



Newsletter Collection

Rebecca's Reflections

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Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—Rebecca@jfaweb.org

December 2014

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



Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—rebecca@jfwweb.org

January 2015

The Power of a Picture

This past semester at the University of Oklahoma (OU), I had a five minute conversation with “Peter,” a man from Senegal. The end of our conversation took a turn I was not expecting. I began the dialogue by asking him to take a survey, each question of which asked for a “yes” or “no” response. Halfway through the survey the conversation went as follows:

Rebecca: I have a picture that accurately depicts how U.S. law allows women to treat the unborn. It is very graphic. Are you willing to view it before answering our final question?

Peter: Yes.

Rebecca: *[Showing Peter a picture of an embryo after a 9-week abortion]*

Do you believe abortion should continue to be legal in the first trimester for any reason the woman wants it?

Peter: No.

Throughout the survey, each of his responses consistently indicated that he believed the unborn are valuable humans, so at the end of the survey, I continued the conversation by asking this follow-up question:

Rebecca: In the survey, you answered that you do not think abortion should be legal in the first trimester. Have you always felt this way?

Peter: If I hadn't seen that picture, I would have said it *should be legal* in the first trimester, but I changed my mind when I saw this picture.



Several years ago, high school students from Lincoln participated in an outreach at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL). The two high school students pictured above, wearing the brown and red shirts, were conducting a survey with the UNL student seated on the stairs. This survey was similar to the survey I conducted with “Peter.” Although he already held a Justice For All Exhibit brochure in his right hand, the UNL student grabbed a second brochure to better examine the picture.

His response was not what I expected. If he had not viewed the picture of the abortion, we would have likely had a very different conversation. In that moment, both this young man and I were shown the power of a picture.



However, not every student changes his mind the moment he sees a picture of abortion. Often, students still have many questions about the humanity of the unborn or about women's rights. They have hesitations about the consequences of illegalizing abortion. Yet, even during a conversation with a student who has these concerns, a picture like the one I showed Peter helps express a truth in much greater depth than words alone can.

Sometimes a picture has the power to prick even a hardened conscience. I've found in my life, in fact, that it can take a lot to reach my conscience. It's easy for all of us to become apathetic about a particular subject if apathy is the very thing that allows us to live more

comfortably. This pricking of the conscience is the same thing that can force a student to stop avoiding the subject of abortion. Viewing abortion imagery makes him uncomfortable with the consequences of his pro-choice views, and thus develops within him an internal conflict.



It's this internal conflict between a person's initial pro-choice concerns and the reality he is now faced with that prompts him to ask important questions. Thus, a conversation ensues, whether internal or verbal. This is why I train pro-life advocates in the art of dialogue. I want each pro-choice student who sees the reality of abortion to be able to have a conversation when this internal questioning begins. I want each of these conversations to take place with pro-life advocates who can answer questions with truth and love; pro-life advocates who can guide pro-choice advocates to understand why they feel internally conflicted; pro-life advocates who can help those who've disagreed with them to finally see that it should not be legal to violate the dignity of human beings by killing them.

For Peter, though, words weren't necessary. His heart was soft, and there was enough power in the picture alone to transform his view. Please pray that God would similarly soften the hearts of students who will see images of abortion this year on the campuses I visit. Please also pray that each of us who believe abortion should be illegal would continue to prepare for the moment we have the opportunity to have a conversation. Finally, pray that we would actively seek opportunities to share this message with the many people who, unlike Peter, need to have a conversation after seeing the pictures in order for their views to change.

Thank you for all your support, which has allowed me to equip others to have these conversations. If you would ever like to be trained in this way, please join me on a mission trip! Let me know if you are interested. I would be honored to work side-by-side with you in the very places to which your support has sent me.

Defending life together,

Rebecca J. Haschke



Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—rebecca@jfaweb.org

March 2015

Give Thanks In All Circumstances

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...”

The above exhortations (1 Thess. 5:16-18a) are easier said than done, but as St. Paul continues in this passage, *“this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thess. 5:18b). God is good, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. This is a truth that should make a difference in how we respond to times of struggle, both in our lives and in the lives of others. Although we often remember to pray during difficult times, many of us never think to rejoice in His goodness or give thanks for His glory.

