

Room to Grow



A JFA UPDATE FROM MARY BIEGLER



JUNE 2022

In March my team and I did outreach at the University of Arizona in Tuscon. I was excited to be in such a sunny and beautiful state, but less excited about the three days of conversations ahead of me. It seemed daunting and I felt unmotivated because, although my recent outreach events had been *good*, they hadn't been *great*. My conversations had not been extraordinary like many of my colleagues' and I was beginning to wonder what I was doing wrong.

Instead of allowing these feelings to sabotage my week, I decided to pray. I asked God to give me strength to get through the trip. As I was praying, I had an important realization; I had not been practicing what I had been preaching. One of the things I stress in every training event is that when we focus on loving and knowing the people with whom we talk, our questions and arguments have a much better chance of making an impact. While I *had* been doing my best to be kind, respectful, and understanding to the people with whom I had conversed, I hadn't truly been taking the time to get to know them or love them for who they are. Rather, I had been focused on winning arguments and changing minds.

With this new realization my prayer became, "Jesus, help me to focus on loving each person with whom I speak today. Help me show them what you are like and help me to appreciate who they are and the unique attributes you have given them."

To say that this realization has been a game-changer for my outreaches since then would be an understatement. My first conversation that day was an hour long and the young woman with whom I was speaking kept pausing to express how reasonable and kind I was and how thankful she was for that. My second conversation was with a young man who started out by saying, "You aren't going to change my mind, but I'm interested in having a discussion." About halfway through our three hour conversation, I remarked that it seems strange that the more vulnerable and underdeveloped someone is, the more protection they receive, until they are inside the womb. He began to offer a rebuttal, stopped himself, looked at me and said, "Wow, I have nothing to say! That's a really good point."

Our conversation ended with him asking for my phone number so he could get more information from me for his medical ethics class!

The next day, I began again with the same prayer, asking God to guide me and give me the grace to love each person. That afternoon, while the Arizona sun mercilessly beat down on me and my colleagues, I had the pleasure of speaking with a young woman for several hours about abortion, her faith, and her experiences as a member of the LGBTQ community.



The University of Arizona

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JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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I was able to get to know her on a personal level, find a lot of common ground, and gently challenge her beliefs. Despite our major worldview differences, our conversation was extremely enjoyable and incredibly productive!

I will never forget how, at the end of our discussion, she smiled and said, “You’re the first pro-life person I’ve ever talked to who isn’t a ‘Karen.’” She went on to explain that all the pro-life people with whom she has interacted have been forceful with their opinions and seemingly only concerned with what happens to the baby. I’m almost positive that our interaction would not have been much different than these if I had not taken the time to focus on loving her and showing her that I cared about her.

Friends, just like I did, you are going to make mistakes when talking about something as controversial and heavy as abortion. You are going to say things you shouldn’t or miss opportunities to be good representatives of Christ. There will be many times when you will wish you had done things differently, and those are the times it will be easy to give up. But something crucial I’ve learned as a pro-life advocate is this: God allows us to make mistakes, not because He wants us to fail, but because it is from those mistakes that we learn and grow. The truth is, no matter how much we study, speak, and write on this topic, there will always be room grow!

So, if you are in this fight with me and you are feeling discouraged or inadequate, don’t give up. Like me, you may not be the perfect pro-life advocate right now, but if you allow him, God can and will use you in extraordinary ways. Let the words of Joshua 1:9 be an encouragement to you: “Be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go.”

On a personal note, I am so happy to announce my recent marriage to my husband, Michael, on May 28th! Our wedding day was incredible and we feel so blessed to be starting this beautiful journey as a married couple together.

We are living in an apartment in Lincoln and, for the time being, I will continue my full-time work with Justice For All. Michael and I are open to and excited for whatever the Lord has in store for us in the coming months and years and we look forward to sharing that with you!

We are greatly appreciative of your prayers for our marriage and your continued support of my work. God bless you!

In Christ,
Mary Biegler



RESULTS OF MY SUPPORT RAISING EFFORTS TO DATE

- As of June 1st, I have reached approximately **60%** of my support goal.
- So far, **62** families or individuals have partnered with me!
- Thank you to all of my donors for making my work with JFA possible.
- If you have not done so already, please prayerfully consider joining my monthly support team using the enclosed pledge form! Or, go to www.jfaweb.org/donate to give by check or credit card online.