



*Training Christians to Create
a Different Kind of Conversation
about Unintended Pregnancy and Abortion*

April 27, 2021

Dear Friend of JFA,

One morning years ago, I came into the JFA office to find that a joke was circulating about the horrible coffee one of the interns had made that day. I never got to try it, and I confess I'm not sorry. The intern had forgotten to insert a coffee filter in the coffee maker!

Since about that time we've had a motto at JFA: *Our interns don't make coffee.* But I assure you that it has nothing to do with this one intern's mishap. Rather, our rather proud statement about our interns is meant to capture in a short phrase a very intentional emphasis at JFA's heart: with God's help, we see the raw potential within every pro-life Christian, and we train each one who is willing into a dialogue artist who skillfully trains others. So, when we think of interns, we think of all that potential. Sure, making coffee is an important skill, given how many people rely on the beverage to get through the day. How much more important is it to learn to change hearts and minds—something the unborn rely on just to see the light of day at all? And how important is it, then, to learn to train others to change hearts and minds? So, when God sees fit to provide interns for JFA, we wouldn't want to waste even a few minutes of that great potential.

This emphasis is paying off. Current JFA staff members Kaitlyn, Mary, Rebekah, and Susanna all began their work with JFA as semester interns. Now they're actively training others, continuing to refine their craft as dialogue artists who train others. Recently, Rebekah shared an amazing story related to public speaking (enclosed, or see www.jfaweb.org/april-2021). It illustrates our intern training emphasis, but more importantly, it also illustrates how its precisely our weaknesses that sometimes our loving God is pleased to fill with his strength! Read it and thank God with us.

Smw - Steve Wagner, Executive Director



Recent Instagram Post

Kaitlyn, Susanna, Rebekah, and Mary pause for a photo during our outreach to UT Dallas in 2020. Each of these trainers began their work with JFA as interns. Seeing them become skilled at training others is one of our team's greatest joys!

See @picturejusticeforall to share!



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316.683.6426

Speaking in Nebraska

REBEKAH DYER'S JFA UPDATE

MARCH 2021



Dear Friend,

Back in January, I was able to go to Nebraska with the JFA team to do multiple training events (pictured). This was my first opportunity to speak to an audience in person with JFA, and I presented portions of the training seminar to over 200 people over our three days there!

We trained a large group of middle school and high school students for two days, and then we trained another group of people at a church on day three.

I resisted the idea of public speaking for a long time. Because of my stuttering problem, the idea of public speaking causes a lot of stress and anxiety for me.

When it came time for me to walk up in front of the crowd and teach, I was nervous. I also felt a calm presence over my heart though, and I know it was the Holy Spirit giving me the strength to do something I told myself I would never do. As I look back on all the events and conversations I've had that have led me to Justice For All, I can see how the hand of God was slowly moving me towards ministry in this field, and I was resisting it for awhile because my mind was focused on future activities which I thought were impossible for me.

As I've reflected on the timing of different things in my life, I have noticed that I can work myself into an anxious frenzy internally as I worry about things ahead. This tendency reminds me of a story from Corrie ten Boom in which she shared about a conversation she had with her father about being fearful of what was ahead:

“Corrie, when you and I go to Amsterdam, when do I give you the ticket?”

“Why, just before we get on the train.”

“Exactly, and our wise Father in heaven knows when we are going to need things, too. Don't run ahead of Him, Corrie. When the time comes that some of us



will have to die, you will look into your heart and find the strength you need, just in time.”

While we are not in the same situation as Corrie, we do have our own “tickets” God our Father will give us for different moments in our life. In those areas where we feel the greatest weakness, God will meet us there and will equip us to do the work He has set before us.

When it comes time for you to speak up, when it’s time for you to do something you don’t want to do but you know God is calling you to do, when it comes time for that difficult conversation, and even when it comes time to die, God will provide you with the strength you need in that moment. You won’t have the grace to do it beforehand, and that’s okay. His grace and strength are always on time, and they are always sufficient.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for me in this ministry. I am encouraged knowing that people like you have my back.

In Christ,

Rebekah

Rebekah Dyer

PS: In my February letter, I shared about a remarkable conversation I had in the airport. Here’s an excerpt:

A Conversation in the Airport

I was sitting in the Denver airport on layover waiting for my flight to Nebraska when I got into an unexpected conversation about abortion with a fellow traveler. I was preparing for multiple days of training that week, and “Matthew” sat down behind me. He asked me where I was from. When I told him I was from San Diego, he asked me what I was doing in Denver, so I told him I was traveling for work. I told him I help people have good conversations about abortion. He readily began to share his story and his view on abortion.

He shared with me that just the week before his baby girl who had *spina bifida* was born. While their daughter was still *in utero*, Matthew and his wife had flown to Pennsylvania so that their daughter could have surgery. She was born soon after that and is doing well, but Matthew told me that some doctors had pressured him and his wife to abort and “just try again.” Matthew shared how hard that was to hear because they wanted this baby. Adding to the emotional pain this caused, he also shared with me that his wife had had an abortion previously and went to have it done without telling him. It wasn’t something he had wanted, and he said she still cries about it today.

I spent time expressing my sympathy for him and his wife and for what they had gone through. I listened as he shared more of his story, and I also asked him what his personal views on abortion were. Matthew said he was religious and didn’t believe in abortion. As we talked, I eventually asked him if he thought abortion should actually be illegal.

This is a really important question to ask people, and Matthew’s response illustrated why. Matthew was quiet for a moment and then communicated a very common position many have on this issue: he said he believed abortion was wrong, but it should be legal because we can’t force our views on people. God has given people choice and free will, and we shouldn’t infringe on that. He then asked me what I thought.

I said, “Generally speaking, I agree we shouldn’t force our views on people, but there are some things we should absolutely legislate against. I think abortion should be illegal for the same reason I think rape and murder should be illegal — they harm another human being. Our laws reflect what we value in society, and I think we should protect life in the womb because abortion kills an innocent human being, and I don’t think that should be legal.”

As we got ready to board our flight to Nebraska, he looked at me and said, “That’s a really good point you made about murder.” While I don’t know if the conversation caused him to change his mind or not, I do know I was able to plant a seed that made him think more about his views. (See www.jfaweb.org/airport-conversation for more on this conversation.)



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