

Jacob speaking at our sidewalk counseling seminar in Portland, sponsored by Oregon Right to Life



Changing Lives Across Oregon!

by Josh Brahm

I had the pleasure of spending a week in March traveling around Oregon doing multiple events with Jacob Nels. Our awesome friends at Oregon Right to Life (ORTL) made this whole trip possible, and so many great things happened while we were there!

OUR FIRST SIDEWALK COUNSELING SEMINARS



The impetus for the trip was that ORTL wanted us to train some of their advocates to sidewalk counsel more effectively. This was our first chance to do a live seminar on this (thanks to COVID) so we spent a lot of time before the trip preparing a schedule designed to give people the most important information in six hours, whether they were a seasoned sidewalk counselor or someone who had never been to an abortion facility before. We did one seminar in Redmond and another two days later outside Portland.

We started the seminar with a presentation we gave together called "Don't Be Weird on the Sidewalk: Winning Clients & Life-Saving Conversations at the Abortion Facility." This gave us a chance to lay some critical foundation about our ethos for sidewalk counseling in a fun way, sharing our basic principles for what to do on the sidewalk, as well as some things to avoid and lots of do's and don'ts regarding clothing, signs, and opening lines.

Next, Jacob taught his three-step approach for the Conversation-Oriented Method of sidewalk counseling, his four-step process to get consent to show the person abortion victim photographs, and specific tips for talking to the drivers/boyfriends.

After Q&A, we broke for lunch and came back for improvised roleplay so that everyone could see Jacob put these tips into practice in real-time.

We then did a session on how to handle the police, including showing actual footage of one of our students' interactions with a police officer that she thankfully got on camera. After some final Q&A, we wrapped up the seminar.

Here are just a few of the things people said about the seminar afterward:

- > "I've been afraid to demonstrate at Planned Parenthood, but now I'm ready to give it a try..." ~Anita

- > "I've realized for some time that I need to be able to love and talk respectfully to people that I disagree with. This seminar has helped me learn some valuable ways to do that!" ~Valerie
- > "Thank you. You've given me hope that as an older grandma, I can still make a difference in front of abortion clinics." ~Mrs. Pat

WRITING CONSULTATION

In between the seminars, I spent a half-day with the staff at ORTL pulling the curtain back on how we write at ERI, including workflows, professionalism, SEO, responding to comments, and how to write articles in such a way that both pro-life and pro-choice people will read them.

SPEAKING ON RELATIONAL APOLOGETICS

A few hours after our Saturday seminar, I spoke on relational apologetics during the evening service at Southwest Hills Baptist Church. I stayed an extra day so that I could give that talk during both of their Sunday services as well.

It was so gratifying to hear at least five people come up to tell me that they were changing their lives around as a result of the talk, already making plans to invite people who are ideologically different from them to coffee, a meal, or out for a walk.

FEATURED VIDEO



UNPACKING YOUTH POET LAUREATE AMANDA GORMAN'S PRO-CHOICE ARGUMENTS

If you haven't seen the video of Emily Albrecht refuting youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman's pro-choice video yet, you should! (There's an article version too if you prefer that.)

This was a great example of our team working together at their best. Emily was coming into town to film other videos and podcasts, and worked late into the night before to script this, then Andrew and I edited it the next morning and we were filming hours later!

Watch or read it at EqualRightsInstitute.com/AmandaGorman/.

FEATURED PODCAST



A COMEDIAN SHARES TIPS FOR USING HUMOR IN DIALOGUE

This is easily the most fun podcast we've recorded yet! I brought on comedian Josh Harris to talk about how he got into sidewalk counseling, how he uses humor on the sidewalk, and some practical tips for you to use to add more humor and friendliness to your conversations about abortion!

Josh Harris has spent a lot of time sidewalk counseling in the last year. Jacob has been coaching him in that, and their group has seen dozens of lives saved in the last year!

Watch the episode at EqualRightsInstitute.com/Humor.

FEATURED ARTICLE



ARE PRO-LIFE PEOPLE FAKE CHRISTIANS?

There's a post making the social media rounds in which a liberal pastor takes pro-life people to task, essentially calling the religious ones fake Christians.

In so many words, he states that pro-lifers advocate for unborn humans out of convenience and hatred.

Andrew wrote the article version of this piece, while Josh performed it on camera.

You can read the article at EqualRightsInstitute.com/Fake

Personal Note to Emily's Friends and Supporters

I can't believe it's been 9 months since I accepted this position with Equal Rights Institute! Time has flown by, and I am over the moon to be starting this ministry full-time as soon as I graduate in June! I've been keeping busy student teaching this semester in a local high school choir classroom while continuing to lead the pro-life group at St. Olaf College and to write, speak, and coach clubs for ERI! I've had the privilege to meet with lots of different collegiate and high school pro-life clubs all over the country on coaching Zoom calls this year, and this has quickly become one of my favorite parts of pro-life ministry. There are so many young, passionate pro-life advocates out there who just need a bit of support and apologetics tools like ours to help them fly, and I am honored to be there for them!

My love of teaching and performing has also found a new outlet in writing and starring in ERI videos and podcasts! I'm particularly proud of my work authoring and performing in the video and corresponding article "Unpacking Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's Pro-Choice Arguments" (featured above!). Make sure you follow me on Facebook or Twitter so that you'll

always be the first to hear about my latest published work at ERI!

I am so honored and overcome with gratitude for the incredible prayerful and financial support I have received from all of you as I announced this transition into pro-life ministry. Knowing how many people are so excited about the work I'm doing uplifts me every day, and I have so loved meeting with you and hearing your stories of why pro-life advocacy is important to you. I am thrilled to announce that, as of today, I am 85% of the way to my financial support goal! This is fantastic! To everyone who has helped make this happen, thank you. You are my core team, here on the ground level of the incredible work that is to come! If you are yet to join my financial support team, I hope that you will prayerfully consider partnering with me in this life saving ministry.



Left: Many of you have wondered where I'll be after graduation, so here's your answer! My fabulous friend and current roommate, Meredith, and I have just signed a lease on a place in the Twin Cities area to live after graduation! She's been my Co-President at Oles for Life this past year, and she's also beginning full-time work in the pro-life movement as the Client Services Director at a local pregnancy resource center!

Top: Behind the scenes at the shoot of the "Unpacking Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's Pro-Choice Arguments" video!