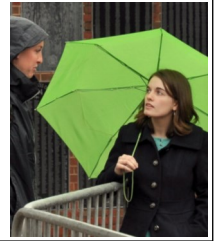




# The Next Step

What Happens After You've Done Your Best to Reach Someone?

Holly Meath's Monthly Newsletter • May 2014



Dear Friends,

I once heard a church leader say that the average Christian had the gospel shared with him or her on at least seven different occasions before converting. I can't vouch for the accuracy of that statistic, but the statement rings true in this way: most people need time to process a controversial view or they need to hear it from different angles before they accept it.

This concept serves to encourage me that I don't have to see someone change in front of me to believe that my time spent sharing truth was helpful. It could be that the next person she talks to on the same topic provides the last push needed for her to change. Most of the time, I won't know about that next conversation for which I've helped lay a foundation. But at Arizona State University, I was blessed with the experience of seeing how my interaction with one student fit into a bigger framework in his life.

There was nothing about my conversation with Jake that really stood out as unusual. He seemed thoughtful, but he didn't have a great deal to say. We talked through just about every argument I could think of that might help convince him of the truth about abortion. He acknowledged that each argument made sense as we went through it, but he seemed unwilling to shift at all in his positions to reflect that understanding. Eventually the conversation petered out, and in order to excuse himself, Jake said, "Well I've got to get to Walmart," and rode off on his bike.

I don't think he ever made it to Walmart. All throughout that afternoon, I kept spotting him around campus, listening in on other conversations that the JFA staff and volunteers were having with students.

Finally, I saw him at a distance deep in conversation with JFA staff member John Michener. John's personality is outgoing and assertive with new people—very different from my own personality—so I remember

thinking that he might be able to reach Jake from a different angle than I did.

That evening I was able to talk with John about our interactions with Jake. John described how he had taken a very straightforward approach with Jake and challenged him strongly on why he wasn't accepting what he could see to be sound logic. "I saw you talking to Holly for a long time," he'd told Jake. "She wore you down, and you've seen that these ideas make sense. What's it going to take for you to step across the line and act on these truths?"



Something that I hadn't picked up on was that Jake had questions about the very existence of truth, and John was able to speak powerfully to that concern in a way that I was not as prepared to do. By the time Jake left this second conversation, he was willing to admit that truths probably do exist, and was more deeply challenged to consider everything we had told him about truth and the value of human life.

Hearing this part of the story reminded me that people's different strengths and personalities within the body of Christ help us serve God's purposes as a team. I was also excited and encouraged by this privilege of seeing the next step in one person's transformation after my direct impact on his life had ended. Hopefully this story serves to encourage you also as you consider people to whom you have been reaching out.

Thank you for your support and prayers that help me do my part in reaching students like Jake!

Blessings,

*Holly V. Meath*

Holly Meath



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

About JFA: [www.jfaweb.org](http://www.jfaweb.org)

Email: [Holly.Meath@jfaweb.org](mailto:Holly.Meath@jfaweb.org)

Office: 316-683-6426