



Rebecca's Reflections



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January 2017

“This is going to seem disturbing...”

This past September, with five other JFA trainers, I arrived at Oklahoma State University (OSU) for an outreach with a poll table. The question we used that day was, “Should Abortion Remain Legal?” Before I even had a chance to finish setting up the table, a student named Stephen walked up to me wanting to talk. We conversed for over an hour.



Above is a picture of the poll table on Oklahoma State University's campus at which I met Stephen. The poll table is barely visible because of the students surrounding it who are talking to Justice For All staff.

Several times throughout our conversation Stephen began his explanations of why he felt abortion should be legal by stating, “This is going to seem disturbing, however, ...” Stephen seemed to believe that abortion was a necessity because it could be used to help maximize happiness and eliminate suffering in the world, and incidentally, he also believed these would be possible to calculate mathematically. As he explained his position further, he

acknowledged that if we were to follow the line of logic he proposed, parents should have the legal right to kill their children up to the age of six months after birth.

Despite our polar opposite worldviews and opinions about abortion, Stephen seemed willing to listen to my position, intellectually process the information I shared, and genuinely ask questions. When he departed that day, although he hadn't changed his views on abortion, he thanked me for the conversation. He seemed to appreciate the intellectual and logical approach I used during the discussion. My conversation with him vividly stands out in my mind because I can recall the moments in which it was visibly apparent, by his facial expressions, that the ideas being discussed were something he had not yet considered.

My conversation with Stephen and many other conversations this year were especially memorable because of their depth. I have created a photo collage that captures conversations with some of those people. When you see the collage, would you join with me in praying for each of these people and all of the others with whom I have spoken in 2016? I am thankful for all of the people I got to speak to this year. Thank you for your support that has made it possible for so many pro-choice students like Stephen to hear an intellectual and logical argument for the pro-life position.

Defending life together,

Rebecca J. Haschke