

You Never Know Until You Try

Have you ever completely misread somebody?

When Arielle approached me at The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), I could tell she was having a bad day—and not simply because of the snow storm, the worst weather of the week.

She looked frustrated and hurt. I assumed it was because she was offended by our ministry and our desire to change hearts and minds about abortion. I was completely wrong.

Arielle stated that she is against abortion, believes it should be illegal, and wants abortionists in jail. I was glad that she abhorred injustice, but it appeared *she also hated anyone who was pro-choice or had participated in an abortion. She had no interest in trying to reach people on the other side because she believed they were too evil to change.* While I agreed that we all need God's grace to be righteous, I also challenged Arielle to remember that God can transform lives, and people can turn from their false beliefs and wickedness *with His help.*



The weather we had at UCCS ranged from this snow storm to sunny skies, all in a matter of minutes. This environment set the tone for one of the more interesting conversations I've experienced during outreach.

I continued to encourage Arielle by saying that we have been able to influence many lives and save babies from abortion by advocating for the unborn, and that the many situations we'd been in routinely opened doors for talking about the evil of humanity and our need for God. Furthermore, I communicated it is precisely because of people's evil nature and their rejection of us that we need to be all the more loving and proactive. *I realized quickly, though, that pain was driving much of this hatred.*

It turns out that Arielle's friend has gone through many tough challenges recently and is questioning if God exists, so Arielle feels overwhelmed and is questioning her faith, too. She has isolated herself from community as well. Her family is disconnected, and she feels distant from her dad—so she doesn't really like going home at all. I was incredibly discouraged by the stories, but I was able to pray with her, encourage her with Bible truths, mention good local churches, and I was able to plead with her to consider forgiving her dad so that she could be free from the hostility she felt towards him.

It became clear that I had several purposes in the conversation. Almost everyone has either been impacted by abortion or someone they are close to has been burdened by it. We need to open discussions on these topics. Sometimes the discussion will lead to a baby being saved, a family finding necessary resources, or someone coming to understand her God-given value as a human being. Others, like Arielle, will learn that their hatred towards the pro-choice community may be directly hurting their chance of impacting anyone positively in the ways I just described. All of these people need to be shown love: those who are pro-choice, those who are silent, and those who are angry. You never know whom you will impact until you risk starting the conversation.

Wayne Gretzky, perhaps the greatest hockey player in history, once said, "You miss one hundred percent of the shots you don't take." **Please join me in reaching out to people with love and truth this month. You never know whose life you may impact until you step out in faith.** I do know that your support, prayer, and encouragement have impacted my life and ministry. **Thank you for partnering with me to reach people like Arielle. Now she is much more likely to share the truth boldly—and also with more compassion.**

Defending human value together,

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It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves.