

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



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



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



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 Josh's Friends and Supporters

So Hannah and I have a new hobby - making song cover videos together. I've needed something else to do for fun, and photography has been difficult lately because it usually means spending a lot of time outside, far away from Charlotte (at least to get the kinds of pictures I enjoy taking). It's been a fun challenge discovering how little I understood about music production! If you want to hear the three we've finished so far, you can find them on [this YouTube playlist](#).

Parenting has been going unusually well for us lately, too. The kids have all been on excellent behavior lately. It feels too good to be true, but maybe we're finally getting the hang of this. My mom has been a huge help, too, taking care of one or more kids for a bit to give Hannah and I some much-needed respite time. I'm so grateful to Mom for this.

Here's a funny kid story because our kids are hilarious, and I don't tell enough of those stories. Our church (like most lately) streams virtual services for those who can't be there, so when I'm not playing on the worship team, we worship from home. We watch the music and

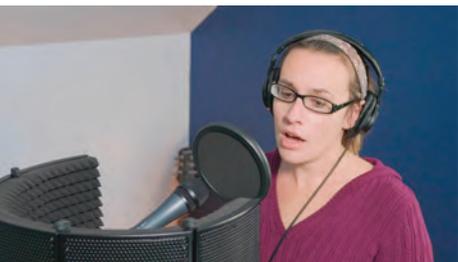
then switch to an apologetics book or video series oriented toward kids, and I try to answer all of their questions.

So one morning, they were learning about why there are some variances in some of the old bible manuscripts but why we still consider the modern bible accurate. We asked why there are variances in the old copies during the question time, checking for comprehension. William responded, "Because the scribes didn't have autocorrect."

Things have just been really good lately. Our marriage is fantastic. (We just had our 15th anniversary!) I'm also a lot happier, partially because I'm being more intentional about spending time with friends than I have been lately. I'm exercising more and just feel a lot healthier than I have in years.

I can't thank you enough for your prayers and support. We have some HUGE projects in the works that I'll be revealing later into the year.

Warmly,
Josh



Top: Our wedding day, and us 15 years later. Awwwwwww. Seriously though, I love that I get to grow old with this woman.

Bottom: A thumbnail from our first music video.