



# Making Abortion Unthinkable

Catherine Wurts' JFA Update

July, 2009



Dear family and friends,

Sarah Torre was one of 25 participants in our two-week May mission trip to southern California. At the University of California, San Diego outreach she met Alex (not his real name), whose pro-choice stance was much like almost every other student she spoke with there. Alex believed that if an unborn baby's life imposed on the rights of another person, there was nothing wrong in ending it.

"I asked Alex whether it would be permissible to violate the rights of a father who was beating his son. Alex didn't respond. After what felt like hours, Alex silently shoved his backpack into my arms and wrote on the Free Speech Board, 'Don't abort, adopt.'

As he returned to my confused look, he explained that his father had physically abused him for years. "Those children," he said as he pointed to the pictures, "shouldn't have to suffer just because their parents are selfish."

Alex got it. Sarah helped him to recognize the inhumanity of abortion by using a few skills:



May Mission Camp 09 participant, Sarah Torre, discusses abortion with a student at Pasadena City College in California.

· **Listen well:** Sarah sought to genuinely understand Alex's beliefs.

· **Find common ground:** She found areas of agreement with him on two things:

Parents' rights are important.

It is not okay for parents to abuse children.

· **Ask a question** to help someone rethink their view: Aren't there some rights (the right to life) that are more fundamental than others (the right to choose)?

*There was more at work in this conversation, however, than merely good dialogue.*

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Before and during each outreach, we pray for God to help our staff, volunteers and the people we meet to recognize truth. Sarah couldn't know her question about child abuse would speak directly to Alex's heart, and as she wrote in her reflection:

“As the conversation with Alex ended, I reflected on my own pride in thinking my reasoning, alone, could counteract the same dispassionate mindset that sentences thousands to death every day. Regardless of how well or how poorly the dialogue responses and questions are rehearsed and used, I learned an invaluable lesson on relying on a source of logic and power much greater than myself to first change the hearts and then the minds of people lost in the void of apathy. “

**Please pray with us**

- that the Holy Spirit would go before us to prepare hearts and minds for truth—ours and those of the volunteers, students and faculty we meet on campuses this fall semester.
- for many humble and gracious volunteers like Sarah to be trained and join us on campus!

Thank you very much for your support and your prayers!

Christ's peace, Catherine

***“...it was life changing ...”***

reflection from Jamie Cure, Focus on the Family Institute class of Spring 09

“Even when people would come up and yell and say all sorts of horrifying things it was life changing to see the staff of JFA and FFI students engage and love them no matter what. It was my first time to see the Truth delivered in love, no matter what happened. Not judging the other person but seeing where they are coming from, listening and caring for them through Christ's strength. That left a forever lasting impact on me. It is so easy to love on someone when you know they will reach out and love you back, but to reach out in love no matter if they will return it or not, I think that is what God meant when He said, “love your neighbor as yourself.”