

I write this newsletter in honor of my brother in Christ, cousin, and pro-life ambassador, Clayton McDonald, who died this morning after a long battle with leukemia. Please pray for Stan and Wendy (his parents), his brother Zack, his sister Samantha, and the rest of his family and friends in Atascadero, CA and around the country. I was privileged to have Clayton in the "pro-life ambassador" club that met before the '08 Cal Poly outreach but even more privileged to be his relative, his friend, and to learn how to love others, trust God, and live one day at a time from his Christ-empowered example. For those of you who knew Clayton and are hurting... may we honor Clayton by serving Christ.



Newsletter from Jonathan Wagner

March 16, 2009

Abby Will Never Be The Same!

Her journey from "I'm scared" to "I'm willing" to "I made an impact"

Taking Abby Fennema from being ignorant and scared to being prepared, passionate, and gracious is why I love working for Justice For All and traveling around the U.S.

I will never forget meeting Abby (and her friends) from Desert Christian HS (Tucson, AZ) on Monday morning, out at the University of Arizona. She was very nervous about our outreach and really didn't know what to do or say. I urged her to try her best and to take chances out at our outreach. I also urged her to relax a bit. I remember reminding her that if she wanted to be great at sharing her faith and values in a loving way she was going to need to take chances, make some mistakes and learn from those mistakes, and to start that process with our outreach. I asked her to put our training into action and although she was scared she would quickly learn that boldness meant mainly asking some strategic questions, listening intently, caring about each person she met, and being gracious to others. Neither Abby or I realized how big of an impact she would make simply by being willing to try! Below is what she wrote about her outreach experience with JFA.

"As I read the letter sent home by my school announcing we were required to attend the Justice For All training, the emotions that came to mind were anything but joy. I begged my mother to sign me out of school but I was unsuccessful. The training wasn't terrible, but it was not my idealistic way to spend a Friday afternoon.

After the training, we were asked to accompany them to the University of Arizona to dialogue with college students on the topic of abortion. I heard a whisper in my head telling me to go. All weekend this opportunity kept being brought to mind.

Monday morning I embarked down to the University. Being the reserved person that I am, I had no intention of starting up any conversations for the fear that I would not be able to

answer questions, prove points, or sound intelligent. A streak of boldness came upon me as I decided, with my partner at hand, to start up a conversation with a man standing observing the display. *Though our conversation seemed ineffective, I felt proud. As terrified as I was, my hands shaking, I approached a man who I had never met and spoke truth. I felt as though I was beginning to get the hang of this.*

As I started to feel good about it, the day came to a close so I had my mom call the school to tell them that I would be attending the 2nd day with JFA. In the morning, as I drove to the University, the tempting thought popped into my mind. 'I could totally ditch this and just spend my day reading at Starbucks,' but God clearly said to me, 'You have the opportunity to save a life. I have brought you here for a ---->

It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves

reason, now go.' So reluctantly I went. Most of the day I remained reluctant about speaking up. Later I was challenged by Jon (Wagner) to not let anyone slip by without talking to them. I tried to approach people, but I just didn't seem to be comfortable. I walked around the exhibit trying to look like I was actually doing my job.

A girl sitting on a bench suddenly caught my attention. She sat there with big brown eyes just staring at the exhibit. **A streak of boldness came through me. I moved towards her and sat down beside her. "What do you think of this?", I asked, just as I had been taught to.** "Well I don't think I could have an abortion but



there are just circumstances you know?" she responded.

For about ten minutes we sat engaging in dialogue and silence from time to time. The entire conversation I

just felt as though something was not right, yet I could not figure out what it was. I kept telling myself that it was probably just my nerves but I knew it was something deeper than that. While these thoughts rambled on in my head something happened. The girl began to cry. I was unsure what to do, so I simply asked if she would like to talk about it. She began to tell me her story. This girl had grown up in a very strong Hispanic

family and was the first to graduate high school and the first to go on to college. When she was sixteen she got pregnant. As much as she wanted to keep her baby she could not come to give up her educational and career dreams. She chose to have an abortion. Even though this was three years ago, I could tell through our conversation that these wounds were not yet healed. In her heart she felt unbearable guilt, a burden I'm sure she believes can never be lifted. Sitting there my heart broke for her.

I talked to her a bit more. I suggested counseling to help heal the wounds of her actions and even gave her my information so that we could keep in touch. When God asked me to go to the outreach with Justice for All I thought he was calling me to go bless other people, and I hope I did, but by going down there I was blessed in ways I will remember for a very long time.

Not only did JFA stir up a passion for me on the subject of abortion but also they have challenged me to become bold for the things that I believe.

Though I may have had less than a good attitude when I first discovered JFA, God used them to help transform me and do amazing things." - **Abby Fennema DCHS '10**



Abby, center, and I with 4 other Desert Christian volunteers

Prayers and Praises for March 2009:

- We trained over 500 people in Arizona and Texas!
- We will train 88 from Focus on the Family Institute in April.
- We have great connections for our Georgia trip (next week).
- I am pretty tired and desire prayer for strength and energy.
- We are excited to visit UCSD, UCLA, and Pasadena CC in May!

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Defending Human Value together,

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