seeing a dramatic increase in pro-life activism on the nation’s college campuses. It’s nowhere near what it needs to become — what we are working to make it — but pro-life activism today is a huge improvement over what it was ten years ago. Several factors are involved: (1) the work of SFLA to start new groups and train their leaders, and (2) CBR’s work to start new student groups and empower them with effective strategies and tools. There may be something else.

We can’t account for this, but it is clear to us that pro-life students coming out of high school are more prepared for this battle than their predecessors were. They are committed. They have a vision for what they can accomplish. They don’t fear the opposition that all social reformers must face; they embrace it. They instinctively understand how pictures are necessary to reach others in their generation, and they are ready for the task.

Kentucky is a prime example. When we first took GAP to Kentucky in 2002, there were no pro-life student groups in the state. None. But after GAP, groups organized at the U of Kentucky and the U of Louisville. This February, the first annual conference of the newly-organized SFLKy attracted 50 attendees representing a dozen colleges and universities. The same thing is happening nationally. Over 800 students attended the SFLA conference in January, nearly double the number who attended in 2007. Please pray for these students. Pray that God will give them both clarity and courage.

## Financial Update

***Consistent commitment yields consistent results.*** We want to be a consistent presence on college campuses and at events like the March for Life, so we’ve been asking you to make a consistent commitment to the unborn. Every one of you is important. Here’s where we are:

- Automatic monthly partners – 47 (no change)
- Other monthly partners – 43 (no change)
- Other regular partners – 27 (no change)
- TOTAL REGULAR PARTNERS – 117 (no change)

If you aren’t one of these, please consider joining our financial support team. Another baby’s life is at stake.



***Fletcher explains the historical use of graphic visuals at the Students for Life of America Conference in Washington.***



***In February, Fletcher addressed the annual conference of the Students for Life of Kentucky. We plan to return to Kentucky this Spring with our Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)***



***The March for Life attracts a lot of attention. You never know who’s going to show up.***