

My reflection - May 2010 Deborah Haag



The sanctity of human life is important to me because God is the creator of life.

Psalm 139:13-18

- ¹³ For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.*
- ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.*
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*
- ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!*
- ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.*

I feel that it is important for me to do something, not just feel bad about the evil of abortion. There are six reasons why I felt like I needed to go to California.

1. Four thousand babies are killed a day in the US, from 1973-present 40 million (and counting) babies have been killed.

2. It kills human life. God is crystal clear in the Ten Commandments about how he feels about killing. He plainly states, you shall not murder.
3. It harms the soul of our nation. When abortion is hidden, abortion is tolerated. Our nation has hidden abortion so that it seems to be “no big deal”. Our culture is now twisting things and making what used to be wrong, seem right.
4. There are people out there suffering from abortion and I wanted to show them that I care for them just as much as I care for these children.
5. This is the perfect time for me to share the gospel with them! I can share that there is forgiveness through Jesus Christ!

Psalm 130:3-4

*If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with You,
That You may be feared.*

6. We are made in the image of God-Genesis 1:27. What right do we have to ruin His image?

Seeing God not only work through me but through the JFA team as a whole was incredible. It was also wonderful to see how God used this to work in my life. This trip has definitely changed my life! Most young people my age talk about the latest movies, the opposite sex, the latest fashions, so for me to be able to speak with students on campus about something meaningful, something worthwhile was great. I felt that it was not a waste of my time.

Going through each conversation gave me more confidence. I was finding it easier to start conversations. I didn't feel shy anymore. Later I realized it was becoming a pride issue. I was coming up with the responses not to help these people or to answer their questions, but to show off that I knew what to say. I was even starting to get snappy with some people.

One day I was working the poll table it was hot and almost time to start take down and go. When a woman came up and asked “Are you with them”? I said “yes, I am”. “Well you should do your research before coming out here the child welfare here is terrible you should not put a child through that” she said. So I replied “OH, so we should just kill them?” She told me that she is 52, had an abortion and so have lots of her friends. She didn't even seem to care, it didn't bother her. To me that was really heartbreaking, upsetting and kind of disturbing that someone could be so nonchalant about something so important. I told her that I was so sorry she went through something like that. She said (starting to get frustrated) “Well I'm not, I think you should not be here, I think that you should take this down and you should be out adopting kids.” I told her I love kids and would love to adopt. She said in a slightly raised voice “Well let me see you go out and adopt 9 kids.” I said “Can I have your email address so I can

send you pictures when I do?" Later I realized I did not leave a good impression on Christy. What I said was not helpful to her, or even to me.

At the advanced training they stressed BE HUMBLE. Lots of these students have not seen pictures like this before. So when speaking to them we are to be humble and loving, we are to be kind and gentle. During that training I was feeling very guilty about the way I had conducted myself the day before. I needed to pray. So I left and went and sat on the stairs outside the room, I sat there and poured my heart out to Jesus. I asked for forgiveness and asked for help. After that I felt a peace about me. I really felt like He heard me and was willing to help!

When I went back to the training I felt like I could learn so much, but this time I would use it to help others not just to make me look smart. The next day on campus was easier than I thought it would have been. I found it a lot easier to listen. I found that through listening more I had more productive conversations. Not like when I was doing the talking, it was as if they got bored of my examples, analogies and statistics. They just wanted me to listen to how they felt, and what they were going through.

LISTENING- That is how I met Mark*. He told me that his now ex-girlfriend had an abortion. He did not even know she was pregnant until after the abortion. He was mad at her for a long time. He said that this would have been his first child and now he will never know if he would have had a son or daughter.

That is also how I met Elijah*. He told me that he has a 3 year old daughter and she is the best thing that has ever happened to him. He said that when his girlfriend told him that she was pregnant he was overseas in the military. He said when he found out he kept trying to talk his girlfriend into having an abortion. She said absolutely not. He said now he is so glad that she was hard headed and gave him this little girl!

Lastly I have to tell this story because this is what made the whole week worth it! I saw a young couple (not married) standing looking up at the exhibit. I slowly walked up to them and asked "So, what do you guys think of this?" They both responded with things like we are pro-choice and it's really just up to the woman, "because it is her body".

Her body? I started to say, "OH, her body, so it's like an extra kidney or does the woman have two heads, four arms and legs..."

Interrupting he said "HAHAHA, no not like that, so when do you think life begins?"

Showing them a panel on the exhibit that shows the stages of life at different stages of development, I said "Well I believe it is at conception, what about you?"

"Oh uh, well maybe here", he said pointing to the 7 week embryo.

"Why there?"

"Well because I can see its hands and eyes."

"So what makes that any different than the 4 week embryo?"

"It has eyes and its brain is working."

"So just because it is a little less developed it is ok to kill it? Is it ok to kill two year olds because they are less developed then you and I."

"No you can't just go around kill two year olds."

"Why?"

"Well cause they are already out in the world. What about a girl that is raped?"

"Don't you think she should have a choice? She didn't want the baby in the first place."

"Rape is a very horrible crime and he should be punished extensively for his crime. Although I don't see why the child should suffer for what the father did. It is still a baby rape or not."

At this point he looked a bit surprised. "So you think that the girl should have to keep the baby?"

"Well I think that if she wants to make the right decision than she has to carry the baby to term, but then she can decide if she would like to keep it or she can choose adoption. If there was a woman here that has a two year, the product of rape, and the child was looking more like the rapist every day does that woman have the right to kill that child now?"

Surprised he said "No, of course not."

"Well what is the difference between a product of rape outside the womb and a product of rape inside?"

He said that he didn't know what to say, he said that he was confused. Then said that they had to go and take care of something, but they wanted to come back and talk. I was excited! They said they would be right back. As they were gone I prayed that God would use something I said to help them. I prayed that God would really bring them back. About ten minutes later they really did come back. He looked at me and told me that they talked about what I said and that they thought long and hard about it. He looked at me and said "WE ARE PRO-LIFE NOW!"

I think I must of looked like a deer in the headlights. "That's awesome!"

"Yea, you made it clear that it is a human at any stage of life. It really don't matter the size, or development and stuff. I don't think its right to kill babies."

"That's great! You said you were confused about the issue of rape, what do you think about that now?"



Above: Picture of the young couple who had a conversion of heart.

"Like I said a baby is a baby, it don't matter."

"This is really exciting for me. I am really glad I could help."

"So am I, you know if she told me she was pregnant right now we would keep the baby."

After we said goodbye all I could do was stand back and marvel at how God works. I prayed for them right then and am still praying now.

Overall I found out that people have strong opinions about abortion no matter if they are for it or against it. Most people don't mind having a casual conversation about it either. Most people are fine with sharing their opinions. As am I, thus the reason I enjoy going out on campus and talking to the students!

*Names changed for privacy