



## A Model Student

Update from Jacob Burow - January 2014



I quickly noted that Rebecca had a ton of questions. During the seminar she stayed to talk during one break to ask question after question. With a background in debate, she was intrigued by the arguments we taught, but she was especially fascinated by the way we teach people to dialogue.

The first day of the outreach she listened intently to my conversations, noting how I started them, as well as how I navigated them using the various tools we teach. After several conversations that I had, Rebecca had questions. We sat and talked about many pro-choice arguments, and the best pro-life responses to those arguments. I knew she was ready for her own conversations, so I challenged her to start one.

“I was thinking I would just listen today, and maybe talk to someone tomorrow. Is that alright?” She asked.

“You can,” I replied, “but you might regret it.”

“What do you mean?”

I then shared how we receive many reflections from people who did just that, and then were sad that they did not overcome their fear sooner. They realized how many opportunities for life-changing conversations they had missed.

“I would be happy to come listen in and

help out if you get stuck,” I encouraged her.

“No, I am going to do this alone. I’ll come back if I have questions.” I was proud of her as she headed off to the JFA Exhibit. Later I went to check on her and found that she had already had eight conversations. I answered a few questions, and then she was ready to go back at it. By the end of the day she had another five in-depth conversations. Here are her own words about the experience:



Rebecca converses with a student on her first day of outreach.

*It was not difficult to decide to attend a Justice For All (JFA) seminar. I competed in a debate league during high school, and I thought Debate and Dialogue sounded right up my alley; however, I hadn't been at the seminar long before I realized they were teaching us something more than a mere debate strategy.*

*By participating in JFA's seminar, we were trained in the art of graceful engagement in the daily combat against abortion. I came to understand how to effectively discuss the daunting subject*

*of abortion, which, in the past, was a subject I had tried to avoid, due to the diverse beliefs regarding it.*

*Justice For All was unlike anything else I had experienced. They taught me how to spread truth to the world, without condemning others for their actions. They*

*showed me how to reach out to those who don't know truth, and they challenged me to step up my game by spreading the message about abortion. I understand now that I don't need to militantly attack those who do not agree with my stance on abortion. Rather, I need to cultivate genuine conversations with them, to truly care about them, and in doing so, they will ultimately be led to the truth.*

*God was very good to have me stumble across Justice For All; I am grateful to Him, and to you all. I would like to express a special thanks to my mentor, Jacob, for taking the time to answer my questions and to teach me so much.*

I responded to her reflection with another challenge—to continue using the training to have conversations. In a follow-up email Rebecca said, *“How do I find a person to talk to? I'm interested in going outside of my comfort zone to start a conversation, because I know it will be beneficial, but I'm not sure how.”* I gave her some activities that would help her easily start dialogue.

I think we all have something to learn from Rebecca. Too often we desire to stay inside our comfort zone, but that is not where we find the conversations that need to happen. That is not how we are going to grow as good ambassadors.

Are you willing to step outside of your comfort zone to make a difference in someone's life? Are you willing to start the conversation by asking what someone thinks about abortion and take time to really listen? I challenge you, as I challenged Rebecca, to do just that.

Thank you for your prayers as I work to train others to be good ambassadors. Your support makes this work possible!

God bless,

*Jacob Burow*



**Here is Rebecca role-playing in my interactive group during the seminar...**



**...and listening to me in conversation on the first day of outreach...**



**...and asking questions before going to start her own conversations...**



**...and deeply engaged in one of her many conversations with students.**