

A Lightbulb Moment

A Hopeful Message from a Discouraging Conversation



GRACE FONTENOT'S MONTHLY UPDATE



JULY 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

During an outreach at Colorado State University (CSU) this past April, I spoke to two women who volunteer for Planned Parenthood. It was truly one of the most frustrating conversations I have had on a college campus. I spent an hour with “Mel” and “Chelsea” listening to them degrade me, my coworkers, and pro-life advocates in general. To make matters worse, most of the attempts I made to soften the conversation or ask questions that could be helpful in the dialogue were shut down. I walked away discouraged and on the verge of tears, feeling as though I had been completely unsuccessful in my attempt to challenge their hearts in defense of the unborn.

As I look back on that conversation, however, I realize that it may have been more productive than I was able to recognize at first. I remember one specific point when I was able to ask Mel:

Grace: What are your beliefs about the unborn? Do you believe there is a point when they become human and are deserving of equal rights?

Mel: The unborn is as human as you and I and everyone are, but since our culture believes that abortion is acceptable, a woman has a right to choose what she wants to do with her body.

There was a pause in the conversation at this time, and I was able to see Chelsea’s eyes widen in both surprise and horror as she stared at Mel. She then broke the silence and in a quiet voice said:

Chelsea: Well... I don’t think *that*...

Immediately after the conversation finished, I forgot about this significant moment and felt that the whole thing had been completely pointless. Upon further reflection however, I realized that this snippet of our conversation seemed to be a lightbulb moment for Chelsea.

Hearing her friend and co-volunteer at Planned Parenthood vocalize her disturbing beliefs about human value obviously rattled her as much as it did me.

I am hopeful that Chelsea's fundamental disagreement with her Planned Parenthood co-worker would continue to tug at Chelsea's heart for months and years to come. Even further, I have hope that the cruelty Mel defended in that moment will cause Chelsea to re-evaluate her own willingness to work at Planned Parenthood and ultimately change her heart for the unborn.

A person’s conversion story can be likened to a jigsaw puzzle. Sometimes, God allows us to place the last piece needed to complete someone’s puzzle and see the beauty and fullness and fruit of our labor and the labor of those who came before us. More often, however, we are somewhere in the middle, filling in gaps and preparing the way for the next piece. Sometimes, the Lord may give us the privilege of laying down the very first piece. This “lightbulb moment” may have been the very first piece for Chelsea. Please pray with me that others will come along and help her to fill in the rest of the puzzle.

For the sake of His sorrowful passion,

Grace Fontenot,

SUPPORT-RAISING UPDATE: JULY 2017

As of July 21, I have reached 76% of my support-raising goal for my two-year JFA internship. To all who have joined my monthly support team: Thank you ! I cannot do this work without your help and I am so grateful for your generosity and your belief in JFA’s mission.

So far, 97 individuals or families have supported my work financially. If you have not already, please prayerfully consider partnering with me by joining my monthly support team!



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