

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

May 2014

Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

On May 5, 2014, *The Daily Caller* published a story headlined “Woman films her own abortion to show the world how ‘cool’ it is.” The article, relying in part on an earlier feature in *Cosmopolitan* magazine, begins “Emily Letts, a counselor at a New Jersey abortion clinic, decided to film her own abortion and post it on YouTube as a form of positive inspiration to women who are contemplating having the procedure but worry that they might feel guilty afterward.” *The Daily Caller* is usually a valuable source of news and commentary but the principal contentions contained in this story are factually incorrect. Ms. Letts didn’t film her own abortion. She filmed only her own face during her abortion. The camera never reveals what is going on below her waist. The clinic director would never have permitted her to actually film her abortionist butchering her baby. When we posted video showing viewers how savagely Northland Family Planning Centers, a chain of Michigan abortion clinics, slaughters the preborn children they “terminate,” their director sued us (unsuccessfully) in federal court. The complaint she filed, now a matter of public record, admitted that our abortion video, which actually discloses what goes on below a pregnant mother’s waist, had injured their reputation (a reputation the public now knows is built on a foundation of lies) and damaged their business (a business the public now knows is built on acts of violence which kills real babies). We are now preparing a similar parody exposé video with which to counterattack Ms. Letts’ video. Pray that she and her abortion clinic, the Cherry Hill Women’s Center, sue us so we can also get them into court, soundly defeat them, and in the process, expose their depravity.

Next we read that “Letts has no ... guilt. She recalls the procedure with fondness.” Fogginess might be more accurate than “fondness.” Her voice and affect seem groggy in a way which also suggests she might have been sedated. Laying aside the more fundamental question of whether she has a functioning conscience, the primary reason she feels no guilt may simply be that she chose to look away from her baby’s execution, which “She even describes it as ‘birth-like ...’” She adds that “... it made her feel good, just like giving birth would.” Letts writes (in *Cosmopolitan*) that “having an abortion and giving birth produce similarly happy feelings.” As one conservative wag pointed out, Ms. Letts has never given birth, so how would she know what it’s like? This sort of post-modern, moral equivalence is particularly pathetic. Notice that she is talking about abortion’s effect on her emotional wellbeing, not its effect on her baby’s existential being. Birth sustains life; abortion ends life. Delivering a baby is wonderfully maternal. Killing a baby is horribly homicidal. But in Ms. Letts’ dark world, feeling good is what matters most, even if at the expense of her defenseless child.

The British DailyMail.co.UK posted a related May 6, 2014 story headlined “‘I wanted to show it wasn’t scary’: Outrage as US woman posts video of her abortion as it happened on YouTube.” But she didn’t show “it” wasn’t scary because she covered “it” up -- even from herself. Ms. Letts is quoted as saying, “I knew that what I was going to do was right -- it was right for me and for no one else.” This is quintessential moral relativism. Nothing is right; nothing is wrong. All morality is subjective because all morality is personal. She says, “I don’t feel like a bad person,” because she rejects the concept of universally applicable, moral absolutes which would qualify anyone else to judge her behavior. “I feel in awe of the fact that I can make

a baby.” And “cool” with the fact that she can kill it. “I can make a life, [and take a life] I just want to tell my story,’ she concludes.” Ms. Letts is nothing if not a story-teller.

The Daily Mail story describes her as “... a former professional actress.” Twenty-four seems somewhat young to be a former professional anything, until one considers that the film industry website IMDB.com says her most recent cinematic achievement was a 2013, quickly-to-DVD, indie horror movie titled *Hallows’ Eve*. It garnered a dismal 3.3 approval rating on a scale of 1-10 among 300 viewers. Ms. Letts is listed an obscure twenty-fifth in the credits in this failed slasher flick, two positions above an unnamed extra described only as “*Teen on Wagon*.”

