



Rebecca's Reflections



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March 2013

Nothing More to Offer

She appeared old enough to be my mother. As she walked around the exhibit it was obvious the pictures disturbed her. As I watched from a distance, I wondered, *“Are the pictures disturbing because she believes in a woman’s right to choose and she feels the pictures violate her rights? Are the pictures pricking her conscience? Are they disturbing because she sees a tiny human being that has been brutally torn to pieces? How will she respond if I talk to her?”*

Keeping my concerns to myself, I slowly approached her. Within minutes she revealed her long-held belief that abortion was the killing of an innocent human being. There was no doubt in Ronda’s mind that abortion should be illegal.

“Well, that was easy,” I thought. “It’s time to bring it to a close and seek a person who disagrees with me who I can truly impact. Maybe I can even save a child, right?” I was tempted to end the conversation right then. It is easy to think that people, like her, who already recognize the dignity of the unborn, don’t require me to go deeper into the conversation with them.

Fortunately, my conscience reminded me that I’m also called to motivate a woman like this to be more than just convicted that abortion is wrong. I needed to prompt her to live out her conviction.

Giving her time to continue, Ronda shared more of her story. “In high school, many of my friends

had abortions. They have never been the same.”

Over the years in this work, I’ve heard this phrase “they have never been the same” in reference to many men and women who have had abortions. I asked Ronda, “Are you still in

close contact or continued friendship with these women?”

Her demeanor became much quieter. “Yes.”

“Do you know if any of them have ever had a chance to go through healing classes or post-abortion counseling?”

She confidently answered, “I’m sure they have not. It has never been spoken of again. It is the untouched subject.”

“Ronda, you mentioned that some of these women live here locally. If I give you information for post-abortion healing classes here in Atlanta, do you think you would be able to share that with any of these women?”

As tears filled Ronda’s eyes, she quietly said, “Yes, yes, I would. Especially with one of the ladies. *(She paused and bowed her head)*. When she lifted her head and our gaze met again, she whispered, “My sister.”

Ronda continued, “She’s never been the same. Unable to maintain a relationship or friendship of any sort, she never married. Most of the time



Here I talk with a foreign exchange student from China at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. We discuss whether or not the unborn is biologically a human being and if our human nature is what makes human beings valuable.

she is unable to consistently hold a job. She has struggled with years of depression. There have been many years of counseling but it has not really helped. I'm sure the abortion has never been brought up in those classes. I don't even know if our mother knows."

Recognizing how overwhelming it could be for Ronda to even imagine discussing this unspoken subject after more than twenty years of silence, I shared with her my experiences of talking to post-abortion women on campus. "Ronda, you likely know that this will uncover some deep hurts and pain your sister has experienced. Several years ago I met a woman named Kim. She approached me at the exhibit only to reveal that she was post-abortive. I was the first person she had ever told. The only other person that knew of the abortion was the father of the child and he was the man who drove Kim to the abortion clinic."

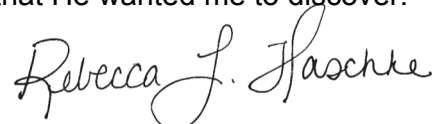
As I continued to retell the story to Ronda, I said, "Kim and I left the exhibit area and talked for over an hour. We both cried as she told me her story. Although she was Christian and had

already asked for God's forgiveness for her abortion, she asked me 'How could God forgive me? I killed my own child.' My heart broke for her, especially because I could see the pain that this conversation caused this woman. But, because of our encounter, for the first time in twenty years she heard, 'God and your child have already forgiven you.' When we finished our conversation, we hugged and she whispered to me, 'This is the first time in twenty years that I feel like life might be okay.'"

"Ronda, you could bring that message to your sister. If not you, who will?"

Determined to talk to her sister, Ronda gratefully received the information for the post-abortion healing classes.

Although I first considered steering clear of a deeper conversation with Ronda, my decision to find out more about her may turn into healing for her sister. Praise God for helping me see the bigger picture that He wanted me to discover.



Spring 2013 Training Program Update and Remaining Schedule

The semester is half over as I write this letter! There are currently two events in different cities taking place simultaneously (see below for details). Since January we have held events in California, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Georgia. This includes:

- 11 Presentations
- 10 Days of Outreach
- 14 Seminars
- 7 Campuses

We have trained over 300 volunteers through Seat Work, which is the *JFA Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar. Close to 130 of these volunteers joined us for Feet Work on college campuses. See below for the rest of the Spring 2013 training schedule. Please pray for safety as we travel and for each of the students we train and encounter on college campuses. Thanks for your support that has helped to make these events possible.

TEXAS

- 3/22 Seat Work for homeschool families, Bryan
- 3/24 Seat Work for Blinn College students, Bryan
- 3/25-26 Feet Work at Blinn College, Bryan
- 3/24 Seat Work for Get Real Conference participants, San Antonio
- 3/25-26 Feet Work at the University of Texas, San Antonio

ARIZONA

- 4/20 Seat Work for Christ Community Church, Tucson
- 4/21-23 Feet Work at Pima County Fair, Tucson

COLORADO

- 4/24-25 Seat Work for Ellerslie Discipleship School, Windsor
- 4/26 Seat Work for Fellowship Christian Academy, Arvada
- 4/28 Seat Work for Fort Collins community members, Fort Collins
- 4/29-30 Feet Work at Colorado State University, Fort Collins