Sometimes it is particularly difficult for me to rejoice and give thanks after a long day of outreach when, conversation after conversation, I witness the brokenness of our culture revealed through hardened, wounded, apathetic, or angry hearts. It's easy for me to lose hope when I see what these students are going through. I now see that they are part of God's plan to help me pray unceasingly, but also to help me rejoice and give thanks even when, on the surface, their circumstances may look bleak or hopeless.

This past January, in order to be more intentional about praying for those I encounter, I purchased a little green book to record the names of each of the students whom God leads into my path. Through this prayer and additional reflection on scripture, I realize that Jesus Christ has already won the battle against sin. This battle *“is not against flesh and blood, but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens”* (Ephesians 6:12). However, God is allowing us the privilege of participating in that battle. For me, this participation often takes form while I engage students on campus as well as afterward, when I continue to pray for them.

Praise the Lord that He is using us to give students an opportunity to encounter the truth! Thank the Lord that He loves us despite our brokenness and sinfulness! Thank the Lord that He loves these students so much that He desires their eternal happiness in Heaven! Thank the Lord that He allows us to be part of His life-saving work!

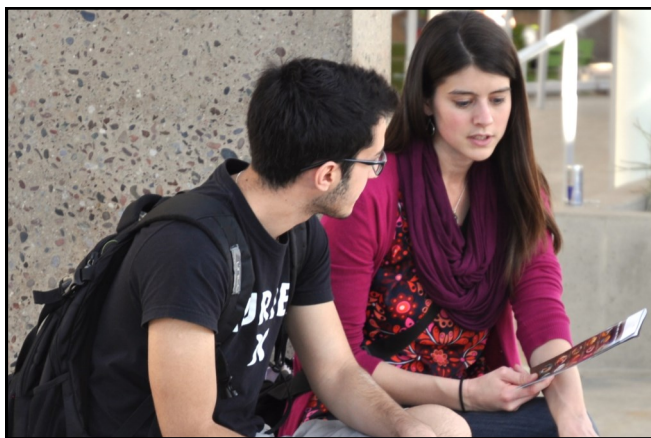


Arizona State University served as JFA's first outreach location this past February. In the picture above, an ASU student (left) and I (right) discuss Panel 2 of the kiosk. This panel asks, “When are we human?” Each circle marks a different stage in the development of a human being, from fertilization to the elderly adult stage.



Below are listed several of the names from that little green book I mentioned earlier, as well as a glimpse into the struggles that have been a part of each of their journeys.

- **“Beth”** signed our poll saying “Yes” abortion should remain legal. At the beginning of our one-hour conversation she stated, “If a child would likely grow up in an environment where he didn’t feel valued, it would be better to abort him.” I asked, “Beth, if you had a friend who didn’t feel valuable and was considering suicide because of it, what would you say to your friend?” Just before bursting into tears she passionately responded, “I would tell her, ‘But you are valuable! You might not feel it but there is so much good that can come in your future. You just can’t see it right now.’” Through her tears, Beth shared that just days before, one of her friends had attempted suicide. Beth was the friend who called the cops to intervene.
- **“Amy”** angrily revealed she has had five abortions. Another JFA staff member was able to talk with her after she shared this.
- **“Marc”** lost a child to abortion when he was seventeen. This devastated him. I learned he was so personally affected because he had survived an abortion at the beginning of his life. In his own words, “I am a failed abortion.” Even though his girlfriend knew his own personal story related to abortion, she chose to abort his child. He offered to care for his child even if the mother didn’t want anything to do with the baby. After she chose abortion, he felt rejected. He also felt defeated by the fact that he was not able to protect his child. He told me that, in order to never feel these painful emotions again, he now identifies as homosexual.
- In high school **“Dominic”** was discerning the priesthood. He now not only questions whether or not abortion is right or wrong, he questions the existence of God. He hopes God exists but, in his own words, “I just don’t know anymore.”
- **“Brian,”** upon our encounter, confidently stated he was “pro-life.” I asked, “Brian, what does that mean for you? Do you think abortion should be illegal?” He responded, “No, we can’t force our beliefs on others. I’m pro-life because I’m a Christian, but legally enforcing my stance on abortion would push my religion on people who don’t believe the same as me.”



