

AWKWARD CONVERSATIONS

JFA training helps students overcome the fear of an awkward conversation.

I've gone full-time with JFA!

*An enormous and heart-felt
"Thank you!" to my support team!*

I began my full-time employment with Justice For All on June 4th. Fundraising has been long a process, and many of you have been supporting my work from the very beginning. I am grateful for each one of my supporters. Your generous support gives me the means to do the vital work of making abortion unthinkable and serving others full-time!

The story on the reverse is one recent example of how you are helping me change the culture on the issue of abortion.



Exciting or Intimidating?

This teeming sea of college students can be exhilarating or paralyzing. Whether you are a high school student or someone who is far beyond the college years, to step so far out of your comfort zone and onto a college campus requires acceptance that you are going to feel awkward at some point during the experience. Some look at the above photo of the Georgia State University campus and see an ocean of positive possibilities.

Others see a disconcertingly huge number of opportunities to "mess up." They fear the sting of constant rejection. While I never promise my students that their experiences on campus will be easy just because they've been through a JFA seminar, I do promise them it will be worthwhile to jump in feet-first, to be Christ to the lost around them and witness the transformative ways God can use them as lights in a very dark place.



This conversation was complex and went on for a long time. I promise to tell you the tale in a future newsletter.



My wife, Brit, helped mentor this group of students at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Atlanta. Here, they are learning to use a mini exhibit to start dialogue.



I got to mentor some incredibly talented and intelligent Georgia Tech students. I know I learned more from them than they did from me.

JFA TRAINING TURNS THE AWKWARD INTO OPPORTUNITY

While on the Georgia State University (GSU) campus in March of this year, I sat down on a bench to pray for a female student with whom I had just finished speaking. Immediately after bowing my head to pray, two of the JFA-trained students from Fellowship Christian High School (FCS) approached me with a question. One student said, "I know we went over this in class, but what do we do if we come across someone who is pregnant and may be abortion-vulnerable? We just spoke with a girl who is pregnant and was considering an abortion last week."

I asked, "Do you know where she is right now?"

"Yes, she's across the courtyard beside the girl in the tie-dyed shirt."

Starting to walk toward the GSU student, I said, "Well let's go talk to her." They gave me looks of doubt and hesitation. I knew what that meant; they were focused on the awkwardness of the conversation, not the pregnant student.

"Are you worried this is going to be weird?" I asked.

"Yes," they said. They rightly knew that approaching this girl may be uncomfortable.

"It **will** be weird," I told them. "Come on, let's go,"

We walked over to the GSU student. I introduced myself and found out that her name was Megan. I struck up a conversation with Megan about her pregnancy. I tried to ensure that she was surrounded by supportive people to help her through this difficult situation. As if trying to convince me she was no longer abortion-minded, Megan started explaining how many people were "on her side." I was cautious, knowing that a changed mind for life can be easily changed back for abortion, especially once pressure starts mounting.

I wanted to model a type of non-confrontational interaction for the hesitant FCS students. Yes, openly questioning a pregnant woman about abortion can be awkward, especially when that

woman is a complete stranger. I have found, though, that most of the time it's not so much the questions I ask, but the manner in which I ask them that determines how I will be received. If I had shouted Megan down for being irresponsible or condemned her in any way — game over. There's no way she would have listened. Instead, by asking questions and actively listening to her answers and her concerns, Megan saw that we cared for her, not just for her unborn child. Any awkwardness in our conversation quickly dissolved once Megan saw that we respected her and cared for her.

I asked Megan how far along she was in the pregnancy. She said she was about 11 weeks. I then asked if she knew what her unborn child looked like. She said, "No," and she expressed interest in seeing pictures if I had them.

I was excited to use this as an opportunity to show the FCS students how to confidently and compassionately share their JFA brochures without feeling embarrassed. The brochure is one of the best tools we leave with our students, and I wanted to make sure they felt comfortable using it.

Megan was shocked at the level of development of her unborn child, as well as the gruesome pictures of children who were aborted at the age of her unborn child. It became apparent that abortion was no longer an acceptable option for Megan. She went from thinking she was pregnant with a clump of cells to understanding that she carried her child in her womb.

Just as I hope my FCS students learned through this experience that awkward conversations are worth beginning, I hope you, too, will go out to confront the awkward with grace, to share the love of Christ and maybe save a life.

As always, I am at your service.

Praise:

1. I have begun full-time employment with JFA.

2. Brit and Baby Nels are healthy and doing well.

3. The 3 Nels girls are healthy and growing faster every day.

Prayer Request:

1. We just put our house on the market and are in need of a buyer. Please pray God sends one to us quickly.

2. Pray I will be a good steward of my time.

Sincerely, Jacob

Jacob Nels

Jacob.Nels@JFAweb.org
404.379.4333

751 East Main Street
Canton, GA 30114

Justice For All

Office: 316.683.6426
Fax: 316.683.4621

113 N. Martinson
Wichita, KS 67203

"Knowledge without grace produces victories with no converts."

- Phillip Joseph