



# Catherine's September Update



catherine@jfaweb.org

Catherine Wurts

JFA Newsletter

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Dear family and friends,

Students on campus often tell me, "The moral question of when life begins will never be resolved - we'll never know".

Is "when life begins" a matter of morality, though? Or science? It actually depends on who you're talking to. I suggest always asking for clarification. For example:

"What do you mean by 'when life begins'? Do you mean no one knows when *biological* life begins (science/biology), or that no one knows when a human life begins to have *rights and value* worth protecting (philosophy/morality)?"

Next month, I'll share how we teach people to handle the philosophical concern. But what of the scientific one?

In this case, I ask the three questions our Director of Training, Steve Wagner, came up with one day when he only had 10 seconds to make his pro-life case:

- 1) If the unborn is growing, isn't it alive?
- 2) If it has human parents, isn't it human?
- 3) And living humans, or human beings like you and I, are valuable, aren't they?

When I have more time, I give more detail, sharing how we know the unborn - even at fertilization - is a living, whole organism of the human species (cell growth/reproduction, metabolism, response to stimuli, human DNA).

I think you would be amazed - as I am continually - at how few college-educated people have this very basic knowledge of the biological beginnings of their own lives.

So, any time you take the time to ask some questions and share information with humility, you'll be doing much in the way of "speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves." (Proverbs 31:8)

## Don't Debate - Dialogue!

From Georgia Institute of Technology, March 2010



*Melissa, a Biology student, and I had found some agreement: we both believed late-term abortion is wrong.*

**Catherine (C):** Why are you against late-term abortions?

Melissa (M): Because at that point in the pregnancy, you'd be killing a human being.

**(C):** And earlier on?

(M): Abortion is fine then - it's not a life in the first trimester.

**(C):** Do you mean the unborn is not *biologically* alive in the first trimester? Or do you mean that in a *philosophical* sense - that it doesn't yet have *human rights and value*?

(M): Biologically - it's not a living human being at that point.

*(See "Dialogue" on page 2)*

(cont'd. from "Dialogue" on page 1)

(C): Well, I was a Deaf Studies major in college; you're here studying Biology. If I'm wrong, I'm counting on you to show me why that is.

(M): Ok. You think it's a human being at fertilization?

(C): Yes, because even at that stage, doesn't it have all of the basic criteria biologists use to identify living things: cellular growth and reproduction, metabolizing food for energy and responding to stimuli in the environment?

(M): It does, but that doesn't mean that it's a human yet. Many animals start out just like that. Human embryos look just like chicken embryos!

(C): They do look similar, but are they the same? If an embryo - or even a one-celled organism - is from two human parents and has human DNA, isn't it human in nature?

(M): It's *biologically* human, but it's not a human *being* until later, after it's developed.

(C): But the term human being is a biological one. Do you mean it's not a *valuable* human being - a person - 'til then? That's a philosophical claim.

(M): Yes, that's what I mean...

(Next month: Where to go from here!)



Allison Martinez, (photo) has been volunteering with JFA since 2004!

She joined us for our May Mission Trip to southern California this year. Allison just emailed us a story about one of the many significant conversations she had in

front of the JFA Exhibit at Pasadena City College that week:

*"A freshman named Cimarron from India told me he participated in a debate last year on abortion and ended up winning, but was arguing the pro-choice side:*

*'Yeah, I used to be pro-choice,' he said.*

*I blinked. 'What do you mean "used to be"?' Didn't you win the debate?'*

*'Yeah, but I had never seen pictures like this before. I was arguing the pro-choice side, thinking that it was a cluster of cells. I had no idea.'"*

***"I was arguing the pro-choice side, thinking that it was a cluster of cells."***

For someone to care about unborn kids being killed by abortion, they have to understand that the unborn *are* kids - *are* human. For some, like Cimarron, it's viewing photos of aborted kids - not just facts or arguments - that ultimately convicts them of the truth.

Thank you for helping me reach so many with this truth!

In Christ, *Catherine Judy*

### **Please pray for these upcoming events:**

**Sep 10-16** "Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue" high-school and community seminars in Lincoln, NE and Exhibit outreach at **University of Nebraska - Lincoln.**

**Sep 25-Oct 5** "Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue" high-school, community and **Focus Leadership Institute** seminars in Colorado and Exhibit outreach at **University of Northern Colorado - Greeley.**