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Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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The Parable Plays at Liberty University

Luke 18:9-14 contains a powerful parable taught by Jesus:

"To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

‘But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

‘I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’”

As the sinful slaughter of preborn children rages on, CBR continues to humbly take our abortion photo signs to Christian colleges and other Christian venues. It is humbling, and even humiliating at times, to stand out in all sorts of venues and weather and to call upon Christians to stop aborting and to join us in fighting abortion. Yet our Lord “humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.” Phil. 2:8. So we are in good company.

The Guttmacher Institute, (leading abortion-friendly research group) reports that 17% of abortion patients self-identify as mainline Protestant, 13% as evangelical Protestant and 24% as Catholic.” [2014 figures] How can we neglect reaching out to these women and only focus on the secular campuses?

Accordingly, on September 18-21, our team returned to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Sadly, we encountered quite a few “Pharisees” who interacted with us. As we held abortion photo and Scripture signs outside Liberty, the Campus Pastor came out and spoke with CBR-Southeast Director Fletcher Armstrong. David Nasser was chagrined that he had not been given advance notice of our visit, although Fletcher assured him that we had sent a letter to President Jerry Fallwell, Jr. Mik’aela Raymond, a member of our staff and a recent Liberty graduate, disputed Mr. Nasser’s claim that Liberty students are pro-life. She recounted how she was discouraged from pro-life activism and even criticized for her pro-life views by other Liberty students. When presented with this rebuttal to his claims, he said, “Thank you for your story,” and ignored everything she said.

Shortly thereafter, he addressed 12,000 Liberty students at their morning convocation. He began their worship time by discussing our team and specifically our sign that quotes Jesus as he spoke from Isaiah: ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”” (Matthew 15:8-9)

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Liberty University students saw our sign display as they walked onto campus.



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY (continued from page 1)



While our staff and volunteers hold Scripture and abortion photo signs, CBR's truck circles around the Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA

Mr. Nasser shared his thoughts about us, "This is a person who believes, because I don't adhere to their methodology, in standing and fighting the good fight for the unborn, that my worship this morning would be in vain." Most of his comments were directed towards a complete misunderstanding of us as being judgmental and about our methods. How can we dismiss the sin of abortion into a matter of "methodology" when the blood of Christian children is flowing out of the abortion mills? Mr. Nasser said of Liberty, "We prefer a different bloody image and that's the image of Christ on the cross." He may not have realized that we have a sign that displays an image of Christ on the cross to help people see that Jesus offered up His own body as a graphic demonstration of our sin. Without discussing repentance, he told students, "There's forgiveness for you, there's more than that moment when you made that drastic decision." He focused on the women who get abortions with no consideration for the guilt that accrues to the men in equal or greater measure. His comments seemed to be directed towards telling the students that Liberty is doing enough about abortion and a downplaying of our Lord's condemnation of child sacrifice.

Stronger words came from the young man who stormed up and yelled, "I am THE pro-life club president. THIS is what I do. I CARE. And this is wrong. Not loving. Not compassionate. Wrong place. You should show these pictures in private or on the internet. Let people see it if they want to. THIS is what I DO!" As Providence would have it, another student appeared at that time and he defended our use of images by comparing our display with the Boston Marathon bombing images that were widely shown.

A female student was more crafty as she spoke with Miss Raymond. The student asked why we would be confrontational to people about abortion because Jesus wouldn't do that. As Miss Raymond replied, she spoke of Jesus doing many things that offended people, adding that God sent prophets to do things that offended people as well. The student seemed nice as she responded, "Yeah, I see what you're saying." But after the student departed, she posted misleading remarks about CBR on the Only Girls LU Facebook page. More than 100 girls liked and/or commented on her post, overwhelmingly in support of her and viciously against us. This included people Miss Raymond knew and had even considered friends. When Miss Raymond posted a reply offering to explain CBR's rationale if anyone would contact her, a flood of comments came from girls

saying that not one of us is worthy of a respectful conversation since we showed bloody images. We can only pray that God will turn the hearts of these young women to be like His heart against abortion. We are quite proud of Miss Raymond for standing up for the truth in front of her peers.

Thankfully, other students were supportive. Here are some of their comments:

"Those are graphic but they're effective."

"It was very convicting."

"Your pictures made me think differently about all of it."

"This is a very explicit picture, but that's how you wake people up. I am upset that you can't be on campus; you could do more good there."

"We need to be shocked to care about abortion."

Among the Christians who say "we're against abortion" or "we're doing enough," we wonder how many have ever even prayed about abortion and what they can do to help stop it. We have seen God use our signs to prompt people to repentance and to action, so we will carry on.

We are grateful for your faithfulness as we seek justice for preborn children.

"The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed."

PSALM 103:6

Prayer Requests

- Christian college leadership to recognize their role in stopping abortion
- Pastors to boldly preach against abortion
- More volunteers to support our projects

Events

ALL Black Lives Matter Project

October 22-27 Black History Museum (NMAAHC)
Washington, D.C.

Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)

October 1-3 Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

Oct. 22-23 Mesa Community College, Phoenix, AZ

October 24-25 Glendale Community College
Glendale, AZ

Reproductive "Choice" Campaign Trucks

Through November 6 - Key States Initiative

Pro-Life Training Academy

October 6 & 13 First Christian Church, Phoenix, AZ

The Rest of the Story on Abortion

National Review, October 12, 2018, featured a movie review titled “Gosnell Movie Exposes Reality of Abortion.” That headline is only partially correct because *Gosnell: The Trial of America’s Biggest Serial Killer* only partially “exposes the reality of abortion.” The producers relied primarily on words to describe that reality. They rejected CBR’s offer of authentic abortion video and photos to depict abortion’s horror. And because abortion is indescribably horrific, words alone leave too much to the imagination. This is a grave pedagogical (teaching) error because Americans, especially Americans in the abortion-vulnerable age range, suffer a disabling failure of imagination. For much of their lives, the screens of phones, tablets and computers have visualized everything for them. Many lack the ability to conceptualize what words explain.

The article opens with a quote from William Wilberforce in a speech delivered in the British House of Commons in 1791 in which he urged the abolition of the slave trade. He had just described the depravity of slavery and warned his listeners that “you may choose to look the other way but you can never again say that you did not know.” Wilberforce had spoken and written many such admonitions during his 30 years in Parliament, but words alone proved inadequate to overcome the greed which sustained slavery. Public opinion only began to turn against forced labor when abolitionists commissioned artists to illustrate the barbarity inflicted on Africans imprisoned on Caribbean sugar plantations.

World magazine, October 27, 2018, reports that “actor/director Nick Searcy ... errs on the side of understatement. He trusts the facts to speak loudly enough ... without needing to hammer home a message.” But his trust in words alone was misplaced. And the movie props he apparently used to simulate the bodies and body parts of aborted babies covered up that portion of this dreadful story which most needed to be “hammered home.”

That Kermit Gosnell murdered newborn babies for decades in his Philadelphia abortion clinic -- and did so with impunity -- was a horror movie which needed to be made, and the writers and actors who scripted and acted in *Gosnell* were talented movie makers. But an abortion movie with a PG-13 rating must of necessity conceal much of what most needs to be revealed. Chasing ratings is often the name of the game and real abortion imagery guarantees an “R” rating which would almost certainly diminish audience size.

The October 20, 2018 *New York Times* ran a story headlined “Walking the Line in a PG-13 World” which quotes a film maker trying to tell an “R” story to a PG-13 audience: “I just

wanted to portray the way [black] kids’ lives are ... I would love kids to be living in a PG-13 world. They just aren’t.” He adds that “As a filmmaker, you really want to be organic [tell the real story] but you also want people to see the film” [in the largest possible numbers.]

According to *World*, *Gosnell*’s producers were already “fighting an uphill battle to get funding” The *Wall Street Journal* reported on October 16, 2018, that reviews were withheld and promotional ads were rejected. The story adds that “once Gosnell’s trial began in 2013, it was the national media’s turn to ignore him.” *National Review* reports that during the trial “not a single journalist shows up to cover it.”

CBR is grateful that the *Gosnell* movie finally made its way into theaters because even though it largely sanitized abortion’s depravity, and despite the fact that it was seen almost entirely by an audience which is already pro-life, and notwithstanding the observation by the *Wall Street Journal*’s reviewer that “the theater where I caught the film... was mostly empty,” this film was still powerful enough to move some passive pro-lifers into activism.

But at what cost? Had the money spent making this movie been invested in CBR’s billboard trucks, whose aborted baby photo signs have been viewed by millions of motorists in political swing state elections, how many more lives could have been saved? Many pregnant and post-abortive women believe they knew the facts -- until they see the pictures. Many have told us that for them, nothing less distressing than abortion photos would have sufficed to dissuade them from killing their babies.



Photo credit: *World* magazine.



*You may choose to look the other way but you
can never again say that you did not know.*



William Wilberforce



Above: This photo shows the CBR truck educating voters in the town of Newport, Oregon. In 41 days since Labor Day, this truck has covered over 6500 miles in Oregon, with a reach of over 600,000 drivers and passengers. We pray that adequate numbers will vote to cut off tax-payer funded abortions. Our sign reads "Which abortion position is extreme?"



Left: A CBR truck drives on the busy streets of Mission Viejo, California, as we work to bring out the pro-life vote. Our sign reads "Your vote matters" and lists a phone number to obtain voter guides.

Address corrections

addresschanges@cbrinfo.org

Electronic funds donations

ACH@cbrinfo.org

Credit card donations

creditcards@cbrinfo.org

Product order inquiries

productorders@cbrinfo.org

Estate donations

plannedgiving@cbrinfo.org

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