



Regional Director
Jason Walsh

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‘Touring the Camp’

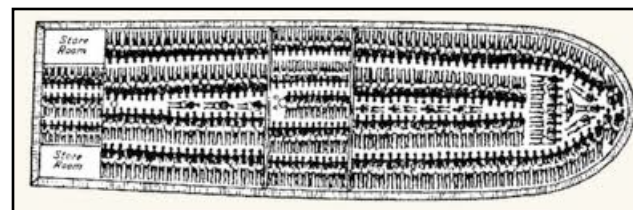
Last month, I delivered a presentation entitled, ‘**Social Reform and Pro-life Activism.**’ Of all the lectures I give on the topic of abortion, this one is my favorite. Why? The presentation is essential in laying out the context of why CBR uses graphic abortion imagery in large public displays. As I work to translate it into a video format for wider distribution, I want to give you a rough layout of its content. I pray that it strengthens your support of this ministry.

At CBR we start with the assumption that abortion is an act so evil that words literally fail us when trying to describe it accurately. Gen. Eisenhower ran into this same basic predicament at the end of WW2 regarding the Holocaust. “During the camp inspections with his top commanders Eisenhower said that the atrocities were ‘beyond the American mind to comprehend.’ He ordered that every citizen of the town of Gotha personally tour the camp. Later on Ike wrote to Mamie, ‘I never dreamed that such cruelty, bestiality, and savagery could really exist in this world.’”

Was Gen. Eisenhower misguided to make the citizens of Gotha ‘tour the camp’? Perhaps he understood something critically important about how the human mind works and why words are sometimes not enough to adequately convey the true depravity of some injustices. **If the history of social reform has one lesson for us to learn it is that we must show the injustice!** This single lesson is unavoidable in any survey of the history of social reform. For example, British abolitionists relied heavily upon the *Brookes* diagram in order to change hearts and minds and radicalize people to action. According to Adam Hochschild in *Bury the Chains*, “Iconic images have power because they allow us to see what previously we could barely

imagine...[The *Brookes* diagram] seemed to make an instantaneous impression of horror upon all who saw it.”

Of course, these abolitionists did not rely solely on this image to change hearts and minds, but they did understand that it was an **indispensable tool** in altering the very fabric of people’s thinking about British slavery.



The ‘*Brookes*’ diagram

Similarly, Lewis Hine, the great child-labor reformer, understood the power of images. At the risk of his life, Hine took photographs of exploited and maltreated children because he knew that words alone could never explain by themselves the deprivation experienced by so many young girls and boys. He wrote, “We propose to make you and the whole country so sick and tired of the whole business that when the time for action comes, child-labor pictures will be records of the past.”

Like Eisenhower, we believe that the American public must be made to ‘tour the camp’ in order to see for themselves how atrocious abortion really is. This is why we take the time and effort to bring graphic abortion images to high school and college campuses. As Father Frank Pavone wisely stated, **“If our [pro-life] educational activity relies primarily on the voluntary consent of the audience we are trying to reach, we will not reach the audience we need to reach.”** The history of effective social reform confirms the accuracy of this statement time after time. Thank you for your prayers and support!!!