



Rebecca's Reflections

Leave the Results Up to God



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July 2014

“Leave the results up to God.” This is what we teach our volunteers. During any given day of outreach a Justice For All (JFA) volunteer may have 10-25 conversations about abortion and at the end of the day not know what kind of fruit his hours of conversation will produce. The volunteer plants the seed of truth. We pray that God will water it. We can share truth with others, but whether the truth that we have imparted to the pro-choice person will change his view on abortion is ultimately up to God.

As JFA staff members train volunteers, they must also leave the results up to God. During the *Abortion: From Debate Dialogue* seminar, I typically spend five hours mentoring a group of eight volunteers and then several more hours mentoring those volunteers in having productive conversations at an outreach. However, whether they take what they learned beyond the outreach is many times unknown. We simply pray that God works in our volunteers' hearts and moves each one of them to actively pursue conversations without our staff being present.



Maggie (pictured above) is in conversation with a student during the 2014 outreach at Arizona State University.

Every once in a while, we get confirmation that a volunteer is using that training in her everyday life. Recently, I received confirmation from a student whom I helped to train a few years ago when she was still in high school. Maggie Otlewski sent me an email that reminded me how much of an impact a handful of hours with someone can have.

In 2012, as a junior in high school, Maggie participated in our seminar and outreach. Upon graduation from high school, she enrolled at Arizona State University (ASU) and became the president of the ASU Students For Life club. This past February she invited JFA to ASU. During that 2014 trip to Arizona, Justice For All was able to train high school students from four different high schools in Phoenix. It was because of Maggie's diligence and persistence that Justice For All was able to provide those high school students and her college peers with an outreach experience like the one that she had participated in two years earlier.

After the trip to Arizona last year, Maggie sent me the following email:

Having dinner with the team was the absolute highlight of my week. It was so great just to ask them questions about their experiences and see them all interact together like family. What a fun group! Thank you so much for extending that invitation...

I would not be leading ASU Students For Life (or likely be involved at all) without your mentorship at Xavier in 2012. It made all the difference. I distinctly remember leaving training that day saying, “I want to be as knowledgeable, gentle, loving, and active as she is!” You also gave me the confidence to start those initial conversations at ASU that year and realize that I could actually make a difference. I have you to thank for all of that.

During the seminar at Xavier High School in 2012, I was not able to foresee how much Maggie's experience with JFA would help her to become a leader in the pro-life movement. In the same way, it is unlikely that Maggie is able to see the impact she has made upon the lives of high school students because of her leadership in organizing last year's events. I hope that in a couple of years she will be mentoring a high school student and experience the same kind of joy and surprise that I did in mentoring her.

Rebecca J. Haschke