

# **Standing in the GAP**

## October 2015

# Vol. 16, No. 6

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



Dear Partners and Friends,

Our GAP tour of Spring 2015 was truly record-setting. We visited 9 schools in 5 states!

This months *Standing in the GAP* covers two of these schools, UNC Wilmington and Western Kentucky University. This was our first visit ever to each school.

I should also mention that I have started writing columns for Townhall.com. Please check out my latest at www.TownHall.com/columnists/FletcherArmstrong/.

Fletcher

### To Christians at UNC Wilmington, child sacrifice not just "somebody else's problem"

It was by far the best campus Christian organization we have ever encountered. They are Ratio Christi and they don't have time for the "pizza for Jesus" tomfoolery that wastes so much time in youth ministry today. Young Christians are very weak because nobody is preparing them to take a stand. But Ratio Christi is different; their unofficial motto seems to be, "We're trying to pick a fight!" And they are good at it!

We joined with them at the U of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) to fight child sacrifice. Ratio Christi, along with College Republicans (CRs) hosted our Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) and Pro Life Training Academy to UNCW for the very first time. By God's grace and your support, we made quite a splash.

*Location.* Our display location was along the Chancellor's Walk, which is the primary walkway to get from anywhere at UNCW to just about anywhere else.

**Baby saved?** A 19-year-old student told CBR's Jane Bullington, "My girlfriend is pregnant. It will be hard, but we will not do this." Jane spoke with him for a long time. He was nervous, but grateful for someone to listen to him and give encouragement.

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We stop for lightning, but rain does not deter us at UNCW.

### An unwilling audience at Western Kentucky University

It was our very first trip to Western Kentucky University (WKU) with the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP). Although not invited by a student group, we reserved space as a vendor on Centennial Mall, the most heavily trafficked location on campus.

Rather than participate in GAP, the WKU Students for Life (SFL) set up a free-speech board about 100 feet away, with the question "How can we help pregnant women on campus?" According to their president, they wanted to gauge the responses of students to GAP before committing to using victim images.

We acknowledged that many students would not be thrilled about it! But we also guaranteed that GAP would be more effective than anything else they have ever seen.

But they didn't have to just take our word for it. They saw it with their own eyes and heard it with their own ears. Near the end of a fruitful first day of GAP, one of the SFL members approached. He said, "We've had a lot of people tell us they changed their mind on abortion because they saw your pictures!"

Why are we not surprised?

We commented that the most outspoken students tend to be those who are upset by abortion victim photos. He assured us that, "Oh, the students who've talked to

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#### **Christians at UNC Wilmington ...**

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*Lightning.* Lightning was an issue both days on campus. For our GAP displays, CBR has adopted the NCAA protocols for outdoor athletic events (although our staff and volunteers are normally much less exposed than the typical baseball center fielder). We vacate the site whenever lightning is detected within a 6-mile radius (less than 30 seconds between lightning flash and sound of thunder), and stay in a sheltered location for 30 minutes beyond the last such strike.

*Voting is important.* A young member of College Republicans asked a lot of questions. He said, "I need to vote appropriately." That was refreshing to hear.

*Media coverage.* WECT Channel 6, interviewed several students for their "Two UNCW Student Organizations Bring Controversial Display to Campus" report. Ratio Christi President Madison Marston was quoted:

Unless you take a course in human embryology, students may never know how well- developed unborn babies are when abortions are performed. The unborn are more than clumps of tissues and these images clearly prove it.

Steven Robinson, another UNCW student was also quoted in the story:

I think it's great. I think people need to be made aware of what's going on and what we say is OK in our country,

We had help! In the planning stages, we were aided by Mike Adams, a UNCW faculty member and columnist for Townhall.com, who introduced us to Ratio Christi. Additionally, former CBR staffer Paul Troiani and his wife Anna were instrumental in helping us prepare for and fund the project. We praise God for them and for you!



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us were upset, but they realized that abortion is wrong." They had been upset because they realized that abortion, by its very nature, is upsetting.

Social reformers are never popular until *after* they win. Martin Luther King got thrown in jail. But reformers don't wait for the culture to approve; they act against the evils that society tolerates and celebrates.

In his column, The Unwilling Audience, Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life wrote:

Perhaps the most important principle ... for the prolife movement to adopt at this point in time, is that pro-life activity which relies on the voluntary consent of the audience is insufficient. ... To put it rather bluntly, effective social reform requires forcing the message on an unwilling audience. It means confronting the culture with what it does not want to hear. (https://priestsforlife.org/columns/ columns2001/01-06-18unwillingaudience.htm)



Above: Abortion photos create more opportunity for dialogue than any other pro-life tactic. Below: Our Truth Truck carries the pro-life message throughout the campus!





Maximum visibility at UNC Wilmington.