

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

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Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

CBR may be on the verge of another major voter education triumph! We are talking to film producers about including CBR abortion video in a made-for-TV movie. They used an internet “crowd-funding” campaign to finance a film which Hollywood tried to cover up -- the story of late-term abortionist/infanticide practitioner Kermit Gosnell. *National Review* (June 2, 2014), reported that the group raised \$2.2 million for the project. Yet the trend among producers of abortion films, even when “pro-life,” is to talk about abortion but refuse to show it. Please pray that we have greater success persuading these producers to help us stop the abortion cover-up.

Cover-up is understandable if the producers are liberal, but bizarre if they are conservative. Bizarre, that is, until you consider that pro-life producers fear fewer viewers will be willing to watch a film which includes actual abortion video. Abortion imagery saves more lives, but it no doubt shrinks the viewing audience.

Hiding evil seems to be an obsessive preoccupation with producers and publishers of all persuasions. *National Review* (September 8, 2014) reported that a tell-all book detailing presidential misconduct related to a Taliban prisoner swap for “controversial prisoner of war Bowe Bergdahl” was being suppressed by publishers Simon & Schuster. A spokeswoman for the imprint said, “Conservatives...are all over Bergdahl and using it against Obama.” She “worried that any book would inevitably have to become a kind of ‘Swift Boat Veterans for Truth’ ...of the sort which helped derail the presidential campaign of John Kerry. *USA Today* (August 21, 2014) reported that “President Obama’s decision to exchange captive Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five Guantanamo Bay detainees violated Federal Law, according to legal opinion the Government Accountability Office sent to Congress.” So of course the liberal media buried the story.

Pro-abortion film-makers are even more determined to hide the horror of abortion. The July 21, 2014 issue of *National Review* featured the review of a stridently pro-abortion propaganda film titled “Obvious Child.” The reviewer lamented this movie’s perverse effort to trivialize abortion by making it the theme of a romantic comedy. He decried the film’s assertion that abortion is such an undeniable human right that it requires no defense. When the issue is framed in terms of “choice,” he says there is “no independent standard on the basis of which...we can distinguish between good and evil, noble and base, or better and worse choices.” True, so why do most pro-lifers persist in permitting the pro-aborts to get away with hiding the evidence that abortion is indefensible? The answer is obvious; they fear persecution which inevitably follows when we force society to face the terrible visible truth. And that cowardice allows the producers of “Obvious Child” to, in the words of this reviewer, “...remove abortion from the realm of public debate and rid it of the stigma of shame and the burden of guilt.” That’s how a hideous abortion becomes a humorous love story.

The “objective standard” for “good and evil” in social reform is always a sickening photo which depicts indisputable injustice. That sort of photo helped end racial discrimination and child labor and countless other atrocities. But not abortion. Not yet. And not until more pro-life Christians find the courage to show the truth. Without that truth, Planned Parenthood’s lies sound persuasive to millions of Americans.

The *Los Angeles Times* (September 7, 2014) published a story, headlined “NATO struggles over its response to Putin,” in which the Russian dictator is quoted as telling George W. Bush that: “Ukraine is not a real country.” This is the lie he then used to justify a bloody assault on Ukraine, the rationale Planned Parenthood uses when they falsely claim the fetus is not a real baby -- before their bloody assault on preborn children.

That’s the bad news, but there is plenty of good.

By God’s grace, CBR’s abortion photo strategy has transformed the abortion wars, and the evidence for that encouraging claim can be found in an August 22, 2014 LifeNews.com post by Wesley J. Smith headlined “What was once the ‘Pro-Choice’ Movement Has Become Enthusiastically Pro-Abortion.” Mr. Wesley is a fine fellow, but I respectfully disagree with his use of the term “enthusiastically.” I believe the word “grudgingly” more accurately describes the pro-aborts’ abandonment of “choice.” That abandonment signals a tacit admission of defeat in the abortion industry’s effort to prevent the secular culture from realizing that abortion is genocide and the faith community from understanding that it is Old Testament child sacrifice.

