

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

February 2013

Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

On January 26, 2013, a fifty-year-old man from New York wrote us to say that he had seen our abortion photos at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. He remarked that “A picture in this case is worth far more than a thousand words. Photos should be used much more and constantly.” He also opined “Churches need to start showing these photos much more; it is justified because of the heartless barbarity and the huge numbers of people who have been killed.” He added that “... it was ... photos that made me realize the hidden horrors of abortion” and said he “wondered why New York’s three main newspapers were covering up this evil holocaust.” But pro-abortion newspapers aren’t the only organizations which hide the horror of abortion. Officials from major pro-life organizations have for years worked to push CBR’s abortion photos out of sight at the March for Life (and at 40 Days for Life prayer vigils – but that is another story).

We’ve saved babies by defying their censorship. On Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Emmanuel Wenke, a *National Catholic Register* reader, posted the following comment in response to a *Register* blogger’s nonsensical article opposing our display of huge abortion photos at the March: “A few years ago I was at the March for Life. For a while, my group was standing near the [CBR] large posters of aborted babies. As I was walking around waiting for things to get moving, I saw a visibly pregnant woman crying. She fumbled for her phone, dialed a number, and then spoke to ‘Johnny’ (name changed), saying, ‘We can’t go through with this! I’m calling and cancelling right now. I don’t know what we’ll do ... but we CANNOT have it aborted!’ She continued and described one of the pictures to him, and eventually walked out of earshot”

Abortion photos save lives everywhere we show them -- even at the March for Life. And our strategy is gaining favor in high places. LifeSiteNews.com posted a story February 8, 2013, headlined “Bishops have a ‘duty’ to deny pro-abortion politicians Communion, American Cardinal says.” In an interview with the Irish newspaper *Catholic Voice*, the Cardinal Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, the Vatican’s highest court, Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke “...appeared to favour the use of graphic abortion images -- ‘images which portray the horror of abortion’ -- in public education campaigns. ‘One must observe that we have a habit in society today to use language which helps us to avoid the reality about which we are speaking,’ he said.” The Cardinal added that “‘... one must be careful not to use graphic images for the sake of being graphic,’ but that ‘On the other hand, our fellow citizens should know what an abortion actually is. Images of the act of abortion or the results of abortion, when carefully presented to the public, can help the public, in general, to recognize the grave evil which besets us and to take appropriate action.’”

Pictures have the power to change everything. History.Army.mil reinforces that point in an analysis of the U.S. military intervention in Somalia, titled “The United States Army in Somalia, 1992-1994.” The essay explains that shocking pictures provided the impetus for our military incursion to protect those distributing food aid in a failed state whose warring warlords gave new meaning to the word “anarchy.” In 1992, “The most visible elements of the suffering ... [were] pictures of starving, fly-covered children ... [which] appeared nightly on American television screens.” Obviously, “... [T]he administration of President George H. W. Bush felt it could not ignore the situation, despite the obvious risks of intervening in a country still at war with itself.” Photos reach an area of the brain which can never be accessed by words.

And abortion photos are the only effective means of rebutting the litany of lies which spews forth relentlessly from the Culture of Death. *National Review* published a story in the December 17, 2012 issue which reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had made a dehumanizing reference to preborn children when they referred to abortions performed “... by the eighth week of pregnancy, when the fetus is about the size of a lima bean.” No mention, of course, that a three-week, “lima bean-size” embryo already has a beating heart, or that a six-week embryo already has measurable brainwave activity, or that a seven-week female embryo already has identifiable ovaries. And the deception isn’t merely limited to baby-killing. Deception also shrouds the killing of these babies’ mothers.

On February 17, 2013, JillStanek.com reported that late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart not only killed a young patient and her thirty-three-week-old preborn baby, but that he has also been instructing his abortion patients “... not to go to the ER [emergency room] in the event of an emergency, but instead to ‘call and we will meet you at the clinic ...’” Jill, herself a nurse, said this “... is clearly dangerous medical advice.” It may be dangerous medical advice, but it is arguably an abortionist’s safest legal strategy -- if he cares more about his liability than his patients’ safety. Why risk revealing your own criminal and/or civil negligence if you can manipulate vulnerable patients into helping conceal your mistakes from emergency room docs? This is about public accountability, and Carhart sees himself as above the law.

