

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

October 2011

Dear Pro-Life Supporter

On July 13, 2011, we received an email message from an eighteen-year-old girl who lives in West Jordan, Utah. She identified herself as pro-abortion and said: “This website is sickening, as is what it stands for. Using graphic images to dissuade women from having an abortion, an abortion that they have a RIGHT to have, is disgusting. It’s nothing but propaganda, using scare tactics to put shadowy monsters and the fear of God into women who know no better.”

Proverbs 9:10 warns that “The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” This girl’s criticisms, of course, make no sense at all. But they do reveal the universal anger and frustration of people who are trying to hide the horror of abortion. Abortion providers are “monsters,” but our photos aren’t “shadowy.” They are highly concrete. They bring abortion out of the “shadows” and into the light. Defenders of “reproductive choice” know that abortion cannot survive public scrutiny. It can only flourish in the darkness of secrecy. That is why we fight to show people what a preborn baby looks like -- before and after abortion.

The London Magazine, Autumn 2011, described a related concept in an article headlined “Design of the times,” which quoted Marc Newson, creative director at Qantas Airways. “I was fascinated by the contradiction of small size and technical complexity of watches.” That is exactly how most people respond to imagery of a six-week human embryo. They are stunned by the “contradiction” of an extremely small baby who is implausibly well developed. They are also dismayed to see that elective abortion, which liberal liars laud as “health care,” is actually an indefensible act of violence.

“Healthcare” and abortion were in the news on November 2, 2011, when the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List announced that they were going to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to defend their right to criticize former Congressman Steve Driehaus for supporting the pro-abortion ObamaCare bill. Mr. Driehaus is a sore loser who lost his bid for reelection so he tried to silence the Susan B. Anthony List criticism and cover up the disastrous implications of his ObamaCare vote by suing them for defamation. CBR ran billboard trucks in his district to deny him any opportunity to credibly deny that the bill was pro-abortion. We taunted him mercilessly, but he was too smart to sue us also.

This Utah girl is correct in observing that an abortion picture is “scary,” but she is wrong when she says it’s “propaganda.” It is actually just the facts. But facts are exactly what advocates of injustice usually try to suppress. *The Wall Street Journal*, October 21-23, 2011, published a story headlined “EU Weighs Temporary Bans on Sovereign Credit Ratings.” The story reports that Standard & Poors will likely downgrade the credit ratings of several Eurozone countries involved in debt bailout talks. Revealing the full truth about the degree to which some of these nations have already borrowed more money than they will ever be able to repay could make it impossible for them to borrow more in an effort to reach a rescue agreement. So the European Commission proposes to make it unlawful for credit rating agencies to disclose inconvenient facts about indebtedness. How different is this conceptually from CBR’s Stephanie Gray being shouted down as she reported abortion facts at a Florida university at which we recently conducted our Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)? (youtube.com/watch?v=v3b9n6LErH8&feature=related)

The Euro debt crisis is far worse than almost anyone is willing to admit. Forbes.com, November 2, 2011, reports as much in an article headlined “Eurozone Crisis: Now Italy and France are in Trouble.” The story reveals that none of the bailout funders are “... actually using their own money. They are borrowing money and using their [bogus] credit ratings to guarantee it.” Telegraph.co.uk, November 3, 2011, published a story titled “Timeline of a crisis: how Greece’s tragedy unfolded.” It reports that in November 2004, “Greece effectively admits it lied to get into the euro. The [Greek] government admits its deficit has not been below 3pc since 1999, as EU rules require.” No wonder so many people are trying to hide the truth.

And the lies just keep coming. NARAL Pro-Choice America mailed a fundraising letter June 15, 2010 over the signature of President Nancy Keenan. The theme of this deceptive appeal is that “Anti-choice ‘crisis pregnancy centers’ (CPCs) do whatever it takes to block women from choosing abortion.” Ms. Keenan demands that “... two of the biggest search directories, SuperPages.com and YellowPages.com ... take down all misleading CPC ads.” She complains that CPCs misrepresent their services and “... make women feel too guilty or scared to choose abortion by providing information that is medically inaccurate and manipulative.” Abortion is dangerous and evil. It should make mothers feel frightened before and guilty after abortions.