The most disastrous blunder our movement ever made was to permit the other side to frame the abortion debate as an issue of “choice.” Americans venerate choice. How could we convincingly defend restrictions on individual liberty? We couldn’t, of course, but we kept trying, and predictably we kept losing.

Then CBR began to shift the debate from the morally neutral question of “choice” to moral consideration of what’s being chosen. We used compelling visual imagery that established the humanity of the preborn child and the inhumanity of abortion; although most Americans have still never seen an abortion photo, enough now have to render the abortion industry’s “choice” propaganda singularly unpersuasive. Too many people know that abortion isn’t merely the “lesser of two evils.” It is an indefensible act of violence which kills a real baby. They no longer accept pro-abort lies because they have seen the truth with their own eyes.

Consequently, the pro-aborts decided to promote “pregnancy termination” instead of “choice,” but they refused to offer any defense of abortion. They say it needs no defense. In reality, however, they simply know it’s indefensible. Therefore, instead of making arguments, they chant slogans. Their favorite new motto is “abortion on demand without apology.” In a related article appearing in *First Things*, Mr. Smith quotes pro-abort Janet Harris who laments in the *Washington Post* that: “When the pro-choice community frames abortion as a difficult decision, it implies that women need help deciding, which opens the door to paternalistic and demeaning informed consent laws.” Since when, however, have consumer protection disclosures been considered “demeaning” in any other type of commercial transaction? Harris believes that when pro-aborts are defensive about abortion, “It is a tacit acknowledgement that terminating a pregnancy is a moral issue requiring an ethical debate. To say that deciding to have an abortion is a ‘hard choice’ implies a debate about whether the fetus should live, thereby endowing it with a status of being. It puts the focus on the fetus rather than the woman.” Actually, it puts the focus on both mother and child, and the imperative of caring for both.

The pro-aborts want no debate because they get humiliated almost every time they argue abortion, especially if their pro-life opponent uses abortion imagery. As a consequence, the pro-aborts demand the right to silence all competing voices. The feminists may contend, but no one else may rebut. Sorry, but CBR doesn’t allow our adversaries to write our rules of engagement. We force abortion debates by the thousands every time we display abortion photos in public. Debates can change things.

The *New York Times* (September 9, 2014) ran a story on Scotland’s independence referendum headlined “The Pound Leaves a Bruise” which describes how the leader of the Independence Party helped the Scottish

separatists movement gain strength by beating his pro-union opponent in a widely-viewed debate. The Unionists eventually won the referendum but the separatists proved that a debate victory can force opponents to reconsider their positions. Our abortion photos force the same rethinking every place we show them.

So when Mr. Smith quotes pro-abort Mary Elizabeth Williams writing a *Salon* article titled “So What if Abortion Ends a Human Life?” we have a powerful refutation to her contention that the rights of the mother “trump” those of the “non-autonomous entity” inside her body. We simply hold up an abortion photo. Does abortion look like “health care” or does it look like a savage act of butchery? Does the fetus appear to be a “non-autonomous entity,” or an actual baby?

Why aren't there more Christians who have the courage to confront the culture with the full horror of abortion? Because there aren't many courageous pastors to lead them. Leadership matters. *World* magazine (May 3, 2014) reported the murder of Dutch Jesuit priest Frans van der Lugt in Syria. Almost certainly gunned down by radical Islamists, the brave cleric refused to leave the country as the danger mounted. “Lugt told a relief agency at the time that he was the only priest left in the area to help suffering residents. ‘How can I leave?’ he asked. ‘It is impossible.’” How many American pastors show even a quantum of that courage in defense of preborn children?