LiveActionNews.org then posted a related May 13, 2014 story headlined “Did Emily Letts fake her abortion video?” Hollywood may not have thought much about her acting ability but the LiveAction story notes that “... the Abortion Care Network held an ‘abortion stigma busting competition’, which had a cash prize for the winners. And yes ... [Ms. Letts’] video won.” The competing films must not have been very formidable, but then again, Ms. Letts does have experience with the horror genre. Her happy affect seems strained. She denies she is sad, but her performance isn’t particularly convincing -- at any level. It has, however, gone viral, garnering 1,619,228 views at press time. That is a wildly larger audience than ever saw her in a handful of low-budget films.

The LiveAction article also points out inconsistencies in her story, such as the claim to have been “two to three weeks pregnant.” Abortionists won’t perform the suction-aspiration procedure she claims to have had until six weeks. Even computing based on menstrual weeks, that would have made her only five weeks “pregnant.”

The Daily Caller observes that “Despite aborting her child, she kept the sonogram.” Don’t miss the fact, however, that if the entire production isn’t a fraud, this was merely Ms. Letts’ pregnancy confirmation sonogram, not the sonogram the abortionist uses to perform the termination under ultrasound guidance. This latter scan, depicting her baby being torn limb-from-limb, would have been much harder to flippantly shrug off.

This poor soul is the very definition of self-delusional. “Letts, whose job involves encouraging women to have abortions, sees her own abortion as an entirely positive experience, and hopes the video will prove to be both instructional and morally persuasive. She feels better about herself every time she watches the video, according to *Cosmopolitan*.” Perhaps this heightened self-esteem derives from an expectation that her fifteen minutes of fame might revive her former acting career? “After the abortion is over, she says, ‘Cool. I feel good.’” At last, Emily Letts is a star -- even though the down votes are running 3-1 against her on YouTube.

The Daily Caller ends by quoting [the far left blog] ThinkProgress, which “... hailed Letts for filming her abortion and putting a positive spin on it. ‘For instance, Letts’ story helps demonstrate the fact that abortion isn’t a barbaric procedure that needs additional regulation in order to make it safer,’ wrote ThinkProgress.” What it actually demonstrates is that no one in the abortion industry is willing to reveal just how barbaric abortion really is -- but many Christian leaders are just as determined to hide the horror.

One of the greatest blessings to emerge from our campaign to force Christian colleges and seminaries to permit the public display of lifesaving abortion photo signs on their campuses has been the superb news coverage by *World* magazine. CBR lobbied *World* long and hard before we got our work on the radar of this excellent Christian news magazine, but once we succeeded, the coverage has been objective, comprehensive and committed.

As is true of all news organizations, the editorial side of the publication expresses opinions, but not their news reporters. Even-handed news coverage is why *World's* staff is taken much more seriously than the partisans who masquerade as journalists in the mainstream media. The magazine is evangelical but has a long history of exposing scandals when they occur in evangelical ministries. Such is their integrity that they have run multiple stories describing Biola University's mistreatment of a student who displayed abortion photos, despite the complication that Biola buys pricey full-page ads in the magazine. The fact that they are on the story at every campus where we work -- and show no signs of losing interest -- lets Christian colleges know they can't quietly abuse pro-life students over abortion photos and expect to get away with it. That sort of accountability deters administrative excess and emboldens our students to defy unreasonable restrictions and show their classmates the horror of abortion.

If you don't already subscribe to *World*, you may wish to visit their website at worldmag.com. Here is their latest article on CBR's Christian College Project (CCP), reprinted with permission. It is headlined "The debate on Christian campuses about bloody abortion photos," with the sub-headline "Abortion," by Angela Lu, April 15, 2014. It explains why we are losing the abortion wars and how we can eventually win:

As another school year comes to an end, debates over displaying graphic abortion photos on Christian college campuses continue. The latest flashpoint is Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where two students set up a sign on March 5, against school officials' wishes, to educate students walking out of convocation about what aborted babies really look like.

