

“What about all these disabled and handicapped people? Wouldn’t it be better for them not to have been born?”

Pointing behind the University of Arizona student who was speaking, our trained volunteer said, “Perhaps she would like to comment on that question.”

The young man turned around. The blood drained from his face as he beheld a fellow student in a wheelchair. She did have something to say. In fact, Bethany Benedict responded eloquently to the young man and instructed the crowd that had gathered around. Later, I was able to interview Bethany and get her comments on record.

John: Bethany, what brings you out here today?

Bethany: I heard Justice For All was on campus again, and I really love what they do, so I wanted to come see what’s going on and help.



Bethany talks to Lukas, a JFA volunteer.

sickens me when I think about babies who are aborted at the stage I was when I was born. It just hurts inside, because...so many people want their babies to live, but they die. And the fact that some women...God blessed them [with a baby]...who make the choice to abort a baby; it just doesn’t make sense to me.

John: Bethany, what do you say to people who argue that abortion is justified in the case that this child might have a challenging life due to disability?

Bethany: Honestly? You need to get your head on straight! [Her next two statements were too strong to print.] Just because a life is not what *you* want to live

“You need to get your head on straight! ... Just because a life is not what you want to live doesn’t mean it’s not a life worth living... You learn to find joy. You learn to find peace...”

John: What makes you so passionate about the topic of abortion?

Bethany: I was born 10 weeks early 25 years ago. When I think about how hard my parents worked and how hard they prayed to keep me alive, it just

doesn’t mean it’s not a life worth living. I have found, yeah, it’s hard; it’s not easy, but you get used to it, frankly. You learn to adapt. You learn to find joy. You learn to find peace...



There are times when I tried to jump rope and it caught in my walker and I was really upset, but there's been so many other opportunities to do things, especially as technology gets better. I've been skiing, I've been snowboarding...I've been horseback riding, I've been swimming. I mean, life is so rich, people! I mean, it's just crazy like, and if you don't want this child, somebody else probably does. Somebody else *definitely* does.

I've been around people who their daughter died in the womb. Their baby died. They went for an exam and there was no heartbeat. I can't imagine how much they want her back, and I can just see it, and the fact that they're not going to get her back in this life is devastating even for me. It was very difficult for me to hear.

Challenges are part of life, and if we back away because we're afraid of the challenge, we don't grow, we don't change, we don't live well. If we're constantly afraid thinking, "Oh, I can't do this, I can't provide this, oh, I can't whatever," so if you can't, find someone who can, you know? I mean so many women, so many families, pine for children,

want children, grow old without children, and they would love to have your child.

I mean, it's just sad. It's like I can't imagine not being here.

I can imagine being here differently, you know, walking or running or whatever, but I can't imagine not being here. I really can't.

Bethany has been such an encouragement to us during our last two visits to the University of Arizona. It is one thing for us to make the case that every life is precious, but it is so much more powerful coming from Bethany who has precisely the set of challenges people commonly use to justify abortion.

We look forward to Bethany joining us in our next training seminar in the Tucson area where her testimony will enrich all of our volunteers and give them even more courage to speak for those who are being dehumanized in our world today.

-John Michener

Upcoming Events

- April 9-13: Training seminars in Fort Collins, Colorado
- April 22: Training seminar in New Haven, Connecticut
- April 28-30: Training seminars in Santa Barbara & Fresno, California
- May 4-5: 2012 Home School Convention Oklahoma City, OK

Outreach Days

- Colorado State University ~ Ft. Collins, CO April 11-12
- Yale University ~ New Haven, CT April 25-27
- University of California & Fresno City College Santa Barbara & Fresno, CA April 30-May 2