Or, Navy Admiral Jeremiah Denton, shot down on a bombing run over North Vietnam. He spent 7 years and 7 months as a POW and according to *The Weekly Standard* (August 4, 2014): “He spent four years in solitary confinement and was brutally beaten many times. Yet he defied his captors year after year...” Placing himself between his fellow POW's and their captors he “...blinked ‘T-O-R-T-U-R-E’ in Morse Code” while being interviewed for an enemy propaganda film. Despite the certainty that his surreptitious revelation would subject him to even more torture, he knew that the disclosure could ease the plight of other prisoners by turning world opinion against the North Vietnamese. Increased diplomatic pressure resulted and eventually contributed to that very outcome. *World Net Daily* (March 28, 2014) quoted the Admiral giving God the credit for His grace under fire: “Prayer was my prime source of strength.” How many pastors are willing to invite disapproval, much less torture, by placing themselves between preborn children and abortionists?

Where do we find Christian leaders who are willing to risk it all to defend the least of these? Not on the faculties of most Christian colleges and seminaries. Those professors are graduates of Christian schools whose professors believed that doing something about abortion is not the responsibility of the Church. So that is what they taught countless classrooms full of future professors, at least implicitly, but sometimes even explicitly. And now that these former students are professors themselves, they pass on this same heartless heresy to the future pastors who are their current students.

How do we break this lethal cycle? Probably only by recruiting and equipping students to organize and press for change at Christian colleges. These activists need to protest the nearly universal enforcement of Christian college expressive rights restrictions which ban the display of abortion photo signs. Without using those signs, abortion remains an invisible evil. Invisible evils seldom provoke outrage, and the absence of outrage inhibits the formation of campaigns for reform. Abortion photos are so crucial to any sense of outrage over “pregnancy termination” that students must be willing to risk censure for acts of civil disobedience committed in defiance of prohibitions against the public display of those photos.

Jay Nordlinger, in *National Review* (July 7, 2014), quotes an anti-Communist activist who once observed that “the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.” Nordlinger adds that: “Anti-Communists always lay great stress on memory, on resistance to airbrushing and falsification of evil.” The same can be said of all social reformers. Punishing students who display abortion photos “airbrushes” abortion out of the picture that is everyday life on a Christian college campus. The killing goes on, of

course, but abortion is a secret sin and the cover up “falsifies” the truth that abortion is Old Testament child-sacrifice, an atrocity so inexpressibly horrific that God demands our intervention, and will judge our indifference. We don’t merely need to imbed abortion in the collective memory of the academic community, we need to ensure that everyone’s memory recalls the full magnitude of the horror which abortion represents. We must deny the body of Christ any resort to the excuse: “We didn’t know.”

Student activism has long driven all manner of reform. Feminists in the 1960’s and 70’s organized students to agitate for the creation of Women’s Studies curricula whose graduates now campaign for the abortion industry. The same with the Minority Studies alumni who make their living shaking down the middle class for race-based reparations. Student protests also helped precipitate America’s betrayal of South Vietnam’s freedom fighters. The *Los Angeles Times* (October 6, 2014) ran an inspiring story headlined “Two Hong Kong College Kids Lead the Fight with China.” The article describes the massive student protest against Chinese Communist efforts to dictate the candidates who may run for public office in Hong Kong. Pro-democracy student leader Alex Chow is quoted as saying, “In the past 30 years, the democracy movement has been too slow and too painstaking. The power of civil disobedience lies...in the blood and tears of everyone who is behind the struggle.” “The power of civil disobedience” must now be harnessed to convince Christian college administrators to offer full pro-life majors.

CBR is working to teach students at Christian colleges that civil disobedience is both Biblical and crucial to success in most drives for social reform. We are making progress. Satan fears nothing so much as the church mobilized against child sacrifice. He is striking back viciously. Our task seems impossible, but with Christ, all things are possible. So we push harder and pray you will empower that push. English pastor and evangelist F.B. Meyer said, “You do not test the resources of God until you attempt the impossible.”

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 consider an extra \$25 contribution to fund our Christian college outreach.

A gift of \$100 this month will buy fuel for our billboard trucks now running in our Key States Initiative. Our voter education project is both ambitious and logistically complex as we conduct it across multiple regions of the country. Will the U.S. Senate vote to protect preborn children or to kill them? The outcomes in these five states could determine control of the Senate and the fates of countless children and their mothers.