These people’s circumstances don’t seem hopeful to our human eyes. However, as I read through that little green book, I remember other significant details from each interaction. As I recall those details and attempt to view these conversations in light of the fact that God has already won the battle against sin, I do have hope. In future newsletters, I plan to share more with you about the conversations with Beth, Amy, Marc, Dominic, and Brian so you can see a little bit of how God seems to be at work. Until then, please join me in praying for each of them. And don’t forget to...

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.”

Rebecca J. Jaschke



Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—rebecca@jfw.org

July 2015

From One to a Crowd

Dear Friend,

Navigating a one-on-one conversation about a controversial subject can be difficult. Now add nine more people with varying opinions. Is it possible for the conversation to remain productive, or at least civil? See the pictures to the right to watch a one-on-one conversation at the University of Arizona transform into a conversation with a crowd that lasted three hours.

“Michael” (Phase 1) approached me in order to share his view that he didn’t believe life began at conception. Overhearing the conversation, two other students wandered over to listen in (Phase 2). Then two more students arrived and began peppering me with their opinions and thoughts, including multiple questions related to their disagreements regarding what they had heard me discuss with Michael.

At this point there was no way to answer every student’s questions at the same time. Not to mention that every response I shared prompted more questions. In order to respect Michael, and not forget him in the midst of this developing crowd, I asked a favor of all five students. I said something like,

“You are all bringing up important topics and questions to cover. I want to answer all of them, but I want to respect each of you by doing it in an orderly fashion so that we don’t miss anything. Here are the concerns I have heard:

- What about poverty? What about women who don’t have the means to care for a child?
- What about women who already have too many children?
- What about a woman who has been violated (rape)?
- Women’s liberty: Doesn’t the pro-life view violate our liberties?
- The unborn aren’t human so shouldn’t abortion only be illegal after we become human?
- Men shouldn’t have an opinion in this matter. It’s a woman’s body. So it’s her choice.

(continued on the reverse)



Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3

“I need your help though. Please help me remember each of these questions if I forget one. If you have another question, let me know so that we can add it to the list. I am going to start by answering one of Michael’s questions first, the one about women who don’t seem to have the financial means to care for a child.”

In the next three hours I witnessed something beautiful unfold. Because each of the students knew that I thought addressing each question was important, they patiently waited their turn. As more and more students wandered over to listen in (with most of them eventually joining in) each one witnessed a particular type of conversation taking place: *It was a conversation in which disagreement was readily present but anger was absent.* People were asking questions to seek clarification. People were actively listening to understand each other. People were not interrupting each other.

It was a conversation
in which disagreement
was readily present but
anger was absent.

This respectful conversation set a precedent, and this precedent caused a second beautiful response from the students. Newcomers recognized the calm demeanor of those who disagreed with me and quickly followed suit. So much so, that they would even raise their hands (see Phase 3 on the reverse) and wait for me to call on them before sharing thoughts or asking questions.

At one point in the conversation I was able to ask the students present how they felt after the past hour of conversation. One of the students had changed his mind about when we are biologically human. Another student felt that abortion should still be legal but not in as many cases as she had originally thought. A third student commented that, although she was still pro-choice, she had never heard these pro-life arguments and they made sense. Later that day a fourth student returned to tell me that although he is pro-life he had never witnessed a conversation about abortion like that one. He was amazed by the response of the students.

One pro-choice student who joined the group conversation had spent two hours in conversation with me the day prior. During the group discussion he responded to several of the pro-choice arguments using the same pro-life responses I had shared with him the day before. Although he stated he was still pro-choice, it’s clear that he now also saw the validity in some of the arguments I had proposed to him.

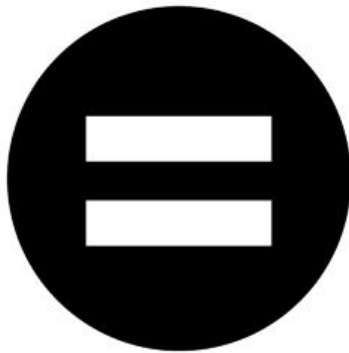
Thank you for your support that helps turn the debate about abortion into a dialogue that is productive because it respects the dignity of the unborn while also respecting the dignity of each person in the conversation.

Defending life together,

Rebecca J. Haschke



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Justice For All trains thousands
to make abortion unthinkable for millions,
one person at a time.

To help:

www.jfaweb.org 800-281-6426 jfa@jfaweb.org