



Healing Hurts

Update from Jacob Burow - June 2012



Sometimes we save children from abortion, but other times all we can do is help pick up the pieces. Standing in the middle of the sidewalk on the campus of Fresno City College in California, I prayed over a post-abortive dad.

Anthony was talking with a group of his friends about our display when he broke away and approached the display. He grabbed one of our big markers to draw a line under the picture of conception and wrote, “At the start.” I thanked him for sharing his comment and asked him what he meant.



“That’s a life; abortion is murder,” he said.

As we talked, I sensed he was pretty upset. I asked if he knew anyone who had had an abortion.

“Yeah, several of my friends have. I know it’s hard and all. I know I wasn’t ready to be a parent when I became a dad. One day, when I was a freshman in high school, my girlfriend handed me a picture of an ultrasound that showed twins and said, ‘you’re a dad.’ I know I wasn’t ready for that, but you gotta grow up and take responsibility. We were gonna try to make it work, but she got involved in a fight which resulted in a miscarriage.”

He went on to share that another girlfriend had aborted their child without him even knowing she was pregnant. He said that he had forgiven her, but then he related how when he had seen her after the abortion that he felt disgust for her.

Three children lost. My heart broke for him. On top of that, he needed to find a way to truly forgive the mother of his aborted child. So, I shared with him that we all have sinned and offended God. We talked about how her sin was not fundamentally different from mine or his—that we all need forgiveness. I encouraged him to share a brochure with her from the local pregnancy resource center, and I asked him to help her find post-abortion counseling, because she was going to need it. Then, in the middle of the sidewalk, I prayed over him and for her, that God would bring healing to both of them.

Mentoring Ministers

“Kathy,” one of our seminar participants, was listening to this whole conversation. During the JFA training she received, we spent a lot of time talking about the intellectual ideas involved in the abortion discussion, but we also spent time in the Healing Hurts segment of our training focused on how a good pro-life ambassador responds relationally. The great thing about this conversation with Anthony was that it had a two-fold impact. First, I was ministering to Anthony, and second, I was modeling for Kathy how to respond relationally in those times when showing compassion is the greatest need.

Here’s how another volunteer explains this dynamic:

The tactics used within the cornucopia of pro-life organizations can sometimes be classified into a simple dichotomy: a “heart camp” and a “head camp.” The “heart camp” says that the only tool abortion

abolitionists need is a compassionate heart, whereas the head camp supports the necessary tools being facts and figures.

Justice for All coupled the heart camp and the head camp in a wonderful way in the seminar I was blessed to attend. Dividing into groups to role-play scenarios was the cornerstone of the head and heart union. I retained much more from this style of teaching than if the seminar had been a dry lecture, especially thanks to the realistic exercises.

As far as heart lessons go, I came to appreciate the merits of listening to understand, not refute. I also discovered the importance of finding common ground during conversations, which I consider both a heart and head application.

In regards to head training, I was able to practice asking clarifying questions in order to avoid making erroneous assumptions. I learned something more valuable than mere pro-life tips: I developed skills I will be applying to both my pro-life ministry and my personal life.

I strongly encourage you to experience this marriage of the heart camp and head camp for yourself. Hosting Justice For All is an amazing way to engage your community in the abortion discussion and better your group with improved pro-life reasoning and listening skills.

-Laura Smith, Georgia volunteer

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support! I feel truly blessed to do this work.

Jacob Burow

Prayer needs:

- **Wisdom as I learn to handle our campus reservations**
- **Safety in travel as I visit home this month**