The poster depicted the severed hand of a 10-week-old aborted baby juxtaposed with Christ's bloodied hand on the cross. A caption above the photos asked, "Would Jesus use bloody images to make a point? He already did. Luke 23:26-33."

Senior Bethany Fox, involved in Students For Life since her freshman year, said she at first wasn't sure about the graphic images, but 'after years of ministering without them, I realized it was really a necessity.' When administrators denied the pro-life group's request to put up the sign -- claiming that if they allowed the graphic images, they would have to let other groups use them as well -- Fox and Eli McGowan decided to use them anyway.

Officials didn't disturb the students as they stood with their sign for half an hour by the entrance of Vine Center. Fox said a couple of students approached them in support of what they were doing. Afterward, the school didn't punish the students. Liberty declined to comment on the matter.

The pro-life group Center For Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR) is recruiting and training students to display their signs on campus, waiting to see how administrators will respond. Last year, controversy swirled around two California schools, Biola University and Westmont College. At Biola, campus security officers forced then-nursing student Diana Jimenez to leave [she refused], and the dean of nursing barred faculty from writing letters of recommendation for her. After a firestorm in the pro-life blogosphere [and 20,000 YouTube views of CBR's embarrassing video depicting university police threatening to arrest her], Biola President Barry Corey apologized for how the school responded to the situation and promised to create a more comprehensive pro-life policy.

School officials argue that pro-life education can be done compassionately without showing graphic images in a setting where children and those who have repented of past abortions could walk by and see them. But CBR Director Gregg Cunningham believes it's only by facing the stark realities of abortion that the pro-life movement can really take off.

In October 2012, Seth Gruber held a similar unauthorized protest after Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif., denied his request to bring in a graphic pro-life display three years in a row. Then a junior, Gruber stood outside the dining hall with a sign. Officials argued with him, but didn't force him to leave. He returned to hold up his sign a few more times during that school year.

Since Gruber's one-man demonstration, Westmont officials have written a new freedom of speech policy into the student handbook, limiting demonstrations to two hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at specific locations on campus. Large signboards and amplified sound are prohibited, and students must submit a form 24 hours prior to the planned assembly. Gruber said he had not seen any demonstrations on campus except for his abortion signs that would cause the policy change. 'This is an academic atmosphere that's supposed to be a marketplace of ideas,' Gruber said. 'To create a rule to prevent freedom of speech from being exercised -- it's antithetical to the academy.'

Pro-life groups at secular universities face similar fights with administrators attempting to limit free speech on campus. But the U.S. Constitution protects demonstrations on public property, and free speech advocates consistently have won court battles with public colleges. But private Christian universities are not required to uphold the Constitution's free speech guarantees, which often makes it more difficult for pro-life groups that want to demonstrate using graphic images.

Westmont currently doesn't have a policy position of the sanctity of life, and Gruber said attempts to get faculty to sign petitions to add a pro-life statement didn't gain much traction. But Gruber is hopeful: Even as he graduates next month, he's confident pro-life work at Westmont will continue. While he had been fighting for the cause by himself for much of his time at school, his pro-life club now has six members who plan to carry on the work after he's gone.

And Seth brought two of those six pro-life students to our Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) March visit to California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), and they were thrilled to witness the power of the pictures to disrupt business as usual and change hearts and minds. Both were inspired to model Westmont's new pro-life student group on the wonderfully bold and professional CSULB Catholic Newman Students organization.

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

P.S. Please forward to friends and family a digital version of this letter from the "Archives" section of abortionNO.org; please include CBR in your estate planning; please encourage your pastor to watch my YouTube pro-life sermon using abortion video in the main services of Calvary Chapel, Pearl Harbor, HI; please help us fund the cost of enrolling CBR staff members as part-time students for the purpose of starting strong pro-life organizations on Christian college campuses which are largely ignoring abortion. Please help us fund the cost of modestly paid internships for students willing to help start those pro-life groups.