

No Excuses

A Lesson in Not Letting Fear Keep You From Obedience

CHERYL KAYE WISNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE



APRIL 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

I met Bill at a Justice For All seminar in Hays, Kansas. From the first time I greeted him, I knew he was a great man simply by his kind demeanor. My high view of him only continued to grow as I worked with him in my mentor group. Bill was quick to learn and willing to ask for help if he didn't understand a concept.

The following day we were starting outreach conversations at Fort Hays State University. Despite the extreme cold, Bill came walking up with a big smile on his face. He had brought hand and feet warmers to help us keep the cold away. On the second day of outreach, Bill also brought blankets and donuts. All of his gifts were blessings, but the greatest blessing was watching him have conversations with those on the campus. Bill attended Fort Hays State University as a student so he knew several students and professors. All of their faces lit up when they saw him and many greeted him with a hug. Bill proceeded to ask them what they thought about abortion. He did well at implementing the tools he had learned in the JFA seminar, but what really stood out was that he was quick to listen and slow to judge. Bill was being a great ambassador for Christ and I was learning by just observing him.



Bill during his first training seminar at Fort Hays State University



Bill engaging a student in conversation at his first outreach event

things and believe they are not capable of doing hard things. I can definitely relate to those struggles. Meeting Bill challenged me because he definitely had those fears as well, but he didn't let the fears hold him back. Read what he wrote on his response card after attending his second seminar:

“My second training and I still don't feel skilled at this [having conversations about abortion]...I realize that it is not about how I feel. I will step out of my comfort zone and do all that I can. It will be successful.”

Two weeks later, Bill joined us at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Having him join our team for several days added so much joy! He helped wherever he was needed. From giving encouragement, to providing transportation, to helping us set up for outreach, to helping fix the house of the family where he was staying...Bill did it all! Not to mention he was consistently engaging students in great conversations for two days straight.

Oh, and did I mention that Bill is sixty-eight years old?

I often meet people who are scared of going out of their comfort zones. They have a fear of trying new things and believe they are not capable of doing hard things. I can definitely relate to those struggles. Meeting Bill challenged me because he definitely had those fears as well, but he didn't let the fears hold him back. Read what he wrote on his response card after attending his second seminar:



JUSTICE FOR ALL TRAINS THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

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Bill didn't let his feelings about his lack of skill stop him from going out of his comfort zone. He didn't let pride stop him from being humble and teachable. He didn't let his age stop him from making a difference on a younger generation. He didn't let the busyness of life stop him from giving of his precious time to love people.

Even though I have only known Bill for a short time, he has deeply impacted my life. He has encouraged my heart and given me a desire to keep serving the Lord through all of my life. God used him to teach me that seemingly little acts of kindness can go a long way. As I grow older, I hope I become more like Bill. I want to love and serve those around me without making excuses.

It can be really easy to make excuses that hold us back from walking in obedience to God. We'll say things like, "Well, that's just not my gifting" or "I just don't have time." But, friend, if God is asking us to do something, He will provide what we need to accomplish His request. I have heard it said many times that, "God does not always call the equipped, but he does equip the called." Fear of obedience does not have a home in the heart of a follower of Jesus. When we walk in obedience to God, it builds our trust and strengthens our joy in Him.

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Will you join me in serving others like Bill does and not making excuses because of fear? It will be worth it. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8, ESV)

Blessings,

Cheryl Kaye

Enjoy these pictures of Bill and me at Fort Hays State University and the University of Kansas!

