



Directors
Gregg & Lois Cunningham

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

January 2012

CBR Communiqué

By Gregg Cunningham, CBR Executive Director

One of the most important advances accomplished during my October 19-21, 2011 speaking tour in Romania was an agreement by an influential priest to begin the public display of abortion photos in the historically significant city of Timisoara, near the country's western border with Hungary. The priest's name is Fr. Ioan and the city is where the revolution to depose Communist dictator Nikolai Chauchescu began in the late 1980s. His wife Gerda did a marvelous job coordinating our meetings.

When Chauchescu ordered the arrest of the Timisoara priest who was leading the opposition to his regime, crowds formed around the dissident cleric's church and the police were unable to apprehend him. The world held its collective breath while waiting to see if the police would open fire on the protesters, whom then young Fr. Ioan had rushed to join. By God's grace, the police did not shoot and Chauchescu was deposed, tried and executed in 1989.

Following my talk, Fr. Ioan emotionally announced that it was time for a new revolution in Romania but these street demonstrations would defend life. He proposed using abortion photos for the first time in their 2012 March For Life, and we have suggested a phased strategy which begins with the display of prenatal development images. Expressive rights are still not clearly defined after the fall of Communism and a legal strategy needs to be developed to establish the right to eventually display more shocking imagery.

I traveled to Romania with Mats Selander, who directs our CBR-Sweden office in Stockholm, and Mats was interviewed by the



CBR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham waits for his translator, Daniela Paun, to speak while addressing a pro-life conference in Bucharest, Romania in October 2011.



Father Iona agrees that CBR strategy should be implemented in Romania. Here he speaks with Gregg Cunningham and pro-lifers gathered at an October 2011 conference in Timisoara, Romania.

Timisoara Christian television station Alpha and Omega TV. The station manager intends to edit their long discussion into several shorter segments for later broadcast. Mats had earlier attended the March For Life in Basel, Switzerland, where he saw a woman in the crowd who had made a sign out of CBR bumper stickers. He approached her and discovered that she lives in Italy and is interested in helping CBR in her country as well.

We are constantly amazed to discover how many activists use our CBR pro-life materials all over the world. A young man in Timisoara, Romania, came up to me after my talk there and he said he and four friends had formed a pro-life group to use CBR materials and methods and had made brochures using our photos and translated arguments. He came to the conference not realizing it was a CBR event and said he never expected to meet me but was excited to have a chance to tell me how effective our materials were. In that same vein we just received a request for CBR materials from Movimento em Defesa da Vida da Arquidiocese do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. God is turning CBR into a truly global ministry.

Daniela Paun of Bucharest was the overall coordinator for our trip and she arranged well-attended meetings in her city. Attendance by priests and nuns was remarkably heavy. Daniela is an active pro-life speaker who tells us that she is now convinced of the need to begin using abortion and prenatal imagery. She also wants to start CBR-Romania offices and has been chairing planning meetings with local activists interested in joining her. We are enthusiastic about working with both her and Gerda and their many associates.

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Freezing rain did not keep CBR staff and volunteers plus hundreds of thousands of marchers from standing up for preborn children at the Washington, D.C. March For Life on January 23, 2012. CBR Midwest Director, Darius Hardwick, did an excellent job coordinating this year's display.

March for Life

On January 23, 2012, CBR returned to the March For Life in Washington, D.C. with our huge photo display. This student also told us CBR had heavily influenced her to participate again:

I saw these pictures at the March For Life in 2010. I saw the graphic pictures on the Abortion NO.org posters, and my friends and I just stopped and stared, aghast. Later I came onto the website and watched the videos, and I have never been more passionate for change. I am only 16, but I hope I can do something to make this injustice known. I went back to the March For Life in 2011 and I am returning again this year in 2012. I resolve to go every year for the rest of my life until this injustice is eradicated, until this holocaust is over. (16-year-old female, Washington, D.C., January 15, 2012 visitor to CBR's AbortionNO.org)

CBR-Midwest coordinated our display alongside the March route, which included our Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) signs and the Obama Awareness signs, plus the Reproductive “Choice” Campaign trucks. CBR-Maine and friends from Maryland also helped staff our exhibit. The crowd was estimated at 350,000 to 400,000 people, including thousands of students who will never forget the photos. They will help us bring an end to abortion.



The rain forced many marchers to leave their signs and banners in their cars, but CBR's sturdy abortion photo display was up for all to see as they marched by on Pennsylvania Avenue.

