

Ready or Not?

Weak Response Mirrors Shallow Faith

When I started talking to Kevin and Laura (New Mexico students) about abortion I quickly learned that they were personally against abortion. They identified themselves as pro-life and graciously encouraged me as an advocate for the unborn. **But would they join me?**

Out of habit I investigated whether these self-proclaimed pro-lifers were fully pro-life or just personally pro-life (in practice, pro-choice).

Would I need to encourage them in what they already believed or help them develop true convictions? More importantly, did they have a loving demeanor towards pro-choice folks or would they misuse knowledge and motivation due to a lack of love?



Many are pro-life but only some make stopping injustice a priority. Our efforts at UNM motivated many.

As it turned out, Kevin and Laura weren't too worried about stopping the injustice of abortion. As I challenged them with ideas for exposing injustice, they made excuses and showed indifference. I suggested that the world needs people just like them to be more bold and more willing to take their time and energy to change hearts and minds. I challenged them to get their churches involved as well. This is where our conversation shifted. I brought up the idea of church because pro-lifers can impact our culture by challenging church leaders and by partnering with the church to train people to be gracious and persuasive advocates for the weakest humans among us.

While Kevin claimed he was a Christian, he was not very dedicated to church meetings and he wasn't very motivated to share the hope of eternal life that we have in Christ. Laura said that she grew up in the church but now isn't very committed and other than being moral, she lives a life almost unaffected by faith. **At this point, the beginning of our conversation made much more sense. It appeared that their simply personal pro-life view was rooted in a passive, shallow faith.**

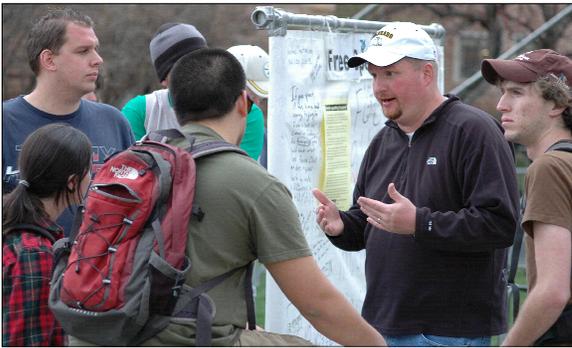
The good news is this: I was able to challenge them to step up their pro-life convictions and to share the truth of Christianity. They left very convicted about their current state and promised to stay in touch as they continued to work on these areas.

Readiness to Help Flows from Solid Foundation:

In contrast, several others that I met in New Mexico were very ready to help stop abortion. Mary (across from me in white) came by our exhibit and immediately offered her encouragement. She told me about her zeal to stop abortion and to support others who did the same. **When I offered her further training and resources she accepted them thankfully** and said that she would stay in touch for future opportunities. As we talked, it became quite clear that her strong faith prompted her sound values.



JFA partnered with Focus Leadership Institute (formerly FFI) to train their 70 students who joined us at UNM. **I personally mentored 6 of them during our training and out on campus.** Despite having bus trouble on their way from Colorado, these students brought a love for people and a passion for truth that is rarely matched at our outreaches. One of their leaders, Jeff Abel (left in white cap), led by example as he participated right alongside the FLI students. Those 70 students combined to have hundreds of productive conversations with UNM students.



Praises and Prayer requests for November 2009:

- We just returned from 3 successful trainings and 4 days of outreach in Oklahoma!
- The weather in Oklahoma was awesome for all four days. This comfortable setting helped many students stay out and converse much longer.
- Please pray that Kevin and Laura put in the time and effort to be more effective as ambassadors for Christ and for the pro-life position. I'm so thankful they stopped by.
- For the 3 new JFA interns and staff who are currently raising support to start with us in 2010. I'll be helping them, so please pray that I can be a great encouragement.
- **Praise God that our JFA intern, Rebecca Haschke, reached 100% support this week and is arriving today to work with us in Wichita for 2 full years!!**

Thank you so much for your gracious support in 2009

If you weren't able to partner with me in 2009, please consider sending an end-of-year gift or making a pledge for 2010 (see enclosed coupon).

Defending Human Value together,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jonathan Wagner".

Jonathan Wagner

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