CBR partner Lila Rose has exposed Planned Parenthood corruption with multiple undercover investigative videos. It is the abortion industry which lies to women. ChristianNewsWire.com, November 1, 2011, reported a similar exposé headlined “Guttmacher Institute’s Distortions Exposed in New Video by National Black Pro-life Coalition.” The story reports that Guttmacher’s current president, Sharon Camp, “... was caught lying about its present relationship to Planned Parenthood, claiming it was ‘completely unaffiliated’ with PPFA since 2004-2005. IRS records show, however, that Guttmacher has received over \$2.1 million from the nation’s largest abortion chain since 2004.” And on November 1, 2011, JillStanek.com reported that “A former employee of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast has filed a whistleblower’s complaint with both the Texas and United States Attorneys ... alleging her management engaged in massive Medicaid fraud.” Planned Parenthood is likely to become more desperate for tax dollars as CBR and Life Decisions International work our Corporate Accountability Project to boycott their business donors and cut off their corporate revenue.

Our adversaries work relentlessly to suppress and censor the truth we fight to expose. LifeNews.com posted a story November 2, 2011 headlined “Persecuted Canadian Pro-Life Students See Charges Withdrawn.” It detailed the unsuccessful efforts of Canadian university officials to jail pro-life students who attempted to display CBR abortion photo signs on their campus. “The University deemed the pro-life display to be ‘offensive’ and directed the Ottawa Police Service to arrest and charge four Carleton University tuition-paying students and a Queen’s University student with trespassing. The charges were scheduled to proceed to trial today and tomorrow. Now, Crown prosecutors have withdrawn those trespassing charges, the pro-life student group informs LifeNews.” One of the reasons the charges have been withdrawn is that the students got a good lawyer and fought back, suing the University. CBR has helped structure their legal arguments. The administrators at this school prove that attacking opponents you can’t defeat in the marketplace of ideas is a reflexive impulse among despots.

Sometimes they resort to violence. FoxNews.com carried a November 2, 2011 story headlined “French Satirical Magazine Office Fire Bombed Ahead of ‘Muhammad Edition.’” It reported that “French politicians and Muslim leaders denounced an arson attack early Wednesday that destroyed the offices of a satirical French newspaper after it ‘invited’ the Prophet Muhammad as its guest editor this week.” The article explains that “The front page of the weekly, subtitled ‘Sharia Hebdo,’ a reference to Islamic law, showed a cartoon-like man with a turban, white robe and beard smiling broadly and saying, in an accompanying bubble, ‘100 lashes if you don’t die laughing.’” Why are so many Muslims so uncertain about their ability to defend their faith in debate? Why are so many observant Jews just as insecure?

TruthTellers.org reports that “Although it touts itself as the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel, under influence of Orthodoxy, has created ‘speech crimes’ laws that outlaw any effective witness of Christians to Jews. On December 26, 1977, the Knesset passed Israel’s anti-missionary law which imposes up to a five-year prison term for anyone who attempts to convert an Israeli with assistance of any material inducement such as a gospel tract or even a cup of coffee. All witnessing to Israeli youth under 18 is illegal, while any ‘conspicuous’ witnessing to a Jewish person is against the law.”

“Conspicuous” witnessing against abortion is just unlawful in Austria. LifeSiteNews.com reported a November 4, 2011 story headlined “Sidewalk counseling effectively criminalized in Austria after pro-life appeal rejected.” Dietmar Fischer, a pro-life activist at whose international conference I spoke in Vienna a few years ago, was heavily fined for offering help to women outside an abortion clinic. He said “... he was ‘horrified’ by the judge’s verdict, calling it a ‘scandal and purely political.’” He added that “‘It was mandated by the minister of Justice. Judge Caroline List admitted that her verdict was about a more ample [larger] legal question. It is about whether Pro-lifers will be able to stand in front of clinics and to offer help or not.’” The objective is clear: “‘The verdict of Judge Caroline List intends to stop this...’”

Some of our adversaries even threaten violence to silence truth-tellers. On August 31, 2010, Christian News Wire published an Albuquerque, NM, story headlined “Man Arrested After Threatening to Gun Down Pro-Life Activists at Late-Term Abortion Clinic.” The article reports that “The unidentified man and his wife were escorting their daughter into the abortion clinic when the wife and daughter walked over to the pro-life women to discuss alternatives to abortion. The man became angry and ushered his family members toward the clinic.” The story quotes the baby-butchering bully as trying to silence the pro-life activists by growling that “‘When we come out, I’m going to put a bullet in your head if you talk to her.’” Baby-killers always try to prevent the truth from reaching mothers who are about to abort.

