

LOVE *unleashes life*

Christmas 2015

“I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me; you continually inspire me and I feel the Lord convicting my heart the more I get involved in pro-life work. I still have a recording of you giving a talk at NET training that I refer back to from time to time!”

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite quotes is from Cardinal John Henry Newman who said, **“I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.”** That’s what came to mind when I received the encouraging note above from a former audience member. I am simply one link in reaching out to her, as are many others, including you through supporting this speaking ministry. And as we reach the close of the first full year that I have been presenting through Love Unleashes Life, I wanted to thank you for fueling this mission to influence the influencers.

Here are highlights from 2015:

4	<i>The number of people I individually mentored/trained in different areas: a pro-life physician on how to handle media interviews, a teenager on how to do public speaking, a college student on how to be a good on-campus leader, and an Irish pro-life organization on how to fundraise.</i>
20	<i>The number of articles I wrote which, besides for my own blog, included pieces for Dynamic Women of Faith, Catholic News Agency, and Life Canada.</i>
50	<i>The number of presentations I gave in 29 different cities across North America.</i>
12,654	<i>The number of people I gave presentations to, which included law students, lawyers, entrepreneurs, priests, seminarians, and teachers.</i>

What have people been saying? One of the priests I recently presented to e-mailed, “I can't emphasize enough the thanks I'm giving to God for the good that He is doing through you.” And a former law student (now practicing lawyer) I spoke to a couple years ago messaged to say, “Keep fighting the good fight with the pro-life work; you're making a difference every day. **I still remember your session** at Blackstone being one of the most helpful ones.”



▲ L-R: That’s me with friends and fellow pro-life leaders David Bereit, Cristina Barba, and Lila Rose at the March for Life earlier this year. I’ll be speaking again at a March-related conference next month.

Thank you for being a part of this outreach. May you be encouraged not only by what has happened in the past 12 months, but by what’s coming up in 2016:

- *Love Unleashes Life: Abortion & the Art of Communicating Truth* will be released in January
- The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is increasing the number of events they have me speak at, including having me present to entrepreneurs in Vienna, Austria, in March
- In May I will present at the March for Life in London, England
- 17 events are already booked for 2016 (plus an event for 2017 which will draw over 3,000 teenagers!)

Thank you for your donations to fuel this work. Would you consider a year-end contribution? If so, donation information is below. May you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of Our Lord.


Stephanie Gray

Please make cheques payable to “Love Unleashes Life” and mail to
PO Box 173, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 7G1, Canada
Alternatively, you may donate online at www.stephaniegray.info

Here is one of the pieces I wrote this year:

Making All Things New: There are some emotional pains that are so excruciating, so deep, and so overwhelming that words are inadequate to describe the agony. In such experiences, the deepest and most guttural of sobs seem to provide no relief.

That kind of suffering came to mind when I met a beautiful college student at a talk I gave at an American university earlier this year. She approached me afterwards to thank me for giving her something she didn't have previously: a way to articulate the reasons behind the pro-life position in order to make "The Case for Life" (the title for my talk in which I equipped the audience to persuasively defend the right to life of pre-born children). After she thanked me, she made a significant disclosure: ***"I had a baby last December."***

She then told me her story: ***her parents wanted her to have an abortion.*** She didn't know back then how to make the case for life to convince them it was wrong to meet their wishes, but she nonetheless knew it in her heart. And so, even if she couldn't articulate it with her tongue, she would not allow abortion to be the answer.

An unplanned pregnancy.

An unmarried student.

A betrayal by one's own parents who wanted their grandchild dismembered.

Agony.

Utter agony.

As she walked through that trial, a parallel suffering was being lived by two others: there was a married couple who lost not one, not two, but three children to sudden deaths. Children should expect to one day bury their parents, but parents should never have to bury their children. This couple had to bury three. Torture.

But these parallel journeys would intersect. Two crises would meet and mysteriously produce beauty: ***"I gave my baby up for adoption,"*** the student told me, ***"to a couple I knew for four years who had had three children and all of them died."***

She took out her phone and showed me a most precious picture of her baby girl. What joy for her to know that she played a role in bringing the gift of life, and its fruits of joy, to a couple who had known such deep sadness. What a joy for the adoptive parents to know that they played a role in receiving the gift of life and affirming the courageous and loving choice of this young woman. What a joy for both parties to know that when faced with the neediness of a little child, their response was a spirit of responsibility, generosity, and love.

Amidst the crisis pregnancy, the stirring in this student's heart to consider adoption was as though God was whispering what He said in Revelation 21:5 ***"Behold I make all things new."***

Amidst the great loss of their children's deaths, the adoptive couple's reception of new life was as though God was breathing into them, ***"Behold, I make all things new."***

And 24 hours after that baby girl's birth, her grandfather who had previously wished her aborted, called his daughter to apologize, and to thank her for giving life to his grandchild that he had held the day before—in that moment of mercy, it was as though the written word of God came to life yet again:

"Behold, I make all things new."

*Please make cheques payable to "Love Unleashes Life" and mail to
PO Box 173, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 7G1, Canada
Alternatively, you may donate online at www.stephaniegray.info*