

Josh Brahm preaching at Valgmenighed Church in Denmark on April 22nd



## ERI Speaking Events Around the World!

By Josh Brahm

This has been a busy speaking season for us at ERI! Here are some stories and pictures from our recent travels.

### TRAINING THE PRO-LIFE LEADERS OF DENMARK

This will definitely end up being my favorite trip of the year! After taking the Equipped for Life Course, the Right to Life group in Denmark flew me out to do multiple events with the goal of helping them take their work to the next level.

On the day I arrived I had a public event that included pro-choice people. I shared two different arguments that abortion is wrong and should be illegal, as well as how we respond to the question of rape before I started taking questions. About 50 people attended, and one pro-choice man commented that I was **"one of the most reasonable and interesting people he's heard"** on the other side of an issue from him.

I spent most of my second day giving a 10-hour solo conference (pictured below) on pro-life



apologetics. The talks included "8 Faulty Pro-Life Arguments and Tactics," "The Most Persuasive Pro-Life Argument," "Understanding and Responding to 'My Body, My Choice,'" and multiple Q&A sessions. About 50 pro-life advocates came and they asked fantastic questions!

My favorite moment from that day was when someone told me that she came to the event not even knowing whether she was pro-life or pro-choice, but by the end of the event she knew exactly what her position should be. I expect she'll be partnering up with Right to Life soon.

The next morning I preached at Valgmenighed Church (pictured above) on what we can learn from the Bible about the unborn and what our response should be as Christians to abortion. I started the sermon by talking about how Christ is eager and willing to forgive the sin of abortion just like any other sin, and we heard later that **someone came to Christ during the service!** An Iranian woman also introduced herself to me after the service to tell me that she live-streamed the audio of the sermon to her friend in Iran who isn't a Christian but is very "pro-science." She felt like the sermon was very helpful to him because I talked about the scientific side of the abortion debate.



The last thing I did in Denmark was consult with the leadership of Denmark Right to Life in a private strategy session. (Pictured above.)

This was a truly encouraging trip. **We had the chance to mentor and equip the leaders of the pro-life movement in Denmark**, and we're very optimistic about how effective they're going to be moving forward!

### RACHEL'S FIRST SPEAKING TRIP TO OREGON AND PENNSYLVANIA

Rachel travelled directly from the Right to Life of Oregon conference to Pennsylvania to mentor a students for life group for two days of outreach on their campus and give a bodily rights talk. During those two days of outreach,

an unusual number of students seriously reconsidered their views on abortion. Rachel said some people were coming up to the table identifying as "pro-choice" and by the end of the conversation were even signing up to join the Students for Life club!

Many people weren't happy to have a pro-life speaker on campus and some pro-choice students were sharing the event on Facebook along with information about where students could go to for "support" or to get an abortion. Some students donated to Planned Parenthood on behalf of Rachel because they didn't like that she was doing pro-life work. Given the way some were talking online, including an angry professor, we were concerned that there might be some commotion before the talk. Rachel was prepared for a hostile audience, but fortunately everything went smoothly and there



was a great turnout, especially for pro-choice students. It is not unusual for ERI speakers to have pro-choice students come who at the beginning of the lecture have obvious angry body language and by the end of the talk have relaxed and even come up afterwards to thank us. Rachel said, "I had one pro-choice student tell me that he thinks **our responses destroy bodily rights arguments and he will never use them again** after hearing me speak. He had come to the lecture along with some friends from a philosophy club. They had researched ERI before the talk, read our papers and watched some of our videos! I also had one girl say that even though she was only there for the last twenty minutes during Q&A she thought I was **the best pro-life speaker she had ever heard** because I was respectful to pro-choice people. One of the pro-life students from the club told me that having me come to her campus was **one of the most rewarding experience of her life and she now feels much better equipped to engage with students.**"

### MY SPEAKING TOUR IN CANADA

Two months before my Denmark trip I traveled to Canada for my third speaking tour, where I

did nine events plus a meeting with the Bishop in four days!

After my first speech at a school a young man named Carter introduced himself to me and said, "I just wanted to thank you for giving this talk today. I've always been pro-choice, but kind of by default. Literally ALL of my friends are pro-choice. **But now hearing what you said today, I'm going to have to reconsider this entire issue.** I can't thank you enough for coming today!"

Besides speaking at four Catholic schools, I spoke to a Catholic school board on what they can do to talk about abortion in helpful ways in Catholic high schools, as well as a Lutheran Seminary for around 40 future pastors and those who teach pastors. I also met with Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie to share an idea I have on how pastors and parish priests can prevent more abortions in their churches. (More on this idea in the future!) On my last day I prayed at the local 40 Days for Life vigil with some of their volunteers, filmed an ERI update video at Niagara Falls, and then spoke to 400 pro-life advocates for St. Catharines Right to Life's educational dinner in Canada before returning home.

## Personal Note to Jacob's Friends and Supporters

I love newsletter time. It pushes me to sit down and recount with gratitude what God has done and is doing through ERI. First, thank you for your support! I don't tire of sharing my gratitude for your partnership in this work.

I am working with 6 university student groups to get them through their dialogue training and subsequent outreaches organized. These are truly all-star groups of students, and I'm excited to be there to mentor them through the process of training and outreach. While I hate waiting for all the pieces to come together, we've made great progress on the sidewalk counseling module. I cannot wait to get this training out into the pro-life community, especially as greater media scrutiny and criticism is falling on the women and men on the front line of defense of the unborn. I was a consultant for Human Life Alliance magazine to contribute to their "This Is Not Your Only Choice" (sidewalk counseling) edition.

I am helping our upcoming staff member, Andrew Kaake, to raise support, and I will be traveling to visit him later this month to offer further assistance in support raising. We are grateful for Andrew and his wife, and we eagerly look forward to him joining our team. Please pray that his support raising efforts would be fruitful.

Personally, my wife just finished her first semester back at university. She has wrapped up her spring semester with all A's, and she's gearing up for her summer classes, so, I'm definitely proud of her. The kids are dying to be finished with classes for the summer, which makes them nothing like their mother and every bit like their father. The kids don't mind mama not cooking too much because I'll give them cake for dinner, No complaints!

Blessings,

~ Jacob

