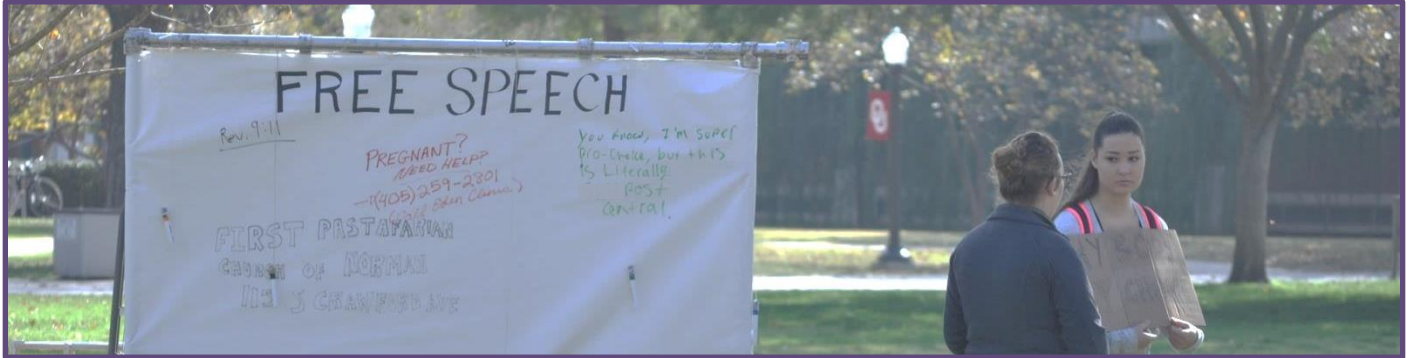


I Hugged a Protester

CHERYL KAYE WISNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE



JANUARY 2016



Dear Family and Friends,

It's true. After "Becky" and I ended our conversation, I asked if I could give her a hug. You see, even though Becky was holding a "My Body, My Choice" sign at a JFA outreach event, and even though I'm firmly against the choice of abortion, we'd become friends during a forty-five minute conversation. At first we were both a little bit nervous talking with each other. You might be curious about how this conversation began, so I'll give you a glimpse. After introducing myself, I said:

CK: Thank you for coming and expressing your opinion. I'd really like to hear what your specific views are if you'd be willing to share.

The conversation was slow in the beginning, and Becky was very careful with her words. She did share, however, that she wants to be a doctor and care for people in rural areas who don't have good healthcare. She cares deeply for underprivileged women and doesn't want to limit healthcare options for them.

CK: I definitely agree that some women are in really difficult situations and that having good healthcare is important. I'm curious: Do you think women should have the right to abortion, [something you mentioned you want included in healthcare], through all nine months of the pregnancy?

Becky: Well, no. But I think a lot of women are being shamed for their difficult situations and for the hard decisions they have to make. It's wrong to make women feel that way.

CK: I agree that shaming a woman for the tough situation she is in isn't a good solution. I do believe women shouldn't get abortions, but I also think that women are valuable and we should do our best to care for them.

Soon the conversation was flowing smoothly. Becky and I had an honest exchange of ideas. We agreed that we needed to establish when life begins in order to really address the issue of abortion, but before we could discuss that, Becky had to go to class. I was disappointed because I had really wanted to keep talking with her, but I was encouraged about the value of the time we had already shared when she thanked me. "You are very warm, positive, and non-judgmental," she said. "I've really enjoyed this conversation. Even though we disagree, it's nice that we are doing it civilly. As you've said, there is a lot that we agree on."

Many people portray people like Becky and me as enemies. I am continually blessed by the way in which building common ground and having a calm demeanor can affect a conversation in such a positive way. Even though there was more I would have liked to share with Becky, I'm thankful to have gone from seemingly being her enemy to being her friend. Please join me in praying that the seed God allowed me to plant in this conversation will bear fruit!

Blessings,
Cheryl Kaye



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.
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