

LOVE *unleashes life*

May-June 2016

Dear Friends,

In the first **5 months** of this year, thanks to your support, I have given **28 presentations** to over **5,000 people** in **4 countries**. I have also had various meetings with pastors and others, mentored different students and pro-life leaders, and written **15 blogs** that have been shared by others through social media (including a recent post that has flown over the internet and led to an EWTN nightly news interview on June 2).

I couldn't do this without you, so thank you! Ever since I was young I've had a deep conviction and gift to form others to be able to communicate winsomely and persuasively in defense of life. I haven't wanted money to get in the way of the message getting out, which means when a group who wants me to speak cannot pay my full honorarium—or one at all—I'm able to say it's okay (because I have a support team of people who donate to fill in the blanks!). So although income from my work supports a portion of my ministry, 60% is actually supported by your donations—so I and the groups who receive the presentations can't thank you enough. Your support is providing proper formation in ways that matter—where life hangs in the balance. Would you be able to make a donation this month to further this work?



That's me (left) with pro-lifers in Birmingham, England, where I spoke at their March for Life. Front, centre, is a woman named Sophie with her son Riley—she shared how last year she was pregnant with Riley and was scheduled to abort him; but randomly running into the March for Life moved her in her heart and she changed her mind! (Photo Credit: Michael Desbruslais)

Here's a snippet of what's happened since I last wrote you:

With part of Love Unleashes Life's purpose being *to educate about the inherent dignity and worth of human persons*, I have developed a pro-life apologetics presentation on the tragically timely topic of **eutanasia and assisted suicide**. When I gave it at **Broadway Mennonite Church** in Chilliwack (on behalf of the Chilliwack Pro-Life Society, who I do some contract speaking for), an attendee wrote,

“Having lived a lengthy life and cared for a terminally-ill loved one, **I have long puzzled over the matter of end-of-life pain and suffering**. I have questioned whether it is really kind or compassionate to allow a loved one to experience extreme suffering. What would I want should I be in an excruciating pain situation at the end of my life? **The approach taken by Stephanie Gray to confront this**, both in her presentations and her booklet ‘Frequently asked Questions about Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide’ **has certainly put my personal concerns to rest. Stephanie provides, as well, guidance for lovingly helping a hurting person to look at the question of life and death.**”

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PO Box 173, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 7G1, Canada
Alternatively, you can donate online at www.stephaniegray.info

Another purpose of Love Unleashes Life is *to influence the influencers, by forming clergy, seminarians, teachers, parents, those in the medical and legal fields, and others, in effectively communicating a message about human dignity, human rights, and pro-life apologetics.* And that brings me to one of my May adventures: speaking at **St. Mary's College, Oscott**, which is the diocesan seminary for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, England. The seminarians there represent twenty dioceses from Aberdeen in the far north of Scotland to Portsmouth on the south coast of England, from Menevia in the West of Wales to Copenhagen in Denmark. Their rector, Fr. David Oakley made my presentation, "Reaching Hearts & Minds on Abortion: Creating a Culture of Encounter" mandatory for the seminarians. Afterwards he wrote,

"What we received in Stephanie Gray's presentation here was inspiration and encouragement to continue with our work to support those in the pro-life movement, **a necessary strategy for engagement with those who do not support the pro-life stance**, useful material for ongoing dialogue with others. Those who attended Stephanie's seminar **found the material very helpful, encouraging and enabling.** All of us here can testify to the value and worth of the material and the presentation."

I also spoke at a **high school in England** where a teenage boy approached me afterwards to **say the presentation changed his mind.** He said he hadn't been convinced that the pre-born were human in the first few weeks of pregnancy, but as a result of the presentation he now is convinced they are, and wanted to thank me.

Another purpose of Love Unleashes Life is *to provide mentoring and formation on the topics of public speaking, leadership, interacting with the media, and fundraising strategies, for individuals and organizations that are advancing a message about human dignity.* That's why, for the past two semesters, I've been mentoring an American college student through the **Wilberforce Leadership Fellowship.** We spoke every two weeks to discuss her leadership and activism through her campus pro-life club, and I provided weekly formation to her throughout her semesters. I was able to do that thanks to your support, and here's what Genevieve (below) said about it:

"**After being mentored for the past year, I feel more confident in my leadership abilities and more capable of pursuing full-time pro-life work as a career.** My mentorship experience gave me an opportunity to get my ideas out of my head and work them into tangible plans with the advice of someone with more wisdom and experience than me. Stephanie helped me to focus and make sure that my plans were on-track with my goals, and to avoid many common pitfalls. ...As a part of this mentorship, Stephanie pointed me toward reading materials that helped me think about ways to grow, and she always held me to high standards. What I am most grateful for, though, is the inspiration and encouragement that Stephanie constantly brought me. **Every Monday, she sent me a 'Monday Musing,' a brief reflection on a relevant topic that was always insightful and helpful. I was able to share many of these musings with the rest of my pro-life club, so that they had the opportunity to be inspired as well!** After this year in mentorship, I know I have become a much stronger leader!"



Thank you for supporting me in supporting others. May you be encouraged by all this as I'm encouraged by you,

Stephanie Gray

P.S., While there are *a lot* of my talks and interviews on Youtube and Vimeo, a search of just 6 of those recordings shows **more than 25,000 views**, which means more people are reached than those I speak to in-person!

P.P.S., What's coming up? Talks in Washington, Coquitlam, Calgary, Windsor, Buffalo, and Sacramento!

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