



# Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—Rebecca@jfaweb.org

February 2014

## There is No Hope in Apathy

As Dallas ventured past the eight-foot tall Justice For All Exhibit, I asked him his thoughts about abortion. He revealed that about a year ago he had an hour-long conversation with my teammate Catherine after walking past one of the Justice For All displays. When I asked him how that conversation went, Dallas indicated that he was not in favor of abortion, and his previous conversation with Catherine was helpful to him in strengthening his view. He then turned the topic of conversation to his faith. He said that he loves to learn about Christianity and he shared that his faith was the most important part of his life, so much so that he was involved in multiple churches and Christian groups.

Although I was encouraged by Dallas's excitement about his Christian faith, my gut told me that if the conversation ended right then Dallas would walk away with the conviction that abortion was wrong, but he wouldn't be compelled to do anything about it. Somehow he wasn't connecting the dots that our Christian faith directs us to protect those who are weaker.

"Dallas, I don't believe that everyone is called to do pro-life mission work full-time like my teammates, but if you believe that abortion kills a human being, what do you think you

should be doing?" I asked.

"Well, some churches believe in sins of commission [evil acts] and sins of omission [failure to act], but some churches *don't* believe in sins of omission."

Sensing that he was using this as an escape from answering my question, I asked, "Dallas, what do you believe about sins of omission?"

"I believe in them." He lowered his eyes and nodded. "But I don't think I should have to do anything until it is personal to me. If my sister came to me and told me she was going to have an abortion, of course I would talk to her and convince her not to go through with it. Beyond that though, I don't think I'm responsible."

Dallas was swimming in apathy, and he didn't even know it. He needed to be challenged by the same Christian beliefs that he had expressed were the most important things in his life.

"Dallas," I said, "in John 15, Jesus commands his disciples to 'Love one another as I have loved you.' In Luke Jesus reveals to us the greatest commandment again, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all



your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’

“Then someone in the audience challenged Jesus with a question regarding the commandment to love your neighbor. He was questioned by a scholar of the law who asked, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ How did Jesus respond? With the story of the Good Samaritan.”

Dallas was familiar with the story so I asked him, “Who was the neighbor to the victim?”

“The man who helped him,” he answered.

Turning toward the JFA Exhibit, I pointed to the picture of a child aborted nine weeks after she was conceived.

“Dallas, who is the neighbor to *that* child?”

There was a pause before he answered. He didn’t respond by saying that he should be the neighbor. His response was better. This time his answer gave me hope.

**“Tell me what I can do.”**

Dallas hopes to join us for an upcoming seminar in Wichita, Kansas to learn to talk about abortion. Please pray for Dallas that his desire to love his neighbor will indeed turn into action.

Thanks for all of your support that has helped us reach students like Dallas.

Defending life together,



### **Luke 10:30-37**

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was a neighbor to the victim?”