

Mar / Apr 2014

Standing in the GAP

Director's Corner C. Fletcher Armstrong, PhD **CBR Southeast Director**



Dear Partners and Friends.

The 2013-2014 school year was one of our busiest ever. Our GAP team stupefied students in Kentucky, Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and New York. Recruiting and training new staff was a top priority.

Our Pro-Life Training Academy (PLTA) trained prolife students to answer all the hard questions, and they did a super job. We are preparing the next generation of pro-life activists; that's why your support is so critical. Thank you for all you do!

Jethy

General Truths Outrank Colonels at Eastern Kentucky University

Our Kentucky GAP tour took us back to Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) for the third time. We love EKU because the students are both intelligent and open-minded. Those two things ought to go together, but some schools tell their students over and over again how much smarter they are than everybody else. Those students can be narrow-minded and bigoted, because they are ... you know ... smarter than everybody else. But truly smart people know that *the only barrier to truth that* cannot be overcome is the assumption that you already have it.

Mind tricks don't work. Two things we know for sure: (1) Jedi mind tricks don't work on Toydarians, and (2) proabortion mind tricks don't work on us.

Olivia approached CBR volunteer Mark Wolf, "Do you believe in welfare for women who get pregnant?"

Usually, questions like this are simply attempts to change the subject. Pro-aborts don't want to talk about decapitating and dismembering little human beings, so they bring up every societal problem known to man. If we can't solve *all* of them, then that can <u>only</u> mean that abortion <u>must</u> be retained as the solution of final resort. (Can we call it the "final solution?") And not just for a few mothers who face difficulties, but for *all* mothers.

Olivia pressed her point, "Do you support free access to contraception?

Mark pointed to one of abortion photos (a picture of a hand and an arm on a dime) and asked, "Is it ever morally justifiable to do this to another human being?" Her eyes moved to the pic-

(Continued on page 2)

The Pro-Life Training Academy: **Helping Students Get it Right!**

Vol. 15, No. 2

Our staff and volunteers are all alumni of the Pro-Life Training Academy (PLTA), where they learn to articulate and defend the pro-life position. Students notice when we get it right. From the Eastern Progress, the student paper at EKU:

"I was glad in the fact that they weren't screaming at people like the pastor does down in (Powell Plaza),' said Sebastian Torres, 18, a freshman history major from Miami. "They approached me quite politely and handed me a brochure and started asking questions."

Torres said the staff and volunteers were quoting figures, court cases and books to back up their arguments.

"For every question I had, they had an answer. It was very precise," Torres said.

Pro-life students and volunteers appreciate the preparation they get and the confidence that comes with knowledge:

"After attending the PLTA, speaking with a pro-abortion person is quite simple." (Julie, Georgia)

"Incredibly effective technique. It's so simple, but it can *defeat any pro-abortion argument.*" (Stephanie, Kentucky)

"An outstanding class which teaches a simple approach that works." (Russell, California)

"I learned so much. I am much more confident now." (Teresa, Kentucky)

PLTA training helped Anne Mulrooney write an excellent op-ed piece for The Spectrum, the student newspaper at the University at Buffalo (source: www.ubspectrum.com/opinion/ graphic-images-are-necessary-to-anti-abortion-movement). A copy is enclosed. Because you support CBR, students like Anne have great influence on their peers. And so do you!



Standing in the GAP

Winning Hearts ... Changing Minds ... Saving Lives

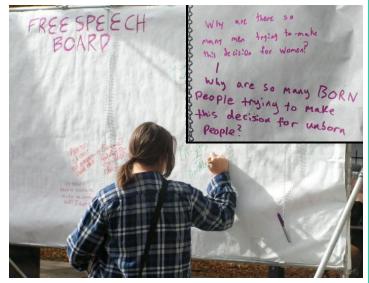
Mar/Apr 2014

(Continued from page 1)

ture and focused on the remains of the child. She struggled with the reality of abortion, perhaps for the very first time.

Mark gave her some time to process the image. When she again tried to change the subject, Mark described a D&E abortion, and asked her if it is ever morally acceptable to do that to another human being. She again stared at the image and struggled with what she saw. Finally she said she would have to "get [her] sources" and then she walked away.

Of course some people change their minds right there on the spot. You will read several examples from the University of Kentucky (story at right). But some need time to consider the facts and weigh the arguments. Let us pray for Olivia and many more like her who struggle with the truth they see.



The Free Speech Board provides another venue for dialogue. Pro-abort: "Why are there so many men trying to make this decision for women?" Response: "Why are so many BORN people trying to make this decision for unborn people?"



GAP can't happen except for the courage and commitment of young pro-life champions like Linda Grijalba, President of UK Students for Life.

Pro-abortion Mildcats Declawed at University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky (UK) is also one of our favorite places to GAP. Among the students, there is great diversity of thought. [Among the faculty, not so much; universities *talk* about diversity, but they are *really* a monolithic echo chamber.]

He saw the video! Michael said, "*I'm coming over to your side, this is really killing a human being.*" He went on to explain that he had just seen a video that showed an actual abortion. He saw how horrible it was. We are guessing he watched CBR's Choice Blues video. We are certain he never would have seen it had we not been on his campus with GAP.

He saw the light! A young man from the UK (the *other* UK ... the United Kingdom, that is) said he had not thought much about abortion, until he saw the pictures. (We hear that over and over again.) He then decided he could never be a part of an abortion, but he still thought it should be a woman's right to choose. He took a GAP brochure.

That same night, he visited the hospital to see a newborn baby — his best friend and his girlfriend had delivered that day. When he got home, he read the brochure and the light came on! *He now has a very strong opinion and will forever be pro-life.*

From anger to interest. CBR volunteer Bryan McKinney was speaking to a small group when Jackie interrupted, "Have you been pregnant? Are you a woman? I don't want to talk to anyone about this but a woman." She was quite angry.

CBR staffer Maggie Egger intervened "I'm a woman. I've never been pregnant, but I'd be happy to speak with you." Jackie brought up the usual challenges (rape, life of the mother, disability, etc.). After Maggie answered each one, Jackie would say "Hmmm" (thoughtfully) and move on to her next question.

When Jackie brought up religion, Maggie said she did not come to her pro-life view from religion, but from science and philosophy. As an atheist, Jackie liked that. She had never encountered a pro-life person who didn't use a religious argument.

[As Christians, we are eager to share our faith (and we do), but our faith does not fully address the question of whether abortion is wrong or not. Remember, even Christians owned slaves, and even atheists agree that killing 6 million Jews is wrong.]

Before she left, Jackie asked to have a brochure. She said, "I will definitely read this, because you've given me food for thought."

His brain still works! Bryan said he was a liberal. (Well, maybe so, but he obviously isn't a leftist because his brain still works.) After speaking with CBR's Lincoln Brandenburg for nearly an hour, he said, "The liberal in me still wants to be prochoice, but *after hearing the scientific arguments against it, and seeing pictures of it, there's just no way I can support it.*"

Facts and reason change minds. At UK we encountered many people who, like Bryan, changed their views on the spot. These students were used to thinking about abortion only in terms of "choice." *But God used us and GAP to make a life-changing — and for some, a life-saving — difference.*