

LOVE *unleashes life*

September-October 2016

Dear Friends,

Since I last wrote you two months ago, doors opened for me to give **17 presentations and 3 radio interviews in 8 cities across North America!** Not all groups were able to pay an honorarium, but thanks to your financial support, I can still say yes to give these talks! Here are some highlights:

Influencing the Influencers

The photo (top right) is of me with 19 missionaries from The Culture Project. In September, I spent two days training them in a) pro-life apologetics on abortion and euthanasia, b) the right disposition and tactics for being an effective communicator, and c) how to give winning presentations. These young people will then travel across the United States and communicate a message about human dignity to thousands of teenagers. Although my message won't reach those audiences directly through me, by helping form the presenters it will be transmitted indirectly. As Saint Josemaria Escriva once said, ***“Among those around you, apostolic soul, you are the stone fallen into the lake. With your word and example produce a first ripple... and it will produce another... and then another, and another... each time wider.”*** Thank *you* for helping making this happen!



Just before that, I spent two days doing a similar training seminar of 7 chastity missionaries in Toronto through the Re:Generation program (bottom right). Last year was their launch year and they reached 5,000 teens in over 40 talks in Southern Ontario, with plans to exceed that this next year—meaning the ripple effect will continue!



I also trained pro-life leaders in the dioceses of Sacramento and Phoenix, as well as spoke at a conference in New Jersey which was the springboard

to a campaign to take a first step of banning abortion after 20 weeks in that state.

So, what are people saying?

“I learned so much about effective communication, effective listening and cultivating positive, critically thoughtful dialogue with others who might not have

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the same views as me. The pro-life training gave me great philosophical, biological and ethical arguments to pose to pro-abortion advocates. I also learned how to be an effective story teller and convey truths through anecdotes and experiences which was very fruitful to learn as a chastity public speaker.”

–Re:Generation Missionary

“Thank you for your inspiring talk; it was so fitting for all the good leaders gathered at the luncheon. Never doubt that your witness, so joyfully and faith filled, is touching many hearts.” –Bishop Olmsted, Diocese of Phoenix

“I was very moved by your presentation and am going to send it around to my colleagues to help us all to message better on the Pain-Capable bill and to be better pro-life apologists in general.” –US pro-life leader who heard the New Jersey presentation

Two final notes about the importance of a ripple effect:

Last week I was back in the east, speaking in Michigan where I presented to hundreds of teens at Valley Lutheran High School. One student, Ruby (below, pictured to the left of me), told me she only recently got involved in the pro-life movement and found that the apologetics I shared gave her answers to questions she hadn't yet been equipped to answer. It was clear this girl is **on fire** for speaking out for the babies, and equipping her means the message will definitely live on through many people she encounters.



The second story is regarding a pro-life leader in England who heard my presentations there this past Spring. She's been sharing with others various stories she's learned from my talks and here's what she wrote me:

“You can't guess how many times I've used the story of the Italian cruiser & the miracle on the Hudson River! The last time I told it I was at a Catholic youth event with the March for Life UK stall. A young man of 19 came up to me and confidently described himself as being 'pro-choice'. He was keen to get into a debate/discussion and soon there was a little crowd gathered listening in. He fairly quickly presented the situation of a 16yr old girl who has been raped 'and don't tell me she should have the baby adopted because that's a really difficult thing to do,' he added. So of course it was a perfect opportunity for the Italian cruiser story.

“When I got to the bit 'so sometimes life calls us to be heroes because the only other option is to be selfish', the young people gathered around were all nodding. The young man had the grace to say that I'd given him something to think about and I was very grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to witness to all the other youth there who probably wouldn't have had the courage to ask what he did. I have to say I always feel like I should say 'this isn't my story though, it belongs to Stephanie' so on behalf of all the people I am better able to witness to because of you - thank you! Your effects are more far reaching than you will ever know.”

Thank **you** for fueling this work so that together we can make far-reaching effects. And happy Canadian Thanksgiving ☺

Stephanie Gray

P.S., Would you be able to make a donation this month to help fund these talks? Thank you for your generosity ☺

P.P.S., I have 20 more presentations to give before the end of the year. See the schedule here: www.stephaniegray.info/events/

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