



Standing in the GAP

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Director's Corner
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Dear Partners and Friends,

With heavy heart, we said goodbye to 2 friends and fellow pro-life warriors who were tragically killed in a car wreck earlier this month. Although we lost these shining lights, their example compels us to carry on their work. Thanks to your support, we're in the middle of one of our busiest GAP seasons ever, having visited 4 schools and looking forward to 3 more this fall. We also co-hosted 2 training conferences for pro-life student leaders.

Fletcher

Tragedy Strikes Pro-Life Movement

We are sad to report the deaths of our dear friends and pro-life co-workers Kortney Blythe Gordon and Jon Scharfenberger. They were traveling home from the Students for Life of Georgia conference that was held in Macon on October 8. As they drove northbound on US 129, about 8 miles north of Gray, Ga., they were hit head-on by a southbound driver who was trying to pass two cars. Kortney, her preborn child Sophy, and the other driver all died at the scene. Jon died of his injuries 10 days later.

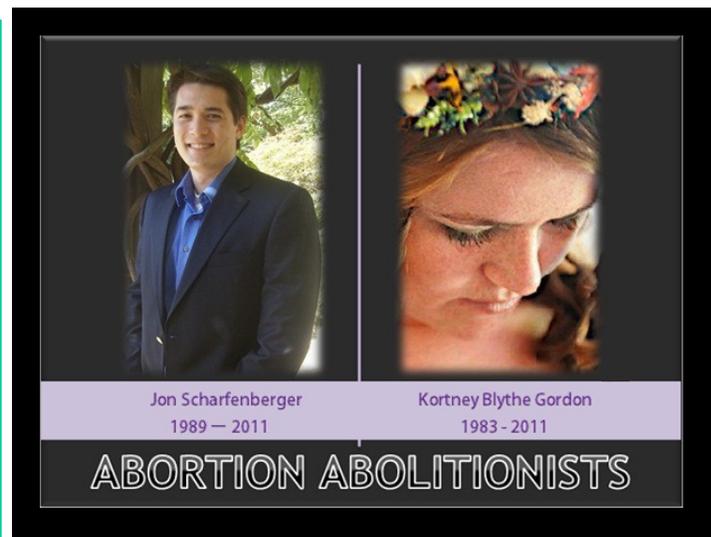
Two other pro-lifers were also injured in the crash. Leo Buckle, President of Students for Life at the University of South Carolina, and Ginny Stone, a pro-life activist from a pregnancy center in Durham, NC, both sustained extremely serious internal injuries, but they are expected to recover.

Kortney, 28, was the National Field Director for the Students for Life of America (SFLA). She worked tirelessly to mobilize, activate, and train new and existing student pro-life groups at universities all over the country. As a child, Kortney was introduced to the pro-life movement through her uncle, Don Blythe, a long-time friend of CBR.

Jon, 22, was SFLA's Pregnant on Campus Coordinator. Jon had many successes in his short time at SFLA, including establishing a pro-life campus group at Florida International University that God used to save a preborn baby's life, a mere one week after the group's creation.

Both Kortney and Jon were effective young leaders of the pro-life generation, absolutely committed to ending abortion in their lifetimes. They are gone, and we miss them terribly, but their dream lives on.

More details and links at FletcherArmstrongBlog.com.



GAP returns to the University of Delaware

CBR is growing, with new offices in Maryland (serving the mid-Atlantic) and in Maine (serving the New England states). We were happy to partner with CBR Maryland to take our GAP outreach to the U of Delaware and Johns Hopkins U in May. **Next month, we plan to partner with CBR Maine to take GAP to the U of Rhode Island and Brown U.**

On May 5-6, we were hosted at the U of Delaware (UDel) by the Pro-Life Vanguard (PLV). It was our third trip to UDel. As usual, the Delaware Right to Life was out in force to assist.

A few weeks before GAP, several PLV members had attended a meeting of pro-aborts planning to protest the GAP display. On our previous trip to UDel, they had been combative and belligerent. That hadn't made the pictures go away, so this time, they would try something different. They would stand

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We like to hang out with protesters.

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about 50 feet away and hold signs, such as “Free Hugs,” “Free Candy,” and “Free Condoms.” They desperately hope condoms prevent STDs and pregnancy, so they can keep abusing sex with impunity. But in fact, condoms are only marginally effective at protecting against some STDs and entirely ineffective against others. Despite the widespread availability of condoms, one in four teenage girls becomes infected with an STD. The Guttmacher Institute reports *54% of women who abort were actually using birth control during the month they became pregnant.*

They had decided that none of them would engage us in conversation. They kept this up for about half a day. What unfolded that afternoon was nothing short of a miracle. One by one ... and small group by small group ... the pro-choice protesters slowly made their way over to the GAP display. They began to initiate conversations with our staff and volunteers. Some talked for a few minutes; others for hours. Like the squirrels that populate the UDel Green; some would come for a little small bit of discussion (as much as they could stand), then leave, then come back, then leave, then come back again, and so on.

At one point, the president of one of the pro-choice groups was kneeling in front of the Deeper Still table. *Deeper Still is a post-abortion counseling ministry that is present at all of our GAPS.* She was speaking with Debbie Picarello and Sandie Sendall, both of whom are post-abortive and willing to share their stories. She stayed for a good 20 minutes.

The PLV is an especially outstanding pro-life group, fully engaged in the battle. At the end of the day, PLV President Gina Paladinette explained why GAP is such an effective tool:

Most people have never seen what abortion does to the unborn child. Every single person I've talked to has said, "Wow, I didn't know this is what abortion looks like. I didn't know [preborn children in the first trimester] had fingers; I didn't know they had toes."

PLV Vice-President Maria Lort said GAP allowed them to make a huge impact with just a few people:

Our group is very small, so this is a great chance for us to get the word out in a big way. People who don't want to come to our events walk by and see it.

Tyler Ellis, a campus minister with Blue Hens for Christ, was “thrilled” to see us on campus:

I was really thrilled to see [GAP] on campus. I think these pictures are effective because a lot of people never imagine just how far along the baby is developed until they see the pictures. I've met people who said, "Man, if I had known that it was more than just a little blob, I never would have done it." I commend what [CBR] is doing and I say, "Keep it up; good job!"

With your help, we'll do just that! It is so important to do this project every year at every school, just like freshman math. There's always a new crop of students who need to know the truth. Please write a life-saving check of \$50, \$500, or \$5000. No gift is too small and no gift is too large.



At left, a pro-choice group leader speaks for 20 minutes with Debbie Picarello and Sandie Sendall of Deeper Still. They are able to reach students in powerful ways. At right, Sandie's husband Walt can now reason with this student, because she has seen for herself that abortion is a horrifying act of violence.



CBR Maryland Director Samantha Linnemann uses our photo brochure to show this student how abortion may be compared to other forms of genocide. Your gift of \$250 will print more than 2,500 pieces of this important pro-life literature.



We also visited the Baltimore Harbor. The masts of the USS Constellation tower over Fletcher and this German visitor.