Accountability is in increasingly short supply these days, and nowhere is this evasion more evident than in America’s failing public schools. *The Daily Caller* reported a February 18, 2013 story headlined “Chicago Teachers Union [CTU] demands end of standardized testing.” The article said “The CTU recently released a report arguing that standardized tests are a faulty measure of student achievement. They also advance a pro-corporate agenda, the report said.” That “corporate agenda” is an American workforce comprised of employees who can read and write and add and subtract -- skills beyond the capacity of many teachers who are themselves only semi-literate and bereft of even the simplest math skills. So, of course, these teachers want to avoid accountability by halting student testing -- and thereby hide their own incompetence.

Another shameful example of official disdain for public accountability was the recent attack on the Constitution’s Second Amendment by Chicago’s Chief of Police, Garry McCarthy, reported at RedState.com, February 17, 2013. The article was headlined “Chicago Police Chief: Second Amendment is a Danger to Public Safety.” The Chief opined that firearms owners who lobby to protect their gun rights “... engaged in corruption that endangers public safety.” He added that judges should interpret the Constitution based on “public opinion polls” instead of the Constitution’s plain language. He also insisted that the Second Amendment guarantees only the right to possess “smooth-bore muskets.” Get it? That’s all the colonists had. He also believes that it would be constitutional for the government to require that gun owners carry (expensive) liability insurance and attach GPS tracking devices to their muskets. This is the same guy who recently said “Chicago does not have strict gun laws” and that “the state of Illinois does not have strict gun laws” (DNAinfo.com, “... Emanuel Joins McCarthy ... in Pushing for Tougher Gun Penalties,” February 11, 2013). He is as big a fool as Democrat Colorado State Rep. Joe Salazar who, according to DailyCaller.com, February 18, 2013, recently declared that some female gun owners “... are so unjustifiably afraid of being raped that they are liable to start shooting wildly.” He recommended they defend themselves by blowing whistles till the cops arrive.

Both these idiots are tyrants. They are the kind of officious bureaucrats who might also argue that the Second Amendment secures the right to “keep and bear arms” not to private citizens, but only to a “well-ordered militia.” That revisionist view of history conveniently overlooks the fact that the earliest colonial militias were largely informal groups of private citizens who used their own privately owned firearms to protect their families and neighbors from crime and tyranny. These many personal militia weapons, not issued by the government, created significant logistical problems for a new Continental Army. Congress

lacked the funds required to standardize its army's weaponry. That meant inefficiencies in weapons training, maintenance and ammunition supply. But the use of large numbers of personal weapons proves incontestably that the Founding Fathers meant private citizens when referring to guns and militias.

In rebuttal to Chief McCarthy's anti-gun rant, WashingtonTimes.com reported February 11, 2013 that "Chicago has some of the strictest gun laws in the country." Chicago even banned handguns until the U.S. Supreme Court struck down this confiscatory prohibition in 2010. Until then, Chicago impounded privately owned firearms by the thousands. And confiscation of personal weapons is always a tyrant's first impulse. If tyrannical governments were only permitted to threaten individual freedoms by pointing "smooth-bore muskets" at the populous, then the populous might only need "smooth-bore muskets" with which to point back. But the Second Amendment was never conceived or understood principally as guaranteeing firearms to hunters and target shooters. It was viewed most importantly as a final defense against criminality and the ultimate hedge against tyranny. And the most arrogant forms of contemporary tyranny begin with officials who read into the Constitution an illegitimate right to kill babies, and read out of the Constitution a legitimate right for citizens to keep and bear arms.

The Independence Institute makes this latter point in a compelling analysis of the antecedents to America's Revolutionary War, posted at DaveKopel.org, in an article titled "The American Revolution Against British Gun Control." The essay notes that "the Americans made no distinction between self-defense against a lone criminal or [the common defense] against a criminal government. To the Americans ... the right of self-defense necessarily implied the right of armed self-defense against tyranny."

These values were so deeply embedded in American colonial culture that "If the British used violence to seize arms or powder, the Americans would treat that violent seizure as an act of war, and would fight. And that is exactly what happened several months later, on April 19, 1775." Shortly after becoming Governor of Massachusetts, and in response to colonial anger over the British Parliament's passage of The Intolerable Acts (imposing crushing taxation and oppressive regulations), "[Lt. Gen. Thomas] Gage directed the Redcoats to begin general, warrantless searches for arms and ammunition. According to the Boston Gazette, of all General Gage's offenses, 'what most irritated the People' was 'seizing their Arms and Ammunition.'"

