



# The Best Decision ... Or Was It?



Tammy Cook's Monthly Update

August 2015

Dear Friend,

It was a sunny California day in June at UCLA. Crowds of students walked by our exhibit and poll table on Bruin Plaza. Rhonda stopped to vote "no" to our poll question, "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" She had a fairly common pro-choice view and believed that abortion should be legal in the first trimester. Her reasoning was because it's not a human. But she also believed it should not be legal in the second and third trimesters because it IS a human. I asked more questions to gather information about her view.



Speaking with post-abortive student "Rhonda" at UCLA

I shared information about the biology of the unborn, but Rhonda remained adamant. She said that the unborn is not a human because she said so. I soon learned *why* she was so adamant. "I had an abortion at 9 weeks," she said. "It was the best decision for me. I was in no condition to be pregnant due to substance abuse." But the pain on her face and in her voice was undeniable.

Instead of challenging her views, I asked, "How long has it been?" She

responded, "1 1/2 years." I sensed pain in her voice. I acknowledged her pain and the tough situation that led to her decision. Her demeanor slowly began to soften. She became more relaxed. I listened as Rhonda shared her story. Because of her addictions her friends and acquaintances had told her that abortion was her best option.

She was very proud of being sober for 6 months and I complimented her achievement. I told her that she doesn't have to live with this pain and that there is help available. I gave her information about a local pregnancy resource center along with a toll-free number for post-abortive help. She seemed genuinely grateful and as she walked away, she turned and smiled at me.

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My heart aches after every conversation like this one and I can't begin to fathom how much God's heart must ache for his hurting children. I care deeply about rescuing children from abortion, but I care *equally* about rescuing women like Rhonda from a choice that not only kills a child, but can cause long-lasting effects for the mother. Women like Rhonda need to hear the following valuable message from pro-life advocates. *Every human being is equally valuable. This includes people who advocate for abortion as well as women who have had abortions.* I pray that Rhonda finds a path to healing.

My heart had not recovered from my conversation with Rhonda but I knew that I needed to get back in the game and be ready to talk to more students. After all, there were hundreds of students

walking by and not enough staff and volunteers to reach all of them. I approached a student named Nick.

Within minutes Nick was pouring out his heart about his former girlfriend, Nicole. They had started dating 18 months earlier. He soon found out that she had gone through an abortion six months before he met her. Everything seemed great at first but as time went on he could tell that she was greatly tormented by the abortion. He said they would be watching TV and all of sudden she would fall to the ground and start writhing in pain. He felt so helpless. Nicole also told him that she had nightmares. She would wake up in the middle of the night after hearing the sound of babies crying. Their relationship ended a year ago but she had just texted him within the past 24 hours. "Ah, a divine appointment," I thought to myself. I shared information for a local pregnancy care center and he was delighted to finally have information about how to help his friend. He walked away with a bounce in his step and a smile on his face, feeling more hopeful than he had in 18 months.

### ***Personal Update***

Thank you for all of your prayers and condolences for the unexpected passing of my sister Julie on July 19. I am feeling stronger each week and leaning heavily on God's promises. Please continue praying. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

Thank you for your prayers for Kevin's mom. Her condition is slowly improving following a major stroke on July 14. Doctors are attempting to assess if her heart is strong enough to undergo surgery on her right carotid artery that is 80-90% blocked. Her risk of another stroke is still high.

I am focusing on raising support this summer for my work with JFA to make up for some fluctuations in my support team. I may call you to discuss people you know that would welcome a call from me. I look forward to talking with you.

Because of your partnership we are able to reach students like Rhonda and Nick with a message of hope and healing. Thank you for your generosity.

In Christ,



Tammy Cook

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