

May 6, 2010



Claire's May Newsletter:

What am I doing about the silent holocaust?

It was a sunny, windy, slow day at the University of Northern Colorado when a grad student showed up with a sign and started pacing up and down, up and down. I was the first one to try to talk to him. I walked up to him and thanked him for coming out. No response. Then I thanked him for coming out to share his opinion (via the sign). Still no response. Then I told him that I appreciated that he felt strongly enough about the issue to come out at all, and asked if he'd be interested in telling me about his position. This finally granted a response: "We have nothing to discuss."

So there we were, two opposing sides exercising our freedom of speech (or in his case silence).



At first, I was frustrated. I struggle when people won't dialogue about what they believe. But then something occurred to me. *I respected the protestor for caring about what he believes enough to do something about it.* I respected his silent protest more than I respected the students who walked by but refused to engage in conversation. Obviously, I am out there because I want to do something about what I believe.

Because of our freedom of speech rights and the way our Constitution was written, Christians in this country have a very unique opportunity to stand up for and be vocal about issues like this. We can do it legally without having to worry about being imprisoned, tortured, executed or killed. The only thing that can happen to us for using our freedom of speech for truth and life is that we will most likely be hated. This thought gave me pause. **Am I willing to be hated for the truth? Not just the truth about abortion, but truth in general?**

While JFA was in CO, a friend of mine sent me a link to a video of a speech by an abortion survivor named Gianna Jessen. She said, "My mother was 17 years old and 7 1/2 months pregnant when she went to Planned Parenthood. They counseled her to get a late term saline abortion which is a procedure where they inject —>

a salt-saline solution into the mother's womb. The baby gulps that and it burns the baby inside and out and then she delivers the baby dead close to 24 hours later...but to everyone's shock and surprise I didn't arrive dead, but alive."

Gianna's testimony is this: "We are in an interesting battle, whether we realize it or not, in this world. It is a battle between life and death. What side are you



on?...You see, we're playing for keeps...I mean I'm hoping to be hated by the time I die. So that I can feel God about me and understand what it was to be hated, I mean He was hated, Christ was *hated*.

Not that I look forward to being hated, but I already am hated along my journey....because I declare life. I say 'you didn't get me! The silent holocaust didn't win over me.' And my mission, ladies and gentlemen, among many things, is this: to infuse human-

ity into a debate that we have just compartmentalized and set on a shelf and said it is an "issue". We have removed our emotions. We are becoming harder.

Do you really want that? **How much are you willing to take, and to risk, to speak the truth in love and graciousness and stand up and at least be willing to be hated?** Or at the end of the day...is it all about you? Or me?"

God has used Gianna to become a voice for the millions of human beings killed by abortion. Her plea for people, for Christians, to speak up is the plea of the millions of lost innocents.

So here I go...fighting this messy battle. Maybe I won't see the results that I long for, but it is still better to fight evil in the capacity that I have, than to ignore it and live only for myself. I have settled it within myself: **I am willing to be hated for truth.**

Blessings to you in Christ our Lord,

~Claire Marie~

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests:

-Praise God for His faithfulness to our staff and for a successful outreach at UNC.

-We will be doing a seminar and outreach at Pasadena CC in California this month. Please pray for the hearts of the students we will be talking with.

-Please continue to pray for my club development work in CO, especially at Metro St (Denver).

-Please pray for personal strength and encouragement for me.