Autocrats fear the truth because they understand that changing people’s understanding of the facts can alter the conclusions to which they reason. Thank God for a Constitution which protects our right to present those facts, offensive though they clearly are. In 1994, Bill Calvin, CBR’s Kansas City regional director, organized a series of pro-life breakfasts at which I spoke at the Park Avenue Club in Florham, NJ. He used his extensive political connections in county politics to persuade local office holders to attend these talks. One of his invitees was a young attorney who had recently been elected to the county council (Board of Chosen Freeholders), named Chris Christie, and Bill talked him into joining us precisely because he knew that Mr. Christie was not with us on the issue.

After the meeting, Mr. Christie conceded that CBR’s pictures had changed his mind about abortion. Much against the odds, he is now the most pro-life governor New Jersey has elected in modern times. We scored the same sort of conversion victory with a state senator in California when we persuaded him to attend a presentation I gave when he first ran for the state house. Young candidates can be converted on this issue if we show them the truth before they go on the record with too many public pro-abort commitments. We have used this strategy to great effect many times. But it is seldom easy to get a forum.

I recently spoke at the international Christian Concern pro-life conference in London, but only barely. A prominent British activist who was also invited to speak became so outraged by the fact that I was going to advocate the use of abortion imagery that she threatened to withdraw as a speaker unless I were disinvited. She then sent a letter to other speakers urging them to withdraw as well. By God’s grace, her bullying failed to achieve its intended purpose -- but only after I met with Andrea Minichiello Williams, the conference organizer, and persuaded her to retain me. Even more amazingly, Andrea took the mic following my talk and admitted to the audience that I had changed her mind in favor of using abortion photo signs -- which she had previously opposed -- at the rally which conference participants were about to stage in front of Parliament during a break in the conference schedule! Andrea showed herself to be a woman of integrity.

On this same trip I also spoke in Helsinki, Finland, but the activists who invited me were forced to form a new group to sponsor this, my second visit. The group to which they originally belonged was unwilling to allow me to explain the importance of abortion photos in anti-abortion activism. I have also been told by several state affiliates of a large U.S. pro-life organization that their national organization had pressured them to withdraw speaking invitations extended to me in which I had proposed the use of photos.

The abortion industry does not debate the damage our abortion photos do their cause. They have publicly and repeatedly acknowledged that point. Abortionists and university professors have almost never been willing to debate us, and the few who would were unwilling to appear unless we agreed to omit photos from our presentations. It is only pro-lifers who remain confused about the power of pictures. I just received a message from our CBR partner Dr. Bob Seemuth who sent along still another attempt by 40 Days For Life to interfere with our display of abortion photos. Here is an excerpt from a recent 40 Days web message: “DISCLAIMER: 40 DAYS FOR LIFE DOES NOT USE ABORTION PICTURES. However, recently a veteran prolife activist [Dr. Bob Seemuth] has been parking an abortion picture van at the Vigil site despite the repeated requests of 40 Days for Life leaders to stop the practice. Since the Rally as well as the Vigil are on public property, we are unable to guarantee his absence and so are advising our supporters. Please pray for a change of this activist’s heart.”

We like 40 Days For Life. They have the right to hide the horror of abortion. But we reject anybody’s attempt to stifle discussion of photo use. Closed minds invite stagnation by inhibiting innovation. People who support abortion know they can’t win a debate on abortion, and people who oppose abortion photos know they can’t win a debate on abortion photos. So neither the baby killers nor the photo censors are willing to engage us. They join hands to hide the facts.

Northland Family Planning Centers, which recently sued us for making a video which exposes the lies they use to deceive abortion customers, claimed in the court documents they filed that as a result of our mockumentary, “The safety and security of Northland’s clinics have been compromised ... Northland has been injured ...” and their “reputation harmed ...” Now our lawyers are demanding that Northland lift the veil of secrecy they use to conceal their killing machine and allow us to see the records required to prove those allegations -- or that they embarrass themselves by withdrawing them. This is exactly the sort of hardball which provoked health insurance giant WellPoint, Inc.’s charitable foundation to threaten to sue CBR, in a letter dated May 23, 2011, for publicly exposing their support of Planned Parenthood.

We can’t defeat the Culture of Death with timidity and appeasement. We must go on the offensive and force our adversaries to respond to our initiatives and fight by our rules. That is costly and risky but it is how wars are won. Please make the sort of year-end donation which will make 2012 a very bad year for baby-killers.

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