Gen. Gage's orders to confiscate colonial munitions emanated from the highest levels of the British government. "Lord Dartmouth, the Royal Secretary of State for America, sent Gage a letter on October 17, 1774, urging him to disarm New England. Gage replied that he would like to do so, but it was impossible without the use of force." Governmental tyrants have always understood the difficulties and dangers inherent in oppressing an armed populous. "Two days after Lord Dartmouth dispatched his disarmament recommendation, King George III and his ministers blocked importation of arms and ammunition to America." How different are the munitions confiscation orders recently issued by the tyrannical monarch enthroned in America's White House?

Kopel explains that as a consequence, "The American War of Independence began on April 19, 1775, when 700 Redcoats under the command of Major John Pitcairn left Boston to seize American arms at Lexington and Concord." Gage's troops also marched to seize munitions in Williamsburg, Virginia. Because black powder was unstable, it was safer for larger quantities of even privately owned gunpowder to be stored in community armories. Without high numbers of firearms in the hands of patriotic private citizens, tyranny would have triumphed. Instead, "... the American militiamen began laying siege to Boston, where General Gage's standing army was located. At dawn, Boston had been the base from which the King's army could project force into New England. Now, it was trapped in the city, surrounded by people in arms."

Thank God for guns in the hands of patriots. Liberals, of course, disagree. Had they lived in colonial America, most would have joined the royalists who fled to England when the shooting started. Guns,

however, were and remain the ultimate guarantee of governmental accountability. In the final analysis, all government power is coercive. Governments tacitly threaten gun violence to enforce their edicts. If you doubt that uncomfortable fact, stop paying taxes. Then refuse to open your door to the IRS agents who will eventually be dispatched to take you into custody. You may be assured that they will be carrying guns. The Framers of the Constitution, however, made certain that America's governed could reasonably limit their government's coercive power through electoral means. But in the event that those means were ever circumscribed by tyranny, the Founders entrusted us with a Constitution which recognizes the inherent right of private citizens to own many of the same combat arms possessed by the government. The Framers believed that that right would create a check on the most extreme forms of tyranny -- the forms which can no longer be redressed through resort to traditional democratic processes.

GunPolicy.org estimates that there are 270,000,000 privately owned firearms in the U.S. That gives us the world's largest privately armed populous -- by orders of magnitude. For context, consider the fact that the U.S. military has 3,054,553 firearms. All U.S. law enforcement personnel have only 897,400. This lopsided disparity in firepower is part of the reason that tyrannical liberals despise the Constitution. It is why in 2008 Barack Obama told his San Francisco donors that "You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest ... it's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns, or religion, or antipathy toward people who aren't like them, or anti-immigrant sentiment, or anti-trade sentiment, as a way to explain their frustrations." The news media shamelessly suppressed Barack Obama's damaging gun gaffe and John McCain lacked the fighting spirit required to use it effectively in paid ads. But is it possible that the speed bump created by America's heavily armed citizenry explains some of Barack Obama's bitter frustration at not being able to do more damage more quickly, to America's religious rights, for instance, as in the abortion mandates forced on religious institutions by ObamaCare?

We could never effectively resist abortion without the First Amendment, but the Framers knew that we could easily lose our First Amendment rights (religion, speech, press, assembly, and redress of grievances) if we couldn't protect those rights by exercising the freedoms guaranteed under the Second Amendment.

So accountability is CBR's goal. We seek to impose it, and our adversaries seek to evade it. We are there when abortionists lie to mothers, and professors mislead students, and candidates dodge issues. We push back when businesses support Planned Parenthood and attempt to hide that fact from their customers. And we will soon minister, from the public sidewalks, to congregations whose pastors have abandoned them on abortion. Our pictures will save babies, protect mothers, and start the wounded on the path to repentance, forgiveness, and healing. Our pictures will also call believers to action with signs asking "WHERE IS THE CHURCH?" and "THIS IS WHAT NOT VOTING LOOKS LIKE." Our church and para-church cultures are experiencing a leadership crisis which hurts the entire society. With your continued support and God's grace, we will help fill these leadership voids. And CBR needs your help securing matching money from a donor who has pledged one dollar for every dollar we raise this year, up to \$125,000. Please consider reordering your budget priorities to help us attain this goal and fund important new church-related projects.

Lord bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Cunningham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gregg Cunningham
Executive Director