

## Rice's Role Changes

How Claire's life has changed since we met in 2009 and how she has greatly impacted me

I remember our first interaction like it was yesterday.

In March of 2009, Claire Rice thought there was very little she could do to stop abortion and challenge the pro-choice paradigm. Now, less than three years later, there is very little our organization would like to do without her presence and expertise.

Claire has challenged hundreds of people in personal conversations and strengthened pro-life groups and other pro-life leaders as she has helped train thousands of JFA volunteers. Claire is now done with her internship and is moving on to pursue midwifery and will also be married later this year. However, we are thrilled that she will still volunteer and help us network in Colorado.



After a short talk I gave at a Navigators Christian Club meeting in March of 2009, I packed up my things, answered a few questions from students, thanked the club leadership, and prepared to return to my host home nearby. **Little did I know that my final conversation of the night would change my attitude, change many lives, and change the Justice For All ministry forever.**

Claire missed the part of the Navigator meeting where I spoke, so when I introduced myself to her after the meeting, she asked why I was there. I explained that I was part of JFA, a pro-life group dedicated to training Christians how to defend the unborn graciously.

Claire could sense my high level of stress as I frantically described our upcoming events in Colorado and our needs from the community. Being very perceptive and bold, she challenged me on the spot to genuinely trust God for all of my ministry needs.

Who was this random young woman who was challenging my trust in God? **But she was right!**



By God's grace I was able to admit the obvious—I was passionately and faithfully building the local pro-life group in Boulder, meeting pastors, and making other connections, but I wasn't fully trusting God for the results or dedicating myself to prayer.

**But now it was my turn.** I challenged Claire, "Have you personally found ways to help stop abortion?" She admitted that she didn't have much direction in pro-life ministry and she had little hope that our culture would shift.

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

It didn't seem like her lack of direction bothered Claire too much, and that confused me. Claire expressed how she was pretty skeptical that an individual could do very much to challenge the pro-choice paradigm and to make progress against abortion. She asked, "What can I do?" I told Claire about our step-by-step training program and of its positive affect on thousands of students' lives.

I challenged her to approach her family, friends, and local students with the truth about abortion and her concern for the injustice. I challenged her to start somewhere, even if she couldn't change everything. I urged her to study the issue of abortion and prepare herself to reach out, and I asked her if her church was dedicated to truth, to outreach, and to being involved in their community.

### Claire reluctantly considered my exhortations.

She told me later that she had given me her email address and committed to attend our seminar mainly to get me off her case. She hoped I'd forget to email her and everything would pass!

The day Claire participated in our seminar and subsequent outreach, her life took a drastic turn. Claire recently reflected on her journey by saying:

I was your stereotypical skeptic. When I heard about JFA's "training program" I thought I didn't need it. I cared about abortion—wasn't that enough? I decided to follow through with my word to Jon and attend the training program. During the training the Lord broke my heart over the issue of abortion. What was once a conviction that crossed my mind from time to time became a heavy burden weighing on my heart. I left the seminar that night praying, "Lord, what do you want me to do about abortion?"

The next day I joined the team at 7:00 a.m. for set-up at the University of Colorado campus. The Lord continued breaking me. I realized just how much training I needed! I listened to multiple conversations and participated in others that made me realize my own lack of knowledge and skill engaging people. By the end of the experience I was praying seriously about an internship with JFA.

Although I was very busy as an Emergency Medical Student and as a full-time piano teacher, I knew that God was calling me to fight abortion. I would encourage anyone, no matter your age or occupation, to seriously seek God about what He has for you to do in this battle against the evil of abortion. By working for JFA I learned so much about myself, about God and about the desperate need of the lost people all around us. I'm thankful for my opportunity to work with JFA for 2-3 years, and I plan to continue working with them as a volunteer in the future.

When I think of the successes that God has given our ministry since I started, Claire is very near the top of that list. She has influenced our entire staff with her unmistakable devotion to God, her love for others, her ability to communicate, and her uncompromising work ethic. At a very critical time in my journey, her wisdom helped me trust God more fully, and God helped me challenge and equip a great pro-life ambassador to serve alongside our team.

**Your support empowers me to equip and send out people like Claire Rice.**

Do you know people like Claire who would take a stand for life if you were willing to encourage and challenge them and introduce them to a step-by-step program like we have at JFA?

Defending human value together,



Jonathan Wagner