



Directors Gregg & Lois Cunningham  
and daughters

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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# Prenatal Science Sign Display on Four Michigan Campuses


by Gregg Cunningham

An innovative maternal fetal education outreach took place at four Michigan universities in October, and volunteers sometimes associated with CBR (and other organizations) joined with the Prenatal Science Group at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Grand Valley State University and Hillsdale College. Of these schools, only supposedly conservative Christian Hillsdale College banned the prenatal development signs from campus.

The signs being displayed depicted pictures of human embryos and early fetuses with captions detailing facts related to prenatal development. One of our goals was to address what *The American Journal of Public Health* (April 2020) described in terms of “Maternal Morality: A U.S. Public Health Crisis.”

The Rockefeller Institute of Government (April 11, 2023) calls “Maternal mortality in the U.S. a huge but preventable problem.” The solution is education. The journal *Medicine* (June 2019), in an article titled “Health Education Strategies Targeting Maternal and Child Health...” says “The provision of health education ... has been shown to be an important aspect of prenatal care.” *The Journal of Family Medicine and Disease Prevention* (June 29, 2015) featured an essay headlined “... Improving Birth Outcomes Through a Community Collaborative Prenatal Education Model.” The authors noted that “group prenatal education ... has the potential to greatly impact ... leading causes of infant death.”

**FOLLOW THE SCIENCE: FETAL PAIN**



PAIN-INDUCING, IN UTERO NEEDLE STICK, THIRD TRIMESTER

Ultrasound images of pain-related facial expressions evinced by 3rd trimester fetuses (average ages 29 weeks following fertilization) during intramuscular injections of anesthetic in preparation for intrauterine surgical repair of diaphragmatic hernias.

“Sorting Pain Out Of Salience: Assessment Of Pain Facial Expressions In The Human Fetus,” Bernardes, L.S., Carvalho, M.A., et al., *Pain Reports*, Volume 6, Issue 1, 2021

For countervailing perspectives on cortical necessity regarding embryonic-fetal pain perception, see the Royal College Of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, The American College Of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, The American Academy Of Pediatrics, The Society For Maternal Fetal Medicine, etc.

*Consideration of prenatal pain during surgery is now a matter of scientific study. This new sign depicts anguished expressions on the faces of fetuses when needle pricked.*

Public education in the maternal-fetal health realm is vital not least because the U.S. rate of maternal mortality is three times higher than that of any other developed country. In fact, the U.S. has worse maternal and infant death outcomes than some third-world countries.

Part of the problem may be that some women don’t believe risky behaviors are consequential early in pregnancy, when they mistakenly believe that the embryo is only a tiny “blob.” Few realize that by the end of the eighth week, the embryonic body already possesses 90% of the structures found in adults. What happens to the embryo during even the earliest stages of pregnancy has profound implications for life-long health. Easily disrupted developmental processes are already under way in the first and second week of pregnancy, when cells are dividing and DNA is replicating at an explosive rate. Some of the signs displayed on these Michigan campuses depicted a three-week embryo with a beating heart and a six-week embryo which is already producing detectable brain waves.

