Students from Mizzou’s JFA club dedicate their spring break…

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CAMPUS REPORT
Mizzou JFA Spring Break Outreach
Texas A&M
University of North Texas
March 2004
This week was significant because babies’ lives were saved… I know that the Holy Spirit spoke through me to influence others not to take the life of the unborn. God gave me boldness to start conversations over and above what I ever imagined I could do. Through the countless discussions I had, whether three minutes or three hours long, I am confident that at least one life was changed, and another will be saved.”
Caleb

On Thursday… I spoke to Rebecca, a pro-choice woman who had placed her infant daughter for adoption at the young age of 15. She wished that she had aborted her daughter instead, saying that the wonder and worry that plagued her daily were not worth the choice she had made to let her daughter live. After talking to her about her decision and the brutality of abortion, Rebecca came to the conclusion that abortion was indeed a horrific practice. She came to realize that though her choice to give her daughter to another family through adoption had been a difficult one, it was the most responsible and loving thing she could have done as a parent. She thanked me, I gave her a hug, and we parted ways. What I didn’t know [until later] was that she walked directly to Angie at the information table for the local crisis pregnancy center…Rebecca confessed to Angie that there had been another pregnancy which had ended in abortion; something she hadn’t told me. The two of them talked, cried, and prayed together. Rebecca then agreed to attend a support group in order to begin the healing process. I pray daily that that healing includes submission to Christ. Her story encouraged me, and the discussion that I had with her reminded me that God was in complete control. He set up the appointment, prepared Rebecca’s heart, and used me to listen and encourage her. The understanding of God’s sovereignty, made evident through conversation, makes JFA’s work worthwhile to me. I can’t wait for the opportunity to [do this] again.” Erin

Campus clubs are a vital part of the JFA Exhibit program. Kevin Peterson (grey shirt above) as a freshman at the University of North Texas (UNT) helped bring the first JFA Exhibit to UNT (2000). As a senior and president of UNT Eagles for Life in 2004, Kevin played a huge role in bringing the Exhibit back to UNT. Prior to graduation (Engineering, 4.0 GPA), he successfully passed the leadership of the club to Christine (top picture above, red hair, green shirt).
What is the impact when the JFA staff is joined by a group of trained students like those from the Mizzou JFA club? We estimate that we had the opportunity to talk with over 1,000 students individually during the Texas outreach.

"...naive and ridiculous!"

That was how Rachel described the final panel in the Justice For All Exhibit (see far right, "What you can do:" and story below photos.

Rachel (right) approached to record her "YES" vote to the poll "SHOULD ABORTION STAY LEGAL?" (See photo above with yellow sign) "So what would happen if abortion were made illegal?" She loudly retorted, "What do you think?! More women would die from back alley abortions!" She quickly added she was personally opposed to abortion but that it wasn’t her place to force her morality upon others. "All you’re doing is attacking those who believe in choice—what is your solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy?!" When directed to the final Exhibit panel that urges students to “Save sexual intimacy for marriage” she shot back, “That’s naive and ridiculous.” When the crowd was polled to see if they agreed, nearly half raised their hand to say they intended to practice abstinence before marriage. Rachel accused them of lying! Yet she talked with JFA staff and volunteers the entire afternoon, and could be found at the Exhibit even after it had been taken down! (she is sitting on the poll table!) The conversation with Rachel quickly expanded to the spiritual realm and her worldview as it does with so many students.

"This spring break was one of the most meaningful ways that I could have ever spent my week off from school! It was such a blessing to be able to confidently say that the four days that I participated in the JFA exhibit had eternal significance. It was amazing to me that during this time of sharing the truth about abortion, it was very easy to transition into sharing the gospel. These issues are so interrelated that it was a fluid transition to share the basis of why I value life...."Christina

Campus newspapers frequently help create the debate. (see left) This headline, picture and editorial appeared in The Battalion (Texas A&M’s student run paper) at the top of the editorial page on the Friday prior to the Exhibit. Click on the image to read the editorial.

"What a great opportunity to stretch and learn new things about others and myself. I consider it such a privilege….The experiences we had and the lessons we learned will stay with us for the rest of our lives. I think one of the things that most stands out to me about the week is how powerful it is to see God’s truth in action. With all of the lies that are presented as truth on college campuses, it is incredible to see the effect that real truth has on students. It’s amazing to watch the wheels turn as they have the opportunity to think through an issue when presented with the facts and then come to a new conclusion or become stronger in an opinion that they already held. It is especially awesome to see them choose life. It is a very grounding experience for me to have to really think through what I say I believe and be prepared to give an answer for it. God really worked on me over that week—I started out feeling very inadequate to talk to people because I didn’t have all the answers so for most of the week I watched and listened to other people talk most of the time. I made efforts to start conversations but not like I should have. On the last day, I realized what a wimp I was being—I’ll be ready for next time. :) Thanks again for a really wonderful week—let’s do it again!”  :) Emilie

Emilie Duncan, a sophomore at the University of Missouri is the president of the Mizzou JFA club. She has and is giving incredible leadership to the Mizzou JFA club. Her organizational and people skills managed to land an internship at the White House! Jonathan Block, (green striped sweater in picture above), is already at the White House as an intern! He and Joanna Shrewsbury (above left with microphone) successfully led JFA’s advance media team this past year at 3 universities.
WHEN DOCTORS AND NURSES SPEAK

at the JFA Exhibit, students listen.

Excerpts from one physician’s experience.

“Justice For All makes a difference…. I had several in depth discussions with students [at the Exhibit] [it] made them examine their belief that abortion is simply a choice for the woman without regard…for the developing human that she is carrying.

One young man…needed to talk about his girlfriend’s abortion several years ago….I was able to reassure him of God’s love and forgiveness. Justice For All made a difference.

A couple of days before the Exhibit, I showed the [Exhibit] brochure to a nurse….I encouraged her to come by on her lunch hour to view the Exhibit…When she came…she reluctantly told me that she had an abortion just months earlier….She is now in a post-abortion bible study group at our local pregnancy center….JFA made a difference in her life…” (editor’s note: Dr. Squiers used the JFA Exhibit to make a difference in many students’ lives. Click here to read his entire letter online.

Justice for All:
An Outdoor Pregnancy Outreach (Click to read online) is the title of an online article by JFA staff member, Vicki Kane, featured at Heartlink Focus on the Family’s pregnancy resource division. (“Also see their Ji/Au publication, “She Needs You.”

“I was here yesterday and cried all night. I came back today to face my fears. I had a miscarriage last year and this was hard to deal with. I had no idea my baby was that formed already.’

These were the comments from Amelia, a young woman who walked up to me recently as she toured the Justice for All display on a college campus. I walked alongside her and eventually shared my testimony about my past abortion with her. She asked, ‘How do you get over something like that?’ I was then able to tell her about the love and healing I myself found in Christ.” Click here to read Vicki’s full report.

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