



Rebecca's Reflections



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If Only I'd Taken a Picture

I'm sure you've experienced those moments when you witness an event that you know is profound. You can't formulate with words exactly why it is profound, but you nonetheless have full confidence of the moment's significance. It's a moment that you wish you could have captured in a photo, because words will do no justice.

Such a moment took place this past September at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in front of the Justice For All (JFA) Exhibit. After talking for about twenty minutes with Michael, a student who felt abortion should remain legal in at least some cases and possibly in most cases, a little boy came walking toward the JFA Exhibit. The Exhibit includes pictures of the unborn before and after abortion. The instant I saw him in my peripheral vision, I turned toward him and searched for an adult who I'd hoped was accompanying him. In my estimation he was no more than four or five years old. Once I identified the woman he was with, I realized he would reach the Exhibit long before she would. She was giving him the freedom of enjoying the sunny weather and letting him run.

Knowing I might cause Michael to think I was ignoring him, I nevertheless walked toward the boy and began talking to him before he looked at the Exhibit. My interactions with him stopped him in front of the pictures that show a child developing in utero. He noticed the Exhibit and began to examine the photos. In order to hold his attention on these non-graphic panels until his mother arrived, I squatted down next to him, pointed to the pictures, and explained, "Did you know that at one point in time you looked like the baby in that picture? When you were eight weeks old that's what you looked like inside your mom." By this time his mother approached us and began listening to what I was sharing with her son. "In the picture that baby looks really big, but that's just so we can see what the baby looks like. Do you know how big you were when you looked like that?" He was silent so I said, "You were about the size of a quarter. Do you know what a quarter looks like?" Eyes wide with awe, he stared at me again in silence but this time with a smile. I pulled a quarter out of my purse and showing it to him said, "This is about how big you were. Isn't that tiny? You were this small, but you had arms, legs, fingers, toes, a nose, a mouth and eyes. Would you like to keep this quarter?" This time, although he kept the smile, he broke the silence saying, "Yes!" I handed him the quarter and his mother thanked me for taking the time to talk to him.

I stood up and took a few steps back so I could reconvene my conversation with Michael. The boy's mother waited while he walked closer to the Exhibit. Too



The little boy mentioned in this newsletter peered through barricades like these, which help hold up the JFA Exhibit. The left exhibit panel shows the 8-week embryo that he saw when he stopped.

short to see over them, he put his hands on the Exhibit barricade bars, and peered through them for a better view. Michael, watching the little boy, commented, "Wow, what a profound moment. I need a picture of this." Michael pulled the phone out of his pocket and captured that *moment* in a photo. Even Michael, who was processing through the cases in which he thought abortion should be legal, was able to see the significance of this little boy's experience.

I didn't take a picture that day, but yes, I have many times wished I could somehow find Michael and ask him to email me the picture he took on his phone. I wish I could share that photo with you because, although I've described to you step-by-step the actions that took place during that five-minute event, I have not done enough to explain why those five minutes were so profound. I don't know how.

However, this past October another picture was taken. This is one that I can share with you (picture shown to the right). The JFA staff were cleaning up after a seminar in Wichita and some of the staff brought their children to help. As we were finishing, JFA's executive director Steve Wagner, shared the first two panels of the Exhibit (the same panels that the boy with the quarter viewed) to six of the children. When I saw this picture it took me back to the moment at OSU when Michael took the picture of the little boy by the barricades.

This picture is my way of sharing with you my experience at OSU so that you and I can ask ourselves, "What does God want me to learn from these profound moments that I've witnessed?" Especially, "What does He want me to learn from an experience in which the people involved aren't even aware of how profound it is?"

In this Advent season, I am mindful that Our King, Jesus Christ, is like the 35-week old child in utero that Steve showed to the six young children. Mary carried Jesus in her womb. God humbled Himself, and in human flesh, came to Earth as a defenseless and dependent unborn child. That is profound. Are you aware? Let us learn from the little boy with the quarter and the children in this picture. If you haven't already this Advent, let us take time these last few days before Christmas to contemplate how profound it is that our Lord came as an unborn child -- that He came to us as a human being. Let us ask Him what He wants us to learn from the experience of these children. Maybe He wants us to see Him as we would see him if we were looking at Him through the eyes of a child.



Merry Christmas!

Rebecca J. Haschke