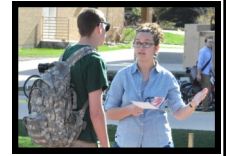




Cheryl Kaye's Reflections



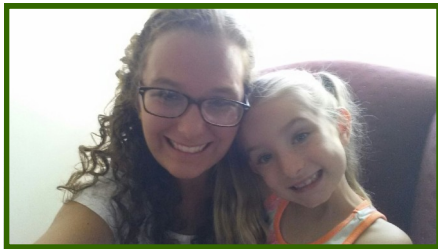
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July/August 2013

Why Not Ask a Question?

Dear Family and Friends,

As I was finishing up some projects, my four-year-old niece Ruthee skipped into my room. She and her contagious smile were just coming to say



My niece Ruthee and I

hello, so I pulled her up onto the couch beside me. I asked her about her day, but soon the conversation went much deeper than I

had expected. “Aunt CK, when you go to heaven, what do you want to ask God?”

After I responded to Ruthee, I asked her to answer her own question. She looked up at me with her big blue eyes, brow furrowed, and thought for a while. She finally asked, “Where was God born?” I tried to explain to her that God wasn’t born, but that He’s always existed.

My niece’s beautiful and precious heart made my day. Not only did she challenge me to think about eternity, but she showed me that she, as a four-year-old, had much deeper thoughts than I had expected. Oftentimes I feel like I don’t give children enough credit – they understand much more than I realize.

The more I thought about this, the more I discovered that I assume far too much about far too many people. I wrongly assume that all of my friends are pro-life. I also wrongly assume that many pro-life people don’t care about actively defending the unborn.

I assumed that Terry didn’t have a well-thought-out view on abortion.

I met Terry at Wichita State University (WSU)

several weeks ago. When my colleague, Joanna, and I first started talking with him, I thought he was not paying very much attention to us and not comprehending what we were saying. As we asked Terry questions, however, I began to realize that this man had very strong and deeply personal views on abortion. He also had many other thoughts he needed to share with someone.

Our conversation with Terry lasted for over an hour. At one point he was sharing frustration over hypocritical, Bible-thumping Christians. Joanna asked him if he thought we were “Bible-thumpers.” Terry said, “Nah. Y’all are just curious.”



Joanna and I talking with Terry at Wichita State University

I left my conversation with Terry realizing two things. First, I was wrong to assume that Terry wasn’t engaged in the conversation. Terry had many thoughts to contribute. Secondly, I realized the importance of asking good questions. Why did Terry call Joanna and I “curious”? I think it’s because we focused on asking questions rather than on making statements.

Now for the light bulb moment: If I don’t want to assume things about others, I should ask them

what they believe. Seems simple, right? Yes, it is. But it's also very powerful. If I were not to ask questions and listen, I would sorely miss out on many great conversations.

When I asked my niece Ruthee the same question she asked me, I learned much about her thoughts. When Joanna and I asked Terry questions, I realized my assumptions about him were wrong. In both cases, I also took time to listen and try to understand their view. With Terry, I made sure to acknowledge and agree with him when he made good points – I built common ground.

This summer I've been participating in an intensive training program with JFA. I've starting speaking and mentoring others in JFA seminars. I've really, really enjoyed it. I've also learned some important lessons. A few of the greatest things I've learned to do are summed up in what JFA calls "The Three Essential Skills": asking questions, listening to understand, and finding genuine common ground. Choosing to focus on these skills has honestly been life-changing.

I want to encourage you to join me in using these three skills. Don't assume you know what your friends, family, and co-workers believe about abortion or about God. Ask good questions to find out. Listen to understand their views. Acknowledge when they've made good points in order to build common ground with them.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. I am very blessed!

Love in Jesus,

Cheryl Kaye

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

~Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV)



I listened to this Wichita State University student share her story. Afterwards, I felt led to pray with her.



I gained experience mentoring participants through this JFA seminar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. It was definitely a highlight of my work with JFA!



I spoke on using the Three Essential Skills at the Joshua Leadership Institute in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Results of My Support Raising Efforts to Date

- As of July 29th, I have reached **50%** of my support-raising goal. Once I reach 100%, I can start full-time work with JFA.
- **44** individuals and families have partnered with me for this ministry. Praise the Lord!
- I am being uplifted by many faithful prayer partners! I am very thankful for their encouragement.

If you are not yet a part of my monthly* support team, please prayerfully consider joining!

Special gifts are also greatly appreciated!

* or regular support team (i.e. quarterly, semiannually, or annually)