



Caring without Compromise

Update from Jacob Burow — May 10, 2010

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

As I am continuing to raise support, (*I'm at 22% now,*) I am also learning better ways to relate to people. Sometimes the arguments and responses come so naturally, I find that the real work for me is shutting up. Often I could finish THEIR argument much faster and eloquently than they can. But how is that loving? I've found this is the most difficult task I am learning, the art of listening, and caring, without yielding critical ground on the pro-life issue.

One great example was this man pictured at right. We were having a very productive conversation, but I was demolishing his justifications for abortion as gently as I could. At one point, he said something about overpopulation, and how bad that would be. Rather than address that side issue, I said, "I agree, if we did not have enough food for people because of overpopulation, that would be a very bad thing." His response caught me by surprise, "Thank you!" He exclaimed. "I thought you were going to jump on me for saying that!" I realized that although I was presenting myself well, he knew his arguments were being destroyed, and was desperate for some common ground. It was a breath of fresh air to him. He then opened up and talked a lot more, glad that I was not just trying to attack him.



While I had many productive conversations about life in the womb, none were so difficult as a conversation I had with a black lady name Trish.

I saw her and her friend, a Hispanic lady name Mara, stop to look at the exhibit. I stepped closer, and after letting them read a little while asked what they thought about the exhibit.

"I think it's Republican bull s*," Trish stated calmly.**

I paused, not sure how to respond in a way so as to not spur her towards anger. Finally I thought of a question. "Do you think it's possible that it is a human rights issue rather than a political issue?"

Mara and Trish suddenly found themselves on opposite sides of the fence, Mara being pro-life, and Trish staunchly defending the pro-choice position. I listened patiently as Trish began sharing why she was pro-choice. "I have been pregnant three times, once I had a miscarriage, once I had an abortion, and the other time I gave birth to a little boy." She turned to me, "You should know that, just so you aren't too quick to judge."

"I am so sorry," I said.

"I'm not, I know I made the right choice. If I had had a baby then, I would not have been able to care for it."



Justice For All, 113 N Martinson, Wichita KS 67203

316.683.6426 Jacob.burow@jfaweb.org Jacobburow.blogspot.com

I was silent, I did not want to seem uncaring and just bash her over the head with the argument, "Would you kill a toddler just because you can't care for it?" But what to say? Mara stepped in, pointing at the pictures and saying, "But what about the baby? It's alive, isn't it?"

"It not alive until it is born." Trish stated firmly.

"I'm sorry mam, I don't mean to be rude, but as far as whether the unborn is living, science is pretty clear that the unborn is at least alive in the sense that a tree is alive. I think the real question may be about value, or personhood."

I can't remember exactly what all we talked about, but somewhere in there Trish mentioned that she had also been raped twice. Before long Mara had to leave and said good bye, and thanked me for being out there. Then Trish asked me something that blew me away.

"Do you have to stay here? or can you walk with me? I have to go to class."

In all my years of JFA **I have never, ever, ever never never had *any-one* ask me to walk with them, much less a pro-choice girl who has had an abortion,** and been raped twice.

"Uh, no, yeah I can leave." I stammered, "Sure, I'll walk with you."

We began walking, and she asked me more questions, trying to justify her support of abortion. I answered her questions as gently as I could, and I think that by the end of our discussion I succeeded in showing that all of the justifications for abortion were really hinged on whether or not the unborn human is valuable like us. Trish said that life began at birth, and I gently asked what changed about the baby that made it more valuable. I explained the differences, showing how none of them were sufficient justification for treating born humans differently, we don't say that toddlers are less valuable just because they are smaller.

I did a lot of listening, as did she, and soon we got to her class. She turned and thanked me for talking, and I thanked her as well. She held out her hand for a handshake, and I asked, "Can I give you a hug?" She quickly gave me a hug, a real hug, then hurried off to class. I could see on her face that she was wrestling with the things I said. I pray that God sends someone into her life to help care for her.

I am blessed to be able to not only reach out to people like these, but also to train others to do the same. That is what I see as being so important in this work, the opportunity to train ambassadors to do outreach wherever they are. ***I am excited to be moving in a few short months, and look forward to partnering with you all to make this happen!***

Please pray concerning my upcoming trip to California, we will be at Pasadena City College doing outreach and advanced ambassador training.



Justice For All, 113 N Martinson, Wichita KS 67203

316.683.6426 Jacob.burow@jfaweb.org Jacobburow.blogspot.com