

Fresh Eyes



A JFA UPDATE FROM MARY BIEGLER



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As I write this letter, my heart is overflowing with joy and gratitude because of the exciting news I'm about to share with you. My husband and I are having a baby! Baby Biegler is due May 19th, 2023, and we can't wait to meet him or her. We have been spending the past few months preparing for the changes that are to come and sharing our happy news with close family and friends. It is times like these that remind us how blessed we are to have so many people who love and support us, including you! Your prayers and continued support is such a comfort, and we are so grateful.

I am also especially grateful that I finally get to experience pregnancy firsthand. For almost three years I have been writing, speaking, studying, and discussing all things related to abortion, embryology, and pregnancy. I have educated myself on pregnancy complications, abortion procedures, fetal development, and the myriad of economic, medical, and emotional reasons that women give for having abortions. I have discussed all of these topics with many passionate pro-choice advocates. I have listened to personal stories of young women who have been raped, dealt with unintended pregnancies, or had abortions. I have sympathized with them and found common ground that each of these situations are extremely difficult and that we need to provide good solutions for these women. I can't tell you how many times the words, "Pregnancy can be very complicated and difficult," have come out of my mouth. These words have been an aid to me in some very challenging conversations. They have helped soften the hearts of many of the people with whom I've conversed and have turned heated debates into calm discussions.

Yet, I didn't fully understand how true those words are until I became pregnant.

Two months ago on the morning of September 29th I stood in my bathroom staring at the pregnancy test that was sitting on the counter. The two intersecting blue lines were unmistakable. It was positive! In disbelief I did a second test, a digital one, and after a few minutes of impatient waiting there it was, as clear as day: "Pregnant."

I began crying as the overwhelming emotions of shock, happiness, and uncertainty hit me all at once. It was in that moment that I began to realize just how complex this issue really is. The phrase "I am a mother," kept running through my mind, and yet I wasn't fully convinced that I was actually pregnant. I picked up the tests and closely examined them to make sure I hadn't made some sort of mistake, and for the next hour I paced my apartment, not knowing what to do, just grappling with my new reality.

A positive pregnancy test was beyond exciting for me, but it also came with fears and questions such as, "Am I ready to be a mother?" "Can we provide for a child right now?" and "How is this going to affect my life, my body, and my health?" These are questions I have asked myself as a married woman in a loving relationship who *wants* her pregnancy and her baby. How much more acutely these fears, uncertainties, and worries must be felt by a young, single woman, who lacks the support of a husband or her family and does *not* want her pregnancy or her baby?

For so many women a positive pregnancy test is anything but exciting. It is devastating and terrifying. For some it means losing their friends or boyfriend, having to drop out of school, or even being kicked out of their own home. It means dealing with morning sickness, exhaustion, headaches, and extreme mood swings, all of which I have experienced. While none of these situations would justify an abortion, we can certainly sympathize with how scary and challenging these things are.

My pregnancy has been a gift for many reasons, but one of them is the fresh eyes it has given me when I study, write, and converse about abortion and unintended pregnancy. Now I can relate to this topic and to the women that it impacts on a whole new level, as I'm sure many of you who have been pregnant can, too. As I've said before, morally this issue is very simple and it requires each of us to speak out boldly. At the same time, emotionally, psychologically, and circumstantially, it is very complex. So my hope is that we all continue fearlessly communicating the truth about abortion through a lens of sincere concern and love for each person impacted by this issue.



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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