ROMANIAN REVOLUTION

(Continued from page 1)

A priest named Father Balint Vincentiu recorded our Bucharest conference to use for training purposes in other parts of the country. Another priest named Father Fabian who directs the family life ministry of the Bucharest Diocese asked excellent questions about what kinds of materials would be appropriate to present in schools, the ages when it is appropriate to use those materials, and whether boys should be separated from girls for lessons. I told him essentially that prenatal development teaching was both appropriate and important at any age and referred him to the incomparable prenatal development website at www.ehd.org. I also told him that students should be taught about abortion as soon as they are old enough to become pregnant and recommended that boys and girls be separated. I spoke through a translator and the audience included a Bulgarian pastor named Spasova and his wife Elizabet whom we are now helping establish a CBR presence in their country.

Father Emil Moraru, who directs the bioethics program for the Bucharest Archdiocese, coordinates pro-life events and teaches bioethics at the local nursing school, listened with keen interest to the talk presented by our CBR-Poland affiliate Mariusz Dzierzawski. Mariusz has persuaded Polish priests to allow him to hang large CBR abortion photo signs from the outer walls of the Czenstokowa pilgrimage center and many other churches. Literally millions of people are seeing these images. Fr. Moraru told Daniela that he is open to displaying similar images on the walls of the Bucharest Archdiocese building!

My wife Lois, who directs our crisis pregnancy outreach, advised Daniela on a law project for crisis pregnancy counseling; we are confident that God will use our time in Romania to help local activists persuade growing numbers of young mothers to turn toward crisis pregnancy centers instead of abortion clinics. God bless you for making it possible for CBR to help these wonderful Romanian brothers and sisters in our Lord.



International Outreach

A pastor connected us with Lucas, a Kenyan evangelist who wants to incorporate pro-life education in his outreach. After we shipped him a package of materials, he emailed us:

I am more than glad that the package arrived when it did. I collected on Thursday 10th November 2011. Every item as you listed was inside the small carton. I managed to view the Choice Blues DVD on someone's computer. There was a group of us. I wish I could capture their reaction on camera. There was one lady who sat there trembling and unable to move till the end. I will not lie; there was a shiver down my spine and whole body too, not once, but several times. The information is informative, and straight to the point. I managed to get a couple of views and you will be surprised that one lady asked her boyfriend whom she was with whether he knew the price of a condom!!!! She was categorical that their relationship had to have some changes.

Your support of CBR enables us to provide international pro-lifers with educational resources to reach their countries with the message that abortion is an act of violence.

We are grateful for your support as we hold forth the truth to prevent preborn children from being destroyed.

"Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

JOHN 8:31-32

Prayer Requests

- Pray for God's provision for Eastern European and African pro-life leaders to implement CBR strategy
- Funding and volunteers to conduct our Corporate Accountability Project (CAP) and run our trucks

Events

January 23 March For Life, Washington, D.C.

RADIO INTERVIEWS

January 15

<http://backpackradio.com/> Jason Walsh, CBR-Arizona

TRAINING SEMINARS

& SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

January 22 Students For Life (SFLA) Convention
Bethesda, MD



Canadian CBR's (CCBR) Executive Director, Stephanie Gray (in red dress), was a keynote speaker at the Students For Life (SFLA) Convention, January 22, 2012 in Bethesda, MD. Her topic was: "Learn How to Defend Your Beliefs" and students were eager to speak with her afterwards.

"Thank you for making me aware of the cruelty these preborn human beings face every second of every day."

(13-year-old girl, Bowie, MD, January 26, 2012
visitor to CBR's AbortionNO.org)



Nicole Cooley, CBR-Southeast/Virginia, stands ready at the CCBR/ CBR table to speak with college students attending the SFLA Convention in Bethesda, MD. Nicole was outside the Supreme Court building at the conclusion of the March for Life speaking with the "Silent No More" Ladies.

“ I saw the graphic pictures on the AbortionNO.org posters,
and my friends and I just stopped and stared, aghast. ”

Teenage student at March for Life



Precisely while CBR-UK Director Andrew Stephenson and staff member Kathryn were in court Jan. 30, 2012, facing charges for displaying abortion photos outside the Wistons abortion mill in Brighton, England, CRR Executive Director Gregg Cunningham (in black cap and coat in center) was standing with CBR-UK volunteers holding those same signs, also outside Wistons Clinic -- in full view of four police officers. A mother decided to not kill her 22-week baby that morning. This court case is a significant one which could help pro-lifers win free speech rights throughout Europe. Our large sign at the right reads: "7 week embryo entering bpas [British Pregnancy Advisory Service] / 8 week embryo exiting bpas."

Address corrections

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