*Continued on page 2...*

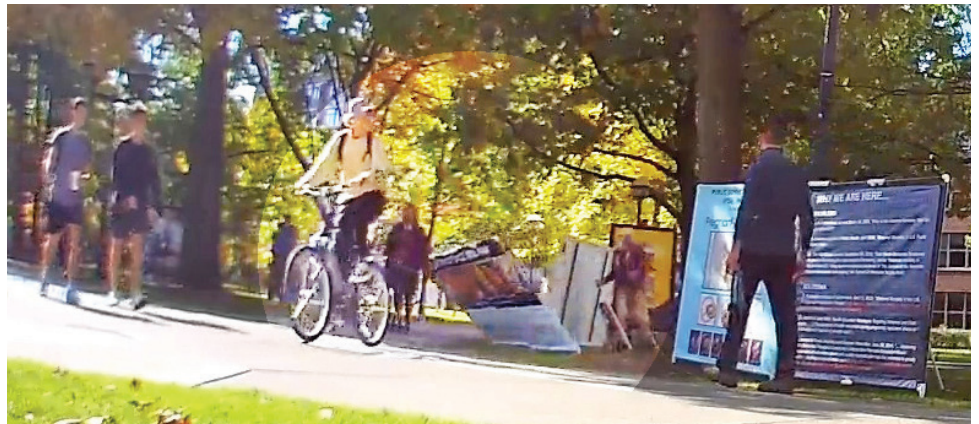


## PRENATAL SCIENCE

*Continued from page 1...*

None of the signs on display depicted abortion imagery or made any reference to abortion, even inferentially, yet some students angrily accused our volunteers of being “pro-life” because they were teaching the facts of prenatal development. That was a difficult allegation to validate when much of the prenatal imagery being exhibited is contained in a broad range of prenatal material produced by the National Geographic Channel, the Discovery Channel, the BBC, and various PBS public television channels. Does anyone think those politically liberal media corporations are pro-life? But now even the science of prenatal development has become politicized. One student cycled by and grabbed one of the fetal pain signs and knocked it down. The sign depicts anguished expressions on the faces of fetuses; they were captured in ultrasound scans while being stuck with needles which administer the anesthesia required for fetal surgery. Another girl asked me if I had a uterus. With a smile, I explained that sometimes my prostate might “identify” as a uterus. She snapped back, “At least you are educated,” by which she apparently meant “gender fluidity.”

As a consequence of seeing the [www.ERF.Science](http://www.ERF.Science) maternal-fetal health videos we advertised, we pray fewer students will smoke, drink, or misuse drugs while pregnant with “unwanted” pregnancies. And who knows, some might even think more carefully regarding the disposition of



*At University of Michigan, a student cycled by our prenatal sign display and grabbed one of the fetal pain signs and knocked it down. The plain truth was too much for him. (The disturbance was caught on a security camera, hence the blurry image.)*

“unwanted” pregnancies now that they were educated that a preborn baby is not a mere blob.

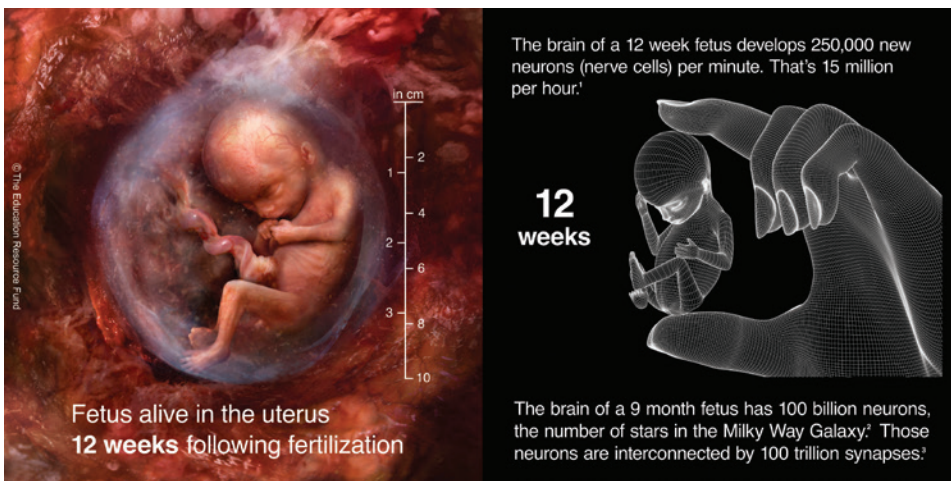
With reference to Hillsdale College, a school we greatly admire, our research reveals that the streets running through the campus are, in fact, public thoroughfares on whose rights-of-way our volunteers can lawfully display pictures of living embryos and early fetuses, whether the faculty and administration like it or not.

We were impressed that most students responded thoughtfully, unlike the University of Michigan professor who told me I was not qualified to discuss bio-ethics because I was only a lawyer, and not an M.D.

