

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 Rachel's Friends and Supporters

This Spring I went on my first speaking trip as an official ERI speaker. My first stop was in Portland, Oregon for the state's Right to Life conference where I gave two workshops. In the second workshop, I spoke about my Women's Studies classes publicly for the first time. It was strange for me because seeing the reaction of pro-life people to some of my stories reminds me of the reality of what I went through and how intense those classes really were. I can't wait to continue using my experience to help pro-life people.

I'd never been to Oregon or even close to that far west before so after the Saturday conference I was able to spend part of Sunday exploring The Grotto, a national shrine to Our Sorrowful Mother with my friend Allison who was also in Portland that same weekend for a wedding. The Grotto is a gorgeous shrine built into and on top of a mountain with a bronze replica of the Pieta and winding paths through gardens and trees that lead you through the Joys and Sorrows of Joseph, the Seven Sorrows of Mary, the Stations of the Cross and much more. In

this picture you can see just a peak of the view we had from the top of the mountain. That morning, Allison and I also crossed the river into Washington to have brunch at the Grant House and take a walk around Fort Vancouver. I used to roll my eyes when people said things like this, but I swear the air smells better near the mountains.

There is a white water center in Charlotte with all sorts of cool activities like man-made rapids for rafting and kayaking, zip lines, rock climbing and trails. Every weekend they have “River Jam” there with live music. I went to check it out with some friends and it was so much larger than I thought it would be and we will definitely be going back. I'd like to go rafting too, but I need to start with the “family” course first to see if I can survive. There is also a roller coaster park about 30 minutes from me that is under the same company as Cedar Point. I'd really like to visit sometime soon.

~ Rachel

