



Rebecca's Reflections



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July 2012

My Mentor's Reflection

She never brushed the topic of abortion under the table. It never seemed to me that she feared the reaction of pro-choice advocates when she challenged their views. At home, she often expressed the value of an unborn child and explained to her children that abortion is an atrocity. These are my memories of my very first pro-life mentor...my mom, Mary Haschke.

The most influential woman in my life repeatedly showed me what it means to defend those weaker than I —what a gift! She continued the trend this past March when she joined the JFA team for a mission trip to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Usually I read reflections of JFA volunteers that I have mentored, but now you and I get to read the reflection of the woman who first mentored me.

Rebecca J. Haschke

Early in the morning, I encountered a young man at the poll table. The question for the day was, "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" I asked him what his thoughts were on the question. He responded without hesitating, "Yes, it should stay legal." He then quickly signed his name on the "yes" side.

Using the training I received from the JFA team, I asked him, "Why do you feel that way?" He said, "Women need to have this choice." I just kept asking questions, and he responded in a very determined way with his pro-choice view, but he was sincere and easy to talk to.

As our conversation became deeper, I motioned to him to look at the pictures of the fetus that JFA had displayed. As I pointed to the pictures of the unborn children, I asked, "When do you think they have the right to live?" He hesitated, and his first response was, "When they start looking like a human."

I was floored that he flew into this part of the conversation so fast. That's when I knew I could say, "Well, what were they before that?" I just kept backing up on the time table of the development of the unborn.

As the conversation continued, I remember him looking at me. I could tell that the light went on in his mind. I vividly remember him because our eyes met and although he didn't say anything, I could see in his expression that he understood the unborn was a human being. That is when he asked me, "Could I put

my name on the other notebook?" He meant he wanted to change his answer to "No, abortion should not remain legal."

I told him, "Of course." He changed his signature, and we continued to talk for a while longer. He didn't seem to be in a rush to leave. I gave him a JFA pamphlet and encouraged him to share it with his friends. He said, "Yeah, I can do that," and he walked away with smile.

My sister-in-law had been listening to parts of this conversation from a short distance, and when the young man left, she approached me. With curiosity she asked, **"What did you say to him to make him change his mind?"**

I myself was amazed by his quick change of mind (within about 20 minutes), and I responded, "I don't know for sure."

After thinking about this conversation, **I believe that it was the process of him answering the questions I asked.** He had to think about what I asked him and then figure out how he was going to reply back to me. In this process, to his amazement, it became clear to him that the unborn baby was a human being at all stages.

- Mary Haschke



At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a student and my mom, Mary Haschke, discuss pictures of fetal development.