



Giving Thanks

- *Stories of Changed Hearts and Minds* -



Tammy Cook's Update

November 2016



*Thank you for your support
this year.*



Your support has allowed me to have hundreds of conversations with pro-choice and pro-life advocates this year. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit was my constant companion during each of those conversations. I'm praying that God will produce an abundance of fruit from the seeds that were planted. Here are highlights from two of those conversations.

LACI

I met Laci at UCLA in May. She identified herself as pro-choice.

Tammy: I've found that "pro-choice" means different things to different people. May I ask what it means to you?

Laci: Well, I grew up with friends who had a really rough childhood. Their parents didn't really want them — they were unable to support their emotional needs. I don't think a child should have to endure being unwanted, and women should be able to make a decision about whether or not they're ready to care for a child.



Tammy: I'm really sorry to hear that. I'm willing to listen if you want to share more.

Laci: *I was one of those kids. I grew up in a really tough situation with parents who didn't have time for me ... who didn't provide for my emotional needs.*

Tammy: I'm so sorry to hear that. That must have been very difficult.

Laci: Yes, it was. I just don't think a woman should be forced to have a child if she's not ready.

Tammy: I agree that it would be really tough to have a child that you aren't ready for ... to be thrust into unexpected parenthood. That would be very challenging. Let me ask you a question, Laci. Would you agree that even though there are children who are suffering from emotional pain right now — just as you suffered — that it would be wrong to kill them to relieve their suffering?

Laci: Yes, of course. They are living.

Tammy: I agree they are living. Why would it be wrong to kill them?

Laci: Because those children are human beings.

Tammy: So, if an unborn baby is a human being like those children, wouldn't abortion be wrong?

Laci: Hmmm ... I need to think about that.

Tammy: (Short pause) Let me ask you this, Laci. Do you realize that even though you had a tough childhood and you received very little emotional support from your parents, that you rose above all of that? And now you're attending UCLA, one of the best universities in the United States. I don't think that's a small accomplishment. I think, in fact, that in your case, it's a huge achievement, and you should be *very* proud of yourself.

Laci: Wow, I've never thought about it that way. You have completely changed how I see this issue. I have a lot to think about.

I utilized several techniques in this conversation that, when combined with prayer, are very effective in changing minds about abortion. I invite you to participate in a JFA Training in 2017 to learn skills that can help *you* make abortion unthinkable. For a list of events near you, go to www.jfaweb.org/calendar. New events are added regularly. In the meantime, feel free to contact me for more resources.

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SEAN

I spoke to Sean at Wichita State University (WSU) in October. He approached our poll question, "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" I asked if he had an opinion and he said "Yeah, it's wrong." I inquired if he had always believed that, and he said no. He said that we had spoken last year and that I had helped him think about this issue in a whole new way. He said, "I now believe it's completely wrong and [abortion] should never be allowed."



I was fascinated by this story so I searched my notes and found that I had spoken to a gentleman named Sean at WSU in March of 2015. At that time he had told me he was pro-choice. He said a woman should have the right to an abortion because the baby, even though it's human, is dependent on the mother. Here's a portion of that conversation from March of 2015.

Tammy: ... Sean—would you agree that there must be something that is the same about all of us that demands that all human beings be treated equally? If so, what do you think that is?

Sean: We have a human nature.

Tammy: I agree. So, since the unborn child has a human nature like us, wouldn't that mean that aborting a child would be just as wrong as killing any other human walking on this campus?

Sean: Hmm. I never thought about it that way. I think you might be right. You've given me a lot to think about. Now I just want to hear the other side of the issue before I make a decision.

In my most recent conversation with Sean he told me that after he had spoken to me last year that he spent some time contemplating both sides of this issue. He came to the conclusion that abortion is wrong.

The impact of my conversations with Sean and Laci was not an anomaly. I witnessed *many* college students rethinking their views on abortion this year. It's your financial support and prayer that made possible these conversations that changed hearts and minds. Thank you!

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

In Christ,

Tammy