Abortion Dialogue Academy

August 2014

Dear Friends,

I know you probably have a ton of questions about my announcement that I am starting a new pro-life organization. I encourage you to call or email me. I would love to catch up! In the meantime, I will try and summarize in this letter the vision of our new organization, the Abortion Dialogue Academy (ADA) and what I will be doing in the near future.

As I mentioned in my last letter, I have had a growing desire to invest more heavily in pro-life college clubs. This is because I think that pro-life clubs are important for changing our culture’s heart and mind on the abortion issue. But over the past few years, I’ve noticed that often pro-life clubs lack a clear strategy or vision for how to be effective.

Strategy

When talking about effective pro-life strategy, there are many pieces to the puzzle. We need to make abortion illegal by changing our current laws. We need to provide alternatives to abortion and help pregnant women in crisis. We need to shut down abortion clinics. But progress has been difficult because America is so divided. Pro-life laws are passed and then overturned. Clinics shut down just as new ones open. But ultimately, many women choose abortion despite all of our alternatives. What would happen if abortion was successfully outlawed tomorrow? Would abortion end in America? I think it would continue because America is effectively pro-choice. I say effectively because while many are personally opposed to abortion, they would not restrict another’s access to abortion.

We need to provide alternatives to abortion, pass laws and shut down clinics. These are things we must do. But because America is effectively pro-choice, we must shift the mindset of the culture if we want to create a lasting change. This is a monumental task. How can it be accomplished? The answer is through dialogue.

Internet memes, shouting matches and catchy slogans rarely change hearts and minds on controversial issues. People change their views when they’re presented with good arguments by people that care and listen. In my recent newsletter WEST, I showed the effectiveness of dialogue when I persuaded a woman who was pro-choice, liberal, agnostic, a Psychology major with a minor in Women and Ethnic Studies, to change her mind on the abortion issue.

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You can find archived newsletters on my blog, Jacobburow.blogspot.com.

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However, I did not learn the dialogue skills that lead to the success in my WEST newsletter overnight. Good dialogue takes practice. It can take a lot of time to learn how to dialogue in a way that’s persuasive and effective.

If our culture is going to change on the abortion issue, we need to generate a lot of “good” conversations like my conversation with the WEST lady. We need thousands of people who are not only highly skilled at dialogue, but are also actively engaging pro-choice people and changing the culture one person at a time.

This is why I want to focus on training pro-life college clubs. I believe that pro-life clubs, especially college clubs, are key because they have the time needed to learn and create good dialogue. Unlike pro-life working adults who have full-time jobs and families, college students have more flexible schedules which allow them to invest the extra time needed to master and create good dialogue with the next generation.

**ADA’s Mission**

I think student organizations will be more effective if they do not exist just to be pro-life, but to help others become pro-life. This is why I think they need to dialogue with their pro-choice peers. The problem is that most pro-life students are not equipped to create good dialogue. At ADA we want to solve this problem by providing college students with top-notch pro-life relational apologetics training and a game plan for how their club can reach their pro-choice peers with outreach events throughout the school year. Learning to dialogue well is a process that does not happen overnight. That is why our curriculum spans over an entire school year and has students constantly engaging in dialogue. We also plan to mentor each club that is using our curriculum.

My fiancé Katie and I have been prototyping our curriculum on the Washington University Students for Life club in St. Louis. Now that I am working full time for ADA, I will be helping refine our curriculum so we can implement it with other clubs. We have our first Crash Course scheduled for the first week of September. (For more info on why it is called a Crash Course, go watch our video on our website!) This will be an opportunity for WashU students as well students from surrounding schools to begin the curriculum with us. I am very excited about this next chapter in my life and I ask for your financial help as I embark on this new venture!

God Bless,

Jacob Burow
Executive Director, President

P.S. If you have not had a chance to do so already, please take a moment to update your contact preferences either with the enclosed form, or online at [www.abortiondialogueacademy.org](http://www.abortiondialogueacademy.org)/Newsletter-Signup