



What is success?

Jordan Newhouse ~ October 2014



Dear Family and Friends,

Taryn, a newly trained volunteer, looked discouraged when I asked her how her day at outreach was going. She told me about a conversation she had just had, deeming it a failure. My mind immediately went back to a similar experience I had back in 2011...



At the University of Arizona in February 2011

"Megan" signed the pad of paper on the poll table, saying she believed abortion should remain legal.

Since most people who call themselves pro-choice still think abortion should not be legal in the third trimester, we can often find common ground by agreeing that late-term abortion is wrong.

I asked her, "Do you think abortion should be legal through all nine months?"

"Yes, I do."

So much for that common ground.

We talked a bit more, and found little to agree about. Megan did agree that abortion should not be used as birth control - but not because it was wrong, simply because there are better methods. I respectfully shared with her why I disagreed with her position, but she remained unswayed.

We parted ways cordially, but I was bothered.

I found my mentor, Trent Horn, and told him about the "failed conversation."

I still remember his reply every time I face a difficult conversation. He looked me in the eye and asked, "Were you a good ambassador? Did she leave with a good taste in her mouth?"

"Yes."

"Then the conversation was a success. Did you put a pebble in her shoe?"

"I think so."

"Then the conversation was doubly successful."

...I looked Taryn in the eye and asked her the questions that Trent had asked me. I watched the light come back into her eyes.

"You're good at that," she said.

I replied that the reason I was good at building people up was that I had been built up in the same way by my own mentors.

I didn't say what I said just to make Taryn feel better. I said it because I truly believe that when we go on campus for outreach our job is first and foremost to be good representatives of our Sovereign, Jesus Christ. It's fantastic when

people change their minds while talking to us, but in the end we don't change minds, God does. This lightens our load of responsibility and allows us to focus on being faithful ambassadors for Christ while trusting Him to do the rest!



Part of the amazing team of encouragers that I got to work with at the Oklahoma State University outreach

My October 2014 Calendar:

10/10: Seat Work seminar (*Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue*), Athens, GA

10/11: Seat Work seminar, Athens, GA

10/13-15: Feet Work outreach, UGA

10/20-21: Feet Work outreach, WSU, KS

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 ESV

...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.