

"Four Beautiful Boys"



Tammy Cook—November 2013

he year was 1977. I met Sheri in Economics class in college, and we became fast friends. Sheri was a brunette, blue-eyed beauty. Not only was she attractive, but she was also smart and friendly. Guys were always hovering around her. Life was good, but one day that all changed.

Sheri confided in me that she was pregnant and had scheduled an abortion. This news hit me deep in my gut. I knew that I had to convince her not to get an abortion. Despite my pleas, her mind remained unchanged, and she had the abortion. Over time we lost touch. If only I had known what to say or do to help my friend and her unborn baby. I felt so helpless. I still think about Sheri and pray for her.

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I felt this same helplessness two more times while I was in college. My roommate and her sisters scraped enough money together to allow their friend, Susie, to get an abortion ... twice. I pleaded with them just as I had pleaded with Sheri, but it made no impact. Innocent lives were snuffed out. Not only were Sheri's and Susan's lives forever changed, but my life was also changed.

Now, fast forward to 2004. I had been a full-time pro-life missionary at Justice For All for eight years. Justice For All's training and materials had not only given me the tools to help women in crisis pregnancies, but they had also taught me how to equip others to save lives. So, when my friend Martina called with news that her friends "Jane" and "Aaron" were going to abort their baby, I prayed for a different outcome than the one with Sheri. Fast forward to 2013. I asked Martina to share the story of what happened with Aaron and Jane, and she asked them to contribute. Here is their story in their own words.

Aaron: Nine years ago our lives changed forever. My wife Jane was out of town while I was home for lunch when I received a phone call from a nurse at a local medical facility. She wanted to tell Jane about her pregnancy test results. I had been out of town, and Jane had not told me she had gone in for a pregnancy test. The nurse informed me that Jane was indeed pregnant. My immediate reaction wasn't one of jubilation, but one of fear.

At the time, Jane and I were both dead set against having children. For the next few weeks we had some heated discussions. We decided to have an abortion. Since we were making what was clearly going to be a life-changing decision, Jane called our good friends, Jason and Martina.

Martina: Jane called to tell me she was pregnant and that they had decided to have an abortion. I was so shocked that I didn't even know what to say. So, I invited

them over for dinner. Then I started worrying, "What if our children misbehave?" Our small children were six, four, and two. Those are challenging ages to expect good behavior all evening, so I prayed that our children would be well-behaved. I didn't want to give Aaron and Jane any reason not to want children of their own.

I immediately called my friend, Tammy Cook, who I knew worked for a pro-life organization, and asked for help. Tammy met with me, and she gave me an incredible video that shows actual footage of a nine-week baby in the womb. She also walked me through a portion of a Justice For All Exhibit Brochure that shows pictures of preborn children, both before and after abortion. She explained how vital it was to get this information into Jane and



Martina and her family

Aaron's hands. I left feeling encouraged, and prayed that our get-together that day would go well so they would change their minds about having an abortion.

Aaron and Jane came over for dinner. We talked about kids and family. Our three children were miraculously well-behaved. The conversation was positive and upbeat, but I didn't have the courage to ask about their plans to abort. So, as they were walking out the door, I asked, "What do you think you're going to do? Are you still planning to abort?" Jane said yes. My heart sunk, and I felt like a complete failure. So, as they were walking out the door, I handed her the JFA Brochure and prayed.

The next morning, the phone rang around nine o'clock. It was Jane. She said she had looked over the materials during the long drive home. She had wanted to call when she got home but decided not to since it was late. She informed me that after looking at the materials, she didn't want an abortion. I felt like an enormous weight had been lifted. The photos had done what I had not been able to do.

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Aaron: The day after we had dinner with Jason and Martina, Jane got up the courage to show me the information that Martina had given her. She emphasized the pictures of the babies and their chronological ages at the time of the abortions. After looking at those pictures, we decided that we would not go through with the abortion. Our son Peter was born seven months later and became the joy of our lives.

Today we have four beautiful boys; whereas, a decade ago we never considered having children. The Justice For All material helped change our lives for the better as well as helped us start a wonderful family. Our boys are now eight, seven, five, and two.



Peter, top right, pictured with his brothers

To request a copy of our brochure, email me at tammy@ ifaweb.org.



When Peter's life was on the line, Martina demonstrated exemplary courage when she shared the JFA Exhibit Brochure with Jane. Aaron and Jane needed to <u>see</u> abortion in order for abortion to become unthinkable for them. If I had been able to share the same information with Sheri, I am confident that her life and that of her unborn child would have been different. Please pray for Sheri and everyone like her whose lives have been touched by abortion.

We thank God daily for His provisions to our ministry, and I thank you for your prayers and financial support that make it possible to save children like Peter and his brothers. May God bless you.

In Christ,

Jammy

+JMJ

Prayer Request: Please pray for my fundraising efforts in December.