We hope more organizations will begin using the remarkably instructive prenatal development materials now also available from the Education Resource Fund, whose website ([www.ERF.science](http://www.ERF.science)) features an amazing prenatal app called See Baby Grow. This changes everything.

At a school such as the University of Michigan with an enrollment of 50,000 students, this educational material can have a profound effect.

The prenatal pain signs really struck a chord with many people. Despite the fact that none of these signs depict or discuss abortion, a female student quietly asked one of our team members when most abortions are performed and if the babies feel pain. It was shocking for students to learn that human fetuses as young as 10 weeks may feel pain. Facts like this can help establish the humanity of the preborn child.



*The 12-week human fetus is highly developed, as shown in this new sign.*



# Calm at University of Tennessee GAP

**O**n October 28, CBR held a Pro-Life Training Academy (PLTA) for University of Tennessee (UT) students and interested others. Twenty people attended including members of Ratio Christi, a student group which had invited CBR on campus. This training was followed by a Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on November 1 & 2 where the newly equipped students were able to put what they learned into practice.

On many university campuses, GAP angers pro-abortion students, so they organize protests against us. Our huge photo murals are truthful and disturbing as they compare abortion to other forms of genocide. The display is designed to cause students to think. Our team was surprised that this UT visit was quiet, and only one protestor appeared, comically dressed as a pirate with a parrot. It seemed God was answering prayers in regard to spiritual warfare.

“I grew up Catholic, and I believe that abortion is murder, but in some cases, like Down syndrome, or a missing lung, or incest ...” said one student. CBR Project Manager Brad Martel explained that even children born into difficult circumstances deserve the right to life. He learned that the student had left her Christian faith and now was into Buddhism. Mr. Martel shared a simple presentation of the Gospel and then introduced her to Katelyn, a Ratio Christi member. Within 10 minutes, the two traded phone numbers and agreed to get together for coffee. Mr. Martel rejoiced.

Students who are not open to learn about abortion will often change the subject as we converse with them. Several students suggested we should talk about the “genocide” occurring in Palestine, but our team would not take the bait and kept to abortion. “Carmen” changed the subject every time her argument wasn’t working. She raised matters of viability, personhood, difficult circumstances, consciousness, etc. It takes skill for our staff and volunteers to steer the conversation back to abortion and the preborn child’s right to life. Even if it is not apparent that we have made progress on that day, our photos go home in their minds and we trust God to work on their hard hearts.

Kyle, a pro-life student, told CBR volunteer Tony that each time we come to UT with the abortion pictures, the conversations continue two weeks after we leave. Kyle tells his peers that the preborn child is a human and abortion is killing, and then he takes the opportunity to share Jesus with them. Praise God for students like Kyle.



*As Mr. Martel spoke with two University of Tennessee students, the girl with the grey backpack proclaimed, “You can’t compare abortion to the Nazi holocaust! The Jews were useful members of society!” Mr. Martel sought to clarify if her position is that people deserve to live based on what they can contribute to society, but then she quickly backtracked, “Oh, no, that’s not what I meant.” CBR Student Outreach Coordinator Cody Levi (in cap at right) helped many students understand our scientific and philosophical arguments, and he even showed an ROTC chaplain how to engage with students without “losing his cool” upon hearing their ridiculous arguments.*

**God bless you for your faithful support as we work to save lives and touch souls for God.**

*“Behold, all souls are Mine...” EZEKIEL 18:4A*

## Prayer Requests

- Blessings on college students who stand up for life
- Successful implementation of new CBR projects
- Pastors to courageously lead their flocks to stand for the sanctity of human life

## Events

### GAP - Genocide Awareness Project

Nov. 1-2 University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### Photo Trucks

Weekly in Manatee & Sarasota counties, FL

### Speaking Engagements & Trainings

Oct. 28 Pro-life Training Academy, Knoxville

Nov. 4 Men’s March, Boston, MA

### Sign Displays at Abortion Mills

Nov. 11 Planned Parenthood Mission Viejo, CA

“ *The conversations continue  
two weeks after you leave.* ”

*UT student speaking about GAP's effect*

# Matching Donation for New or Increased Monthly Donors

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION...

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